

## MEDIA INFORMATION

April 13, 2016  
Japan Race Promotion Inc.

**Round 1** : April 23 (Saturday) – April 24 (Sunday)

### 2016 NGK Spark Plugs Suzuka 2&4 Race

### 2016 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship Series : SUZUKA CIRCUIT

#### – Who will win the opening race? –

Japan Race Promotion Inc. (President: Hiroshi Shirai, Head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan) today announced details of Round 1 of the 2016 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship Series, part of the “2016 NGK Spark Plugs Suzuka 2&4 Race” event, scheduled to take place on April 23–24 at the Suzuka Circuit (length = 5.807km) in Mie Prefecture, Japan.

The 2016 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship Series is the only internationally accredited driver championship in Asia, run over seven rounds and six circuits across Japan. A total of 11 teams (entrants) and 19 drivers (cars) from Japan and overseas\* are competing to win this year’s series.

*\*12 drivers from Japan and seven from five other countries (UK, Germany, Belgium, Brazil and India).*

The opening round of the 2016 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship Series will be run over 43 laps of the Suzuka Circuit (length = 5.807km) for a total distance of 249.701km, as part of the “2016 NGK Spark Plugs Suzuka 2&4 Race” event.

The 2016 season promises to be exciting. The big draw this year is rising star and GP2 2015 champion Stoffel Vandoorne (DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING). How will he perform in Japan after recently securing a point for his tenth place finish in the Bahrain Grand Prix. Many fans will of course also be watching to see if defending champion Hiroaki Ishiura (P.MU/CERUMO • INGING) can achieve a second successive championship victory. And will last year’s second place finisher Kazuki Nakajima (PETRONAS TEAM TOM’S) manage to clinch the title after an agonizingly close finish in 2015. Also, fans will be watching Kamui Kobayashi (SUNOCO TEAM LEMANS), who carries major expectations in his second SUPER FORMULA season, Naoki Yamamoto (TEAM MUGEN), who put in a strong performance during testing, and the competitive group of overseas drivers competing in 2016. As ever, this season is set to be a tight battle decided by narrow margins of hundredths of a second.

This year’s racing machines, powered by increasingly reliable HONDA and TOYOTA engines and fitted with tires from our new supplier Yokohama Rubber, are also attracting attention, adding to rising excitement ahead of the opening round.



**No. 38 Hiroaki Ishiura (P.MU/CERUMO • INGING), 2015 SUPER FORMULA Champion**

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**2016 JAPANESE SUPER FORMULA CHAMPIONSHIP Round 1 : ENTRY LIST** (Chassis: SF14, Tires: Yokohama)

NO.	DRIVER	DATE OF BIRTH PLACE OF BIRTH	ENTRANT	MANAGER	ENGINE
1	Hiroaki Ishiura	23 April 1981 Tokyo, Japan	P.MU / CERUMO · INGING	Yuji Tachikawa	TOYOTA R14A
2	Yuji Kunimoto	12 September 1990 Kanagawa, Japan			
3	James Rossiter	25 August 1983 United Kingdom	KONDO RACING	Masahiko Kondo	TOYOTA R14A
4	William Buller	17 September 1992 United Kingdom			
7	Kumar Ram Narain Karthikeyan	14 January 1977 India	SUNOCOTEAM LeMans	Hiroyoshi Donuma	TOYOTA R14A
8	Kamui Kobayashi	13 September 1986 Hyogo, Japan			
10	Koudai Tsukakoshi	20 November 1986 Tochigi, Japan	REAL RACING	Katsutomo Kaneishi	Honda HR-414E
11	Takuya Izawa	1 June 1984 Tokyo, Japan			
16	Naoki Yamamoto	11 July 1988 Tochigi, Japan	TEAM MUGEN	Nagataka Tezuka	Honda HR-414E
18	Yuichi Nakayama	25 July 1991 Tokyo, Japan	KCMG	Ryuji Doi	TOYOTA R14A
19	Joao Paulo de Oliveira	13 July 1981 Brazil	ITOCHU ENEX TEAM IMPUL	Kazuyoshi Hoshino	TOYOTA R14A
20	Yuhi Sekiguchi	29 December 19987 Tokyo, Japan			
34	Takashi Kogure	1 August 1980 Gunma, Japan	DRAGO CORSE	Ryo Michigami	Honda HR-414E
36	Andre Lotterer	19 November 1981 Germany	VANTELIN TEAM TOM'S	Nobuhide Tachi	TOYOTA R14A
37	Kazuki Nakajima	11 January 1985 Aichi, Japan			
40	Tomoki Nojiri	15 September 1989 Ibaraki, Japan	DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING	Kiyoshi Muraoka	Honda HR-414E
41	Stoffel Vandoorne	26 March 1992 Belgium			
64	Daisuke Nakajima	29 January 1989 Aichi, Japan	NAKAJIMA RACING	Satoru Nakajima	Honda HR-414E
65	Bertrand Baguette	23 February 1986 Belgium			

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## GET TO KNOW THE BASICS

### ■ WHAT IS SUPER FORMULA?

Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship is the top category of Japanese formula racing featuring purpose-built racing cars with single-seat, open cockpit and open wheel. Organized by Japan Race Promotion Inc. and fully sanctioned by the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF), SUPER FORMULA traces back its origins to the Japanese Championship Formula NIPPON first launched in 1996. 2013 saw the relaunch of the series given a new name of SUPER FORMULA.

### ■ CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2016 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship has a total of 11 teams (entrants) and 19 drivers (cars) from Japan and overseas (the seven overseas drivers are from five countries: UK(2), Belgium(2), Germany(1), Brazil(1) and India(1)). Teams and drivers are awarded points for each race, with accumulated points determining the final standings.

### 2016 CHAMPIONSHIP POINT SCORING SYSTEM

POSITION	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th & beyond	PP
1 race round	10	8	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	1
2 races round <b>Race 1</b>	5(+3)	4	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	0.5	0	1
2 races round <b>Race 2</b>	5(+3)	4	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	0.5	0	1

- \* PP=Pole Position (a driver who set the fastest lap in the qualifying session). One point is awarded to the polesitter (only to the driver but not to the team).  
In the 2-race rounds, half points are awarded for both Race 1 & Race 2.
- \* Rd.7 Suzuka, three extra points are awarded to each race winner of Race 1 & Race 2 (i.e. up to a maximum of 18 points are awarded to the driver who claimed poleposition and wins of both Race 1 & Race 2).
- \* In case two or more drivers/teams are in a dead heat for a championship standing at the end of the season, the driver/team with the higher number of superior race results is awarded the position.

### ■ CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The Drivers' Championship title is awarded to the driver who scores the most points over the course of the season. The Driver Champion is given the Series Driver's Champion Cup and prize money by Japan Race Promotion Inc. On top of this, he receives the Confederation's Cup offered by Parliamentary Association for Motorsport Promotion of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, as well as the Commissioner's Cup from the Japan Tourism Agency. Towards the Team Champion, the Minister's Cup will be awarded by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, plus prize money by Japan Race Promotion Inc.

### ■ RACE CAR

The base chassis SF14 is supplied by Dallara (Italy). The cars are powered by 2.0-litre turbo-charged inline-4 direct injection engine either from Honda (HR414E) or Toyota (RI4A). YOKOHAMA serves as the sole tyre supplier. SUPER FORMULA offers the chance to enjoy highly competitive racing featuring top drivers from Japan and overseas in the SF14 race car, which has the same cornering speeds as the top Formula 1 race cars.

### ■ OVERTAKE SYSTEM

The Overtake System (OTS) is an overtaking aid that works by leveraging the fuel flow restrictor (fuel flow rate control system) employed on the new engine. It can increase fuel supply temporarily to provide approximately ten (or five)<sup>\*1</sup> per cent of engine performance improvement. By pressing a button called OTB (Overtake Button) on the steering wheel, the system will be activated for 20 seconds per use. Drivers may use the OTS up to 5 times a race. The status of the OTS use can easily be recognized by "Overtake Lamp (five small LEDs)" on the roll hoop. The number of lighted Lamp(s) shows the number of OTS activation, and on top of this they are blinking when the system is in use. The Lamps basically illuminate white while the championship leader comes with red lights called "Leader's Red". The Overtake Lamp system can only be seen in SUPER FORMULA.

\*1: Suzuka & Fuji Speedway Circuit : 5%. Other Circuit : 10% engine performance improvement.

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## ■ OFFICIAL QUALIFYING KNOCK-OUT STYLE

Qualifying will take place over three knock-out sessions to determine places on the starting grid for the Championship race. In the event of 19 entries, the five slowest cars during the 20-minute long Q1 session will be knocked out of the next session and assigned the 15th to 19th positions on the grid. After a 10-minute interval, the 7-minute long Q2 session will determine the 9th to 14th positions in the same way. After another 10-minute interval, the final 7-minute long Q3 session will decide the top 8 positions on the starting grid. As the name of the qualifying round suggests, drivers are knocked out if they do not post strong qualifying times.

## ■ RACE

Suzuka Circuit International Racing Course (Circuit length 5.807km) : 43 laps / total distance 249.701km.

## 2016 CHAMPIOSHIP RACE CALENDAR

	DATES	CIRCUIT	QUALIFYING FORMAT	RACE FORMAT
Round 1	April 23 – 24	Suzuka Circuit	Knockout	250km
Round 2	May 28 – 29	OKAYAMA International Circuit	Knockout	250km
Round 3	July 16 – 17	Fuji Speedway	Knockout	250km
Round 4	August 18 – 21	Twin Ring Motegi	Knockout	250km
Round 5	September 10 – 11	AUTOPOLIS International Circuit	Knockout	250km
Round 6	September 24 – 25	Sportsland SUGO	Knockout	250km
Round 7*	October 29 – 30	Suzuka Circuit	Knockout	2-heat

\* “The 15th JAF GRAND PRIX SUZUKA”

## ■ SUZUKA CIRCUIT International Racing Course

Suzuka is one of the few racing circuits worldwide with a figure-of-eight design. The circuit has a long, narrow east-west layout with an overpass in the center that switches the driving direction from clockwise to counter-clockwise. Suzuka is also Japan's longest circuit with a length of 5.807km. The track is between 10m and 16m wide, has 20 corners and a maximum elevation change of 52m. Suzuka's asphalt has a higher coefficient of friction than many circuits worldwide. Suzuka circuit is widely liked in the racing community as a technical but rewarding course for drivers due to its elevation change and balanced layout of high- and low-speed corners.

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## ABOUT THE SUZUKA ROUND

- **Official name :** 2016 NGK SPARK PLUGS SUZUKA 2 & 4 RACE  
2016 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship Round 1 : Suzuka Circuit
- **Held jointly with :** 2016 MFJ SUPERBIKE ALL JAPAN ROAD RACE CHAMPIONSHIP Round 2  
2016 Japanese Formula 3 Championship Round 1 & 2  
2016 N-ONE OWNER'S CUP  
Honda Sports & Eco Program 10L Challenge
- **Dates :** 2016 April 23 (Saturday) : QUALIFYING  
2016 April 24 (Sunday) : RACE
- **Location :** Suzuka Circuit International Racing Course, Mie Prefecture (Circuit length: 5.807km)
- **Hosted by :** Automobile: Group of Speed Sports (GSS), Suzuka Motor Sports Club (SMSC)  
Motorcycle: Motorcycle Federation of Japan (MFJ)  
and Mobilityland Corporation
- **Official recognition by :** Automobile : Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)  
Motorcycle : Fédération Internationale de Motorcyclisme (FIM) and Motorcycle Federation of Japan (MFJ)
- **Authorized by :** Automobile : Japan Race Promotion Inc. (JRP) and Japanese Formula 3 Association (JF3A)
- **Sponsored by :** Japan Sports Agency, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology ; Japan Tourism Agency ;  
Mie Prefecture; The City of Suzuka;  
The Suzuka F1 Japan Grand Prix Regional Revitalization Council ;  
Tourist Information Office Suzuka; Suzuka Chamber of Commerce and Industry ;

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## TV Coverage & Race Footage Delivery

### ● J SPORTS :

Live broadcast of all rounds (both qualifying and race). Rebroadcastings and digest programs also available.

On-air dates : Apr. 23 (Sat) at 13:30 -15:00 [Live coverage of the qualifying sessions on J SPRTS 4]

Apr. 24 (Sun) at 14:30 -17:30 [Live coverage of the race on J SPRTS 4]

\*For more info on the programs, visit J SPORTS website < [http://www.jsports.co.jp/motor/super\\_formula/](http://www.jsports.co.jp/motor/super_formula/)>

### ● BS FUJI :

“SUPER FORMULA Go On!” features all race highlights. First show broadcast on Friday in the week after the race.

Fans who want the stories behind all the action can tune in to the highlights show to get the inside track on race incidents.

The show also features interviews with drivers and secrets from the pit lane about the race cars, giving viewers a unique insight into the exciting world of SUPER FORMULA.

On-air dates : Round 1 Apr. 29 (Fri) at 23:30 -24:25

Round 2 Jun. 03 (Fri) at 24:00 -24:55

Round 3 Jul. 22 (Fri) at 24:00 -24:55

Round 4 Aug. 26 (Fri) at 23:30 -24:25

Round 5 Sep. 16 (Fri) at 24:00 -24:55

Round 6 Sep. 30 (Fri) at 23:30 -24:25

Round 7 Oct. 04 (Fri) at 24:00 -24:55

Omnibus undetermined

\*For more info on the programs, visit BS Fuji website < <http://www.bsfuji.tv/top/pub/superformura2015.html>>

### □ FUJI TELEVISION CS :

“SUPER FORMULA TV” features all race highlights plus talk show with invited guest drivers.

#### NEXT Live Premium

A 30-minute show with race highlights and studio guests, giving an insight into the world of SUPER FORMULA.

This year studio guests will include drivers involved in the 2016 championship and famous racing legends who have competed at the top level. Two guests will talk about their passion for formula racing, revisiting famous incidents from the past and through to the present day. Fuji TV F1 broadcast announcer along with language fluent fashion model Ms. Erika Yokoyama will host the show.

On-air dates : Apr. 29 (Fri) at 17:40 – 18:10 [NEXT]

Gest driver : Satoshi Motoyama / Kamui Kobayashi

\*For more info on the programs, visit CS Fuji website <[http://otn.fujitv.co.jp/b\\_hp/914200066.html](http://otn.fujitv.co.jp/b_hp/914200066.html)>

### □ FUJI TELEVISION :

“Chousoku Goon”

Race highlights and chat show with racing personalities Kamui Kobayashi and Daisuke Nakajima.

Broadcast on Sunday at 26:35 – 27:05 the week before the race.

Facilitator : Pierre Kitagawa

Gest : Satoru Nakajima

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● **GYAO!** : Race footage of each SUPER FORMULA round will be available on-demand 10 days after each round.  
< <http://gyao.yahoo.co.jp/sports/> >

● **You Tube** : Review show of qualifying and competition round the evening after the race  
< <https://www.youtube.com/user/superformulavideo> >

**\*On-air schedule is subject to change.**

Visit SUPER FORMULA official website <<http://www.superformula.net>> for updates.

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## Ticket Information & Enquiries

### ■ Advance purchase

- Admission ticket (2-days) : ¥4,000 + MOTOPIA 1day passport (adult)  
: ¥1,700 (High school & Junior high school students)  
: ¥ 800 (Elementary School)  
: ¥ 600 (Over 3 years old and Under Elementary School)
- Admission ticket (2-days) : ¥4,000 (adult)  
+ MOTOPIA 1day passport : ¥4,000 (High school & Junior high school students)  
: ¥3,100 (Elementary School)  
: ¥2,000 (Over 3 years old and Under Elementary School)
- Group ticket**
  - 3 person : ¥10,800 (¥2,800 per person)
  - 4 person : ¥13,600 (¥3,400 per person)
  - 5 person : ¥16,000 (¥3,200 per person)
- Admission ticket (2-days) : ¥4,000 (adult)  
+ MOTOPIA 1day passport : ¥4,000 (High school & Junior high school students)  
: ¥3,100 (Elementary School)  
: ¥2,000 (Over 3 years old and Under Elementary School)

### ■ At the door

- Admission ticket
  - \* Saturday : ¥1,700 (adult)
  - \* Sunday : ¥4,300 + MOTOPIA 1day passport (adult)
  - \* Sat / Sun : ¥1,700 (High school & Junior high school students)
  - \* Sat / Sun : ¥ 800 (Elementary School)
  - \* Sat / Sun : ¥ 600 (Over 3 years old and Under Elementary School)
- Paddock pass (+ Pit-walk) : ¥6,200 (Over Junior high school students)  
: ¥1,600 (Over 3 years old and Under Elementary School)
- Pit-walk pass : ¥2,100 Sat/Sun

\* Child under Elementary School age are free of admission when accompanied by an adult.

### Please visit the :

SUPER FORMULA Official **website** : < <http://www.suzukacircuit.jp/superformula/ticket> >

SUPER FORMULA Official **facebook** : < <https://www.facebook.com/superformula.official> >

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT :

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