THE OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER
UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX

WELCOME

To the 6th annual running of the United States Grand Prix at Circuit Of The Americas

WHO WE ARE

The numbers for marshals and race officials for the 2017 USGP at COTA are up - very nicely up, to approximately 360. A record-breaking 290+ of them are corner workers - flag marshals, communicators and intervention marshals. This is the largest number in the six-year USGP at COTA history, even larger than the inaugural race in 2012, when the corner workers numbered 271.

The Pit/Paddock/Grid and Scrutineers teams each have 30 marshals. Starters number four in their ranks. Thirty-eight are working Hospitality - the folks who service the marshal teams in various ways such as food deliveries, ice runs, handing out overalls, Check-In, Registration, and Transportation. The eight Moto Taxi marshals are Rescue Riders on motorcycles, retrieving stranded drivers.

Sixteen foreign countries are represented this year: Australia, Azerbaijan, Canada, England, France, Great Britain, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Saudia Arabia, Scotland, Singapore, UAE and United Kingdom. Several countries have large enough contingents that they will be having 'country corners', such as Dutch on Post 14; Italy on Post 16, Mexico on Post18 and the Brits on Posts 19-19A. Others, such as the Baku marshals, want to mingle and work with other countries to see how it's done elsewhere.

American marshals come from 33 of our 50 states, with Texas having the largest representation. Other states represented are Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

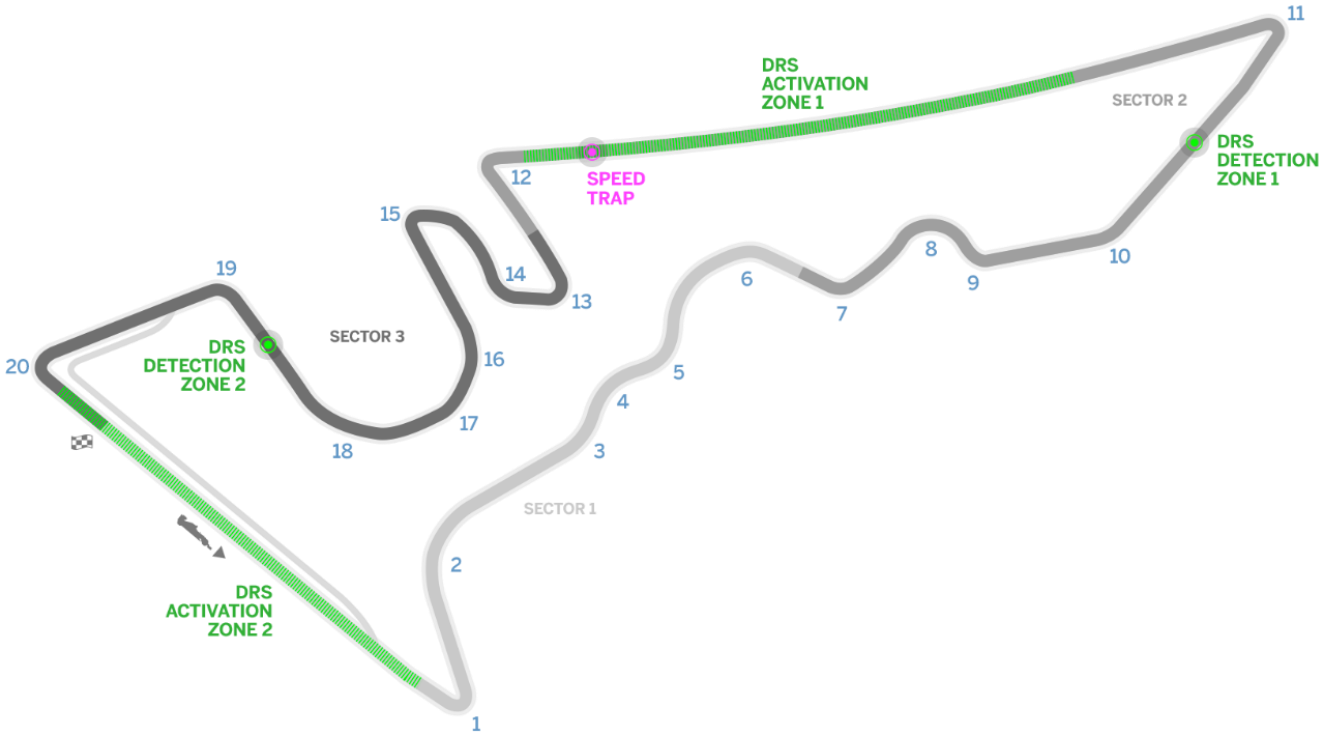
Editorial Disclaimer: This information was accurate this week, but final numbers are still being audited. We apologize in advance if we've omitted your hometown.

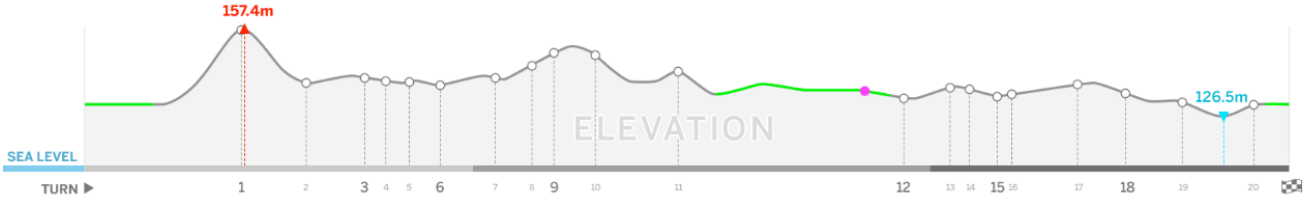
SOME FACTS ABOUT THE USGP AT CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS

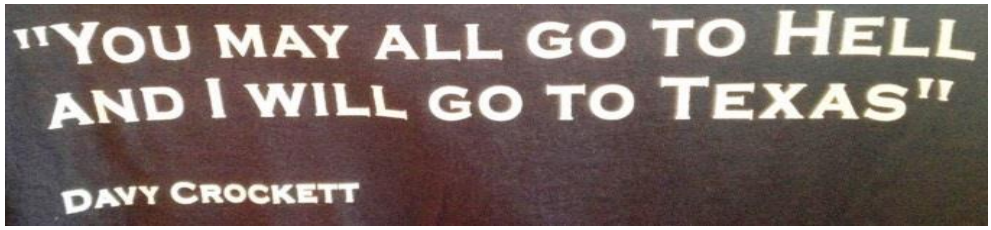
First Grand Prix	2012
Number of Laps	56
Circuit Length	5.513km/
Race Distance	308.405km/
Lap Record	1:39.347
	Sebastian Vettel (2012)

YOUR F1 SCHEDULE

Practice 1	Friday	10:00 – 11:30
Practice 2	Friday	14:00 – 15:30
Practice 3	Saturday	11:00 – 12:00
Qualifying	Saturday	16:00 – 17:00
Race	Sunday	14:00 – 16:00







IT'S SHOW TIME

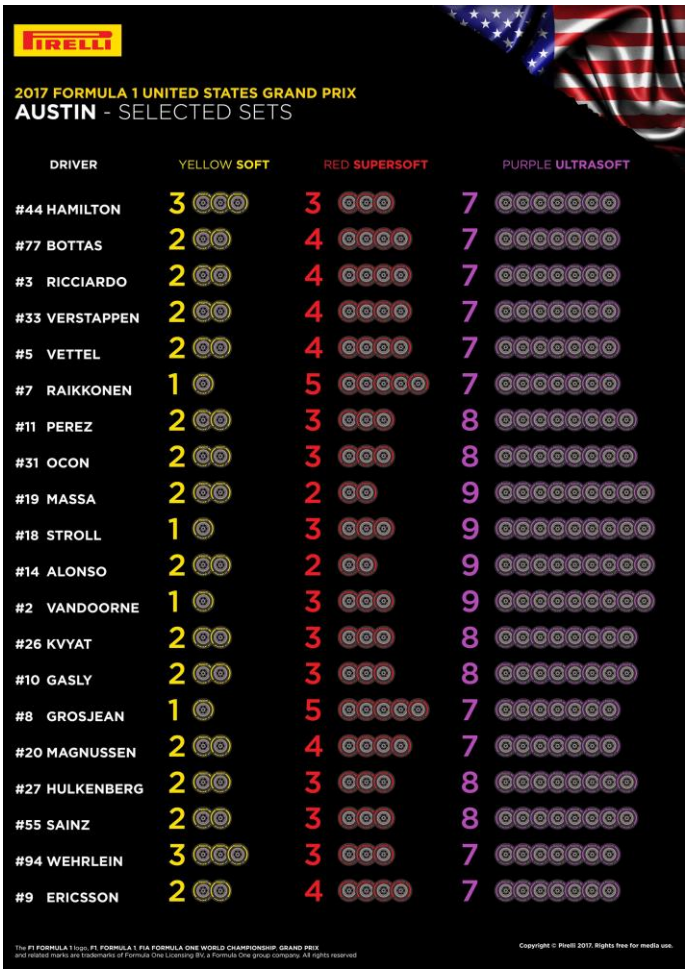
It's the fourth race from the end of the season. Hamilton has won eight races this season, and four of five times at COTA. Vettel has won once at COTA. No one has won at COTA from further back than the front row.

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton leads the Driver standings with 306 points, followed by Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel with 247. Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas is third with 234, Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo has 192 and Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen has 146. In the Constructor's Championship standings, Mercedes leads with 540 points, followed by Ferrari with 395 and Red Bull with 303.

This weekend there are two driver changes. Carlos Sainz has left Scuderia Toro Rosso and moved over to Renault, to replace the departed Jonathan Palmer. Permanent drivers are allowed to choose their car numbers, so Sainz took #55 with him. Brendon Hartley is driving No.39 this weekend at Toro Rosso. As he is not a 'Permanent Driver,' he is using No.39, one of the two F1 Reserve driver numbers assigned to the team. Sean Geleal, the team's reserve driver, will drive in the Friday practice, with No.38. Hartley was a late choice, so his Garage sign has no car number. But the photo and flag are correct. The new Driver and Team signs in the garages are visually stunning. Pierre Gasly, who has already raced for Toro Rosso, was originally slated to drive again this weekend. But it was decided he should finish his season in the Super Formula Championship, where he's half a point behind the leader in the standings.

In Friday F1 practice there may be some cars with a dummy version of the Halo device.





TIRES

Drivers are permitted 13 sets of dry tires for the USGP event. These are split between the yellow-marked **soft** compound, the red-marked **supersoft** and the normally purple-marked (but for USGP this weekend in pink – see photo below) **ultrasoft.**

As the table from Pirelli shows, the top two title contenders (Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel) have opted for seven sets of ultras, although overall Vettel has then been a little more aggressive with four sets of supers and two sets of softs versus Hamilton's three and three.

The most aggressive selections have been by rookies Lance Stroll (Williams) and Stoffel Vandoorne (McLaren) at nine sets of ultrasofts, three supersofts and one soft.







