

2026 Belgian Grand Prix - Saturday

Spa-Francorchamps, 18 July 2026 – Audi Revolut F1 Team experienced a bittersweet Saturday at the Belgian Grand Prix, with the two sides of the garage enjoying contrasting fortunes in Qualifying. Gabriel Bortoleto showed an excellent performance to reach Q3 and secure eight on the grid, while Nico Hulkenberg was left without the result his pace deserved.

Despite the mixed outcome, the team's overall competitiveness at Spa-Francorchamps was an encouraging takeaway at a circuit not expected to particularly suit the R26. With both cars showing promising pace across the weekend so far, the focus now shifts to making the most of the opportunities in Sunday's race.

Backed by more than 300 team members from Hinwil, Neuburg and Bicester in the grandstands this weekend, the team will be looking to reward their support with a strong performance on race day.

Allan McNish, Racing Director: "Gabriel delivered an outstanding qualifying performance today. Reaching Q3 was beyond our initial expectations, and the laps he put together were impressive. It's a great reward for everyone's efforts and shows what we're capable of when everything comes together.

"On the other side of the garage, it was a much more frustrating afternoon for Nico. His first run in Q1 was compromised by traffic, which forced us to use an additional set of tyres, making the remainder of qualifying more difficult. After Q2, a hydraulic issue brought his car to a halt, adding to the disappointment. We know there was more potential in the package than the final result suggests, so it's unfortunate that we couldn't show that today. Even so, with Gabriel 8th and Nico 13th on the grid at a circuit we didn't expect to suit us particularly well, we can be encouraged by our overall competitiveness."

Nico Hulkenberg (Car 27):

FP3: 8th / 1:46.924 (20 laps)

Q1: 1:46.893 (6 laps)

Q2: 14th / 1:46.671 (6 laps)

"It was a frustrating end to qualifying. We had gearbox issues from quite early in the session, with the shifts not working properly, and then right after Q2 the team told me to stop the car on track because of a hydraulic problem.

"It's disappointing because there are definitely some encouraging signs in the performance, but we haven't had a clean run on my side of the garage, with technical issues holding us back. We'll take it on the chin, work through it overnight and try again tomorrow."

Gabriel Bortoleto (Car 5):

FP3: 9th / 1:47.049 (18 laps)

Q1: 1:46.609 (6 laps)

Q2: 1:46.082 (6 laps)

Q3: 9th / 1:45.628 (6 laps)

"I am very happy about today. I think we maximised everything we had, and even managed to extract a little bit more, so I am really pleased with our performance. Tomorrow won't be easy: the Racing Bulls are ahead of us, and I'm expecting a tough fight because they are rather quick. But I'll give it everything I have and see what we can build from there."

"A big shoutout as well to all our team members from Hinwil, Neuburg and Bicester who are supporting us from the grandstands this weekend. It means a lot to have them cheering on us, and it gives us even more motivation to fight for a strong result 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.