

= 2015 Mexican Grand Prix =

The 2015 Mexican Grand Prix ( formally known as the Formula 1 Gran Premio de México 2015 ) was a Formula One motor race held at the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez in Mexico City on 1 November 2015 . The race , which was contested over seventy @-@ one laps , was the seventeenth race of the 2015 Formula One season . It marked the seventeenth time that the Mexican Grand Prix has been run as a round of the Formula One World Championship since its inception in 1950 , and the first time that the race has been run since 1992 .

Nico Rosberg qualified in pole position , having already been fastest in two of the three free practice sessions . He won the race for Mercedes , followed by his teammate Lewis Hamilton , who had secured the Drivers ' Championship at the previous event in the United States . Valtteri Bottas completed the podium in third , driving for Williams . Both Ferrari drivers ? Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Räikkönen ? retired after crashes , with both losing one position in the Championship to Rosberg and Bottas respectively . It was the first time since the 2006 Australian Grand Prix that neither Ferrari was classified .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

The Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez circuit underwent substantial reconfiguration in the build @-@ up to the event . The first corner complex was tightened on entry , while the middle part of the track was completely re @-@ profiled , retaining much of the original design whilst reducing the reliance on aerodynamic grip . The most significant changes were made in the final part , with the Peraltada corner cut in half and the circuit redirected through the Foro Sol stadium complex in the circuit infield beginning with turn 12 , following a similar layout to the one used by ChampCar between 2002 and 2007 . The track layout featured two drag reduction system ( DRS ) zones , one on the main straight and another between turns three and four .

One week prior to the race , Hurricane Patricia ? the largest tropical storm cell in the Northern Hemisphere on record ? crossed the Mexican coastline near Cuixmala in Jalisco state . Patricia had previously disrupted the United States Grand Prix .

Tyre supplier Pirelli brought four compounds to the race . As for all races , the blue @-@ banded wet and green @-@ banded intermediate tyres were provided for possible rain . As for dry @-@ weather ( or " slick " ) tyres , Pirelli supplied the teams with the soft and medium compounds , the two middle options of their four tyres for the 2015 season .

= = = Free practice = = =

Per the regulations for the 2015 season , three practice sessions were scheduled , two 1 @. @ 5 @-@ hour sessions on Friday and another one @-@ hour session before qualifying on Saturday . The first session on Friday started on a damp track , described by Sebastian Vettel as " ridiculously slippery " , with the first half @-@ hour of running done on intermediate tyres . Valtteri Bottas set the fastest time on those tyres , before all teams switched on the medium compound . Even on the dry tyres , still many drivers were fooled by the conditions , going off at turns 8 and 10 in particular . Nico Rosberg 's Mercedes suffered from overheating rear brakes , forcing him back to the pits while he held the fastest time . Carlos Sainz , Jr. recorded the most timed laps with 37 , and finished eighth fastest , ahead of local favourite Sergio Pérez and Felipe Massa . Jolyon Palmer again replaced Romain Grosjean at the wheel of the Lotus , as he would do for the rest of the season , and finished fifteenth fastest , two @-@ tenths of a second slower than teammate Pastor Maldonado . The fastest time of the session was set by Max Verstappen in the Toro Rosso , at 1m25.990s , even though the young Dutchman went off in the second sector of the track . He was followed by Daniil Kvyat and the two Ferraris of Kimi Räikkönen and Sebastian Vettel . While Rosberg was demoted to

sixth , newly crowned World Champion Lewis Hamilton was only eleventh fastest .

In the second session on Friday afternoon , Nico Rosberg was fastest , setting a time of 1m21.531s. With the track tarmac still being very new , the surface was slippery and it was another session that saw a lot of drivers get caught out . The biggest accident of the practice came after just five minutes , when Max Verstappen crashed at the exit of the stadium , bringing out red flags . After the running resumed , Valtteri Bottas lost the rear of his Williams FW37 , caused by a fault in his DRS flap , and crashed at turn one . He was not the only one having problems in the first corner , as Sergio Pérez , Carlos Sainz , Jr. and Pastor Maldonado also went off there . Lewis Hamilton meanwhile had an off @-@ track moment at turn four . Romain Grosjean had to end his first practice of the weekend early , when a clutch failure saw him park his car 28 minutes into the session . Jenson Button ran 25 laps and finished ninth fastest albeit spending half of the session in the pits , while the team equipped his car with a new power unit . Behind Rosberg , the two Red Bulls were second and third , ahead of Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel .

Nico Rosberg was again fastest at the last practice session on Saturday morning with a time of 1m21.083s , edging out teammate Hamilton by just 0.014s. After rainfall during the night , the track was slippery at the beginning of practice . It was not until thirty minutes into the session that the grip improved and many teams then opted to run the faster soft compound tyres . Rosberg set the fastest times early on and while Hamilton was able to close the gap gradually , he ended the session slightly slower than the German . Behind the two Mercedes , Daniel Ricciardo was close , just 0.118s behind , followed by Vettel , another tenth of a second adrift . Reporting vibrations from his engine , Jenson Button again spent much time in the garage , ending the practice with the slowest time , more than eight seconds behind Rosberg . The long main straight of the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez delivered the fastest speeds seen during the 2015 season . Due to their lack of pure power , McLaren expected to struggle during the remainder of the weekend .

= = = Qualifying = = =

Qualifying consisted of three parts , 18 , 15 and 12 minutes in length respectively , with five drivers eliminated from competing after each of the first two sessions . During the first part of qualifying ( Q1 ) , Kimi Räikkönen was able to compete , after the Ferrari crew was able to change his gearbox in time for the session . Not running was Jenson Button , after his team decided not to go out , since a 55 @-@ place grid penalty would have placed him at the back of the grid at any case . Marcus Ericsson was more than half a second quicker than teammate Felipe Nasr , who failed to proceed into Q2 , as did both Manor Marussia drivers . With Button out of the running , just one more driver was eliminated , and that proved to be his McLaren teammate Alonso , who barely missed out on making the cut . At the front , Rosberg set the fastest time ahead of Vettel , while Hamilton was the only driver not to use the soft compound tyre .

Lewis Hamilton did go out on the softer tyres in Q2 , setting the fastest time of the session , the first to lap in under 1 : 20 minutes . Behind him Vettel was second ahead of Rosberg . Räikkönen went out on the harder compound tyre , but aborted his running after spinning in turn one , leaving him fifteenth fastest with a grid penalty for his gearbox change yet to come . Max Verstappen put in a fast lap towards the end of the session , demoting his teammate Sainz , Jr. out of the top ten . Also eliminated were both Lotus and the second Sauber of Ericsson .

In Q3 , both Mercedes drivers set two consecutive fast laps at the beginning of the session , with Rosberg coming out on top , 0.188s ahead of his teammate . All drivers had problems in improving on their times during the second run of timed laps on fresher tyres . While Hamilton did improve early in the lap , his effort was stopped when he made a mistake at turn twelve . This meant that he was unable to challenge Rosberg for pole position , who qualified first for the fourth race in a row . The two Mercedes drivers were closely followed by Vettel , ahead of the two Red Bulls of Kvyat and Ricciardo , both Williams cars and Verstappen in eighth . In the fifth row of the grid , local favourite Sergio Pérez edged out teammate Nico Hülkenberg for ninth .

= = = Race = = =

At the start , Nico Rosberg got away well , fending off an attack by teammate Hamilton into the first corner . Behind them , Vettel had a bad getaway that saw him get in the midst of the Red Bulls . In turn 5 , he touched Daniel Ricciardo 's car , suffering a puncture that forced him into the pits at the end of the first lap . While he was able to get back out , Fernando Alonso ended his race after just one lap due to a loss of power . Therefore , the order after the first lap stood as : Rosberg , Hamilton , Kvyat and Ricciardo . The two Mercedes ( Rosberg and Hamilton ) soon opened a gap on the Red Bulls ( Kvyat and Ricciardo ) , exchanging fastest laps in the process , while Felipe Massa and Max Verstappen got entangled in a fight for sixth place . Kimi Räikkönen , who was told early on to cool his brakes , made good progress up the field and was in 13th position by lap 8 . One lap later , Valtteri Bottas became the first of the front runners to pit , putting on the medium compound , followed just a lap later by teammate Massa . While Räikkönen had moved up to eighth place by lap 12 , Sergio Pérez and Carlos Sainz , Jr. got into a fight for sixth place , with the former being asked by his team to stay out as long as possible .

Sebastian Vettel slowly moved up the field , running eleventh on lap 18 , only to spin a lap later at turn seven , falling back to 16th . He subsequently complained about a flat spot on his tyre , but continued without pitting . On lap 20 , Sergio Pérez pitted for new tyres and a front wing adjustment . Since the stop took longer than expected , he rejoined just before Sainz , Jr . , who used the momentum to pass Pérez into turn one . Meanwhile , Räikkönen and Bottas were racing for sixth place . On lap 24 , Bottas attacked around the outside into turn two , sticking to the inside line at the following corner , where Räikkönen did not back away and ran into the front @-@ left of the Williams , breaking his own rear @-@ right suspension and forcing him to retire on the spot , while Bottas was able to carry on . Rosberg came in for his scheduled pit stop on lap 27 , while Hamilton waited two laps to follow suit , trying to get ahead . This proved unsuccessful , as he rejoined behind Rosberg after his stop on lap 29 . On lap 35 , Sergio Pérez attempted to overtake Carlos Sainz , Jr. for ninth , who ran wide and kept his position . After his team radio informed him that he had done so by going off track , he handed the position to Pérez . Sebastian Vettel pitted for a second time on lap 37 and rejoined in between the two Mercedes of Rosberg and Hamilton , albeit a lap down . He was told to let Hamilton go by as well some laps later .

On lap 48 , Mercedes changed strategies , bringing in both drivers for another tyre stop , much to the dismay of Lewis Hamilton , who complained to his team over the radio . Meanwhile , a fight developed between Massa and Ricciardo for fifth place , with the latter making the pass at the beginning of lap 53 . On the same lap , Sebastian Vettel spun once more at turn seven , this time hitting the barriers , ending his race and bringing out the safety car . The double retirement marked the first time since the 2006 Australian Grand Prix that none of their cars were classified . During the caution period , the order stood as : Rosberg , Hamilton , Kvyat , Bottas , Ricciardo , Massa , Hülkenberg , Pérez , Verstappen and Grosjean . At the restart at the beginning of lap 58 , Bottas made a move on Kvyat into turn one , taking third place . Over the last laps of the race , Hamilton was able to close on Rosberg , as was Massa on the two Red Bulls ahead of him . However , neither were able to overtake , and Rosberg crossed the finish line to take victory , followed by Hamilton and Bottas .

== = Post @-@ race == =

At the podium ceremony , the interviews were conducted by Nigel Mansell , who had won the last race at the venue in 1992 . Both Mercedes drivers complimented each other 's driving , highlighting the atmosphere and the enthusiasm of the fans in Mexico . Valtteri Bottas thanked his team , saying that they were " racing like a race @-@ winning team " . During the post @-@ race press conference , Lewis Hamilton described it as " one of the fun races for me " , since he did not have to worry about points at that point . However , new frictions emerged at Mercedes as Hamilton later asserted that the team had favoured Rosberg over the weekend in order to " keep him happy " .

Local favourite Sergio Pérez , who had been on a one @-@ stop strategy , said after the race that it had been the safety car period that " destroyed " his chances at a better result , but added : " What I

could do , I did perfectly , so I 'm happy with that . " His teammate Nico Hülkenberg had finished the race in front of him , and said after the race : " The Safety Car ended up playing into my hands , which is the little bit of luck you always need to get a good result " . Speaking about the race , 14th @-@ placed Jenson Button said : " Painful , I think , is the word . I was on the harder tyre at the start but still it was just waving goodbye to everyone in front really . " He also stated that he believed that McLaren were more affected by the high altitude than the other teams . On his one @-@ lap outing , Fernando Alonso explained that the problem that caused his retirement had been discovered the night before . He added : " We had two possibilities , retire the car without even starting the race or try our maximum , knowing that maybe one or two laps was the maximum we could achieve [ ... ] . We did one lap , for respect of the fans because they were amazing all weekend . "

Following their worst weekend in almost ten years , Ferrari were self @-@ critical . Sebastian Vettel was quoted as describing his race as " a shit job " , and later took full responsibility for his race ending crash , saying that he " probably just ask [ ed ] or want [ ed ] a little bit too much " . Speaking about the collision between Kimi Räikkönen and Valtteri Bottas , Ferrari team principal Maurizio Arrivabene said : " It 's an accident , it 's part of the show . I don 't want to blame anybody . " He went on to describe the weekend as " a good lesson " for the team , taking positive things from the race , such as the good race pace shown by both cars . As a result of their double retirement , both Ferrari drivers lost their respective positions in the Drivers ' Championship . While Vettel was overtaken by Rosberg into second place , Räikkönen lost fourth position to Valtteri Bottas . In the Constructors ' Standings , Williams moved closer to Ferrari in second place , now trailing them by 131 points . At the FIA Prize Giving Ceremony on 3 December 2015 , the organizers were awarded the prize as Best Promoter .

= = Classification = =

= = = Qualifying = = =

Notes :

^ 1 ? Kimi Räikkönen received a ten- and four five @-@ place grid penalties for exceeding the allowed allocation of four of his power unit components , as well as a five @-@ place grid penalty for an unauthorized gearbox change .

^ 2 ? Fernando Alonso received a ten @-@ place grid penalty for an engine change and a five @-@ place grid penalty for an unauthorized gearbox change .

^ 3 ? Jenson Button did not set a lap time during Q1 . He received permission from the stewards to start the race . Additionally , he received 70 @-@ place ( three ten- and eight five @-@ place ) grid penalties for exceeding the allowed allocation of five of his power unit components , unscheduled engine and gearbox changes .

= = = Race = = =

= = = Championship standings after the race = = =

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

Bold text indicates 2015 World Champions .