

= 2010 Korean Grand Prix =

The 2010 Korean Grand Prix (formally the 2010 Formula 1 Korean Grand Prix) was a Formula One motor race held on 24 October 2010 at the Korea International Circuit in Yeongam , South Jeolla , South Korea . It was the seventeenth round of the 2010 Formula One season and the first Korean Grand Prix . The 55 lap race was won by Ferrari driver Fernando Alonso , who started from third position . Lewis Hamilton finished second for McLaren and Alonso 's teammate Felipe Massa was third .

The race began behind the safety car but was stopped after three laps because of a large amount of standing water on the circuit . After a 45 minute delay , the race was restarted and the safety car pulled into the pit lane after thirteen laps . Pole sitter Sebastian Vettel maintained his lead going into the first corner . A second safety car deployment caused by the collision of Mark Webber and Nico Rosberg on lap nineteen closed up the field but Vettel retained the lead . Alonso maintained second position until a botched pit stop during a third safety car period caused him to drop to third . At the restart on lap thirty five , Hamilton ran wide at the first corner , allowing Alonso back into second place . Vettel 's engine failed eleven laps later , allowing Alonso to move into the lead , which he maintained to win the race .

The victory was Alonso 's fifth of the season ; the result put him into the lead of the Drivers ' Championship , eleven points ahead of Webber , who had dropped to second after failing to finish the race . Hamilton moved into third and Vettel 's retirement meant he slipped to fourth . Jenson Button remained in fifth position . In the World Constructors ' Championship , McLaren reduced the points deficit to Red Bull to be twenty seven points behind . With two races of the season remaining , Ferrari was a further twenty five points adrift .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

The Grand Prix was contested by twelve teams with two drivers each . The teams (also known as constructors) were Red Bull , Mercedes , McLaren , Ferrari , Renault , Williams , Force India , Sauber , Toro Rosso , Lotus , Hispania and Virgin . Tyre supplier Bridgestone provided four types of tyres to the race ; two dry compounds (soft " options " and hard " primes ") and wet weather compounds (intermediate and full wet) . The soft compounds were denoted by a green stripe on their side walls ; the wet compound tyres were identified by a green line at the bottom of their central groove . The rules of the 2010 Grands Prix races stipulated that all cars should use both types of tyre during the race unless the driver used any one of the two wet weather compounds . Each driver was limited to eleven sets of dry tyres for the weekend .

Before the race , Red Bull driver Mark Webber led the Drivers ' Championship with 220 points ; he was ahead of Fernando Alonso and Sebastian Vettel , who were tied for second place on 206 points . Lewis Hamilton was in fourth place with 192 points and Hamilton 's teammate Jenson Button was in fifth on 189 points . Seventy five points were available for the three remaining races , which meant Hamilton or Button could still win the title . Both drivers would mathematically stay in contention if Alonso or Vettel won the race and neither McLaren driver finished in points scoring positions . Red Bull were leading the Constructors ' Championship with 426 points ; McLaren and Ferrari were second and third with 381 and 334 points respectively , while Mercedes on 176 points and Renault on 133 contended for fourth place . Red Bull , McLaren and Ferrari had so far won races in the previous sixteen rounds of the season . Felipe Massa (twice) and Robert Kubica had finished in second place , and Nico Rosberg , Massa (twice) , Kubica (once) had all finished in third .

With three races remaining in the Championship and a fourteen point advantage , Webber said he would continue his pursuit of the title ; " I need to keep racing hard and going for victories . Clearly , if my rivals have a rough weekend it makes it a bit harder for them and it gives me a bit

more scope , but I 'm not looking to abuse that because it can all go pear @-@ shaped very fast . " Vettel said his season had been fraught with car problems but he remained positive about his chances ; " I think it ? s normal to have ups and downs ? and sometimes you have more , sometimes less ? but , as I said , the expectation was probably to be in a position to fight for the championship and I think we ? re in a very strong and very good position . " Alonso urged his teammate Massa to help him in his title bid and said the Korean Grand Prix could become " decisive " for his championship rivals . He favoured Hamilton to win the Korean Grand Prix . With Hamilton twenty @-@ eight points behind Webber and with Button a further three points behind his teammate , McLaren 's team principal Martin Whitmarsh said his drivers would keep their focus in the season 's remaining three races and produce consistent performances . Karun Chandhok , who raced for Hispania in the first ten races of the season , said Red Bull were the favourites to win , and that he thought the circuit 's three long straights would suit the McLaren cars .

Following increased hostilities between North Korea and South Korea in the wake of the sinking of the South Korean corvette Cheonan in March 2010 , Formula One Group chief executive Bernie Ecclestone had said the race would be in jeopardy if political tensions continued to escalate , and it would be abandoned if the North Korean army crossed the border . The revival of the French Grand Prix at the Circuit de Nevers Magny @-@ Cours was mooted as an alternative if the Korean Grand Prix was cancelled . Although hostilities between the two nations eventually relaxed , the race was further threatened by delayed construction . On 27 September 2010 , Ecclestone said he doubted the circuit would be ready despite the tarmac having been laid . A final inspection of the circuit took place on 11 October ; Fédération Internationale de l 'Automobile (FIA) safety delegate Charlie Whiting certified that the circuit was ready on 12 October . The top layer of the track was completed ten days before the race ; there was not enough time for the elements to remove the oils and bitumen chemicals in the tarmac . Circuit designer Hermann Tilke said the surface would be slippery , making the race challenging for drivers and exciting for fans .

The layout of the track received a mostly positive response from the drivers . Adrian Sutil of Force India said he felt it was a " real pleasure " to be racing on the track and praised it for having " a lot of character " . Mercedes driver Michael Schumacher said the asphalt improved during the Friday free practice sessions and that the track was " very demanding and tricky which provides a challenge that I like a lot " . Kubica said although the first sector was " boring " he felt the entire track layout was " ten times better than Abu Dhabi " . The drivers raised concerns about the entry of the pit lane at turn seventeen ? a corner taken at 240 km / h (150 mph) . Kubica said , " It might be quite tight if someone 's pitting " and Lotus driver Jarno Trulli said he was " worried about someone going into the back of him " when he was forced to pit because his car 's gears were stuck in position . He also said the drivers would raise the point with Whiting .

Some teams modified their cars in preparation for the event . Red Bull and Williams revised their brake ducts . Williams ' changed their brake ducts at the front to improve airflow inside the tyres and direct the duct towards their car 's central section more efficiently . Red Bull 's brake ducts , which had been changed for the third successive Grand Prix , reintroduced a small fin seen at the Singapore Grand Prix ; for Korea two aerodynamic fins were fitted and a larger duct was introduced . McLaren modified a version of their front wings first introduced in Singapore . The team added a vertical gurney flap and an additional vertical slot at the front wing endplate to improve airflow outside the front tyres and increase the amount of downforce and therefore grip produced by the bodywork . The team also brought a new rear wing and tested a new revision of their F @-@ duct system that debuted at the Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka . Ferrari revised their diffuser with curved profiles and one large middle plate designed to improve the extraction of air from the bottom of the F10 . As in Suzuka , Toro Rosso ran an F @-@ duct system in the Friday practice sessions .

= = = Practice and qualifying sessions = = =

Three practice sessions ? two on Friday and a third on Saturday ? were held before the main Sunday race . The Friday morning and afternoon sessions each lasted ninety minutes . The third session was held on Saturday morning and lasted an hour . The track was dusty when the first

practice sessions were held ; grip was poor and some drivers were forced onto the run @-@ off areas after they slid off the track . Hamilton set the pace in the first practice session with a time of 1 : 40 @.@ 887 ; almost one @-@ tenth of a second quicker than Kubica . Rosberg and Michael Schumacher set the third- and sixth @-@ fastest times respectively for Mercedes ; they were separated by Vettel and Button . Webber was seventh quickest , ahead of Nick Heidfeld . The two Williams drivers completed the top ten ; Nico Hülkenberg was ahead of Rubens Barrichello . Hispania driver Bruno Senna spun at turn nine after his left rear suspension broke and stopped on the track without hitting the barriers . Grip was improved for the second practice session , in which Webber set a time of 1 : 37 @.@ 942 ? the quickest of the day ? despite spinning late in the session . Alonso was second @-@ quickest and Hamilton was third . Kubica set the fourth @-@ quickest time . Button , who was sidelined for most of the session with an overheated exhaust , was fifth . Massa , Vettel , Vitaly Petrov , Rosberg and Kamui Kobayashi made up the rest of the top ten . Sakon Yamamoto in the other Hispania car caused the session to be suspended after spinning and stopping his car at turn sixteen .

After discussions with Whiting during the Friday night drivers ' briefing , the height of the apex at turn sixteen was increased and the wall around that area was moved back . A new apex kerb at turn eighteen was built to stop dirt and stones from accumulating on the circuit , and the track was extensively cleaned . Drivers were told they could drive into the pit lane from the racing line without incurring a penalty . Bridgestone had reported heavy tyre graining during the Friday practice sessions ; their Motorsport Tyre Development director Hirohide Hamashima said drivers would face a challenge of looking after their tyres if track conditions had not changed before the race . Kubica was quickest in the final practice session ; his late lap of 1 : 37 @.@ 354 was 0 @.@ 048 seconds quicker than Hamilton 's in second . Alonso was third @-@ quickest and Webber was fourth . Rosberg , who was fifth , slowed at turn fifteen during the session 's closing stages ; he narrowly avoided a collision with Alonso . The incident was subject to a stewards ' investigation ; the stewards decided not to penalise Rosberg . Massa , Button , Hülkenberg , Schumacher and Sutil completed the top ten ahead of qualifying . Vettel was sixteenth ; the result of running onto the grass .

The qualifying session held on Saturday afternoon was split into three parts . The first part ran for twenty minutes and eliminated the cars that finished the session eighteenth or lower from qualifying . The second part of qualifying lasted fifteen minutes and eliminated cars that finished in positions eleven to seventeen . The final part of qualifying determined the positions from first to tenth and decided pole position . Cars which competed in the final session of qualifying were not allowed to change tyres before the race ; these started the race fitted with the tyres with which they set their quickest lap times . It was held in overcast weather conditions . Tyre degradation on the soft compound tyres was heavy ; the drivers set their laps on the hard tyres during the first session and switched to softs for the two remaining sessions .

With a lap of 1 : 35 @.@ 585 , Vettel set the fastest time in the final session on his second timed run at the end of the period , achieving his ninth pole position of the season ? his first at the Korea International Circuit . Although he was delighted to get pole position , he felt he lost time in the middle sector after making a mistake . Vettel 's teammate Webber was also the front row of the grid ; he recorded a lap time 0 @.@ 076 seconds slower than Vettel 's and was pleased they would start the race alongside each other . Webber was not happy with his first set of option tyres ; he chose to do two more timed laps on a new set of option tyres in the third session . Alonso qualified third ; he said his starting position had realised Ferrari 's " maximum potential " . He also aimed to ensure that he finished the race because rain had been forecast . Alonso had been the fastest driver during most of the third session until Vettel set his pole position lap . Hamilton set the first session 's fastest time of 1 : 37 @.@ 113 ; he almost did not challenge for the pole position because he avoided making contact with the wall at the pit lane entry . He fell to fourth overall in the final part of qualifying . In the faster of the two Mercedes , Rosberg secured fifth place ; Massa in the slower Ferrari placed sixth . Massa was not happy because he would start the race on the dirty side of the grid , having encountered traffic during the third session . Button complained about the lack of grip and that he could not get his types to the optimum temperature ; he managed seventh position but was happy to start on the clean side of the grid . Kubica recorded the eighth @-@ fastest time and

struggled with oversteer , which prevented him from setting a faster lap time . Schumacher in the slower Mercedes took ninth place ahead of Barrichello in tenth . Barrichello was angry with Schumacher because he had blocked Barrichello during the second qualifying session . Schumacher went to Barrichello to apologise and was subsequently summoned by the stewards , who issued Schumacher with a reprimand .

Hülkenberg , who qualified eleventh , was the fastest driver not to advance into the final session . His best time of 1 : 37 @. @ 620 was 1 @. @ 5 seconds slower than Webber 's pace in the second session . He said eleventh place was a " good position to start from " despite losing the rear of his car in turn twelve , which caused him to abort one of his quick laps . Hülkenberg was followed in the times by the BMW Sauber drivers Kobayashi in twelfth and Heidfeld in thirteenth , followed by Sutil in the quickest of the two Force India cars . Petrov , who qualified in fifteenth , was penalised five positions on the grid because he had caused an avoidable accident with Hülkenberg at the start of the previous race at Suzuka . Petrov was aiming for a top ten grid position to minimise the effects of his grid penalty but he spun on his final timed lap after hitting a kerb ; he was unable to set a quicker lap time because his tyres had become dirty . As a result , Jaime Alguersuari inherited 15th position , ahead of his teammate Sébastien Buemi who opted to run one flying lap with a light fuel load for his last run of the second session but made minor mistakes which cost him time . Vitantonio Liuzzi , Trulli and Timo Glock were the quickest drivers unable to advance beyond the first part of qualifying . Liuzzi complained the tyre wear on his soft compound tyres was so excessive it had caused him to struggle with a large amount of oversteer through the last two sectors of the track . The tenth row of the grid was filled by Heikki Kovalainen (Lotus) and Lucas di Grassi (Virgin) . The two Hispania drivers completed the final two positions on the grid ; Yamamoto in twenty @-@ third was 0 @. @ 8 seconds faster than his teammate Senna in twenty @-@ fourth .

= = = Race = = =

The track was wet before the race because rain had fallen the previous night . The air temperature was 20 ° C (68 ° F) and the track temperature was 18 ° C (64 ° F) . Approximately 80 @, @ 000 people attended the race . Ferrari discovered a water leak in Alonso 's car , which was repaired in the hour before the event started . While on their reconnaissance laps , Massa , Senna and Glock left the circuit but avoided damage to their cars as drivers tested wet tyre compounds . The race was scheduled to start at 15 : 00 KST (UTC + 9) but rain continued to fall . A new start time of 15 : 10 local time was planned . Standing water on the track caused heavy spray and impaired visibility , meaning the race would start behind the safety car . All cars were required to use the full wet tyres .

The race began without a formation lap and despite the slow speed , drivers struggled for grip on the wet surface . After three laps under the safety car , conditions were unchanged ; drivers reported on the circuit 's condition via radio and the race was suspended . Light rain prevented the resumption of the Grand Prix for over forty @-@ five minutes until the marshals and road sweeping trucks removed some of the excess water and dirt on the track . Resin on the newly laid track surface had prevented water from soaking into the ground . The rain had eased slightly during the suspension . Teams were allowed to change the set @-@ up of their cars , which were largely optimised for dry weather conditions .

The race was restarted behind the safety car with the drivers in the positions held before the suspension . The safety car remained out for fourteen laps , during which the standing water was reduced as the cars circulated the track . Schumacher , Liuzzi and Yamamoto left the circuit during this period but were all able to rejoin . Di Grassi made a pit stop for new tyres three times under safety car and Senna made a pit stop at the end of the first lap . Once the safety car drove into the pit lane , cars were allowed to overtake . Vettel maintained his pole @-@ position lead going into the first turn with Webber close behind . Further back , Schumacher passed Kubica for eighth place . Senna and Trulli spun off onto the run @-@ off area but both drivers were able to continue . Rosberg passed Hamilton by taking the inside line to take fourth place at the third corner . Button tried to overtake Massa heading into turn four but ran wide . He momentarily lost the advantage and fended off Schumacher 's attempts to pass him .

At the end of the first racing lap , Vettel led by 2 @. @ 8 seconds from Webber , who was followed by Alonso , Rosberg , Hamilton , Massa , Button , Schumacher , Kubica , Hülkenberg , Sutil , Barrichello , Kobayashi , Heidfeld , Alguersari , Liuzzi , Buemi , Glock , Petrov , Kovalainen , Yamamoto , Trulli , Senna and di Grassi . Alonso chose a cautious approach and lost four to five seconds while building up his pace slowly in the early stages . Sutil ran off the circuit but continued after losing his position to both Williams drivers . Webber lost grip on the next lap after running across the outside kerbing and spinning across the track onto the wall between turns twelve and thirteen ; he slid back onto the circuit and collected Rosberg , forcing both drivers to retire . The debris on @-@ track from the accident called the safety car to be deployed . Kobayashi , Petrov , Heidfeld and Buemi all made pit stops for intermediate tyres during the safety car period .

The safety car pulled off the track at the end of lap twenty @-@ three and the race resumed with Vettel leading from Alonso and Hamilton . Vettel began to gradually pull clear from the rest of the field . On the twenty @-@ fourth lap while battling with Senna for twenty @-@ first place , Trulli collided with the Hispania driver after attempting a passing manoeuvre around the inside ; Trulli 's front wing was knocked off . Trulli drove to his garage for repairs . Button , who was in fifth , started to place Massa under pressure on the same lap . Kobayashi passed Yamamoto on lap twenty @-@ six but ran wide and fell down the order , while Trulli rejoined the race . Di Grassi lost control of his car at turn fourteen after trying to pass Yamamoto on lap twenty @-@ seven ; he made light contact with the wall which caused him to retire .

Schumacher moved up a position as he passed Button for fifth position at turn three on the same lap . On lap twenty @-@ eight , Trulli drove back to his garage to retire with a hydraulics failure that was caused by his power steering becoming heavy during the safety car period . Vettel set a new fastest lap of the race of 1 : 54 @. @ 098 , extending his lead over Alonso to 3 @. @ 5 seconds . Button , who was under pressure from Hülkenberg and Kubica , made a pit stop at the end of lap twenty @-@ eight for intermediate tyres and rejoined in fifteenth place . Kovalainen was sent into a spin by Buemi , having been passed by Petrov two laps later .

On lap thirty @-@ one , Buemi tried to pass Glock on the outside down into turn three but lost control of his car under braking and rammed into the side of Glock . Buemi sustained a broken left , front suspension and front wing damage , causing him to retire . The incident called for the race 's third safety car period . During the safety car deployment , most of the drivers made pit stops for intermediate tyres . Alonso , who was called in by Ferrari when Vettel changed his strategy , had a pit stop that proved problematic . He arrived into his pit box sideways after locking his tyres . One of his mechanics could not fit his front right wheel because he dropped a wheel nut ; he was required to fit a spare wheel nut onto the tyre , causing Alonso to be stationary for longer than usual . He lost third place to Hamilton .

Ferrari ordered Massa to slow down on his out @-@ lap to help Alonso minimise the effects of losing second position . Glock drove back to his pit box where his mechanics examined his car for damage and decided to retire him from the race . Kubica avoided making contact with Sutil when his lollipop man stopped him before he could drive away from his pit box . It was the second time that season Kubica and Sutil were involved in an incident in a pit lane ; Kubica had made contact with Sutil when the latter was driving into his pit box in the Hungarian Grand Prix . The safety car drove into the pit lane at the end of the thirty @-@ fourth lap and Vettel led at the restart . Hamilton ran deep , heading into the first corner and allowing Alonso to retake second position and immediately came under attack from Massa . Kubica took eighth place from Hülkenberg by taking the inside line at the third corner . Sutil took to the inside line and passed Button for twelfth on lap thirty @-@ six . Button was pushed wide onto the run @-@ off area and fell to fifteenth position .

As Vettel maintained his lead , the stewards informed the Lotus team that Kovalainen had been caught speeding in the pit lane , for which he was served with a ten @-@ second stop @-@ and @-@ go penalty that was taken on lap thirty @-@ nine . Alonso set a new fastest lap and closed the gap to 1 @. @ 2 seconds behind Vettel at the start of lap thirty @-@ seven . Further back , Sutil overtook Heidfeld for twelfth on the following lap . Sutil tried to pass Kobayashi on lap thirty @-@ eight at turn three but out @-@ braked himself , allowing Kobayashi to retake the position . He passed the Sauber driver because of his higher straight line speed , but Sutil braked later and slid

off the track , rejoining in fourteenth . One lap later , Alonso was told by his team to drive less aggressively through turns seven and eight in an effort to preserve tyre life because he was spinning his tyres under acceleration . At the conclusion of lap thirty @-@ nine , all of the drivers had made pit stops . Vettel was leading Alonso , who was followed by Hamilton , Massa , Schumacher , Barrichello , Petrov , Hülkenberg , Kubica , Liuzzi , Kobayashi , Heidfeld , Alguersari , Sutil , Button , Senna , Kovalainen and Yamamoto . A dry line began to emerge on lap forty @-@ one as Petrov lost control of the rear @-@ end of his car between turns seventeen and eighteen ; he slid sideways into the tyre barrier at the pit lane entry .

Alonso had reduced Vettel 's lead to 1 @-@ 1 seconds as Alonso set the event 's fastest lap of 1 : 50 @-@ 257 on lap 42 . By lap forty @-@ four , darkness was beginning to fall and Vettel complained he could not see the braking point in turn one , while Hamilton told his team the light level was " fine " . Drivers were dazzled and blinded by the gear @-@ shift lights on their steering wheels as a consequence . Vettel lost half of his engine capacity while driving through turn seventeen on lap 45 and felt strong vibrations . At the start of the forty @-@ sixth lap , Vettel started to slow with his engine problems and Alonso passed him around the inside to take the lead . Vettel then pulled into a gap at the main straight wall with smoke billowing from his engine , and retired . Sutil tried to overtake Kobayashi on lap forty @-@ seven but he slid into the side of the Sauber ; Sutil went off the track to retire with suspension damage . Kobayashi continued . Hülkenberg spun off the track on lap fifty @-@ two and made a pit stop for new tyres because his engineer on the pit @-@ wall told him one of his tyres had developed a slow puncture . Barrichello ran wide on the same lap and fell down to seventh behind Kubica and Liuzzi .

Alonso opened a gap of fourteen seconds to Hamilton , who was suffering from wear on his tyres , as the drivers struggled for grip and crossed the finish line on lap fifty @-@ five ; it was Alonso 's fifth victory of the season in a time of 2 ' 48 : 20 @-@ 810 , at an average speed of 68 @-@ 349 miles per hour (109 @-@ 997 km / h) . Hamilton finished in second place , 14 @-@ 9 seconds behind , ahead of Massa in third . Schumacher , who explored the best places on the circuit for grip , equalled his best result of the season with fourth at the Spanish Grand Prix and the Turkish Grand Prix . He was followed by Kubica in fifth , Liuzzi in sixth , Barrichello in seventh , Kobayashi eighth , Heidfeld ninth and Hülkenberg passed Alguersuari on the final lap to round out the points @-@ scoring positions in tenth . Button was the last driver on the lead lap , with Kovalainen in thirteenth . Hispania teammates Senna and Yamamoto were the last of the classified finishers in fourteenth and fifteenth , which was the team 's best race finish of the season .

== = Post @-@ race == =

The top three drivers appeared on the podium to collect their trophies and at a later press conference . Alonso said the Grand Prix was " one of the best races of the year " for the Ferrari team and that the wet weather conditions made the victory more difficult ; " I think it ? s one of the most tricky conditions ' victories I ? ve ever had , probably , because we started with very extreme conditions , red flag , then a couple of laps behind the safety car " . Alonso said he would not be changing his approach to driving in the final two rounds of the season . Hamilton said finishing in second was " a great result " and that he was " very happy " . He also said he lost time to his rivals in the final sector of the track because of problems with his brakes . Massa said that despite the poor visibility he endured he was happy to finish third . He also said he struggled with his rear tyres , which caused him to run more slowly than the drivers in front of him .

Petrov said he had mixed feelings after the race , having been in seventh position before his race @-@ ending crash on lap forty @-@ one . The Renault driver stated , " I am disappointed to end the race in the wall and not in the points , but it was encouraging to be running in the top ten " . Barrichello , placed fifth before he ran wide on lap fifty @-@ two and was passed by Kubica and Liuzzi , said , " I was lucky with the timing of the safety car and we were running in a good position right up until the closing stages . Unfortunately , I just ran out of tyre in the last five laps which cost us two places in the end . "

Webber said he was at fault for causing the accident between himself and Rosberg on lap nineteen

; " I thought I 'd managed to catch it but I lost the car and made contact with the wall . Then Nico hit me , which wrecked his race as well . It was my mistake and it wasn 't my day . " Rosberg was puzzled over the incident ; he said , " I don 't understand why Webber didn 't hit the brakes . It was crazy to roll back across the track like that . " Gerhard Berger , who raced in Formula One for thirteen years , courted controversy when he accused Webber of causing the incident deliberately and said the Red Bull driver planned to take out either Alonso or Hamilton . Red Bull team principal Christian Horner defended Webber in an interview with The Daily Telegraph , saying it was " absurd " that Webber attempted to take out another competitor and stated the car suffered heavy damage with the collision with the wall . Webber later went to Rosberg and apologised for the crash on the Friday before the Brazilian Grand Prix .

Vettel said Red Bull " did more or less , a perfect job " in the race until his retirement from an engine failure on the forty @-@ sixth lap . Renault principal engineer Fabrice Lom apologised to Red Bull for Vettel 's engine failure . It was later revealed by Vettel that the engine was not to have been used in future races had it not failed . Horner subsequently said Red Bull would not be favouring Vettel or Webber for the Drivers ' Championship . In 2011 , Red Bull advisor Helmut Marko said he had considered retirement from the sport after Vettel and Webber failed to finish the race because he believed Red Bull had lost the possibility to win the title in 2010 . After Webber and Vettel retired , members of the McLaren and Ferrari teams celebrated the events . Sauber team principal Peter Sauber told Blick it was " very unsporting " and that " they were scenes that didn 't please me at all " . Button said he had problems with his front tyres , which locked up under braking . He later described his race as " sad " . Button also told journalists he believed he was unable to defend the Drivers ' Championship but said he would not assist Hamilton unless Button was mathematically ruled out .

Buemi and Sutil were summoned to the stewards for the roles in their respective accidents and were given five @-@ place grid penalties for the next race at Interlagos . Sutil was fined \$ 10 @,@ 000 (£ 6 @,@ 400) for driving in the manner that was performed , despite knowing of a problem with his brakes . Sutil said he struggled with excessive brake force , which caused him to lock his tyres ; he was unhappy with his performance . Kobayashi said he saw Sutil in his mirror and believed he would not complete the manoeuvre . Buemi said his accident with Glock was caused by the Toro Rosso driver braking late and said he felt " sorry " for Glock .

The use of a safety car to start the race had a mixed response within the sport . Massa thanked Whiting in the media ; he said he felt Whiting " did an excellent job of managing the situation , making the right decisions as to when to start the race and when to bring in the Safety Car at the right moment " . Schumacher , Petrov , Sutil and Buemi also agreed with the decision to start under safety @-@ car conditions . Hamilton said he felt the length of time under safety @-@ car conditions was not " good for the spectators and it ? s not fun for the drivers " . He additionally felt the track was dry enough for a normal restart . BBC commentator and former driver Martin Brundle said he felt the race should have started at an earlier time , while Button said he thought the event should have been stopped before visibility became poor . Nevertheless , the Grand Prix was awarded the Race Promoters Trophy at the FIA Gala Awards held in Monte Carlo in December 2010 .

As a consequence of the race , Alonso moved back into the lead of the Drivers ' Championship on 231 points . Webber 's failure to score meant he fell to second , eleven points behind Alonso . Hamilton 's second @-@ place finish resulted in him moving ahead of Vettel , with Button remaining in fifth . Red Bull still led the Constructors ' Championship despite not getting both cars to the finish . McLaren remained in second with 399 points ; Ferrari had caught up to McLaren , the gap between the two teams reduced to 25 points with two races of the season remaining . Given Alonso 's new lead , Vettel acknowledged his team had the fastest car in the season 's two remaining races and remained confident of winning the drivers ' championship . After the conclusion of the championship in Vettel 's favour by four points , Webber 's manager Flavio Briatore highlighted the Korean Grand Prix as one of Webber 's most obvious lost opportunities in his bid to win the title .

= = Classification = =

== Qualifying ==

Notes :

^ ? Renault 's Vitaly Petrov was given a retroactive five @-@ place grid penalty for causing an avoidable accident with Williams 's Nico Hülkenberg at the start of the Japanese Grand Prix .

== Race ==

== Championship standings after the race ==

Bold text indicates who still has a theoretical chance of becoming World Champion .

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