

LAS VEGAS GRAND PRIX 2026 RACE PREVIEW

NOVEMBER 19-21, 2026 | ROUND 21 OF 23

Formula 1 | Las Vegas Strip Circuit, Nevada

Session schedule, race strategy, podium forecast and F1 Academy



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GRAND PRIX START

Sat, Nov 21: 20:00 PST / 23:00 EST. Sun, Nov 22: 04:00 GMT / 05:00 CET.



THE WEEKEND

VEGAS IN ONE MINUTE

A Saturday night Grand Prix, a fast street circuit and a podium fight with both 2026 Formula 1 titles already decided.

21 of 23	50	17	No Sprint
ROUND	RACE LAPS	CORNERS	F1 FORMAT

GRAND PRIX START

20:00 PST	23:00 EST	04:00 GMT	05:00 CET
Sat, Nov 21	Sat, Nov 21	Sun, Nov 22	Sun, Nov 22

THE NEW CHAMPION ARRIVES IN VEGAS

Kimi Antonelli sealed the drivers' title with third in Mexico City. Mercedes then wrapped up the constructors' championship at São Paulo. This weekend is about who wins on the Strip and who finishes second in the standings.

THE NIGHT RUN THAT MATTERS MOST

Thursday's FP2 starts at the same local hour as qualifying and the Grand Prix. Use it to compare longer runs and tyre warm-up before Friday's grid fight.

A SUPPORT FINALE WORTH WATCHING

F1 Academy closes its season with a Friday Reverse Grid Race and Saturday Feature Race. The title is decided, but Nina Gademan and Emma Felbermayr are separated by six points for second.

SOURCES F1 event & circuit · F1 official timetable · F1 Mexico City report · F1 São Paulo report · F1 Academy standings



THE WEEKEND

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

Dates in each column are local to that time zone. In Europe, both Thursday and Friday evening sessions take place after midnight.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 IN LAS VEGAS

SESSION	PST	EST	GMT	CET
F1 Practice 1	Thu 16:30	Thu 19:30	Fri 00:30	Fri 01:30
Academy Practice	Thu 18:00	Thu 21:00	Fri 02:00	Fri 03:00
F1 Practice 2	Thu 20:00	Thu 23:00	Fri 04:00	Fri 05:00
Academy Qualifying	Thu 21:30	Fri 00:30	Fri 05:30	Fri 06:30

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 IN LAS VEGAS

SESSION	PST	EST	GMT	CET
F1 Practice 3	Fri 16:30	Fri 19:30	Sat 00:30	Sat 01:30
Academy Reverse Grid Race	Fri 18:15	Fri 21:15	Sat 02:15	Sat 03:15
F1 Qualifying	**Fri 20:00**	**Fri 23:00**	**Sat 04:00**	**Sat 05:00**

THURSDAY: FIND THE BASELINE

Practice 1 is for grip and balance. FP2 is a better guide to night conditions: look at a stretch of comparable laps, not the single quickest time.

FRIDAY: THE GRID IS SET

The third practice is the final rehearsal. Qualifying is at 20:00 PST on Friday, 23:00 EST Friday, and 04:00 GMT / 05:00 CET Saturday.

SOURCES **F1 official timetable** **Las Vegas event schedule**



THE WEEKEND

RACE NIGHT, FOUR TIME ZONES

The lights go out on Saturday, November 21 in Nevada. The European race start falls on Sunday, November 22.

GRAND PRIX START

PST	EST	GMT	CET
20:00	23:00	04:00	05:00
Sat, Nov 21	Sat, Nov 21	Sun, Nov 22	Sun, Nov 22

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 IN LAS VEGAS

SESSION	PST	EST	GMT	CET
Academy Feature Race	Sat 16:20	Sat 19:20	Sun 00:20	Sun 01:20
Las Vegas Grand Prix	**Sat 20:00**	**Sat 23:00**	**Sun 04:00**	**Sun 05:00**

309.958 km	50	13
RACE DISTANCE	SCHEDULED LAPS	ACADEMY FEATURE LAPS

MAKE TIME FOR THE SUPPORT RACE

The F1 Academy finale starts at 16:20 PST, 19:20 EST, or 00:20 GMT / 01:20 CET Sunday. It is scheduled for 13 laps, subject to the series' time limit.

AT THE CIRCUIT

The promoter lists gates opening at 14:30 PST. Formula 1 lists the drivers' parade at 18:00 PST and the anthem at 19:44 PST. Check the official timetable on race day.

SOURCES **F1 official timetable** **Las Vegas event schedule** **F1 event & circuit**

TRACK & TACTICS

THE LAS VEGAS STRIP CIRCUIT

A long, fast street lap links low-speed corners, major braking zones and a straight down Las Vegas Boulevard.



Editorial illustration of a night street circuit in Las Vegas

6.201 km	17	1:33.365
LAP LENGTH	TURNS	RACE LAP RECORD

THE REFERENCE LAP

Max Verstappen set the listed race lap record in 2025. The Strip Circuit first hosted the Grand Prix in 2023; the Caesars Palace races of 1981 and 1982 were held on a different layout.

THE TRADE-OFF

A setup that is quick in a straight still has to brake with the tyres in range. Watch how stable cars are at turn-in and how quickly they can get back to full throttle.

SOURCES F1 event & circuit · Las Vegas track guide · Las Vegas 2025 result



TRACK & TACTICS

THREE MOMENTS IN A LAP

When the broadcast cuts to an onboard, these are the places to watch for a clean lap or a genuine passing chance.

01

TURN 1: BRAKING IN TRAFFIC

The first braking zone compresses the field on lap one and after restarts. The inside line can look inviting, but it leaves less room to finish the corner and get the car pointed for the next change of direction.

02

THE SPHERE SECTION: ROTATION AND TRACTION

Through the slower sequence around the Sphere, the driver has to rotate the car and straighten it before putting power down. Compare the steering corrections and throttle pickup across teammates.

03

THE STRIP: SLIPSTREAM INTO TURN 14

The long run down the Strip gives a following car time to close. The move starts with the preceding corner exit; the tow and energy deployment shape whether it can get alongside before the heavy braking zone.

WATCH THE EXIT

If a pass fails, look one corner earlier. A small traction loss can cost more down the straight than a late lunge can recover.

SOURCES **Vegas turn-by-turn** **Las Vegas track guide** **F1 2026 terminology**

TRACK & TACTICS

FRIDAY SETS THE GRID

Three qualifying segments, one lap to get the tyres ready, and very little time to recover from traffic or a yellow flag.



Illustrative pit-garage scene

QUALIFYING WITH 22 CARS

SEGMENT	TIMED RUN	PROGRESSION
Q1	18 minutes	22 start; slowest 6 eliminated
Q2	15 minutes	16 start; slowest 6 eliminated
Q3	13 minutes	10 fight for pole

WATCH THE OUT-LAPS

Some drivers will need a different tyre preparation sequence as track conditions change. Compare the first sector as well as the final lap time.

DON'T STOP AT THE QUALIFYING RESULT

Penalties can change Saturday's order. Use the final starting grid when assessing first-lap matchups and traffic.

SOURCES **F1 official timetable** **F1 weekend format** **FIA sporting rules**



TRACK & TACTICS

HOW OVERTAKING WORKS IN 2026

Vegas makes it easy to see a speed difference. The 2026 rules change what can create that difference.

01

ACTIVE AERO

On designated straights, eligible cars can use a lower-drag wing setting. The one-second gap is not the eligibility rule for this wing setting.

02

OVERTAKE MODE

The following driver must be within one second at the detection point to qualify for additional electrical deployment on the next lap, subject to event rules.

03

BOOST

Drivers can choose when to use stored battery energy to attack or defend. A car that spent heavily on one stretch may be less able to respond on the next.

04

RECHARGE

Drivers and power units recover energy across the lap. Compare how much speed each car builds from corner exit and whether it keeps building all the way to the braking zone.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

A high speed-trap number may reflect a tow, a wing setting or an energy choice. Compare the gap over a full sequence before drawing conclusions about pace.

SOURCES **F1 2026 terminology** **F1 event & circuit**

FORM & STANDINGS

DRIVERS' STANDINGS

Kimi Antonelli is the 2026 champion. The published standings below are the snapshot after Round 20, São Paulo.

TOP TEN AFTER SÃO PAULO

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	POINTS
1	Kimi Antonelli	Mercedes	390
2	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	279
3	George Russell	Mercedes	262
4	Lewis Hamilton	Ferrari	261
5	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	249
6	Lando Norris	McLaren	246
7	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	152
8	Isack Hadjar	Red Bull Racing	122
9	Liam Lawson	Racing Bulls	89
10	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	42

THE RACE FOR SECOND

Max Verstappen leads George Russell by 17 points. Lewis Hamilton is just one point behind Russell; Charles Leclerc and Lando Norris sit within 33 points of second.

SOURCES **F1 drivers' standings** **F1 Mexico City report** **F1 São Paulo result**

FORM & STANDINGS

THE FIGHT FOR SECOND

Verstappen has the advantage. Russell, Hamilton, Leclerc and Norris each still have three Grands Prix to cut into it.

THE GAP TO VERSTAPPEN



IF RUSSELL WINS IN VEGAS

VERSTAPPEN	SWING TO RUSSELL	POSITION AFTER VEGAS
P2	7 points	Verstappen leads by 10
P5	15 points	Verstappen leads by 2
P6	17 points	Level on points
P7	19 points	Russell leads by 2

HOW TO READ THIS

This isolates Russell and Verstappen under full scoring. Other drivers can affect the overall order. With no F1 Sprint remaining, each driver has a maximum of 75 points available before Vegas.

SOURCES **F1 drivers' standings** **F1 season calendar** **2026 Sprint calendar** **F1 weekend format**

FORM & STANDINGS

CONSTRUCTORS' STANDINGS

Mercedes secured the title in Brazil. Behind Ferrari, 17 points separate Red Bull and McLaren for third.

AFTER SÃO PAULO

POS	CONSTRUCTOR	POINTS
1	Mercedes	652
2	Ferrari	510
3	Red Bull Racing	415
4	McLaren	398
5	Racing Bulls	114
6	Alpine	69
7	Haas	31
8	Audi	28
9	Williams	12
10	Aston Martin	7
11	Cadillac	0

THE OTHER CLOSE GAPS

Haas leads Audi by three points for seventh; Williams leads Aston Martin by five for ninth. A single finish near the back of the top ten can change those fights.

SOURCES **F1 teams' standings** **F1 São Paulo report**

RACE PREVIEW

WHAT SÃO PAULO TOLD US

Norris won from pole in changing weather. Verstappen went from 21st on the grid to second, and Isack Hadjar made it two Red Bulls on the podium.

SÃO PAULO: OFFICIAL TOP SIX

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	POINTS
1	Lando Norris	McLaren	25
2	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	18
3	Isack Hadjar	Red Bull Racing	15
4	George Russell	Mercedes	12
5	Kimi Antonelli	Mercedes	10
6	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	8

NORRIS BRINGS MOMENTUM

Norris converted a pole into a win in difficult conditions. That makes him a real Vegas threat if McLaren can put the tyres in the window on Friday night.

RED BULL BRINGS TWO OPTIONS

Hadjar's third place mattered for the teams' standings. If he qualifies near the front in Vegas, Red Bull can cover different pit windows with its two cars.

A DIFFERENT TEST AWAITS

Interlagos was wet and changeable. Treat those results as a guide to execution and recent form. Vegas tests braking, traction and speed on much longer straights.

SOURCES **F1 São Paulo result** **F1 São Paulo report** **F1 teams' standings**



RACE PREVIEW

THREE YEARS ON THE STRIP

Two Verstappen wins and a Mercedes one-two headline the first three editions at the current circuit.

FINAL CLASSIFIED PODIUMS

YEAR	WINNER	SECOND	THIRD
2023	Max Verstappen	Charles Leclerc	Sergio Perez
2024	George Russell	Lewis Hamilton	Carlos Sainz
2025	Max Verstappen	George Russell	Kimi Antonelli

THE 2025 RESULT NEEDS CONTEXT

Norris took pole in wet qualifying in 2025, but he and teammate Oscar Piastri were disqualified from the race result after post-race checks. The podium here is the final classification.

RUSSELL'S TRACK RECORD

Russell has a win and a second place in the last two Vegas races. That makes him an obvious contender if Mercedes can deliver a strong opening lap on the tyres.

HOW MUCH CARRIES OVER?

The braking points and surface remain useful references. Car performance carries less certainty because 2026 brought new aero and power-unit rules.

SOURCES Las Vegas 2023 result · Las Vegas 2024 result · Las Vegas 2025 result · F1 2026 terminology · Vegas 2025 qualifying

RACE PREVIEW

THE PODIUM FORECAST

A dry-race projection made before practice. Friday qualifying and FP2 long runs could change the order.



Illustrative race action, not a photograph of named drivers

EDITORIAL PODIUM PICK

PICK	DRIVER	WHY
P1	Max Verstappen	Two Vegas wins; P1 in Mexico and P2 in Brazil
P2	George Russell	Vegas winner in 2024 and runner-up in 2025
P3	Kimi Antonelli	Third at this circuit in 2025; 2026 champion

THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE

Lando Norris won in São Paulo and took pole in wet qualifying here last year. Move him into podium contention if McLaren pairs a front-row start with competitive sustained pace in FP2.

SOURCES **Las Vegas 2024 result** **Las Vegas 2025 result** **F1 São Paulo result** **F1 season calendar** **Vegas 2025 qualifying**



RACE PREVIEW

THE PIT WALL'S CHOICES

Cold-tyre performance and traffic can matter as much as the number of stops. These are conditions to test, not a fixed strategy forecast.

01

GREEN-FLAG BASELINE

In a dry race, two different slick specifications are normally required. A one-stop can work if the first stint stays stable and the second set can finish without a steep drop-off.

02

THE UNDERCUT TEST

Pitting first only gains time if the fresh tyres come in quickly and the driver rejoins in clear air. An out-lap in traffic or a slow warm-up can give the advantage to the car that stayed out.

03

EARLY NEUTRALISATION

A Safety Car or Virtual Safety Car can reduce the relative cost of stopping, but the new stint may become too long. Check the lap, compound age and cars ahead before calling it a bargain.

04

LATE RESTART

Drivers on older tyres may defend track position while fresh-tyre runners attack. Watch front-locking and who can get traction before the next straight.

FP2 IS YOUR CHECK

Look for repeatable laps at the race start hour. Compare runs of similar length and avoid reading too much into fuel loads or a single lap.

SOURCES **FIA sporting rules** **F1 official timetable** **F1 event & circuit**

F1 ACADEMY

THE FINALE UNDER THE LIGHTS

Alisha Palmowski secured the title in Austin. The Las Vegas doubleheader still has a close fight for second and two race wins on offer.



Illustrative junior single-seater race scene

TWO 13-LAP RACES

SESSION	PST	EST	GMT	CET
Academy Reverse Grid Race	Fri 18:15	Fri 21:15	Sat 02:15	Sat 03:15
Academy Feature Race	Sat 16:20	Sat 19:20	Sun 00:20	Sun 01:20

FRIDAY: REVERSE GRID

The fastest eight from qualifying start in reverse order for the Reverse Grid Race. That gives the faster qualifiers traffic to work through from the start.

SATURDAY: FEATURE RACE

The qualifying classification sets the order for the Feature Race. The polesitter has clear track at the start, but braking into Turn 1 is still the first test.

WILD CARD

Luna Fluxa Cross is confirmed as the wild card for the finale, in a Hitech-operated entry.

SOURCES **F1 official timetable** **F1 Academy Austin report** **F1 Academy season guide** **F1 Academy wild card**



F1 ACADEMY

SIX POINTS FOR SECOND

Nina Gademan arrives in Nevada with a six-point advantage over Emma Felbermayr. Both scoring races can move the standings.

TOP FIVE BEFORE THE FINALE

POS	DRIVER	POINTS	TO LEADER
1	Alisha Palmowski	172	Champion
2	Nina Gademan	119	-53
3	Emma Felbermayr	113	-59
4	Alba Larsen	76	-96
5	Payton Westcott	76	-96

6
GADEMAN'S LEAD OVER P3

39
MAXIMUM WEEKEND POINTS

2
POINTS FOR FEATURE POLE

THE REVERSE GRID CAN RESET IT

The winner gets 10 points before any eligible fastest-lap bonus. A win for Felbermayr with Gademan fifth would cut the gap by six, all else equal.

THE FEATURE HAS THE BIGGER SWING

First pays 25 and second pays 18. If the six-point gap were unchanged, a Felbermayr win with Gademan second would be enough to take second before bonus points.

TRACK THE BONUSES

Feature pole pays two points. Each race awards one eligible fastest-lap point, so use the official classification before settling a close points comparison.

SOURCES F1 Academy standings F1 Academy season guide F1 Academy Austin report



RACE DAY

WHAT TO WATCH LIVE

If you're watching just one night, save the Grand Prix start. If you can follow the whole weekend, these are the moments that put the race in context.

01

THURSDAY FP2: CHECK THE LONG RUNS

Look at tyre preparation, the first few laps of each run and whether the pace holds. The closest timing match to Saturday makes this the best first clue.

02

FRIDAY QUALIFYING: LOOK BEYOND POLE

Which contender has clear track into Turn 1? Which teammate starts far enough away to try a different tyre plan? Wait for the final grid.

03

SATURDAY START: WATCH THE FIRST BRAKING ZONE

Cars that leave Turn 1 in clean air can settle into a rhythm. Those caught in a pack may use more tyre and electrical energy to stay close.

04

FIRST STOPS: TIME THE OUT-LAP

Compare the cars that stop with the cars extending their stints. Clear air and a fast warm-up can decide whether an early stop was worthwhile.

AFTER VEGAS

The season moves to Qatar on November 27-29 and finishes in Abu Dhabi on December 4-6. Neither of those rounds is an F1 Sprint weekend.

SOURCES **F1 official timetable** **F1 season calendar** **2026 Sprint calendar**

REFERENCES

SOURCES & DISCLAIMER

Official schedules, classifications, regulations and championship standings used in this preview.

F1 event & circuit
2026 race dates, distance and circuit record

F1 official timetable
Session times, support races and ceremonies

Las Vegas event schedule
Promoter's schedule in Pacific Standard Time

Las Vegas track guide
Promoter's circuit details and corner guide

F1 season calendar
Round order, Mexico, Qatar and Abu Dhabi

2026 Sprint calendar
The six F1 Sprint venues for 2026

F1 drivers' standings
Championship snapshot after São Paulo

F1 teams' standings
Constructors' snapshot after São Paulo

F1 Mexico City report
Antonelli clinches the drivers' title

F1 São Paulo result
Official race classification, November 8

F1 São Paulo report
Race context and Mercedes' title

Las Vegas 2023 result
First race at the current Strip Circuit

Las Vegas 2024 result
Russell's win and Mercedes' one-two

Las Vegas 2025 result
Final classification after scrutineering

F1 weekend format
Three-stage qualifying and race format

FIA sporting rules
Sporting regulations: qualifying and tyres

F1 2026 terminology
Active Aero, Overtake, Boost and Recharge

F1 Academy standings
Drivers' points after Austin

F1 Academy Austin report
Palmowski secures the drivers' title

F1 Academy season guide
Reverse grid, qualifying and points

F1 Academy wild card
Luna Fluxa Cross at the Vegas finale

Vegas turn-by-turn
Promoter’s corner guide, including Turn 14

Vegas 2025 qualifying
Norris on pole in rain-affected qualifying

EDITORIAL METHOD

Schedule and standings checked November 11, 2026. Time-zone conversions use local dates. The dry-race projection weighs recent form, Vegas results and the 2026 regulations.

DISCLAIMER

Digital World Pulse is independent and is not affiliated with Formula 1, the FIA or the event promoter. This guide is for information and entertainment, not betting advice. Schedules, grids and classifications can change. The racing artwork is illustrative.