

AUTO ACTION'S 2023 PRE SAO PAULO FORMULA ONE TEAM-BY-TEAM EVENT GUIDE

FOR THE FINAL TIME IN 2023, FORMULA 1 GOES SPRINT RACING AND ACTION CAN BE CLOSE TO GUARANTEED AT THE SPECIAL SAO PAULO GRAND PRIX.

HAVING HOSTED Formula 1 for now exactly half a century Interlagos is probably the most famous and storied American venue on the calendar producing unforgettable scenes such as Ayrton Senna pushing through the pain barrier to win in front of his adoring fans or countless title-defining clashes.

Last year the race lived up to its unpredictable reputation with Kevin Magnussen taking a stunning pole for Haas, Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen colliding and George Russell scoring his long-awaited maiden Grand Prix win. It was the only occasion in a staggering run of 25 races Red Bull was beaten.

Although Verstappen once again cruised to the chequered flag in Mexico, Red Bull may face a bigger challenge than what it has become used to from its rivals.

The Dutchman did lead through the first corner, but that was only after a flying start having been out qualified by both Ferraris.

This made it back to back pole positions for Charles Leclerc, who still scored a first podium in seven races despite carrying significant front wing damage.

Mercedes has also found its stride since its latest update and in particular Lewis Hamilton.

Hamilton has shown flashes of his best on the past two Sundays finishing on the road twice in both Texas and Mexico City.

Although Russell's podium less stretch now dates back to 12 races since Spain,

he has still moved forward from lower qualifying positions and will be fuelled by the sweet memories of 12 months ago.

Adding more motivation to the Brackley team will be Hamilton's pursuit to steal second in the championship from the struggling Sergio Perez.

After crashing out on the first lap on home soil being his latest disappointment, the Mexican only holds a 20-point advantage over the seven-time world champion.

All the momentum is with Hamilton, who has closed the gap by 35 points over the last five races and could be all over Perez if it was not for the American disqualification.

The other driver Perez has to watch out for is Australia's Daniel Ricciardo, who was back to his best at Mexico.

Despite driving the much slower AlphaTauri, Ricciardo out qualified Perez and went on to score the team's best result of the year.

The Aussie will be aiming to replicate his mighty Mexican performance across the back end of the year to strengthen his case.

Oscar Piastri will be chasing more points in his first trip to Sao Paulo and whilst McLaren is playing down its chances due to the slow-speed second sector, it cannot be discounted.

If recent trips to Sao Paulo are anything to go by, strap yourself in for plenty of drama on all three days.



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ROUND TWENTY ONE | SAO PAULO GRAND PRIX - NOVEMBER 3-5

FOR ONE last time F1 goes Sprint racing and it arrives at the popular, carnival like Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace. The historic track has a fast, flowing start including the overtaking hotspot Senna S before a snaking infield section and the blast in front of the fans. Interlagos was constructed back in 1938 and features a number of challenging banked corners. Fifty years after its first ever Grand Prix, Interlagos remains a fan and driver favourite.



TRACK STATS

QUALIFYING LAP RECORD

• Lewis Hamilton 1:07.281
Mercedes 2018

RACE LAP RECORD

• Valtteri Bottas 1:10.540
Mercedes 2018

TRACK FACTS



TRACK LENGTH:
4.309KM



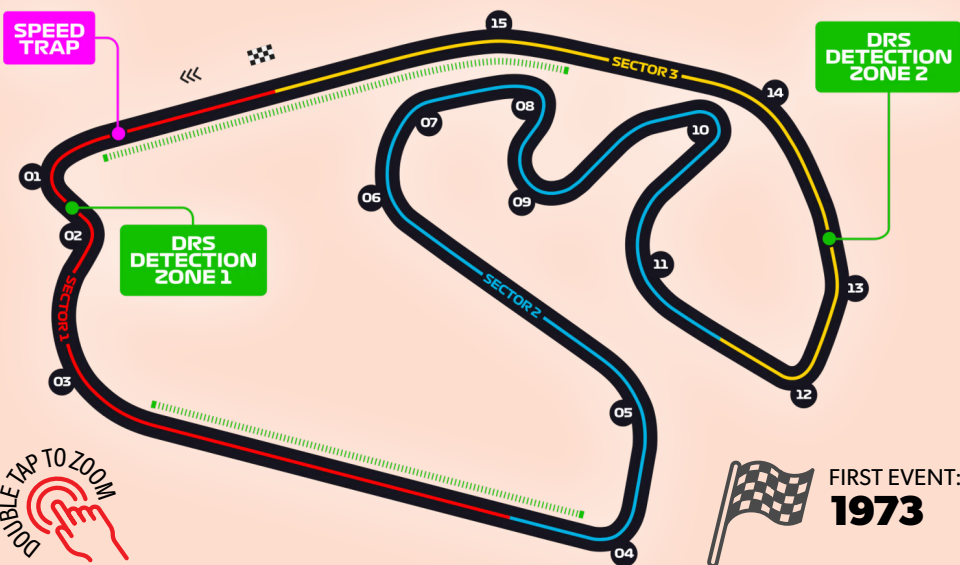
DIRECTION:
ANTI-CLOCKWISE



AVERAGE SPEED:
223KM/H



TOP SPEED:
339KM/H



TRACK SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES AEDT)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

TIME	SESSION
01.30-02.30	Practice
05.00-06.00	Qualifying

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

TIME	SESSION
01.00-01.44	Sprint Shootout
05.30-06.30	Sprint

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

TIME	SESSION
04.00	Grand Prix

LIST OF RACE RESULTS

2022: George Russell	2013: Sebastian Vettel	2005: Juan Pablo Montoya
2021: Lewis Hamilton	2012: Jenson Button	2004: Juan Pablo Montoya
2019: Max Verstappen	2011: Mark Webber	2003: Giancarlo Fisichella
2018: Lewis Hamilton	2010: Sebastian Vettel	2002: Michael Schumacher
2017: Sebastian Vettel	2009: Mark Webber	2001: David Coulthard
2016: Lewis Hamilton	2008: Felipe Massa	2000: Michael Schumacher
2015: Nico Rosberg	2007: Kimi Raikkonen	1999: Mika Hakkinen
2014: Nico Rosberg	2006: Felipe Massa	1998: Mika Hakkinen



MOST WINS

4 Michael Schumacher
3 Sebastian Vettel
Lewis Hamilton

1 LIST OF POLE POSITIONS

2022: Kevin Magnussen	2013: Sebastian Vettel	2005: Fernando Alonso
2021: Valtteri Bottas	2012: Lewis Hamilton	2004: Rubens Barrichello
2019: Max Verstappen	2011: Sebastian Vettel	2003: Rubens Barrichello
2018: Lewis Hamilton	2010: Nico Hulkenberg	2002: Juan Pablo Montoya
2017: Valtteri Bottas	2009: Rubens Barrichello	2001: Michael Schumacher
2016: Lewis Hamilton	2008: Felipe Massa	2000: Mika Hakkinen
2015: Nico Rosberg	2007: Felipe Massa	1999: Mika Hakkinen
2014: Nico Rosberg	2006: Felipe Massa	1998: Mika Hakkinen



MOST POLES

3 Lewis Hamilton,
Rubens Barrichello,
Mika Hakkinen, Felipe
Massa, Ayrton Senna



1ST
491
POINTS

RED BULL

MAX VERSTAPPEN



AGE: 26
DEBUT: *Aus* 2015
STARTS: 182
BEST QUAL: 1st (x30)
PODIUMS: 95
BEST RESULT: 1st (x51)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 1.32
BEST BRA GP: 1st 2019



TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER

Max Verstappen smashed another record in Mexico, beating his own high watermark of most wins in a single season which is now 16. Despite being below his best in quali, he never looked back after an electric start. Infamously ignored team orders and clashed with Hamilton last year. Always scored points in Brazil and won a special 2019 race.

2ND
240
POINTS

RED BULL

SERGIO PEREZ



AGE: 33
DEBUT: *Aus* 2011
STARTS: 254
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)
PODIUMS: 34
BEST RESULT: 1st (x6)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.65
BEST BRA GP: 4TH 2021



TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER

No driver heads to Brazil under more pressure than Sergio Perez. After being out qualified by Daniel Ricciardo, Perez crashed out on lap one after making a bold and desperate move around the outside of turn one for the lead. Has never stood on the Interlagos podium before and needs to at least do that to stop speculation.

3RD
220
POINTS

MERCEDES

LEWIS HAMILTON



AGE: 38
DEBUT: *Aus* 2007
STARTS: 329
BEST QUAL: 1st (x104)
PODIUMS: 197
BEST RESULT: 1st (x103)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.35
BEST BRA GP: 1st 16,18,21



TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

Lewis Hamilton is finding his top form as he hunts down Perez for second in the standings. Has finished on the road second in the last two races. With no Brazilian on the grid, the Sao Paulo fans have embraced Hamilton, who has won three times in Interlagos and loves Senna.

4TH
183
POINTS

FERRARI

CARLOS SAINZ JR



AGE: 28
DEBUT: *Aus* 2015
STARTS: 180
BEST QUAL: 1st (x5)
PODIUMS: 17
BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.75
BEST BRA GP: 3rd 2019



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

Another top four result has pushed Carlos Sainz into the top four ahead of Alonso. Has shown consistent pace across the last two races with third in USA and fourth in Mexico, plus out-qualifying Verstappen. Will be dreaming of another trophy at the track he soccer his breakthrough first podium at in 2019.

5TH
183
POINTS

ASTON MARTIN

FERNANDO ALONSO



AGE: 41
DEBUT: *Aus* 2001
STARTS: 374
BEST QUAL: 1st (x22)
PODIUMS: 105
BEST RESULT: 1st (x32)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.47
BEST BRA GP: 2nd 06,08,12



TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK

Fernando Alonso and Aston Martin are now struggling. Alonso has dropped to fifth in the championship following back to back retirements. Mexico was a battle with two spins on Friday and Saturday before debris damage led to a DNF. Has admitted to lacking confidence behind the wheel of the AMR23. Has eight podiums but no wins in Brazil.

6TH
169
POINTS

MCLAREN

LANDO NORRIS



AGE: 23
DEBUT: *Aus* 2019
STARTS: 101
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 11
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x5)
AVG 2023 RESULT: 7.87
BEST BRA GP: 8th 2019



TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

Lando Norris came alive at the back end of the Mexican Grand Prix to march from 17th to fifth. Uncertainly became the reason why Norris made the "silly" Q1 error but this did not stop him from charging ahead on Sunday, with great speed especially in the final stint helping him pick off rivals. Retired due to a gearbox failure 12 months ago.

7TH
166
POINTS

FERRARI

CHARLES LECLERC



AGE: 25
DEBUT: *Aus* 2018
STARTS: 121
BEST QUAL: 1st (x21)
PODIUMS: 28
BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.58
BEST BRA GP: 4th 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

Charles Leclerc is starting to be one of the most consistent drivers on the grid. Took back to back poles in Mexico and this time was able to keep his podium despite sustaining heavy front wing damage after being an innocent member in Perez' crash. Chasing a maiden Sao Paulo podium to avenge for that teammate clash in 2019.

8TH
151
POINTS

MERCEDES

GEORGE RUSSELL



AGE: 25
DEBUT: *Aus* 2019
STARTS: 101
BEST QUAL: 1st (x2)
PODIUMS: 10
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 7.15
BEST BRA GP: 1st 2023



TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

Sao Paulo was the scene of George Russell's crowing moment of his promising F1 career. After near misses he broke through with a strong drive from first on the grid to beat Hamilton by 1.5s having also won the Sprint. Battled to sixth in Mexico during a race that was "dictated by tyres".

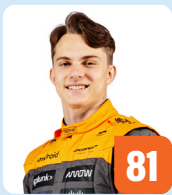
9TH
87
POINTS

MCLAREN

OSCAR PIASTRI



AGE: 21
DEBUT: *Bah* 2023
STARTS: 19
BEST QUAL: 2nd (x1)
PODIUMS: 2
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.67
BEST BRA GP: N/A



TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

Oscar Piastri rebounded from the disappointment of COTA to return to the points with a solid Mexico performance. Managed to survive a scare from the aggressive Yuki Tsunoda to record another top 10 despite Norris flying by. The Aussie revealed he "struggled" a lot after the Safety Car. Prepares for his first Sao Paulo Samba which could favour the MCL60.

10TH
56
POINTS

ALPINE

PIERRE GASLY



AGE: 27
DEBUT: *Mal* 2017
STARTS: 127
BEST QUAL: 2nd (x1)
PODIUMS: 4
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10.36
BEST BRA GP: 2nd 2019



TEAM PRINCIPAL BRUNO FAMIN

Pierre Gasly lamented the "very unlucky timing with the Safety Car" as he fell 4s short of points in 11th. Qualified four spots ahead of teammate Ocon, who still manage to snatch 10th. Will never forget Interlagos thanks to his sensational second for Toro Rosso in the same year he was dropped by Red Bull.

11TH
53
POINTS

ASTON MARTIN

LANCE STROLL



AGE: 24
DEBUT: Aus 2017
STARTS: 140
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.87
BEST BRA GP: 10th 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK

Mexico was a weekend to forget for Aston Martin with both cars retiring. It was a tough one for Stroll, who had only qualified 18th and had to box due to damage with Bottas. Only one points finish from five cracks at the Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace but it arrived 12 months ago.

12TH
45
POINTS

ALPINE

ESTEBAN OCON



AGE: 27
DEBUT: Bel 2016
STARTS: 130
BEST QUAL: 3rd (x2)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10.22
BEST BRA GP: 8th 21,22



TEAM PRINCIPAL BRUNO FAMIN

In the last 10 races Esteban Ocon has either achieved the high of hitting points or the low of a DNF. Fortunately Mexico was a points finish having risen from 15th to 10th. After a slow start to life at Sao Paulo the race has smiled on the Frenchman more regularly recently with back to back P8's.

13TH
27
POINTS

WILLIAMS

ALEX ALBON



AGE: 27
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 78
BEST QUAL: 4th (x5)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10.88
BEST BRA GP: 14th 2019



TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

Alex Albon was once again celebrating points like a win for Williams in Mexico. Starting 14th, Albon rose to ninth and was well ahead of his nearest rival after taking his opportunities. Does not have a great record at Sao Paulo but could have scored a maiden podium in 2019 with Hamilton did not take him out.

14TH
10
POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

VALTTERI BOTTAS



AGE: 33
DEBUT: Aus 2013
STARTS: 219
BEST QUAL: 1st (x20)
PODIUMS: 67
BEST RESULT: 1st (x10)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.69
BEST BRA GP: 2nd 2017



TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

Despite showing speed earlier in the weekend making Q3 for just a 4th time in 2023, a clash with Stroll ended a "tough" Mexican GP for Valtteri Bottas. Bottas spun Stroll, but was not happy with the Canadian. Two podiums and two poles at Sao Paulo in the past which was also his last points finish of 2022.

15TH
9
POINTS

HAAS

NICO HULKENBERG



AGE: 35
DEBUT: Bah 2010
STARTS: 199
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 14.11
BEST BRA GP: 6th 2015



TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

Nico Hulkenberg is about to become just the second driver to reach 200 GP starts without a single win. Andrea de Cesaris is the only other member of the club, but unlike Hulkenberg has five podiums. Brazil is a favourite of Hulkenberg having taken a special pole in rookie season 2010 and led in 2012 before a heartbreaking crash.

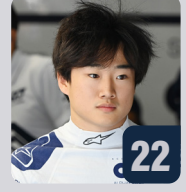
16TH
8
POINTS

ALPHATAURI

YUKI TSUNODA



AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2021
STARTS: 60
BEST QUAL: 7th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.75
BEST BRA GP: 15th 2021



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

With Daniel Ricciardo now outperforming Yuki Tsunoda, the Japanese driver once again finds himself on the back foot in the intra AlphaTauri battle. Still made strong progress in the race rising from 18th to 12th but crashed into Piastri and offered "no comment" afterwards. Chasing maiden Brazil points.

17TH
6
POINTS

ALPHATAURI

DANIEL RICCIARDO



AGE: 34
DEBUT: GB 2011
STARTS: 235
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)
PODIUMS: 32
BEST RESULT: 1st (x8)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.75
BEST BRA GP: 4th 2018



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

Dan is the man once again after showing he has not lost his magic in Mexico. Ricciardo made a statement by qualifying fourth, ahead of Perez and then put in a composed drive to give AlphaTauri its best result of 2023. Now finds himself just two points away from Tsunoda and pushing more pressure on Perez.

18TH
6
POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

ZHOU GUANYU



AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2022
STARTS: 41
BEST QUAL: 9th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.45
BEST BRA GP: 12th 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

Zhou Guanyu had to resort to a P14 finish in Mexico after an untimely red flag "lost us all track position and tyre advantage". Zhou was running 10th in the early stages but went as low as 16th after the stoppage. Scored a solid 12th 12 months ago at Interlagos.

19TH
3
POINTS

HAAS

KEVIN MAGNUSSEN



AGE: 30
DEBUT: Aus 2014
STARTS: 158
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 1
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 15.07
BEST BRA GP: 9th 14,18



TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

Mexico was a brutal race for Kevin Magnussen where a suspension failure caused by overheating brakes sent the #20 onto a high-speed collision course with the turn 8 barriers. The Dane escaped by appeared shaken. Scored a sensational pole at Sao Paulo last year but wants points after crashing with Ricciardo on lap one.

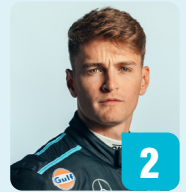
20TH
1
POINTS

WILLIAMS

LOGAN SARGEANT



AGE: 22
DEBUT: Bah 2023
STARTS: 19
BEST QUAL: 10th (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 10th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 15.29
BEST BRA GP: N/A



TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

Logan Sargeant had to box just one lap away from the chequered flag in Mexico. A fuel pump problem forced the American to pit having been on track to score a solid 12th place finish which would have been his third best result of the season. Enjoyed a practice appearance at Sao Paulo last year.