



TOP 4 STARTING DRIVERS BRIEFING NOTES

PORTIMÃO, 9TH October 2026

RACE DIRECTOR INSTRUCTIONS

- There will be a VIP giving the start of the formation laps from the front of the grid at track level
- The speed of the formation laps is dictated by the density of the line of cars. A tighter line allows Race Control to authorize a faster pace. If drivers fall back and create long gaps, the lead car will be slowed down. The primary goal is a compact group.
- As mentioned in the briefing, after Turn 12 cars must assume grid formation. Two parallel lines.
- Gaps to be as small as possible between categories.
- The pole-sitter of each subsequent category (LMP2 Pro-Am, LMP3, LMGT3) is responsible for maintaining a minimal gap to the category ahead. Failure to do so may result in a penalty for that pole-sitter.
- Lights will go out for the LMP2 class around position six on the grid.
- It is expected that by the time LMP3 and GT cars reach the start line, the lights will have already been out for some time.
- Safety Car: Upon deployment, the race leader is requested to drop to around 80 km/h to facilitate rapid car grouping, which enables faster track interventions.
- Pit entry will close immediately upon deployment of a Safety Car or announcement of Prepare for Full Course Yellow (FCY).
- If a red flag is shown, team personnel are forbidden from jumping over the pit wall onto the grid. A specific gate will be opened for authorized personnel (red armbands) and, later in the procedure, the rest of the teams.
- The track limit camera from T14 was relocated to the exit of T7. T14 is now being observed by judges of fact.

Post-Race Parc Fermé Protocol

- All Cars: Complete one full cool-down lap.
- Category Winners: After the cool-down lap, Winning cars of each category will join the podium by entering the pit lane via pit exit in opposite direction and will be placed under the podium.
- All Other Cars: All others cars enter the pit lane to join parc ferme just in front of scrutineering.

QUESTIONS

M. Kaiser – Can we ask that cars entering the pits use the turning lights ?

E Freitas – The FIA General prescription do mention that cars leaving the track must make sure that traffic following is made aware of their intentions.

“GP Article 13 Q) Any Driver intending to leave the track or to go to his pit or the paddock area must signal his intention to do so in good time making sure that he can do this without danger.”