

2026 Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix - Friday

Barcelona, 12 June 2026 – Audi Revolut F1 Team completed a successful first day of running at the Grand Prix of Barcelona-Catalunya, with cars running and finishing in the top ten in both of the day's sessions.

FP1 saw Paul Aron deputising for Nico Hulkenberg, as required by the young driver FP1 regulations, and the Estonian did a fine job to finish the session sixth fastest – on his first outing in a 2026 car. Gabriel Bortoleto's precious set-up work helped set the foundations for the remainder of the weekend, and he closed FP1 with the 12th time.

Gabi was joined by a returning Nico for FP2, and the team made another step forward towards qualifying – the Brazilian breaking into the top ten (P8), with Nico getting to grips with the track and setting the 11th fastest time.

This performance is a solid first step in the weekend: the team's engineers will crunch the data and aim to unlock more performance during this evening's data analysis, with the clear objective of places in Q3 for tomorrow's qualifying session.

Nico Hulkenberg (Car 27):

FP1: Did not take part

FP2: 11th / 1:16.934 (31 laps)

"It was a reasonable day overall. With just the one session for me, the priority was to get through the programme and get a first read on the car around this circuit, which we managed to do without any issues. The conditions were still quite hot in the late afternoon, as you'd expect here in Barcelona, so that added another element to consider. We'll go through the data overnight, understand where the opportunities are, and make sure we come back with a good plan for tomorrow and Sunday."

Gabriel Bortoleto (Car 5):

FP1: 12th / 1:18.209 (28 laps)

FP2: 8th / 1:16.611 (27 laps)

"FP2 was definitely an encouraging step. FP1 felt a bit strange for me, as I wasn't feeling very comfortable with the car: we made a few changes between the sessions, and that helped bring my confidence back. The balance improved, the pace was there and, overall, the feeling was much better. There's still some fine-tuning to do ahead of tomorrow, but we're in a more positive window heading into the rest of the weekend."

Paul Aron (Car 97):

FP1: 6th / 1:17.321 (24 laps)

FP2: Did not take part

"It was a very successful FP1 for me with the Audi Revolut F1 Team. It was my first opportunity to drive a 2026 car under the new regulations, and while we had prepared extensively, nothing quite compares to experiencing it in the real car for the first time. There was a lot to learn and adapt to, but I was very happy with how the session went.

"We completed the full run plan, which was important for the team, and to finish the session with competitive pace was a nice bonus. I was pleased with my performance and, most importantly, able to give the team all the data they were looking for.

"A big thank you to Nico for trusting me with his car – I made sure to take good care of it – and also to Audi and Alpine for working together to make this opportunity possible. Every lap in a Formula One car is valuable experience, and I am grateful for the chance to continue building that experience. It has been a hugely enjoyable week, and I am already looking forward to getting back in the car in Austria."

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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.

