

= 2016 Russian Grand Prix =

The 2016 Russian Grand Prix (formally known as the 2016 Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix ; Russian : ????? @-@ ??? ?????? 2016 ?????) was a Formula One motor race that took place on 1 May 2016 . The race , contested over fifty @-@ three laps , was held at the Sochi Autodrom . It was the fourth round of the 2016 season and marked the fifth running of the Russian Grand Prix , the third time as a round of the Formula One World Championship since the series inception in 1950 . Nico Rosberg of Mercedes came into the race leading the championship ahead of his teammate Lewis Hamilton , who was the defending race winner .

Nico Rosberg won the race from pole position , ahead of his teammate Lewis Hamilton , with Kimi Räikkönen completing the podium for Ferrari . While Rosberg extended his winning streak to seven consecutive Grands Prix , Sebastian Vettel retired from the race on the first lap , after contact with Red Bull 's Daniil Kvyat . With the maximum number of 100 points from the first four races of the season , Rosberg left Russia with a 43 @-@ point lead to Hamilton . By securing pole position , winning the race , setting the fastest lap and leading every lap , Nico Rosberg achieved the first grand slam of his career .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

Going into the fourth Grand Prix weekend of the season , Nico Rosberg and his team Mercedes were leading the Drivers ' and Constructors ' championships respectively . Rosberg was 36 points ahead of his teammate Lewis Hamilton , having taken 75 out of 75 available points from the first three races of the season . Daniel Ricciardo followed in third place , three points behind Hamilton . In the Constructors ' standings , Mercedes headed the field with 114 points , 53 points ahead of Ferrari and 57 points clear of Red Bull . This was the third time since the Russian Grand Prix debuted in Formula One in 2014 that the race was held as part of the World Championship . Two early editions of the race were held in 1913 and 1914 .

Red Bull Racing used the first practice session to test the " aeroscreen " , a form of cockpit protection developed in response to fatal accidents of the drivers such as Jules Bianchi , Justin Wilson and Henry Surtees , who were struck on the head by flying debris . The aeroscreen was developed as an alternative to the " halo " device trialled by Ferrari during pre @-@ season testing . The device was fitted to Daniel Ricciardo 's car and he completed a single installation lap to assess it before it was removed for the remainder of the session . Ricciardo was satisfied with the device , saying : " Where we have the structure in place is pretty much where the mirrors are so I wouldn't say it hindered any more than we are now in terms of visibility . Peripheral vision was fine as well . "

Sole tyre supplier Pirelli brought the medium , soft and supersoft tyres to the event , continuing the trend established in the Australian , Bahrain and Chinese Grands Prix . Per the regulations of the 2016 season , every driver needs to set aside one set each of the two softest compounds for the race and one set of the ultrasofts for Q3 (should they advance) . The drivers have freedom of what other compounds they choose for the remaining ten out of thirteen sets .

= = = Free practice = = =

Per the regulations for the 2016 season , two ninety @-@ minute practice sessions were held on Friday and another one @-@ hour session was held before qualifying on Saturday . In the first session on Friday morning , Nico Rosberg was fastest for Mercedes with a time of 1 : 38 @.@ 127 , more than seven @-@ tenths of a second ahead of his teammate Lewis Hamilton . Both set their fastest times on the super @-@ soft tyre compound , while Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Räikkönen at Ferrari opted for the harder soft compound , slotting in third and fourth fastest respectively . Several drivers had problems with spinning or running wide , either in turn two or between turns 15 and 16 .

Among the drivers caught out were Hamilton , Vettel , Jolyon Palmer and Jenson Button . Two reserve drivers made an appearance during the first free practice session . Sergey Sirotkin drove for Renault , taking the place of Kevin Magnussen , making his second appearance in a Formula One car , after driving for Sauber during free practice at the 2014 Russian Grand Prix . Alfonso Celis Jr. replaced Nico Hülkenberg at Force India during the first practice session . Sirotkin ended the session ahead of his teammate Palmer , while Celis finished last , more than three seconds behind teammate Sergio Pérez .

Lewis Hamilton topped the timesheets in second practice on Friday afternoon with a time of 1 : 37 @. @ 583 , using the super @- @ soft compound . Earlier in the session , he had suffered a spin in turn four that flat @- @ spotted his tyres and sent him back to the pitlane . Rosberg managed only third fastest as the Mercedes drivers were split by Sebastian Vettel , even though the latter suffered from electrical problems that lost him track time . Rosberg in turn was unable to improve on his time set on the soft @- @ compound tyre due to his super @- @ soft run being compromised by yellow flags shown after a spin by Romain Grosjean . Behind the top three , Kimi Räikkönen was again fourth , ahead of Daniel Ricciardo and Valtteri Bottas . Slowest of the session was Sauber 's Marcus Ericsson , with the two Manor drivers Rio Haryanto and Pascal Wehrlein slotting in ahead of him . Wehrlein reported a loss of power after crossing the chequered flag at the end of the session .

In third practice on Saturday morning , Hamilton narrowly beat Rosberg to the fastest time , lapping just 0 @. @ 068 seconds faster than his teammate . All drivers used the super @- @ soft tyre compound to set their fastest lap times , with the two Ferraris of Vettel and Räikkönen third and fourth ahead of the Williams pair of Felipe Massa and Valtteri Bottas . Vettel had spent most of the session testing his car with a heavier fuel load in preparation for the race that would see him start with a five @- @ place grid penalty for a change of the gearbox . He completed the highest number of laps with 28 , ahead of Daniel Ricciardo , who was 11th fastest . At the back end , the Saubers of Ericsson and Nasr were slowest , behind both Manor cars .

= = = Qualifying = = =

Qualifying consisted of three parts , 18 , 15 and 12 minutes in length respectively , with six drivers eliminated from competing after each of the first two sessions . During the first part of qualifying (Q1) , Lewis Hamilton set the fastest time , a new fastest lap of the track ever at 1 : 36 @. @ 006 . However , he also came under investigation of the stewards as he failed to obliged the rules set for turn 2 , rejoining the track earlier than allowed after running wide . After being summoned to the stewards at the end of qualifying , he walked away with a reprimand , but was not penalised . Behind Rosberg in second place , the two Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Räikkönen were third and fourth respectively . At the tail end of the field , three pairs of cars were eliminated : both Sauber , Manor and Renault drivers missed Q2 .

In the second part , Nico Rosberg was fastest , half a second faster than teammate Hamilton , and 1 @. @ 7 seconds clear of the pole position lap time from the year before . Both McLarens had shown promising pace , but nevertheless dropped out of contention in 12th and 14th , while Daniil Kvyat was the last driver to secure a place in Q3 , demoting Carlos Sainz , Jr. to 11th . Kvyat 's Red Bull teammate Daniel Ricciardo also progressed , albeit suffering a failure of his wing mirror , which hung off the side of his vehicle during his last timed lap . Eliminated at the back were both Haas drivers , along Nico Hülkenberg , who was unable to follow his teammate Pérez into Q3 and qualified 13th .

As Q3 started , it became apparent that Lewis Hamilton would be unable to take part , suffering from a hybrid system failure in the turbo charger , the same problem that had plagued him in China two weeks earlier . Nico Rosberg went on to secure pole position , even though his last timed lap was compromised by a tyre lockup into turn 13 . Sebastian Vettel was closest to Rosberg , but a five @- @ place grid penalty meant that he would start the race from seventh on the grid , moving Valtteri Bottas into the first row . Kimi Räikkönen was fourth fastest , ahead of Massa , Ricciardo , Pérez , Kvyat and Verstappen . After qualifying , Mercedes decided to switch Hamilton 's car back to his spare power unit , which had been rebuilt following its failure at the Chinese Grand Prix , thereby

avoiding a grid penalty , which they would have incurred if a new power unit would have been installed . Williams were satisfied with their pace in qualifying , praising the advances they made in slow @-@ corner speed .

== Race ==

At the start , several drivers made contact with one another into turn two . Sebastian Vettel was hit in the rear by Daniil Kvyat there and during turn three , the latter of which caused him to crash into the barrier and retire from the competition . Further back , Nico Hülkenberg was hit by Esteban Gutiérrez and collected Rio Haryanto , forcing both Hülkenberg and Haryanto into retirement as well . As the safety car came out to allow for the cars and debris to be cleared from the track , several cars headed to the pit lane to repair damage , among them Daniel Ricciardo , Daniil Kvyat and Sergio Pérez . The order at the restart on lap four was : Rosberg , Räikkönen , Bottas , Massa and Hamilton , who had stayed clear of the incidents to move up to fifth . On the restart , Bottas moved ahead of Räikkönen , while Hamilton made a successful move on Massa into fourth . Kvyat 's early pit stop left him in 15th at that point , and he soon served a ten @-@ second stop @-@ and @-@ go penalty for his contacts with Vettel , dropping him to last . Meanwhile , Hamilton overtook Räikkönen to move into third on lap seven . Felipe Nasr came into the pits on lap 12 to replace a slow puncture on his tyres . The order at the front remained the same until Bottas became the first front runner to pit for fresh tyres on lap 17 . Hamilton followed suit one lap later , but still emerged behind Bottas , overtaking him into turn two another lap later . On lap 20 , Räikkönen pitted as well , coming back out behind Hamilton , but ahead of Bottas . All the while , Rosberg led comfortably ahead of Max Verstappen , who made his first stop on lap 23 and dropped back .

While racing for position on lap 23 , Sainz forced Jolyon Palmer off the track in turn two and was later handed a ten @-@ second time penalty for the incident . Four laps later , Pascal Wehrlein tried to overtake Felipe Nasr for 16th , but was unsuccessful and in turn lost a position to Kvyat . His teammate Ricciardo overtook Kevin Magnussen for eighth on lap 29 , but lost the position again and was in turn passed by Romain Grosjean . As Nico Rosberg started to lap backmarkers on lap 31 , the gap to second @-@ placed Hamilton started to come down , with his advantage dropping from more than eleven seconds to a little more than seven seconds by lap 36 . Meanwhile , Verstappen was forced to retire due to power unit failure on lap 34 , while running in sixth place . As Hamilton was told by his pit crew that he suffered from a water pressure problem , his gap to Rosberg started to increase again , staying at 13 seconds by lap 41 . Wehrlein pitted for new tyres on the same lap , but problems with his stop forced him stationary for almost a minute , resulting in him moving into last place on the road .

On lap 47 , Massa pitted for new tyres from fifth place , retaining his position ahead of Fernando Alonso . All the while , Räikkönen was able to close the gap to Hamilton ahead of him to eight seconds on lap 49 . On the next lap , Button passed Sainz for tenth and Ricciardo moved ahead of Palmer for 12th another lap later . Rosberg crossed the line to take his seventh consecutive victory , a feat to that point only achieved by Alberto Ascari , Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel . Lewis Hamilton and Kimi Räikkönen rounded up the podium ahead of the two Williams drivers , Valtteri Bottas and Felipe Massa . Rosberg recorded the first Grand Slam of his career , meaning he won the race , recorded the fastest lap , achieved pole position and led every lap . He was the 24th driver in history to achieve the feat .

== Post @-@ race ==

The first lap collision between Kvyat and Vettel that put the latter out of the race was a major talking point afterwards . The two had already been embroiled in an argument after the previous Grand Prix in China , when Vettel felt that Kvyat had caused a collision between the two Ferrari drivers . This time around , Vettel reacted to his retirement with what The Telegraph described as " one of the most explosive outbursts heard over team radio for years " . He later demanded an apology from Kvyat , as did Red Bull teammate Ricciardo , who felt that Kvyat , who pushed Vettel into him , had

ruined his race as well . Red Bull announced that they would summon Kvyat to talks about the incident , calling their race a " disaster " , with Helmut Marko , the team 's young driver coordinator , calling him " over @-@ motivated " . Kvyat received three penalty points on his licence as a result of the incident . He himself said after the race : " I apologise to everyone who is involved and I will learn from it . I think we have to speak . It is easy now to attack me and I guess everyone will , but I am OK with that . " On 5 May , Red Bull announced that they had relegated Kvyat back to their junior squad , Toro Rosso , for the remainder of the season , switching him with 18 @-@ year old Max Verstappen . Red Bull 's team principal Christian Horner explained the driver swap with Verstappen 's talent , also stressing that the move to Red Bull would tie him to the team for the foreseeable future .

Following multiple collision shortly after the start , Jenson Button pressed for changes to be made to turn two of the Sochi Autodrom , saying : " The bollard at turn two is the problem at the start because people are trying to fight through turns two and three . I think that needs some looking at . " Apart from Kvyat , two more drivers received penalty points to their licences . Two points each were given to Carlos Sainz , Jr . , who was deemed to have forced Jolyon Palmer off the track and Esteban Gutiérrez , who collided with Nico Hülkenberg at the start .

As a result of the race , Nico Rosberg cemented his position at the top of the Drivers ' Championship , having taken the maximum number of 100 points available from the first four rounds . Lewis Hamilton followed in second with 57 points , while Kimi Räikkönen moved up to third with 43 points . Vettel 's retirement dropped him to fifth in the standings , behind Daniel Ricciardo . In the Constructors ' standings , Mercedes increased their points tally to 157 , now 81 points clear of second @-@ placed Ferrari . Red Bull 's poor performance saw their advantage over fourth placed Williams reduced to just six points .

= = Classification = =

= = = Qualifying = = =

Notes

^ 1 ? Sebastian Vettel received a five place grid penalty for an unscheduled gearbox change .

= = = Race = = =

= = = Standings after the race = = =

Note : Only the top five positions are included for both sets of standings .