

## 2026 Chinese Grand Prix - Sunday

**Shanghai, 15 March 2026** – Audi Revolut F1 Team went one place away from scoring back-to-back points, as Nico Hulkenberg finished in 11<sup>th</sup> place at the Chinese Grand Prix. It was a gritty performance from the German, who started just outside the top ten and fought for a place in the points from start to finish: ultimately, a wheelgun issue at his pit stop meant he couldn't complete his comeback for what would have been a deserved reward.

For Gabriel Bortoleto, Sunday was a frustrating affair as a technical issue sidelined him while on the grid: the Brazilian never had the chance to show the pace of which he had given glimpses earlier in the weekend. The team will investigate the problem to ensure it is fixed ahead of the Japanese Grand Prix.

The weekend's high note for Audi Revolut F1 Team came earlier in the morning, as F1 Academy's Emma Felbermayr claimed a commanding win in the feature race. The Austrian, starting from P3, stormed into the lead and controlled the race despite heavy pressure to claim her first win of the year – in her debut weekend under the Audi name. This performance adds to her podium from Race 1, giving her the lead in the championship after the opening round.

**Jonathan Wheatley, Team Principal:** "First of all, congratulations to Emma Felbermayr, who delivered a very confident and assured drive this weekend. After some excellent overtaking on Saturday, she followed it up with a fantastic victory today – her first win of 2026 and the first win for Audi in F1 Academy. Congratulations as well to Kimi Antonelli on a commanding performance to secure his first Grand Prix victory, which is a special moment for him.

"On our side, it was unfortunately a difficult day for Gabi. I would like to apologise on behalf of the team for the issue that resulted in him being unable to start the race. It must be extremely disappointing for him, and it is something we need to understand quickly and address as a team.

"Nico's race was also challenging. We know that getting the car off the line is still an area we need to improve, and we lost several places at the start. From there, Nico drove a strong race and showed excellent pace and energy management. Unfortunately, a wheelgun failure resulted in a 16-second pitstop, which effectively took him out of contention for the points.

"There is a lot for us to review and improve as we head towards Japan. The team will regroup, learn from the weekend and focus on coming back stronger at the next race."

**Nico Hulkenberg (Car 27):**

**Race result: 11th**

Fastest lap: 1:36.180 (Lap 38)

Strategy & Pit Stops: Start (New Hard) - Lap 35 (New Medium)

“It wasn’t the smoothest race, but the main thing for me was finally getting a full distance under the belt after missing Melbourne. These cars are still pretty new territory - especially with the energy management - so every lap is useful right now. There’s a lot to unpack from today. We’ll go through everything next week, tidy a few things up and go again in Japan.”

**Gabriel Bortoleto (Car 5)**

**Race result: DNS**

“Unfortunately, a technical issue prevented us from even starting the race today. I still want to thank the team for having put in extra work until the very end to try and get me back on track – I really appreciate that. I think this race offered a lot of opportunities: many cars didn’t start or finish, so there was probably a chance for us to score points today. While this was obviously frustrating, it’s something that can happen at the beginning of a new era of regulations.

“There are still some positives to take from these first two races: Melbourne was amazing and here in Shanghai, the weekend was going well up until the race; we were fighting for good positions and had decent pace. Now, with a week’s break before Japan, we’ll be back in the factory working hard with the team and finding more performance in our car for the next race.”

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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.

