

**Formula One**, commonly known as **Formula 1** or **F1**, is the highest class of international [racing](#) for [open-wheel single-seater](#) formula racing cars sanctioned by the [Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile](#) (FIA). The FIA Formula One World Championship has been one of the world's premier forms of racing since its inaugural running in [1950](#). The word [formula](#) in the name refers to [the set of rules](#) all participants' cars must follow. A Formula One season consists of a series of races, known as [Grands Prix](#). Grands Prix take place in multiple countries and continents on either purpose-built [circuits](#) or closed public roads.

A [point-system](#) is used at Grands Prix to determine two annual World Championships: [one for the drivers](#), and [one for the constructors](#) (the teams). Each driver must hold a valid [Super Licence](#), the highest class of racing licence the FIA issues, and the races must be held on [grade one tracks](#), the highest grade rating the FIA issues for tracks.

[Formula One cars](#) are the world's fastest regulated [road-course racing cars](#), owing to very high cornering speeds achieved by generating large amounts of aerodynamic [downforce](#). Much of this downforce is generated by front and rear wings, which have the side effect of causing severe [turbulence](#) behind each car. The turbulence reduces the downforce the cars following directly behind generate, making it hard to overtake. Major changes made to the cars for the [2022](#) season have resulted in greater use of [ground effect](#) aerodynamics and modified wings to reduce the turbulence behind the cars, with the goal of making overtaking easier.<sup>[1]</sup> The cars depend on electronics, [aerodynamics](#), [suspension](#), and [tyres](#). [Traction control](#), [launch control](#), and [automatic shifting](#), and other [electronic driving aids](#) were first banned in [1994](#). They were briefly reintroduced in [2001](#), and have more recently been banned since [2004](#) and [2008](#), respectively.<sup>[2]</sup>