



F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026 Preview: Antonelli Leads, Mercedes Dominate, Verstappen Hunts

Description

F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026 brings Formula 1 roaring back from a five-week break with a Sprint weekend that could reshape the championship picture. Kimi Antonelli leads the standings after back-to-back wins in China and Japan, the Hard Rock Stadium plays host on 1-3 May 2026, and every team is bringing upgrades to South Florida.

For Singapore fans, this is also the first chance to see the new generation of cars on a true street-style layout – a useful preview ahead of the Marina Bay night race later this season.



Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026 schedule (Singapore time)

Miami is a Sprint round, which means a single 90-minute Free Practice 1 session, then parc fermé conditions kick in for the rest of the weekend. The local Miami schedule is FP1 at noon Friday, Sprint Qualifying at 16:30 local on Friday evening, the Sprint at noon Saturday, Grand Prix Qualifying at 16:00 Saturday, and lights out for the race at 16:00 local on Sunday 3 May 2026.

For Singapore viewers, that translates to early-Saturday-morning Sprint Qualifying (around 04:30 SGT), late Saturday night for the Sprint (around midnight SGT), and a Sunday-evening Sunday-night double-

header for Qualifying (around 04:00 SGT Sunday) and the race (around 04:00 SGT Monday). It is not the gentlest viewing window but it should be worth the alarm clock.

The F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026 title story

Mercedes have started the year as the team to beat. They have won all three opening Grands Prix â?? Russell in Australia, Antonelli in China, and Antonelli again in Japan â?? and the 19-year-old Italian heads to Florida nine points clear of his team-mate at the top of the Driversâ?? Championship. It is an extraordinary opening to a rookie season at the most demanding level in motorsport, and the resumption of the championship in Miami will tell us how robust Mercedesâ?? early form really is.



Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

Ferrari sit closest to Mercedes on outright pace and Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton are running together in red for a second season and have stayed within striking distance through the opening rounds. Hamilton's swansong years now look like a sustained title bid, and Miami has historically been a Ferrari-friendly track on layout terms. McLaren, meanwhile, are the most fascinating wildcard. Team principal Andrea Stella has confirmed the team will introduce what he called a completely new car in Miami and Canada, with Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris hoping the upgrades close the gap on the front-runners.

Storylines to watch at the F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026

The biggest narrative is at Red Bull. Max Verstappen, four-time world champion, sits a startling ninth in the Drivers' Championship after a difficult opening to 2026 with the new generation of cars and engines. He has openly questioned his long-term future in Formula 1, and a strong showing in Miami is increasingly looking like a turning point the team needs. Red Bull will bring their own update package, and Verstappen knows he cannot allow the gap to grow any wider before the European leg of the season starts in earnest.

Watch too for the rookie battle. Antonelli's title lead has overshadowed strong starts from Isack Hadjar at Red Bull and Gabriel Bortoleto at Audi, while Cadillac's two-car debut season with Sergio Perez and Valtteri Bottas back on the grid is one of the more compelling sub-plots in the field. The American team will love a strong Miami showing on home soil.

The track itself is a particular test. Nineteen corners, three long straights, top speeds north of 350km/h, and the unusual elevation through the Turn 13-16 sequence make this one of the most demanding modern circuits. With Sprint format limiting practice running, set-up errors get magnified.

What the F1 Miami Grand Prix 2026 means beyond the championship

Miami in Sprint mode delivers four competitive sessions in three days. That is a lot of data for engineers, for fans, and for anyone trying to read the title race. With the season's full European tour starting later in May, the Florida weekend is also the last race in a window the teams use to validate updates before the calendar tightens.

Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

For Singapore fans, the Marina Bay Street Circuit is still months away, but Miami's mix of long straights and slow corners is the closest analogue on the calendar to what we will see under the lights at home in October. If McLaren's new car works, expect Norris and Piastri to be in the mix at Marina Bay too. If Mercedes maintain their dominance, the Sailor city will host a coronation tour.

If you are scheduling around the live action, our look at [the BYD Singapore International Marathon 2026](#) sets out the local sports calendar in the back half of the year, while our take on [the Singapore Open at Sentosa](#) sits alongside it as one of the marquee international events Singapore will host. For the latest sports news, our [Sports section](#) covers everything from F1 to the Singapore Premier League.

Lights out is around 04:00 SGT on Monday 4 May 2026. Set the alarm - Miami is rarely dull.

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