

Racing Returns to China

By: Gianna D'Arezzo

Motorsports Editor

Weekly Contributor: Formula 1

After five years, Formula 1 returns to Shanghai, China for a Grand Prix and Sprint Race.

Hometown Hero

This weekend will be especially significant for Sauber driver Zhou Guanyu, as he is the first Chinese F1 driver in history and is thus the first to have a home race here. His rookie year being 2022 makes him one of four drivers who have never driven the circuit, the other three being Yuki Tsunoda (whose rookie year was in 2021), Oscar Piastri (rookie year 2023), and Logan Sargeant (rookie year 2023).

The Weekend Schedule

This weekend marks the first Sprint of the 2024 season, so the weekend schedule will be working a little differently than normal. Usually a race weekend is formatted with Free Practices 1 and 2 being held on Friday, Free Practice 3 and Qualifying on Saturday, and finally the race on Sunday. However for these special weekends, Practices 2 and 3 will be replaced by the Sprint Qualifying and then the Sprint itself. That being said, this weekend will operate as follows: Free Practice 1 and Sprint Qualifying on Friday, Sprint Race and official race Qualifying on Saturday, and the race on Sunday. Be sure to check your local broadcast times [here](#), so you don't miss any of the action.

What is a Sprint Race?

A Sprint is essentially a mini-race that allows teams to have the opportunity to earn more points. Most full Formula 1 races are about 300 kilometers long, but the Sprint is only about 100 kilometers. Additionally, pit stops are not required like they are in Grands Prix - they're not outlawed by any means, but due to how short the race is, tire changes are not expected to be necessary. The points system is also different, with only the top eight places getting points, ranging from eight points going to first place and only one point going to eighth.

For more detailed information, including why certain tracks are chosen for Sprints and how often they're held, click [here](#).

Edited by:

Angelina Lazzareschi & Elizabeth Rosales