

2026 Australian Grand Prix - Saturday

Melbourne, March 7, 2026 – Audi Revolut F1 Team claimed a spot in Q3 in its first qualifying session ever, as Gabriel Bortoleto fought to a spot in the top ten. While a technical issue prevented him from going on track in the final segment of the session, his Q2 heroics compounded a strong overall performance from the team, with Nico Hulkenberg setting the 11th fastest time in Q2.

The results from qualifying, on Audi Revolut F1 Team's first qualifying of the year, give promise ahead of tomorrow's race. Gabriel and Nico will aim to improve on their starting position as the team enters the battle for points for the first time.

Jonathan Wheatley, Team Principal: "It was a tremendously encouraging qualifying session for the team, and seeing Gabi reach Q3 at the very first race for the Audi Revolut F1 Team is a special moment for everyone involved. It's a strong reflection of the hard work that has gone into building this programme and getting us to this point.

"Unfortunately, we experienced a technical issue at the end of Gabi's final run which prevented him from participating in Q3, and Nico also had a small problem that affected his last run in Q2.

"Overall, this is a very positive start for the team. It's both encouraging in terms of performance, and a testament to the collective effort of so many talented people across the organisation."

Nico Hulkenberg (car number 27):

FP3: 14th / 1:21.067 (22 laps)

Q1: 1:21.024 (10 laps)

Q2: 11th / 1:20.303 (8 laps)

"It was quite a busy qualifying for us. We had a few things to manage early on, so it took a bit of time to really find a rhythm. In the end I had one clean shot at a lap in Q2 and managed to put it together well, which puts us P11 - a solid place to start from. There's a lot going on in the cockpit with energy management, tyres and traffic, so it keeps you fully focused every lap, but we're learning more each time we run.

"Overall, it's a positive day for the team. The long runs yesterday felt encouraging and we're in a good position heading into the race. With these new cars there are still plenty of unknowns, so tomorrow could be quite open and we'll aim to make the most of any opportunities."

Gabriel Bortoleto (car number 5):

FP3: 9th / 1:20.459 (19 laps)

Q1: 1:20.495 (6 laps)

Q2: 1:20.221 (8 laps)

Q3: 10th / No time set

“It has been a very positive qualifying for the team. Being in the top ten in our first race weekend as Audi Revolut F1 Team is something we can all be proud of, especially considering the amount of work that has gone in over the winter to bring this car together and make it competitive, and to build a new power unit from scratch.

“Of course, it is frustrating not to be able to take part in Q3 after making it through. We do not yet know exactly what caused the issue at the end of qualifying: I started to lose gears in the middle of the lap and could not make it back to the pits, so it is something we will analyse with the team. From what we have seen so far, it does not look like a major problem and hopefully we can fix it for tomorrow.

“The car has shown good potential. I don't think many people expected us to be fighting for a top-ten position so early, so it is a very encouraging start. Now the focus is on tomorrow. Starting from P10 gives us a good opportunity, and hopefully we can have a strong race and fight with the cars ahead.”

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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.

