

2026 Australian Grand Prix - Friday

Melbourne, March 03, 2026 – Audi Revolut F1 Team completed its first ever day of practice with a busy Friday at the Australian Grand Prix. Nico Hulkenberg and Gabriel Bortoleto put their R26s through a full programme in two uninterrupted sessions at Albert Park: their work provided the team with a good amount of data, which the engineers in Hinwil, Neuburg and Bicester will analyse ahead of tomorrow’s qualifying.

Audi Driver Development Programme inductee, Freddie Slater, also made his first appearance on track in the FIA F3 Championship, qualifying in P3 for Sunday’s season opener in Melbourne.

Nico Hulkenberg (Car 27): “Overall, it was a decent first Friday of the season. It was mostly clean running, and we managed to get through a good number of laps, which is always important early in the weekend. There were a couple of small issues here and there that we need to tidy up, but that’s part of the process.

“It’s our first time here with the new car, so there’s a lot of information to go through tonight. We’ll analyse everything and see what we can improve for tomorrow, but it’s a solid starting point.”

Gabriel Bortoleto (Car 5): “It was a positive first day, although there is still a lot of work ahead of us. FP1 was very solid and smooth, which gave us a good baseline from which to start. In FP2, I struggled a little more with a couple of things that we need to address for tomorrow, but that is part of the process with such a new set of regulations.

“At this stage, we are focused on improving the basics, building the foundations before moving to the finer details. There are still many areas to refine with the car and the power unit, and that understanding will only come with time and data. It is still very early in the season, so the priority is to keep learning and improving ourselves.”

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About Audi Revolut F1 Team

Audi Revolut F1 Team is the official factory team of Audi, as the brand enters the FIA Formula 1 World Championship for the first time in 2026. This project, in which Audi will create its own hybrid drive system ('power unit') developed in Germany, represents the ultimate expression of the manufacturer's 'Vorsprung durch Technik' philosophy and embodies a long-term commitment to compete at the pinnacle of motorsport with the clear objective of challenging for world championships by 2030. Audi Revolut F1 Team is based in three locations: the power unit is developed by Audi Formula Racing GmbH at the Audi Competence Center Motorsport in Neuburg, Germany; the chassis is engineered and race operations are managed from the state-of-the-art facilities of Audi Motorsport AG in Hinwil, Switzerland; while the Audi Motorsport Technology Centre UK in Bicester, United Kingdom, provides a foothold in the heart of 'Motorsport Valley', with direct access to top F1 talent and key strategic partners. This integrated structure provides complete control over the project, embedding a culture of precision, innovation, and relentless performance. Audi's entry is strategically timed to coincide with new Formula 1 regulations focused on increased electrification, as the electric share of the hybrid drive is raised to almost 50%, and the introduction of 100% sustainable fuels. The entry into Formula 1, one of the most important platforms in the world, serves as a high-tech catalyst for the entire Audi brand, acting as a global stage to demonstrate technological leadership and connect with new, diverse audiences by creating cultural impact that resonates far beyond the race track.

