



F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026: Kimi Antonelli Wins Third Straight As Verstappen Spins, Leclerc Penalised

Description

The **F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026** belonged, once again, to Kimi Antonelli – the 19-year-old Italian holding off Lando Norris in a chaotic, weather-disrupted race at the Miami International Autodrome on Sunday 3 May 2026 to seal his third consecutive Grand Prix victory and a 20-point championship lead. Behind him, Oscar Piastri completed an all-Mercedes-and-McLaren podium, and a deflating spin from pole-rivalling Max Verstappen sent Red Bull down the order on a day they had dared to dream.

F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026: chaotic start sets the tone

Antonelli converted pole position with the kind of ice-cool getaway that has become his signature, but the lights had barely gone out before the first crisis arrived. Verstappen and Charles Leclerc both locked up into Turn 1, the Dutchman caught a snap of oversteer trying to recover and spun across the Hard Rock Stadium infield, dropping to the back of the field on lap two. Leclerc, meanwhile, dragged his Ferrari back into the train of leaders, but the race had already moved on without him.



Source: Formula 1 official website ([formula1.com](https://www.formula1.com))

The drama did not stop there. Light rain blew in from Biscayne Bay across the middle stint, the safety car made a cameo, and the lead changed hands repeatedly between Antonelli, Norris, Piastri and a recovering Verstappen who carved his way back into the points before settling into a damage-limitation drive. By the second round of pit stops the running order had Antonelli ahead of Norris by less than a second, with Piastri close enough to keep both drivers honest.

F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026 result: Antonelli holds his nerve

The defining moments came in the closing 15 laps. Norris reported a minor wing problem and was instructed by his McLaren engineer to manage the deficit rather than chase, allowing Antonelli to stretch the gap by a couple of tenths a lap. The Italian crossed the line 3.264s clear – a margin that flattered him a little after a race that, for long stretches, looked one mistake away from going wrong. Piastri was a further three seconds back in third, his fourth podium of 2026.



Source: *Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)*

The headline number from this F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026 belongs to history. Antonelli is the first driver in Formula 1's 76-year story to take pole position and victory in each of his first three Grands Prix in a row – a feat that eluded everyone from Lewis Hamilton to Max Verstappen at the equivalent stage

of their careers. He extends his championship lead to 20 points over Norris and 33 over Verstappen, with Mercedes leapfrogging McLaren in the constructors' standings on a day Toto Wolff described in parc ferme as "almost too clean to be real".

F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026: stewards have a busy night

The race did not end at the chequered flag. Verstappen was handed a five-second penalty for an unsafe pit-exit infringement during his recovery drive, dropping him from sixth to seventh and into the points by the smallest of margins. Charles Leclerc's nightmare evening was completed by a 20-second penalty after multiple post-race investigations into track-limits offences on the final lap, dropping the Monegasque from fourth to eighth and handing the place to George Russell in the second Mercedes. Lewis Hamilton, in his second season at Ferrari, climbed to fifth.

It was the second weekend running in which Verstappen's championship hopes have leaked points he could not afford. The reigning title-holder is now 33 points adrift of Antonelli with 18 races still to run - a gap that is not insurmountable, but one that makes Monaco in three weeks' time the next must-win on a calendar that already feels skewed towards Brackley and Woking.

F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026 podium and championship picture



Source: *Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)*

Top 10 classification (after penalties): 1. Antonelli (Mercedes), 2. Norris (McLaren), 3. Piastri (McLaren), 4. Russell (Mercedes), 5. Hamilton (Ferrari), 6. Sainz (Williams), 7. Verstappen (Red Bull), 8. Leclerc (Ferrari), 9. Albon (Williams), 10. Alonso (Aston Martin). Antonelli's victory makes it three wins in three rounds – a record-equalling start to a Mercedes campaign and arguably the cleanest entry into a championship lead for any rookie since Lewis Hamilton's 2007.

For Singapore-based F1 fans, the equation could hardly be simpler. Antonelli is now the man to beat, Norris is closer than the standings suggest, and Verstappen – for once – is the hunter rather than the hunted. We tipped this scenario in our [F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026 preview](#) last week. For more

weekend sport, see our [Aston Villa vs Tottenham preview](#) from earlier in the day and the broader [EPL weekend recap](#). All our motorsport and football coverage is on the [Sports](#) page.

F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026 quick stats

Date: Sunday 3 May 2026.

Circuit: Miami International Autodrome.

Pole: Antonelli (Mercedes).

Winner: Antonelli (Mercedes).

Margin: 3.264s over Norris.

Driver standings: 1. Antonelli, 2. Norris (-20), 3. Verstappen (-33).

Date Created

04/05/2026

Author

jadeyeo

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