

TOP 4 MEETING NOTES 4 HOURS OF IMOLA, 03-05 JULY 2026

START

- 1) There will be at least 2 formation laps.
- 2) The green flag for the start of the formation laps will be waved at the front of the starting grid on the Left-Hand Side by VIP Bianca Bustamante.
- 3) During the formation laps, weaving to warm tires up is allowed until T14 on the second lap. From T15 onwards, drivers must assume their grid positions and no more weaving will be allowed.
- 4) The leading car will exit the track by the pit entry. Front row drivers of each category must drive at a constant speed until the starting lights are switched off.
- 5) Keep a constant gap to the car in front, gaps between categories must be kept to a maximum of 5 cars length*.
- 6) Drivers must drive through the grid boxes in 2 parallel lines.
- 7) No lateral movement is allowed before crossing the start line.
- 8) When the starting lights switch off, front row drivers may accelerate and following cars may follow their speed.
- 9) No overtaking allowed before the line.

OTHER TOPICS

- 10) Team managers are also responsible for the respect of the blue flags.
- 11) A driver that stops on track, should not hesitate to request /accept water from the marshals to avoid any physical issue.
- 12) Once the car is parked on the grid, starting drivers may return to their garages. They must be back on the grid before the 5 minutes board. National anthem may be skipped by starting drivers.

QUESTIONS

1. * Gaps between categories
 - 1.1. #33 B. MCDONALD requested increasing the gap between LMG T3/GT3 and LMP3 from five to ten car lengths to avoid bunch-ups and enable cleaner GT3 starts.
 - 1.2. RD Gwen Bourcier stated that five car length gap is needed for fair start monitoring and consistent enforcement; larger nominal gaps tend to expand beyond limits.
 - 1.3. #62 A. AL-AL-KHELAIFI raised safety concerns for GTs with five-car gaps, citing packing up before braking points and Barcelona issues; questioned whether two formation laps provide adequate tire temperatures for LMP3.
 - 1.4. E Freitas asked whether current ambient/asphalt temperatures are sufficient; cautioned against excessive formation laps at other circuits.
 - 1.5. RD Gwen Bourcier acknowledged feedback, noted improvements versus past single-lap starts with no gaps, and committed to discuss and confirm in written notes whether the five-car gap remains or changes.
 - 1.6. **Reference for the gap to be respected between categories at the start will ideally be 5-cars-length but it is the onus of the pole sitter from each category to use the gap which he feels the right one for a safe start.**



Gwen BOURCIER

IMOLA, 04 July 2026 ELMS Race Director

