

= 2011 Canadian Grand Prix =

The 2011 Canadian Grand Prix (formally the Formula 1 Grand Prix du Canada) was a Formula One motor race held on 12 June 2011 at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve , in Montreal , Canada . It was the seventh race of the 2011 Formula One season and the 48th Canadian Grand Prix . The 70 @-@ lap race was won by McLaren driver Jenson Button after starting from seventh position . Sebastian Vettel , who started from pole position , finished second in a Red Bull with teammate Mark Webber finishing third .

The race began behind the safety car , and once it returned to the pits Vettel built a lead over Fernando Alonso . A second safety car deployment caused by the collision of Button and teammate Lewis Hamilton closed the time gaps between cars , but Vettel retained the lead . By lap 26 , increasingly heavy rain led to the race 's suspension , before it was restarted over two hours later . Button was involved in another collision on lap 37 , which led to Alonso 's retirement and Button falling to last place . Over the remainder of the race , he moved from twenty @-@ first place to first , passing Webber and Michael Schumacher , who had started fourth and eighth respectively , for second place on lap 65 , and Vettel on the final lap .

The victory was Button 's first of the season , and put him into second place in the World Drivers ' Championship , sixty points behind leader Vettel , who had extended his lead despite finishing second . Webber remained in third , and Hamilton 's retirement meant he slipped to fourth . In the World Constructors ' Championship Red Bull extended their lead to 65 points from McLaren , with Ferrari a further 85 points behind . At over four hours the race set the record as the longest in Formula One history .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

The Grand Prix was contested by twelve teams , each of two drivers . The teams , also known as constructors , were Red Bull , McLaren , Ferrari , Mercedes , Renault , Williams , Force India , Sauber , Toro Rosso , Lotus , HRT and Virgin . Tyre supplier Pirelli brought four different tyre types to the race : two dry compounds , the soft " primes " and the super @-@ soft " options " and two wet @-@ weather compounds , the intermediate and full wet . The drag reduction system (DRS) had two activation zones for the race ; one was on the straight between turns 11 and 13 , and the second on the start / finish straight from the final to first corners .

Going into the race , Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel led the Drivers ' Championship with 143 points , ahead of Lewis Hamilton on 85 points and Mark Webber on 79 . Jenson Button was fourth with 76 points while Fernando Alonso was fifth on 69 points . In the Constructors ' Championship Red Bull were leading with 222 points , McLaren and Ferrari were second and third with 161 and 93 points respectively , while Renault with 50 and Mercedes with 40 points contended for fourth place . Red Bull and Sebastian Vettel had so far dominated the championship , winning five out of the six previous races , with Lewis Hamilton winning the Chinese Grand Prix . Championship contenders Webber and Button had gained one second @-@ place finish each , and Alonso , Vitaly Petrov and Nick Heidfeld had achieved third place podium finishes .

Prior to the event Virgin Racing announced they would end their partnership with Wirth Research , the company responsible for designing and developing the team 's racing cars . In order to cut costs , Wirth Research had designed the cars exclusively using computational fluid dynamics , and unlike their competitors Wirth had not utilised a wind tunnel . The approach was not successful as the team had failed to qualify higher than 20th so far in the season , and Virgin decided to end the partnership . Virgin Racing 's CEO Andy Webb , who had aims to challenge for a podium position at the inaugural Russian Grand Prix , expressed that ending the partnership would mean " that the team will take greater control of its own destiny " . Wirth Research would continue to develop the car until the end of the 2011 season , while Virgin Racing would set up their own technical department under

the control of former Renault Director of Engineering Pat Symonds .

Several teams made major technical updates to their cars for the Grand Prix . McLaren and Ferrari altered the brake ducts on their cars , improving the cooling to manage the high brake temperatures encountered in Montreal . Ferrari and Mercedes revised their rear suspension layouts , while Red Bull brought a new front wing optimised for a lower downforce level . Renault and Williams brought new rear wings , which were designed specifically for low @-@ downforce circuits such as Circuit Gilles Villeneuve .

= = = Practice and qualifying = = =

Three practice sessions were held before the race ; two 90 minute sessions on Friday and one lasting an hour on Saturday . Nico Rosberg was the fastest driver in the first practice session , ahead of Alonso and Mercedes driver Michael Schumacher . Vettel caused the session to be suspended after crashing into the circuit 's " Wall of Champions " on the last corner , heavily damaging his car . After the morning session Sergio Pérez , who had suffered from concussion after a crash at the previous race , withdrew from the Grand Prix . Although he had passed the FIA 's medical examination , Perez said that " I only want to drive when I 'm a hundred per cent well . I need some more time to recover " . He was replaced by McLaren 's reserve driver Pedro de la Rosa , who had competed for Sauber in 2010 . Alonso was fastest in the second session , ahead of Vettel , Massa and Hamilton ? although the McLaren driver received a puncture mid @-@ way through practice . The session was disrupted by incidents as Kamui Kobayashi and Jérôme d 'Ambrosio struck the barriers ? both accidents requiring a suspension as marshals cleared the track of debris ? and Adrian Sutil 's Force India broke its suspension in a crash at turn 7 . The third session on Saturday morning saw Vettel fastest , ahead of Alonso , Rosberg and Massa . A KERS failure on Mark Webber 's RB7 prevented him from participating . A crash by de la Rosa in the final minute brought out a red flag , and the session was prematurely ended due to the limited time remaining .

The qualifying session on Saturday afternoon was split into three parts . The first part ran for 20 minutes and eliminated the cars from qualifying that finished the session 18th or lower . During this session , the 107 % rule was in effect , which necessitated each driver set a time within 107 % of the quickest lap to qualify for the race . The second part of qualifying lasted 15 minutes and eliminated cars that finished in positions 11 to 17 . The final part of qualifying determined the positions from first to tenth , and decided pole position .

Vettel achieved his sixth pole position of the season , and his first at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve , with a time of 1 : 13 @.@ 014 . He was joined on the front row of the grid by Alonso , with teammate Massa in third , giving Ferrari their best qualifying performance of the season . Webber had not been able to use his car 's KERS and qualified fourth , four @-@ tenths of a second behind Vettel . Hamilton and Button qualified in fifth and seventh respectively and McLaren blamed the slow pace on too high levels of downforce on the high @-@ speed circuit . The Mercedes drivers qualified in sixth and eighth , and Heidfeld and Vitaly Petrov completed the top ten . Paul di Resta was in 11th position , ahead of fellow rookies Pastor Maldonado and Kobayashi . Adrian Sutil struggled with grip throughout the session and was 14th ; following him were Sébastien Buemi , Barrichello and de la Rosa . Jaime Alguersuari qualifying in 18th complained of insufficient grip and brake balance , and at the back of the grid were the Lotus , HRT and Virgin drivers . D 'Ambrosio did not qualify after failing to set a time within 107 % in the first qualifying session . However the stewards allowed him to race , having considered he was using a new chassis after an accident in Friday practice , where he had set faster lap times .

= = = Race = = =

The track was wet before the race , as rain showers had hit the area throughout the day . The race was due to start at 13 : 00 local time (UTC @-@ 5) , and heavy rain was expected to arrive an hour into the race . The air temperature ranged between 17 ? 19 ° C (63 ? 66 ° F) , with the track temperature between 18 ? 20 ° C (64 ? 68 ° F) . Standing water on the track , which was causing

heavy spray and impairing visibility , meant that the race would start behind the safety car and all cars would use the full wet tyres . Alguersuari would start the race from the pitlane , as he modified his Toro Rosso 's set @-@ up to optimise the car for the wet conditions .

The race began behind the safety car , with no formation lap , and despite the slow speed drivers struggled for grip on the wet surface . The safety car came into the pits after five laps , and the cars were allowed to overtake . Vettel retained first place withstanding Alonso 's attempts to pass , while behind Hamilton and Webber collided at the first corner ? dropping the drivers to seventh and fourteenth respectively . Button lost fifth place mid @-@ lap after running wide , losing two places to Schumacher and Hamilton . At the end of the first racing lap , Di Resta had moved up to eighth position , followed by Heidfeld and Kobayashi , who made three places off the grid . Vettel extended his lead over the next lap , while the positions behind continued to change . Kobayashi had improved to eighth and Webber recovered to twelfth , while di Resta fell back to thirteenth . Hamilton lost sixth position running wide on a failed overtaking move on Schumacher , and fell behind Button . He attempted an overtake on the pit straight , but the two drivers collided and Hamilton hit the pit wall . The accident caused Hamilton 's retirement , which prompted a safety car deployment at the end of lap eight .

The race was resumed on lap 13 and Button , who had changed to intermediate tyres before the safety car period , was given a drive @-@ through penalty for speeding behind the safety car , emerging in 15th place . Vettel began to enlarge his lead over Alonso and Massa in second and third . Alonso and the Mercedes pitted for intermediate tyres , leaving Massa in second and Kobayashi in third by lap 17 . Barrichello , who switched for intermediates as the safety car came in , began setting times at the same pace as the leaders , and gained 15th position as the drivers in front changed tyres . On lap 19 , a rain storm arrived at the circuit , forcing the drivers on intermediate tyres to switch back to full wets . Alonso and Button , who were in fifth and eighth respectively , fell to ninth and eleventh , while the drivers on the full wet tyres began pitting for fresh wet tyres . The safety car was brought out on lap 20 due to the intensity of the rain , and Vettel , Webber , Massa and Buemi , who had not changed tyres , went to the pitlane for fresh full wets . After six laps under the safety car , the conditions were getting worse , and the race was suspended .

Torrential rain prevented the resumption of the Grand Prix for over two hours , until the rain eased at 15 : 50 local time . The race was restarted behind the safety car with the drivers in the positions held before the suspension . Vettel was first , followed by Kobayashi , Massa , Heidfeld , Petrov and di Resta . Webber was in seventh place with Alonso , de la Rosa and Button behind . The safety car remained out for seven laps , during which the circuit began drying enough to be suitable for intermediate tyres , and D 'Ambrosio pitted on lap 33 to change from the full wets . Vettel began to extend the lead over Kobayashi once the safety car came in on lap 35 , as Massa and Heidfeld fought for Kobayashi 's second place . Schumacher led several cars into the pitlane to change to intermediate tyres , while Button , Heidfeld and di Resta were among those who pitted the next lap . Vettel and Karthikeyan were the only drivers not to change tyres by lap 37 , when Button came upon tenth placed Alonso as he exited the pitlane . As Button attempted to pass at turn 3 the two cars touched , and Alonso 's Ferrari spun and beached upon a curb , bringing out the safety car . When the race resumed three laps later , Vettel , Kobayashi and Massa retained their positions , as Heidfeld , di Resta , Webber and Schumacher fought for fourth place . Button had a punctured tyre after the collision and was in twenty @-@ first and last place , but immediately began to make up positions and was 14th by lap 44 . Di Resta damaged his front wing attempting to overtake Heidfeld ; the subsequent pit @-@ stop and drive @-@ through penalty dropped him down to last . Schumacher , having overtaken Webber , passed Heidfeld in fourth place , and set the fastest lap of the race .

DRS was enabled on lap 46 , as Barrichello and Rosberg were contesting eighth position . Button had caught Maldonado and Alguersuari , and passed both cars for tenth place . Mark Webber was the first driver to switch to slick tyres , and was followed by Barrichello and Buemi . Kobayashi and Massa , fighting for second place , were both passed by Schumacher on lap 51 ; Massa then passed Kobayashi for third place . As the drivers pitted for slick tyres over the next three laps ,

Massa damaged his wing forcing him into another pitstop , while damage to Adrian Sutil 's car led to his retirement . Button had risen from ninth after his pit @-@ stop to fourth , and was catching the leading trio of Vettel , Schumacher and Webber . On lap 56 Heidfeld , while battling Kobayashi for fifth place , collided with the rear of the Sauber which damaged his front wing . The wing then detached and folded under the car , and Heidfeld after losing control of his car ran down an escape road on turn 3 . The debris on @-@ track from the accident called the sixth safety car period of the race .

Following the pitstops and safety car deployment , Petrov had gained sixth place while Barrichello , Alguersuari , Rosberg and Maldonado were in the remaining point scoring positions . Schumacher and Webber , who had contested second place before the safety car , resumed their fight as the race resumed on lap 61 . Barrichello was passed by Rosberg and Alguersuari before Massa , who had been in eleventh place , overtook both Williams cars for ninth . Kobayashi lost fifth place to Petrov , and Maldonado retired by spinning off on the wet track at turn two . Webber , passing Schumacher using DRS , cut the chicane on lap 64 and ceded the position back to avoid a penalty . Button passed Webber , after he again cut the chicane , and Schumacher on the same lap , and gained second place . As Button began catching race leader Vettel , Webber overtook Schumacher for third place on lap 67 . On the same lap di Resta retired because of a puncture , and Massa gained eighth position from Alguersuari . The fastest lap of the race was set by Button on lap 69 , setting a time of 1 : 16 @.@ 956 as he was closing to Vettel for the race lead .

Vettel led by 0 @.@ 9 seconds on the final lap , before he ran wide at turn six . Button passed him to take the lead , and held it to win the race . Vettel recovered from going off @-@ track and finished second , ahead of Webber in third and Schumacher in fourth . Petrov took fifth place , while Massa passed Kobayashi on the finish line for sixth place . Alguersuari , Barrichello and Buemi filled the final point scoring positions , and Rosberg 's car had lost the front wing , dropping him to eleventh . De la Rosa was twelfth , and Liuzzi , d 'Ambrosio , Glock , Trulli and Karthikeyan were the final classified drivers .

= = = Post @-@ race = = =

The top three finishers appeared on the podium to collect their trophies , and in the subsequent press conference . Button felt the win was the best of his career so far , and stated that he had to fight hard to win the race : " It was really a fight . I got a drive @-@ through for speeding behind the safety car and I had to fight my way through about three times . Eventually , on the last lap I was chasing down Seb . He ran a little bit wide onto the wet part of the circuit and I was able to take the opportunity and take the win . " Button also praised his team and strategy for helping him take the victory , in particular the moves to intermediate tyres . Vettel expressed his disappointment of making a mistake on the final lap , after driving a faultless race up to that point . Nevertheless , he was happy with second place , as he had increased his championship lead . Webber said he was happy to finish third after his incident at the beginning of the race , putting his recovery from fourteenth place down to correct tyre choices .

Martin Whitmarsh , McLaren 's team principal , praised Button 's win , believing that it was one of the finest performances in Formula One :

I think it was one of the best wins in the history of F1 , let alone his . There were punctures , he had to change the front wing , and from 21st I don 't know how many times he had to overtake people . He just drove fantastically well . He kept focused . He applied as much pressure as he had to get past and really did a fantastic job . This was 90 per cent him and 10 per cent the car . He did a great , great , great job .

The stewards did not impose a penalty on Button for his collisions with Hamilton and Alonso , having judged that no driver was to blame in either incident . Hamilton agreed with the stewards that Button did not intentionally collide with him , and although he felt he was alongside Button at the time , later reflected that " he probably hadn 't spotted me " . He went on to praise his teammate 's race as " an utterly fantastic performance , from a truly great driver . " Alonso also did not place any blame on Button , saying that it was the final incident on a day that " everything went wrong " .

Michael Schumacher admitted to having mixed feelings after the race , having been in second position until the race 's last laps . The Mercedes driver stated : " I would obviously have loved to finish there [in second place] and be on the podium again . But even if it did not work out in the very end , we can be happy about the result and the big fight we put in . " Kobayashi , placed second at the restart , shared similar feelings to Schumacher about finishing in a lower position : " Originally I qualified 13th so then it is not bad to finish seventh , but on the other hand I started second after the long red flag and looking from there the result is disappointing . "

The usage of the safety car came under criticism from figures within the sport . Fernando Alonso disagreed with the decision to start under the safety car as he felt it prevented him from attacking Vettel , while Sauber technical director James Key thought his team was put at a disadvantage when Kobayashi could not defend against the quicker cars after the fifth safety car period . Martin Brundle , who competed in Formula One for twelve years , stated " the fact that the drivers came in almost immediately for intermediate tyres tells me that , on the face of it , the safety car was out too long " , and felt that the safety car " should be a last resort , not a default option . " However , he recognised that FIA race director Charlie Whiting had to consider the driver 's visibility , and inexperience using the Pirelli wet @-@ weather tyres led to caution . Jarno Trulli however agreed with the FIA 's decisions , in particular the length of the red flag delay : " It was right to wait that long ; track conditions had to improve in order to make the cars drivable again . They did everything right . " De la Rosa and di Resta also agreed with the decision to halt the race , and Whiting stating that " when it rained it was quite clear we needed to stop the race . " Whiting went on to say that the opinions of the drivers were taken into account on the decision to halt the race , although he also considered the possibility of a suspension benefiting those drivers .

With a total time of four hours , four minutes and 39 seconds (including the two @-@ hour suspension) , the race was the longest in Formula One history . Button set records for the lowest average race winning speed , at 74 @.@ 864 km / h (46 @.@ 518 mph) and with six stops the most pit stops by the winner of a world championship race . The race also had the highest number of safety car deployments , with six appearances .

= = Classification = =

= = = Qualifying = = =

^ ? Jérôme d'Ambrosio did not set a lap time within the 107 % rule , but was allowed to race by the stewards discretion .

= = = Race = = =

^ ? Jaime Alguersuari started from the pit lane .

^ ? Karthikeyan finished 14th but was given a post @-@ race 20 second penalty for cutting the chicane and gaining an advantage .

= = Championship standings after the race = =

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