

2026 Azerbaijan Grand Prix - Friday

Baku, 25 September 2026

Allan McNish, Racing Director: "No disguising a difficult session for us today. Both final runs were compromised with yellow flags towards the end of the session, but we simply did not unlock the pace over a single lap in these windy conditions. We know the underlying package of the R26 is strong, so with a high chance of mid-race incidents we'll analyse the data overnight and come back with plenty of hope for the race itself."

Nico Hulkenberg (Car 27):

FP3: 15th / 1:45.998 (18 laps)

Q1: 18th / 1:45.920 (10 laps)

"Today's result is obviously disappointing, as I feel we were more competitive than the final classification suggests. On the first run, we missed the tow, which makes a big difference around here. Then, on my final lap, I was caught by a yellow flag at Turn 15 and again had no tow down the long straight. We were also lacking some straight-line speed, which makes things particularly difficult at this circuit. There is naturally still more for us to learn about the upgrades as we work to understand and optimise the package. Starting from the back is never easy, but this is Baku and opportunities can arise, so we need to stay sharp and be ready to take them."

Gabriel Bortoleto (Car 5):

FP3: 13th / 1:45.854 (18 laps)

Q1: 17th / 1:45.799 (10 laps)

"Of course, this is not the Qualifying result we wanted to walk away with today. The first two runs I did seemed pretty decent; on the last run, though, I just couldn't find any grip, and a yellow flag at the end of my final push lap also forced me to lift. We probably left something out there, but I reckon it would have been tough to advance much today anyway."

"Overall, it's been a quite challenging weekend for us so far. Some laps feel like the grip is there, and others feel like we're struggling with it. We have been lacking some pace throughout sessions, so we need to analyse everything and understand what hasn't gone right, take that onboard and try again tomorrow."

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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.



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