

MEDIA INFORMATION

September 4, 2017
Japan Race Promotion Inc.

Round 5 : September 9 (Saturday) – September 10 (Sunday)

2017 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship : AUTOPOLIS

Japan Race Promotion Inc. (President: Akira Kurashita, Head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan) today announced details of Round 5 of the 2017 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship Series, scheduled to take place on September 9-10 at the AUTOPOLIS International Racing Course (length = 4.674 km) in Oita Prefecture, Japan. The race will be held at AUTOPOLIS for the first time in two years. Last year's event was cancelled due to the Kumamoto earthquakes in April 2016.

Round 5 will feature an official qualifying session based on a knock-out format, followed by a championship race run over 54 laps (252.396 km) of the AUTOPOLIS International Racing Course. AUTOPOLIS is a technical circuit with many medium to high speed corners and large changes in elevation, favoring drivers with an attacking driving style. Teams will also be using Yokohama tires on the circuit for the first time.

As with Round 4, teams will be able to use soft compound tires, giving them another option to the medium compound tires used so far this season. In the championship race, all teams are required to use both types of tire. AUTOPOLIS has a challenging layout and a high coefficient of friction (μ), which will put different and much greater stresses on the tires than at the Twin Ring Motegi circuit. Although teams can again use the two types of tire, they will need to develop effective tire strategies that make best use of both compound tires during the qualifying session and championship race to cope with the tougher circuit conditions. Also, pit lanes are typically located on the right side of racing tracks, but teams will need to be on top of their game in pit work at AUTOPOLIS, as the pit lane is positioned on the left of the circuit, which affects how cars are refueled.

Hiroaki Ishiura (P.MU/CERUMO • INGING) remains top of the driver standings after Round 4. Despite being knocked out in the Q1 qualifying session, Ishiura fought hard in the championship race, posting times on par with qualifying and eventually finishing fourth. The strong showing means Ishiura has extended his lead at the top of the standings. Andre Lotterer (VANTELIN TEAM TOM'S), who put on a late surge in Round 4, is currently second in the standings, followed by Kamui Kobayashi (KCMG), who moved up to third despite just missing out on his first victory after a pit lane error. Chasing the top three drivers are some promising rookies, such as Pierre Gasly (TEAM MUGEN), who secured his first Super Formula victory in Round 4 after only four attempts, and Felix Rosenqvist (SUNOCO TEAM LEMANS), who has been solid in every race so far this season. Both drivers are still in touch with the leaders and will be under the spotlight in Round 5. AUTOPOLIS is shaping up to be a crucial race in the battle for this year's championship.



No. 2 Hiroaki Ishiura (P.MU/CERUMO • INGING) is in control of the championship at the top of the driver standings

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■ OFFICIAL QUALIFYING KNOCK-OUT FORMAT

Q1 (20 minutes) : Top 14 cars progress to Q2, grid positions 15-19 fixed

Q2 (7 minutes) : Top 8 cars progress to Q3, grid positions 9-14 fixed

Q3 (7 minutes) : Grid positions 1-8 fixed

- 10 minute intervals between each qualifying
- As the name suggests, drivers are knocked out if they do not post good enough times during the first two qualifying rounds.

*Q1 = Medium compound tires only

*Q2, Q3 = Soft and medium compound tires allowed

■ CHAMPIONSHIP RACE

54 laps (1 lap: 4.674 km x 54 = 252.396 km)

■ SOFT COMPOUND TIRES

In Round 5, the teams will be able to use a soft compound tire and the existing medium compound tire. The new tire is an upgraded version of the soft compound tire introduced at last year's Motegi round. The tire has been developed to provide better grip, but it also degrades at a faster rate.

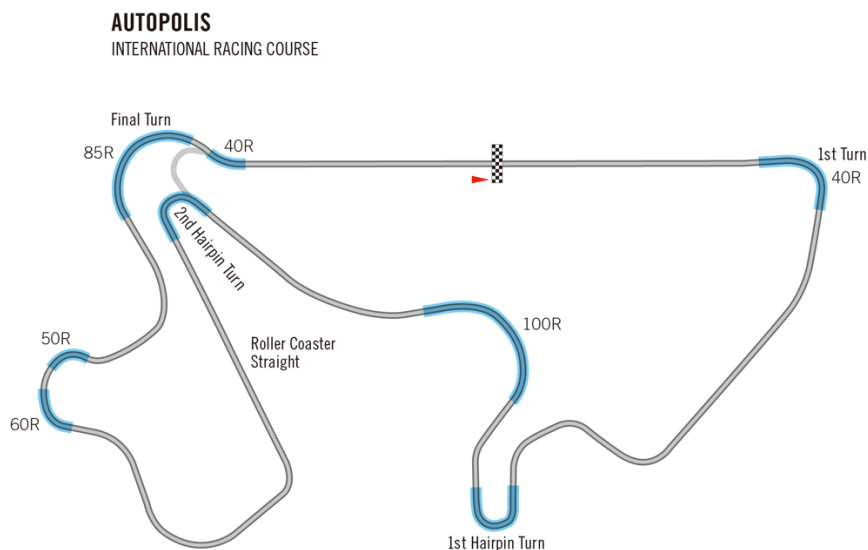
At AUTOPOLIS, each team will have two new sets of medium compound tires and two new sets of soft compound tires. On the Friday before the event, the teams will be allowed to use two old sets from the previous race (medium or soft compound tires available).



■ AUTOPOLIS INTERNATIONAL RACING COURSE

AUTOPOLIS is an internationally accredited race course with a length of 4,674 m. The circuit has been designed to make use of the majestic topographical features of the Mount Aso somma volcano.

With a home straight of 902 m, an elevation change of 52 m, and maximum uphill and downhill slopes of 7.2% and 10%, respectively, AUTOPOLIS is a technical track with challenging changes in gradient and many medium to high speed corners. The course is also unusual in Japan in that the pit lane is situated on the outside of the track, so the direction of race car travel, as seen from the pit lane, is the opposite of other courses.



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2017 JAPANESE SUPER FORMULA Championship Round 5 : ENTRY LIST (Chassis: SF14, Tires: Yokohama)

NO.	DRIVER	DATE OF BIRTH PLACE OF BIRTH	ENTRANT	MANAGER	ENGINE
1	Yuji Kunimoto	12 September 1990 Japan	P.MU / CERUMO · INGING	Yuji Tachikawa	TOYOTA R14A
2	Hiroaki Ishiura	23 April 1981 Japan			
3	Nick Cassidy	19 August 1994 New Zealand	KONDO RACING	Masahiko Kondo	TOYOTA R14A
4	Kenta Yamashita	3 August 1995 Japan			
7	Felix Rosenqvist	7 November 1991 Sweden	SUNOCO TEAM LEMANS	Tatsuya Kataoka	TOYOTA R14A
8	Kazuya Oshima	30 April 1987 Japan			
10	Koudai Tsukakoshi	20 November 1986 Japan	REAL RACING	Katsutomo Kaneishi	HONDA HR-417E
15	Pierre Gasly	7 February 1996 France	TEAM MUGEN	Nagataka Tezuka	HONDA HR-417E
16	Naoki Yamamoto	11 July 1988 Japan			
18	Kamui Kobayashi	13 September 1986 Japan	KCMG	Ryuji Doi	TOYOTA R14A
19	Yuhi Sekiguchi	29 December 1987 Japan	ITOCHU ENEX TEAM IMPUL	Kazuyoshi Hoshino	TOYOTA R14A
20	Jann Mardenborough	9 September 1991 United Kingdom			
36	Andre Lotterer	19 November 1981 Germany	VANTELIN TEAM TOM'S	Nobuhide Tachi	TOYOTA R14A
37	Kazuki Nakajima	11 January 1985 Japan			
40	Tomoki Nojiri	15 September 1989 Japan	DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING	Kiyoshi Muraoka	HONDA HR-417E
41	Takuya Izawa	1 June 1984 Japan			
50	Takashi Kogure	1 August 1980 Japan	B-MAX RACING TEAM	Ryuji Kumita	HONDA HR-417E
64	Daisuke Nakajima	29 January 1989 Japan	TCS NAKAJIMA RACING	Satoru Nakajima	HONDA HR-417E
65	Narain Karthikeyan	14 January 1977 India			

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2017 STANDINGS

DRIVERS Standings				2017/4/23 SUZUKA	2017/5/28 OKAYAMA		2017/7/9 FUJI	2017/8/20 MOTEGI	2017/9/10 AUTOPOLIS	2017/9/24 SUGO	2017/10/22 SUZUKA	
Pos.	No.	Driver	Pts.	Rd.1	Rd.2-1	Rd.2-2	Rd.3	Rd.4	Rd.5	Rd.6	Rd.7-1	Rd.7-2
1	2	Hiroaki Ishiura	25.5	5	0.5	5	10	5				
2	36	Andre Lotterer	20	4	5	3	6	2				
3	7	Felix Rosenqvist	16.5	0	0	2.5	8	6				
4	15	Pierre Gasly	15	0	0	1	4	10				
5	19	Yuhi Sekiguchi	15	0	5	5	5	0				
6	37	Kazuki Nakajima	13	11	0	0	2	0				
7	18	Kamui Kobayashi	12.5	0	2.5	2	0	8				
8	16	Naoki Yamamoto	10.5	8	2	0.5	0	0				
9	1	Yuji Kunimoto	7	6	0	0	1	0				
10	3	Nick Cassidy	7	0	3	0	0	4				
11	4	Kenta Yamashita	6.5	0	1	1.5	0	4				
12	41	Takuya Izawa	4	1	0	0	3	0				
13	10	Koudai Tsukakoshi	3	3	0	0	0	0				
14	20	Jann Mardenborough	2.5	0	1.5	0	1	0				
15	64	Daisuke Nakajima	2	2	0	0	0	0				
16	40	Tomoki Nojiri	1	0	0	0	0	1				
	8	Kazuya Oshima	0	0	0	0	0	0				
	65	Narain Karthikeyan	0	0	0	0	0	0				
	50	Takashi Kogure	0	0	0	0	0	0				

*Winners are in ***Bold Italics*** / Polesitters are in **Bold**.

TEAMS Standings				2017/4/23 SUZUKA	2017/5/28 OKAYAMA		2017/7/9 FUJI	2017/8/20 MOTEGI	2017/9/10 AUTOPOLIS	2017/9/24 SUGO	2017/10/22 SUZUKA	
Pos.	No.	Team	Pts.	Rd.1	Rd.2-1	Rd.2-2	Rd.3	Rd.4	Rd.5	Rd.6	Rd.7-1	Rd.7-2
1	36 37	VANTELIN TEAM TOM'S	32	14	5	3	8	2				
2	1 2	P.MU/CERUMO-INGING	30.5	11	0.5	4	10	5				
3	15 16	TEAM MUGEN	25.5	8	2	1.5	4	10				
4	19 20	ITOCHEX ENEX TEAM IMPUL	16.5	0	5.5	5	6	0				
5	7 8	SUNOCO TEAM LEMANS	16.5	0	0	2.5	8	6				
6	18	KCMG	12.5	0	2.5	2	0	8				
7	3 4	KONDO RACING	12.5	0	4	1.5	0	7				
8	40 41	DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING	5	1	0	0	3	1				
9	10	REAL RACING	3	3	0	0	0	0				
10	64 65	TCS NAKAJIMA RACING	2	2	0	0	0	0				
	50	B-MAX RACING TEAM	0	0	0	0	0	0				

*Winners are in ***Bold Italics***

* Team points: Team Points are the total number of points won by the driver or drivers attached to that team (entrant). Should a team (entrant) enter more than two cars at any race event, only the best two results shall be taken into account. Pole position points shall not be included in Team Points.

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ROUND 5 at AUTOPOLIS

- **Official name :** AUTOPOLIS SUPER 2&4 RACE 2017
2017 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship Series Round 5 : AUTOPOLIS
2017 MFJ SUPER BIKE Round 7
- **Dates :** 2017 September 9 (Saturday) : QUALIFYING
2017 September 10 (Sunday) : RACE
- **Location :** AUTOPOLIS International Racing Course, Oita Prefecture (Circuit length: 4.674 km, clockwise)
- **Hosted by :** Motorcycle Federation of Japan (MFJ) / AUTOPOLIS CLUB (APC) / AUTOPOLIS Co., Ltd.
- **Official recognition by :** Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) / Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)
Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM)
- **Authorized by :** Japan Race Promotion Inc. (JRP)
Japanese Formula 3 Association (JF3A)
Honda One-make Race Secretariat (HORS)
- **Partnership with :** Bright Co., Ltd. / TV-Kumamoto Co., Ltd.
- **Sponsored by :** Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology / Japan Tourism Agency /
Oita Prefecture / Kumamoto Prefecture / Hita City / Kikuchi City / Aso City /
Yanagawa City / Ozu Town / Oguni Town / Minamioguni Town / Ubuyama Village /
Hita City Board of Education / Kikuchi City Board of Education /
Aso City Board of Education / Yanagawa City Board of Education /
Ozu Town Board of Education / Oguni Town Board of Education /
Minamioguni Town Board of Education / Ubuyama Village Board of Education /
Hita City Tourism Association / Kikuchi City Tourist Association /
Aso City Tourism Association / Yanagawa City Tourist Association /
Higo-Ozu Tourist Association / Oguni Town Tourism Association /
Tsuetate Onsen Tourist Hotel Cooperative / Minamioguni-machi Tourism Association /
Ubuyama Tourism Association
- **Held jointly with :** 2017 Japanese Formula 3 Championship Round 17 & 18
2017 N-ONE OWNER'S CUP Round 12

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TV Coverage & Race Footage Delivery

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● BS Fuji :

Live Race Broadcast "2017 SUPER FORMULA Round 5 AUTOPOLIS"

This program will be broadcast "live" and hosted by Super Formula's official commentator Pierre Kitagawa, with additional commentary by Super Formula ambassador Satoshi Motoyama. Tsugio Matsuda, a highly respected technical commentator, and Miki Higashi, will give reports from the pit.

Trackside: Pierre Kitagawa
 Commentary: Satoshi Motoyama
 Pit reporters: Tsugio Matsuda and Miki Higashi
 Broadcast time: September 10 (Sun) at 13:00 -14:55

*For more info on the program, visit the BS Fuji website < <http://www.bsfuji.tv/superformulaive/pub/index.html> >

● BS Fuji :

"Super Formula Go On!"

This talk-show program hosted by Super Formula drivers Kamui Kobayashi and Daisuke Nakajima will showcase the appeal of Super Formula by introducing key people from the sport today. High-profile guests from within and outside the industry will be featured each program. Pierre Kitagawa will assist the hosts, and Hina Higuchi, a member of top-idol girl band Nogizaka 46, will narrate the show. In the race digest segment, Tsugio Matsuda, the pit reporter in the "live" broadcast will deliver in-depth commentary, complemented by reports from the race track by Miki Higashi.

Broadcast time: Show # 5 September 2 (Sat) at 23:00 -23:55
 September 3 (Sun) at 25:00 -25:55 (Re-broadcast)
 Show # 6 September 17 (Sun) at 25:00 -25:55
 September 23 (Sat) a 23:00 -23:55 (Re-broadcast)

*For more info on the show, visit the BS Fuji website < <http://www.bsfuji.tv/superfomura/pub/index.html> >

● J SPORTS :

Live broadcasts of all rounds (both qualifying and races). Re-broadcasts and digest programs will be aired.

Round 5 AUTOPOLIS

Broadcast time:

Qualifying	September 9 (Sat)	13:30 -15:30	[Live coverage on J SPORTS 3]
Race	September 10 (Sun)	12:40 -15:30	[Live coverage on J SPORTS 3]

*For more info on the programs, visit J SPORTS website < http://www.jsports.co.jp/motor/super_formula/ >

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[Online Video Distribution]

• **GYAO !:**

All SUPER FORMULA championship races will be available to view for free on-demand 15 days after the race.

*Distribution times may change. < <http://gyao.yahoo.co.jp/sports/> >

• **YouTube :**

A digest featuring the qualifying sessions and championship races will be uploaded the evening of the races.

*Distribution times may change. For more information, visit the Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship official website on the evening after qualifying and the race: <http://www.superformula.net/>

superformulavideo-YouTube : < <https://www.youtube.com/user/superformulavideo> >

[Internet / Social Media]

SUPER FORMULA Official website : < http://superformula.net/apf/ap/ulist_h.dll?lang=en >

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

SUPER FORMULA Official twitter : < https://twitter.com/SUPER_FORMULA >

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

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Ticket Information & Inquiries

■ Advance purchase

- Admission ticket : ¥4,860 (valid for both days)
- Pit walk pass : ¥3,240 (valid for both days) · excluding admission ticket
- Paddock pass : ¥5,400 (valid for both days) · excluding admission ticket
- Pit walk pass + Paddock pass : ¥8,100 (valid for both days) · excluding admission ticket
- Parking ticket : Passenger car ¥1,620 (valid for both days)

■ At the door

- Admission ticket : ¥3,000 (sat)
: ¥6,000 (sun)
- Pit walk pass : ¥2,000 (sat) · excluding admission ticket
: ¥3,000 (sun) · excluding admission ticket
- Paddock pass : ¥3,500 (sat) · excluding admission ticket
: ¥6,000 (sun) · excluding admission ticket
- Parking ticket (one day) : Passenger car ¥1,500 / Motorcycles ¥500

* Junior high school students and younger are eligible for free entry with their guardian.

Ticket details: Please visit the AUTOPOLIS official website for more details.

< <http://www.autopolis.jp/2and4/ticket/index.htm> >

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GET TO KNOW THE BASICS

■ WHAT IS SUPER FORMULA?

Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship is the top category of formula racing in Japan featuring purpose-built racing cars with a single-seat, open cockpit and open wheels. 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 re-launch of the series under the new name of SUPER FORMULA.

■ ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2017 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^{*1} are competing to win this year's series.

^{*1} 13 drivers from Japan and six from six other countries: New Zealand, Sweden, France, UK, Germany, and India

2017 CHAMPIONSHIP RACE CALENDAR

	DATES	CIRCUIT	QUALIFYING FORMAT	RACE FORMAT
Round 1	April 22 – 23	Suzuka Circuit	Knockout	200km
Round 2	May 27 – 28	OKAYAMA International Circuit	Timed/Knockout	2-Races
Round 3	July 8 – 9	Fuji Speedway	Knockout	250km
Round 4	August 19 – 20	Twin Ring Motegi	Knockout	250km
Round 5	September 9 – 10	AUTOPOLIS International Racing Course	Knockout	250km
Round 6	September 23 – 24	Sportsland SUGO	Knockout	250km
Round 7*	October 21 – 22	Suzuka Circuit	Knockout	2-Races

* “The 16th JAF GRAND PRIX SUZUKA”

2017 CHAMPIONSHIP POINT SCORING SYSTEM

POSITION	Winner	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 Race 1	5(+3)	4	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	0.5	0	1
2 races round Race 2	5(+3)	4	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	0.5	0	1

Notes:

- 1) For 2-race formats, half the number of points shall be awarded in each of the two races except for pole position which brings one point for each race.
- 2) In Round 7 (Final Round) in Suzuka Circuit, the winner(s) in race 1 and race 2 shall be awarded an additional 3 points per race. Should the same driver take pole position and win in both race 1 and race 2, he would earn a maximum of 18 points for the Round.
- 3) In the event of any ties for position, the driver or team with superior race results—based on descending order from number of wins to number of second places and so forth—will gain precedence.

Rookie of the Year:

Should there be three or more rookie drivers participating for the first time in the SUPER FORMULA series, the rookie driver with the highest number of points at the end of the season shall be named Rookie of the Year.

Team Points:

- a) Team Points are calculated by adding the points earned by the driver or drivers belonging to the team.
- b) Should a team enter more than two cars at any race event, only the best two results shall be taken into account.
- c) Pole position points shall not be included in the Team Points.

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■ CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

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

■ RACE CAR

● Chassis

Since 2014, SUPER FORMULA race cars have used the SF14 chassis, which is made by Italian company Dallara and is based on the "quick and light" design concept. The adoption of the SF14 chassis has led to a dramatic improvement in the quality of races, leading to greater interest in SUPER FORMULA overseas.

● Engines

Honda and Toyota, two of Japan's leading automakers, have developed engines for SUPER FORMULA based on the NRE engine concept², which is part of each automaker's efforts to develop next-generation engines. SUPER FORMULA cars are currently powered by the HONDA HR-417E or the TOYOTA R14A.

All engines are fitted with fuel flow restrictors. By setting fuel flow limits, the key to winning races is how efficiently fuel can be converted into power.

Competitive development between automakers has resulted in a highly efficient engine with higher brake specific fuel consumption (BSFC) and net thermal efficiency better than hybrid vehicles currently on the market, helping to advance the development of next-generation engines.

² NRE engine specifications

Honda, Toyota and Nissan together agreed on a number of criteria for race engines that incorporate environmental technology while also preserving the excitement of motor sport.

Cylinder configuration	: Inline-four
Displacement	: 2,000cc + turbo
Fuel intake system	: Direct injection
Fuel flow limits	: 95kg/h for Suzuka and Fuji Speedway circuits, 90kg/h for other circuits

● Overtaking System

SUPER FORMULA introduced an overtaking system (OTS) in 2009 as part of initiatives to make races more exciting. SUPER FORMULA was the first competition in the world to adopt this system. The OTS encourages drivers to make more overtaking maneuvers, one of the most exciting parts of motorsport. The SF14 OTS system uses the fuel flow restrictor fitted to engines to temporarily increase fuel flow to the engine, boosting power³. Drivers use a button on the steering wheel to activate the system for 20 seconds up to five times during a race or five times total for 2-race formats.

The Overtaking Lamps (OTL) on the roll hoop indicate when the system is in use, allowing spectators to see when drivers have activated their OTS. The racing driver with the most Championship points has the distinction of an OTL with red lamps, called "leader's red" whereas the other cars' OTL lamps are white.

³ Overtaking system specifications

Mechanism	: Activating the overtaking system boosts fuel flow by 10kg/h
Impact	: Activating the overtaking system increases engine output by around 60PS, or 10%
Rules	: Drivers are allowed to use the system up to five times per race for 20 seconds each time.

● Tires

Yokohama Rubber became the sole tire supplier from the 2016 season. Yokohama Rubber's ADVAN racing tires perform well against SUPER FORMULA's rigorous criteria for grip, durability and safety, adding to the excitement of race events.

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