



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

MALAYSIA MOTOGP 2026

SEPANG PREVIEW & PREDICTIONS
OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1

Qualifying | Sprint | Grand Prix | Europe & USA schedule

INDEPENDENT EDITORIAL GUIDE | RESEARCHED OCTOBER 26, 2026

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CONTENTS

A complete race-weekend guide for Europe and the USA

03	Malaysia At A Glance
04	Europe Viewing Schedule
05	Usa Viewing Schedule
06	The Championship Picture
07	What The Title Math Says
08	Marc Marquez: The Benchmark
09	Aprilia: Pace And Uncertainty
10	Ducati Beyond The Title Leader
11	Acosta And The Ktm Challenge
12	The Outsiders To Watch
13	Where Sepang Can Be Decided
14	Tyres, Heat And Traffic
15	Qualifying Predictions
16	Sprint Predictions
17	Grand Prix Predictions
18	If Rain Changes The Race
19	The Final Race-Week Check
20	Sources & Editorial Disclaimer

HOW TO READ THIS GUIDE

Facts and predictions are identified separately. Rankings assume dry conditions and a conservative rider-availability scenario. Recheck fitness, the final grid and weather before using the selections. Numbered sources are linked on each page.



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MALAYSIA AT A GLANCE

Sepang | October 30 - November 1, 2026

Sepang arrives with the title fight finely balanced. Our central editorial call is a Bezzecchi versus Marc Marquez contest, with the health of Jorge Martin the largest unresolved variable before practice begins.

THE EVENT

Item	Verified detail
Venue	Petronas Sepang International Circuit, Malaysia
Main race	Sunday, November 1 scheduled 15:00 MYT (UTC+8)
Circuit	5.54 km 15 corners: 10 right, 5 left
Grand Prix distance	20 laps official scheduled distance 110.86 km
Viewing headline	08:00 CET 07:00 GMT 02:00 EST 00:00 PDT

WHY THIS ROUND MATTERS

The Australian Sunday race was cancelled because visibility prevented medical-helicopter operations. Saturday points still count. A fresh title swing in Malaysia is therefore possible without any Sunday result from Phillip Island to use as a form guide.

OUR STARTING SCENARIO

All forecasts assume a dry, normally completed event. Martin and Raul Fernandez are omitted from the ranked selections until fitness is confirmed; this is a conservative editorial scenario, not a statement that either will miss Sepang.

Race-weekend dates are October 30 - November 1; October 26 is the research date.



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EUROPE VIEWING SCHEDULE

Malaysia local time, Central Europe and the United Kingdom

These are published session start times, subject to revision. The date in the Malaysia column also applies to both European columns. Central Europe is already on winter time for the entire weekend.

MOTOGP CLASS | SESSION STARTS

Session	Malaysia MYT	Central Europe CET	UK GMT
FP1	Fri 30 Oct 10:45	03:45	02:45
Practice	Fri 30 Oct 15:00	08:00	07:00
FP2	Sat 31 Oct 10:10	03:10	02:10
Q1	Sat 31 Oct 10:50	03:50	02:50
Q2	Sat 31 Oct 11:15	04:15	03:15
Sprint	Sat 31 Oct 15:00	08:00	07:00
Warm-up	Sun 01 Nov 10:40	03:40	02:40
Grand Prix	Sun 01 Nov 15:00	08:00	07:00

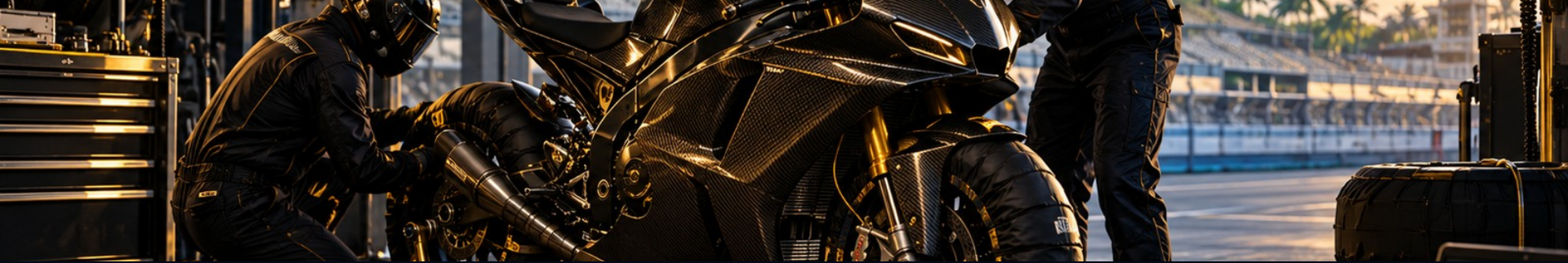
SET THE RIGHT CLOCK

MYT is UTC+8, CET is UTC+1 and GMT is UTC+0. For Paris, Berlin, Rome and Madrid, both the Saturday Sprint and Sunday Grand Prix begin at 08:00. The UK start is 07:00 on both days.

BEFORE YOU PUBLISH

These are session starts, not broadcast start times. Recheck the official event page and your local rights holder for coverage, delays or revised running orders. Moto2 and Moto3 are outside this premier-class timetable.

Sprint: Saturday October 31. Grand Prix: Sunday November 1.



USA VIEWING SCHEDULE

Eastern and Pacific | each entry includes the US date

Malaysia sessions can fall on the previous evening in the USA. The US clock change on November 1 is especially important: Eastern has switched to standard time when the race begins, while Pacific is still on daylight time.

MOTOGP CLASS | SESSION STARTS

Session	US Eastern	US Pacific
FP1	Thu 29 Oct 22:45 EDT	Thu 29 Oct 19:45 PDT
Practice	Fri 30 Oct 03:00 EDT	Fri 30 Oct 00:00 PDT
FP2	Fri 30 Oct 22:10 EDT	Fri 30 Oct 19:10 PDT
Q1	Fri 30 Oct 22:50 EDT	Fri 30 Oct 19:50 PDT
Q2	Fri 30 Oct 23:15 EDT	Fri 30 Oct 20:15 PDT
Sprint	Sat 31 Oct 03:00 EDT	Sat 31 Oct 00:00 PDT
Warm-up	Sat 31 Oct 22:40 EDT	Sat 31 Oct 19:40 PDT
Grand Prix	Sun 01 Nov 02:00 EST	Sun 01 Nov 00:00 PDT

THE SUNDAY RACE, EXACTLY

15:00 MYT on November 1 equals 07:00 UTC: 02:00 EST in New York and 00:00 PDT in Los Angeles. Pacific clocks change later that morning. Do not label this start 00:00 PST.

MAKE THE ALARM DATE EXPLICIT

Friday FP1 is Thursday evening in both US zones. Saturday qualifying is Friday evening. Sunday warm-up is Saturday evening. Select the dates shown in the table rather than copying the Malaysian day label into a US calendar.

US race start: Sunday November 1, 02:00 EST / 00:00 PDT.



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THE CHAMPIONSHIP PICTURE

Official rider standings checked October 26, 2026

Marquez leads Martin by ten points and Bezzecchi by fifty. These are official championship positions, not a predicted Sepang finishing order. Australia added Sprint points only.

TOP TEN ENTERING MALAYSIA

Pos.	Rider	Bike	Points	Gap
1	Marc Marquez	Ducati	365	Leader
2	Jorge Martin	Aprilia	355	-10
3	Marco Bezzecchi	Aprilia	315	-50
4	Pedro Acosta	KTM	263	-102
5	Ai Ogura	Aprilia	259	-106
6	Fabio Di Giannantonio	Ducati	252	-113
7	Raul Fernandez	Aprilia	236	-129
8	Alex Marquez	Ducati	181	-184
9	Francesco Bagnaia	Ducati	166	-199
10	Fermin Aldeguer	Ducati	125	-240

READ THE CLASSIFICATION CORRECTLY

Aldeguer remains in the season standings but is ruled out of Malaysia; Lecuona substitutes. Later prediction tables are subjective editorial judgments. A high championship position does not confirm participation, and a low position does not prevent a strong individual race.

Do not treat a season standings entry as confirmation of race participation.



WHAT THE TITLE MATH SAYS

A ten-point lead can change quickly

A complete weekend offers a maximum 37 rider points: 12 in the Sprint and 25 on Sunday. The currently listed remaining rounds are Malaysia, Qatar, Portugal and Valencia, making 148 points available under normal full-points scoring.

ILLUSTRATIVE MALAYSIA SCENARIOS

Scenario	Resulting gap
Marc wins both; Martin scores zero	Marc leads Martin by 47 points: $10 + 37$.
Martin wins both; Marc scores zero	Martin leads Marc by 27 points: $37 - 10$.
Marc wins; Martin finishes second in both	Marc gains 8 points and leads by 18.
Bezzecchi wins both; Marc scores zero	Bezzecchi closes his deficit from 50 to 13.

WHY THIS IS NOT A CORONATION WEEKEND

With three rounds scheduled after Sepang, up to 111 points remain afterwards. Even a perfect Marquez weekend with Martin scoring nothing leaves only a 47-point gap to Martin. Marquez therefore cannot secure the riders title here under the current full calendar.

IMPORTANT LIMIT

These examples are arithmetic, not predictions of participation or outcomes. Reductions in points, cancellations, later calendar changes and sporting decisions would require recalculation. A rider can gain on one rival while losing ground to another.

A race win matters; the combined 37-point weekend matters even more.



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MARC MARQUEZ: THE BENCHMARK

Sprint pick | strongest all-weather reference

Marquez won the Australian Sprint ahead of Alex Marquez and Di Giannantonio, taking back the championship lead. That result is the basis for our Saturday preference, but Sepang requires its own evidence before the choice can become firmer.

THE CASE FOR PICKING HIM

Our interpretation is that his immediate fighting form makes him the safest initial reference for a short race. A clean first lap and a position near the front would let him choose when to attack rather than spend the Sprint passing through traffic. We rank him first on Saturday and second on Sunday.

WHY HE IS NOT OUR AUTOMATIC SUNDAY WINNER

The most recent completed Grand Prix was Mandalika, where he finished sixth and Aprilia occupied the first four positions. We give Bezzecchi the initial long-race edge on that evidence. This is a judgment about recent form, not a claim that the two circuits produce identical strengths.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE CALL

Promote Marquez to the Sunday win pick if he shows a more repeatable used-tyre run than Bezzecchi in comparable conditions. A single fast lap is insufficient. Watch the last third of each representative run and whether he can maintain his line while following another bike.

Initial selection: Marc Marquez to win the Sprint; a podium contender on Sunday.



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APRILIA: PACE AND UNCERTAINTY

Bezzecchi to win | Martin fitness decision pending

Bezzecchi won the Indonesian Grand Prix ahead of Fernandez and Martin, with Ogura fourth. Aprilia also placed four bikes in the top five of Friday Practice in Australia. Together, those observations support our initial dry-weather preference.

BEZZECCHI IS OUR GRAND PRIX WINNER

He is the lead Sunday selection because recent long-race performance offers a stronger foundation than a reputation-based pick. Our preferred winning route is a front-row start, staying close without forcing every early pass, then carrying a consistent pace into the closing laps. This is an editorial race scenario, not measured Sepang telemetry.

MARTIN MUST BE TREATED CONDITIONALLY

Aprilia reported a non-displaced distal-radius fracture after his Australian Sprint crash. The update left open a return in Malaysia; it did not confirm he would race. We do not infer medical clearance or competitive endurance from a possible return.

IF MARTIN IS CLEARED

Reinsert him as a potential top-five contender only after he demonstrates repeatable braking and a representative run. A fit, competitive Martin can displace the lower-ranked riders in our selection and challenge the podium. His championship position alone does not justify an unconditional prediction.

Bezzecchi is the initial dry-race pick; Martin requires a fresh availability check.



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DUCATI BEYOND THE TITLE LEADER

Di Giannantonio, Alex Marquez and Bagnaia

Alex Marquez and Di Giannantonio completed the Australian Sprint podium behind Marc. Both deserve attention before the weekend, while Bagnaia needs a clear improvement in observed performance to move above our more conservative starting position.

DI GIANNANTONIO: OUR PODIUM OUTSIDER

We select him third on Sunday in the stated dry-track scenario. The reasoning is that a recent podium finish makes him a credible challenger if the lead pair become occupied with each other. Confirm that potential through clean practice runs rather than assuming a podium at Phillip Island transfers automatically.

ALEX MARQUEZ: A STRONG SATURDAY OPTION

His Australian second place puts him third in our Sprint selection and fifth for the Grand Prix. The difference reflects our own expectation that Acosta can become more influential over the full race. Alex moves up if he protects rear grip better in comparable long runs.

BAGNAIA AND THE GRESINI SUBSTITUTE

Bagnaia is seventh in our initial Sunday order, with upside if his braking confidence and qualifying position improve. Aldeguer is confirmed out of Malaysia, so he is not a race pick. Iker Lecuona is the announced replacement; allow practice evidence to establish his realistic target before assigning an ambitious finish.

Sunday podium outsider: Di Giannantonio. Bagnaia is an upgrade candidate after practice.



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ACOSTA AND THE KTM CHALLENGE

A podium threat if the first laps stay controlled

Acosta finished fifth in both the Indonesian Grand Prix and Australian Sprint. We start him fourth for the Sepang Grand Prix, with the potential to upset our podium order if he remains close enough to attack late.

THE ROUTE TO A BETTER RESULT

Our preferred Acosta scenario is a start near the leading group, decisive but selective passes and enough grip to defend after each attack. A late-braking overtake only helps if the following corner exit does not immediately give the position back. Look for repeatability across several laps, not just one spectacular move.

THE MAIN RISK TO THE PICK

If he spends too much of the opening phase fighting a crowded group, the time lost can be more costly than a small outright pace deficit. Reduce the forecast if practice suggests difficulty holding the chosen line in traffic or if a poor grid slot demands too many early passes.

SECONDARY KTM WATCH

Enea Bastianini is our eighth-place Sunday selection, with Brad Binder an alternative if his used-tyre runs are stronger. This is a deliberately modest initial ranking. Promote either on Sepang evidence; do not assign a KTM-wide advantage from Acosta alone. A weak qualifying result also matters more to the short Sprint than to the full Grand Prix.

Initial Acosta forecast: fifth in the Sprint, fourth in the Grand Prix.



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THE OUTSIDERS TO WATCH

Ogura, Honda and Yamaha beyond the headline battle

Ogura is our leading outsider outside the factory title protagonists and the recent Ducati Sprint podium finishers. We place him sixth on Sunday. A strong long run could justify moving him into the top five, especially if another contender is absent.

OGURA: A RECENT LONG-RACE REFERENCE

Fourth in the Indonesian Grand Prix provides a useful reason to take him seriously over race distance. Our caution comes from the Australian Sprint, where an eight-second tyre-pressure penalty changed his classification. Watch performance and the final official result together; the flag is not always the final order.

HONDA: ZARCO ON THE LIST, MIR RETURNING

We put Johann Zarco ninth in the initial Sunday order. Joan Mir has announced a Malaysia return after his illness absence. He was on the Sepang podium in 2025, but a previous-year result does not establish current fitness or 2026 race pace. Treat him as a candidate to add after Friday rather than a guaranteed repeat podium.

YAMAHA AND THE TENTH-PLACE DECISION

Fabio Quartararo takes the final top-ten place in our base forecast. Jack Miller, Binder and Mir are alternatives if practice or changing conditions support them. Tenth is the least firm choice in the table; it should be the first position reviewed after qualifying.

Outsider watch: Ogura for the top five; reassess Mir after his return to track.



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WHERE SEPANG CAN BE DECIDED

Braking, corner exits and the final part of a run

Sepang combines long straights, slow corners and flowing sections on a wide circuit. Our viewing priority is the transition between them: gaining a position is only valuable if the rider can preserve the next exit and keep the pace sustainable.

BRAKING INTO THE SLOW CORNERS

Watch which riders can repeat a controlled stopping point while defending an inside line. An attack that sends the bike wide creates an immediate counterattack opportunity. For our forecast, consistent execution matters more than the latest-braking move of the session.

DRIVE ONTO THE STRAIGHTS

A small exit mistake can leave a rider exposed for a long acceleration phase. Compare how the bike behaves as the rider opens the throttle, particularly after an overtake. Strong straight-line speed on its own cannot recover every loss created by a poor preceding corner.

THE LAST PART OF THE RACE

Compare each contender with their own earlier rhythm as well as the rider ahead. A position change can be caused by declining grip, changing traffic or a mistake, not necessarily a sudden improvement in the overtaker. Separate a clean-air lap from a lap spent battling before deciding who has the better pace.

Watch the whole corner sequence, not only the pass at the end of a straight.



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TYRES, HEAT AND TRAFFIC

A decision process for the full race

Michelin supplies MotoGP tyres in 2026. Dry slicks and grooved rain tyres serve different conditions; compound and construction also matter. This guide does not claim a confirmed Sepang compound allocation or prescribe an unverified pressure setting.

WHAT TO COMPARE ON FRIDAY

Use runs made in similar track conditions, noting tyre age where it is publicly available. Look for a rider who can maintain useful pace after the opening grip peak. A softer option is not automatically better over twenty laps, and a harder label alone does not guarantee the faster total race.

TRAFFIC IS PART OF THE STRATEGY

The Australian Sprint tyre-pressure penalty for Ogura is a recent reminder that the official classification may change after the finish. When a rider lets another through or changes their gap, avoid inventing a technical explanation. Public timing and team comments may not reveal the full pressure picture.

OUR DRY-RACE PREFERENCE

Prefer the combination that preserves predictable braking and usable rear grip across a representative run. The practical upgrade signal is repeatable pace with a used tyre, followed by a clean first lap from a competitive grid position. We will change the compound judgment when the actual allocation and track evidence are available.

Dry-race priority: preserve consistent braking and rear grip over the full distance.



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QUALIFYING PREDICTIONS

Editorial forecast | dry track | before practice

Bezzecchi gets our initial pole selection, with Marquez the main alternative. This is a subjective early ranking, not a predicted lap time or a statistical probability. Martin and Fernandez remain outside it pending fitness confirmation.

PROJECTED FIRST TWO ROWS

Grid	Rider	Editorial rationale
1	Marco Bezzecchi	Our initial dry-pole preference.
2	Marc Marquez	The most direct pole challenger.
3	Fabio Di Giannantonio	A credible front-row outsider.
4	Alex Marquez	Recent Sprint podium form.
5	Pedro Acosta	A threat if braking is repeatable.
6	Francesco Bagnaia	Upside if Sepang restores confidence.

WHY FRIDAY PRACTICE MATTERS

The top ten in the designated Friday Practice session progress directly to Q2. Two more riders advance from Q1. Saturday qualifying sets the grid for both the Sprint and Sunday Grand Prix; Saturday race finishing order does not set the Sunday grid.

THE UPDATE RULE

Keep Bezzecchi first only if he reaches Q2 and can reproduce his pace across a clean qualifying attempt. Switch to Marquez if he has the stronger representative lap and better conditions. Rain, a red flag, traffic, a penalty or a confirmed fit returnee can invalidate the order.

Pole pick: Bezzecchi. Main alternative: Marc Marquez.



SPRINT PREDICTIONS

Saturday October 31 | provisional top nine

Marquez is our Sprint winner. This subjective order assumes a dry track and full points, with Martin and Fernandez excluded pending fitness confirmation. Their omission is a conservative scenario, not an announced withdrawal.

PROJECTED POINTS FINISHERS

Pos.	Rider	Sprint points
1	Marc Marquez	12
2	Marco Bezzecchi	9
3	Alex Marquez	7
4	Fabio Di Giannantonio	6
5	Pedro Acosta	5
6	Ai Ogura	4
7	Francesco Bagnaia	3
8	Enea Bastianini	2
9	Fabio Quartararo	1

WHY MARQUEZ GETS THE EDGE

His Australian Sprint win supports our Saturday choice. We favour Alex ahead of Acosta over the shorter distance. Rebuild the order if Martin or Fernandez returns competitively, and review it against the actual grid.

Sprint winner: Marc Marquez. The first lap is the key risk to this selection.



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GRAND PRIX PREDICTIONS

Sunday November 1 | provisional top ten

Our subjective dry-race order puts Bezzecchi first. Martin and Fernandez are excluded pending fitness confirmation; neither is declared absent. This is a pre-practice forecast, not a result or simulated probability.

PROJECTED TOP TEN

Pos.	Rider	GP points
1	Marco Bezzecchi	25
2	Marc Marquez	20
3	Fabio Di Giannantonio	16
4	Pedro Acosta	13
5	Alex Marquez	11
6	Ai Ogura	10
7	Francesco Bagnaia	9
8	Enea Bastianini	8
9	Johann Zarco	7
10	Fabio Quartararo	6

THE CALL CAN CHANGE

Bezzecchi gets the recent long-race form edge. A fit, competitive Martin enters the top-five discussion; Fernandez threatens the top six if ready. Rebuild the order after practice, qualifying and fitness updates. Wet conditions require a fresh forecast.

Main race pick: Bezzecchi. Podium: Bezzecchi / Marc Marquez / Di Giannantonio.



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IF RAIN CHANGES THE RACE

Conditional scenarios, not a local weather forecast

The wet-track illustration is a scenario, not a prediction that rain will fall. A fully wet race, a dry start followed by rain and a drying track require different decisions. The dry forecast on page 17 should not be carried across unchanged.

FULLY WET FROM THE START

Make Marquez the first rider to reassess for the win, then judge each contender using actual wet running at Sepang. Zarco and Miller become candidates to move into the outsider conversation if their session evidence warrants it. We do not assign a wet podium without relevant practice and the confirmed grid.

DRY START, THEN RAIN

In MotoGP, a wet declaration or the white-flag procedure permits changing to a second bike. The strategic question is whether the gain on the appropriate tyres outweighs the pit-lane loss. A late switch can lose time on unsuitable tyres; an early switch can also be costly if the rain does not persist.

DRYING TRACK OR RED FLAG

Watch how much usable dry line exists rather than treating one dry sector as proof that the whole lap is ready. Race Direction can stop or revise proceedings when conditions require it. Confirm the restart and points instructions before interpreting a shortened result or updating the championship arithmetic.

The dry winner pick is Bezzecchi; a wet race triggers a fresh forecast.



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THE FINAL RACE-WEEK CHECK

What must be confirmed before the prediction is published

Our October 26 selections are a starting point for race week. Update them with observable evidence while keeping a clear record of what changed. The highest-value checks concern rider availability, comparable pace and the final grid.

1. CONFIRM WHO IS ACTUALLY RACING

Check Martin and Fernandez for explicit medical and team updates. Aldeguer is already ruled out and Lecuona is his announced replacement. Mir is set to return. Do not turn a tentative return, an old entry list or an optimistic quote into confirmed competitive fitness.

2. CHECK THE SESSIONS AND DECISIONS

Compare representative used-tyre runs, then review Q2 access, the actual grid, penalties and the official Sprint classification. Preserve the distinction between qualifying form and race-distance performance. If timing conditions are incomparable, reduce confidence instead of inventing a numerical advantage.

3. PUBLISH THE FINAL CALLS CLEARLY

Initial dry selections: Bezzecchi for pole; Marc Marquez for the Sprint; Bezzecchi for the Grand Prix. Sunday podium: Bezzecchi, Marc Marquez, Di Giannantonio. If availability or weather changes, state the new assumptions and revise the order. Recheck the viewing times in your own dated timezone before setting alerts.

Use the evidence to revise the forecast; never present an editorial pick as certainty.



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SOURCES & DISCLAIMER

References, editorial method and limits

- [1] MotoGP - Malaysia event, circuit and race distance
- [2] Sepang Circuit - official 2026 event dates
- [3] MotoGP Stats - 2026 riders championship standings
- [4] MotoGP - Australian Sprint report and pressure penalty
- [5] MotoGP - Australian Sunday races cancelled
- [6] MotoGP - Jorge Martin injury and treatment update
- [7] MotoGP - Aldeguer out; Lecuona replaces him
- [8] MotoGP - Joan Mir set for Malaysia return
- [9] MotoGP - Indonesian Grand Prix report, October 11
- [10] MotoGP - Sprint points and qualifying explained
- [11] MotoGP - flag-to-flag bike changes explained
- [12] MotoGP - slicks, rain tyres and grip explained
- [13] MotoGP - tyre construction and compound design
- [14] Motorsport.com - 2026 timetable (secondary source)
- [15] MotoGP - current remaining 2026 calendar
- [16] Aprilia Racing - four RS-GPs in Australian Practice top five

Titles and source numbers are clickable. All references checked October 26, 2026.

METHOD & EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

Independent editorial snapshot: October 26, 2026. Facts use cited sources; [14] is a secondary timetable. Forecasts are subjective dry-track scenarios excluding Martin and Raul Fernandez pending fitness confirmation; neither is declared absent. No simulations, odds or private telemetry were used. Reassess after medical clearance, sessions, weather and penalties. Dates, schedules and entries can change. AI illustrations show fictional riders and bikes, not actual results or exact liveries/circuit layouts. No MotoGP affiliation. For information and entertainment; outcomes are not guaranteed.