

## 2026 Japanese Grand Prix - Friday

**Suzuka, 27 March 2026** – Audi Revolut F1 Team completed a busy day of practice in Suzuka, with the team competing for places near the front of the midfield again. In the first two on-track sessions for this weekend's Japanese Grand Prix, Nico Hulkenberg and Gabriel Bortoleto worked through the testing programme, working to find the ideal setup to tackle the challenging Suzuka track: despite a technical issue, which forced a precautionary gearbox change and sidelined Gabriel for part of FP2 before the team could get him back on track, the data collected from the two hours of action will inform the engineers; both trackside and back at base, as the team prepares for tomorrow's Qualifying session.

**Nico Hulkenberg (Car 27):**

FP1: 12<sup>th</sup> / 1:32.798 (26 laps)

FP2: 7<sup>th</sup> / 1:31.441 (27 laps)

"A solid Friday overall. We had two clean sessions, completed the full programme and built a good baseline. The car feels in a decent window, so it's a positive starting point. The midfield looks very tight - closer than in the first two races - so it should be very competitive out there. We'll review everything overnight, and the direction is clear with a good base to build on for tomorrow."

**Gabriel Bortoleto (Car 5):**

FP1: 11<sup>th</sup> / 1:32.759 (27 laps)

FP2: 16<sup>th</sup> / 1:31.933 (11 laps)

"It's been a bit of a mixed Friday. The morning session was pretty straightforward, but we identified an issue early on in FP2 and we made the call to carry out a precautionary gearbox change as the swiftest way to get back out. That meant losing some time in the garage, but the team did an incredible job turning the car around and getting me back out for the end of the session – I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for the effort and hard work.

"We still managed to get some laps in and gather useful insight, so we'll take that and keep building from here, with one final practice session tomorrow before heading into Qualifying."

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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.

