

2017 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship Series

MEDIA INFORMATION

March 4, 2017

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ABOUT SUPER FORMULA

In the 1950s, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) launched the Drivers' Championship to find the world's fastest driver in formula cars – the purest form of racing machine. That ethos was passed on to all FIA national member organizations.

Top-level formula motor racing has been held in Japan in various forms since 1973, when Formula 2000 was launched. The competition morphed into Formula Two in 1978 and then Formula 3000 in 1987. Japan Race Promotion Inc. (JRP) was established in 1995 and relaunched the competition as Formula Nippon the following year. Hiroshi Shirai, previously project leader on Honda's Formula One race team, became JRP president in 2010. In 2013, the name of the competition was changed again to Japanese Championship SUPER FORMULA and a bold plan was implemented to upgrade the race cars and lift the profile of the competition with the clear aim of spreading the appeal of SUPER FORMULA from Japan to other parts of Asia and transforming it into a third great open-wheel racing competition after Formula One and Indy Car. (The competition's name was changed to Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship from the 2016 season).



In the early days, formula racing in Japan was led by top drivers such as Kunimitsu Takahashi, Kazuyoshi Hoshino and Satoru Nakajima, who later competed on the global stage in Formula One. In the Formula 3000 era, Michael Schumacher and Heinz-Harald Frentzen competed in Japan, as did Ralf Schumacher, Pedro de la Rosa, Eddie Irvine and Toranosuke Takagi in the mid 1990s, all tenacious drivers aiming to make it into Formula One.



Satoru Nakajima



Michael Schumacher



Heinz-Harald Frentzen



Eddie Irvine

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More recently, drivers such as FIA World Endurance Champion Andre Lotterer, Benoit Treliuyer, Loic Duval and Kazuki Nakajima have been winners of the Japanese Championship. In 2015, Kamui Kobayashi, who competed in Formula One until the previous season, made a triumphant return to Japanese circuits, mesmerizing spectators with his driving skills. Stoffel Vandoorne, who was GP2 2015 Champion and made his Formula One debut in 2016 for McLaren Honda, competed in the 2016 SUPER FORMULA series, while GP2 2016 Champion Pierre Gasly will compete in the 2017 series. Interest from drivers like Vandoorne and Gasly shows how SUPER FORMULA is increasingly seen as an important competition by the world's top drivers.



Andre Lotterer



Kazuki Nakajima



Kamui Kobayashi



Stoffel Vandoorne



Pierre Gasly

The SUPER FORMULA race car chassis is the Dallara SF14, which is based on a quick-and-light design concept. Toyota and Honda supply 2.0-liter turbo-charged inline-4 direct injection engines and are introducing technical innovations to deliver ongoing improvements in fuel efficiency and power output. Advanced Japanese-made fuel flow restrictors are also used to control engine performance, helping to make races safer. These chassis and engine improvements have resulted in racing cars with greater control and stability, making them highly responsive and agile. Drivers who competed in the 2016 SUPER FORMULA series say the cars achieve cornering speeds that are even higher than in Formula One. From the 2016 season, Yokohama Rubber became the competition's sole official tire supplier, marking its return to top level formula racing after a hiatus of around 20 years. The company supplies its ADVAN racing tires, which are safe and highly competitive. It has also developed tires with two different compounds for use during a single race, adding to entertainment value for spectators. Yokohama Rubber's involvement heralds a new era in the SUPER FORMULA competition.



Excluding the engines, SUPER FORMULA racing cars are essentially single-manufacturer machines, meaning qualifying races are fought over extremely tight margins of less than one second. The outcome of each race comes down to pure competition between drivers and a battle of wits between engineers working to get the most out of the cars.

SUPER FORMULA races are run on world championship tracks such as Suzuka Circuit, Fuji Speedway and Twin Ring Motegi. Races are also held on old-style circuits such as Sportsland Sugo, Okayama International and Autopolis, where even the smallest errors are punished, making them popular among overseas drivers due to the narrow margins involved. The diverse nature of circuits during the season leads to even more competitive racing.

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Race Calendar

Race Events

Round	Circuit	Dates
Rd. 1	Suzuka Circuit	April 22-23
Rd. 2	OKAYAMA International Circuit	May 27-28
Rd. 3	Fuji Speedway	July 8-9
Rd. 4	Twin Ring Motegi	August 19-20
Rd. 5	AUTOPOLIS International Racing Course	September 9-10
Rd. 6	Sportsland SUGO	September 23-24
Rd. 7	Suzuka Circuit	October 21-22

Note: Round 7 (Final Round) will be held under the event name "16th JAF Suzuka Grand Prix"

Pre-Season Test Schedule

	Circuit	Dates
1st	Suzuka Circuit	March 6-7
2nd	Fuji Speedway	March 31-April 1

Venues

Suzuka Circuit

Round 1: April 22-23/Round 7: October 21-22
 Address: 7992 Inou-cho, Suzuka City, Mie Prefecture 510-0295, Japan
 Inquiries: Suzuka Circuit, Tel: 059-378-1111
 URL: www.suzukacircuit.jp

Course Length: 5.807km

OKAYAMA International Circuit

Round 2: May 27-28
 Address: 1210 Takimiya, Mimasaka City, Okayama Prefecture 701-2612, Japan
 Inquiries: Okayama International Circuit, Tel: 0868-74-3311
 URL: www.okayama-international-circuit.jp

Course Length: 3.703km

Fuji Speedway

Round 3: July 8-9
 Address: 694 Nakahinata, Oyama-cho, Sunto-gun, Shizuoka Prefecture 410-1307, Japan
 Inquiries: Fuji Speedway Head Office, Tel: 0550-78-1234
 Fuji Speedway Tokyo Office, Tel :03-3556-8511
 URL: www.fsw.tv

Course Length: 4.563km

Twin Ring Motegi

Round 4: August 19-20
 Address: 120-1 Hiyama, Motegi-machi, Haga-gun, Tochigi Prefecture 321-3597, Japan
 Inquiries: Twin Ring Motegi, Tel: 0285-64-0001
 URL: www.twinring.jp

Course Length: 4.801km

AUTOPOLIS International Racing Course

Round 5: September 9-10
 Address: 1112-8 Kaminoda, Kamitsue-machi, Hita City, Oita Prefecture 877-0312, Japan
 Inquiries: Autopolis, Tel: 0973-55-1111
 URL: www.autopolis.jp

Course Length: 4.674km

Sportsland SUGO

Round 6: September 23-24
 Address: 6-1 Sugo, Murata-machi, Shibata-gun, Miyagi Prefecture 989-1394, Japan
 Inquiries: Sportsland SUGO, Tel: 0224-83-3111
 URL: www.sportsland-sugo.co.jp

Course Length: 3.704km

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2017 Season Race Format

Race Format (Provisional)

	Dates	Venues	Qualification Style	Race Style	Remarks
Rd. 1	April 22-23	Suzuka Circuit	Knock Out	200km	Held jointly with : · Japanese Formula 3 Championship · MFJ Superbike All Japan Road Race Championship · Enjoy Honda* ¹
Rd. 2	May 27-28	OKAYAMA International Circuit	Knock Out	2 Races	Held jointly with : · Japanese Formula 3 Championship · Enjoy Honda* ¹ · TOYOTA GAZOO Racing PARK* ²
Rd. 3	July 8-9	Fuji Speedway	Knock Out	250km	Held jointly with : · Japanese Formula 3 Championship · Enjoy Honda* ¹ · TOYOTA GAZOO Racing PARK* ²
Rd. 4	August 19-20	Twin Ring Motegi	Knock Out	250km	Held jointly with : · MFJ Superbike All Japan Road Race Championship · Enjoy Honda* ¹
Rd. 5	September 9-10	AUTOPOLIS International Racing Course	Knock Out	250km	Held jointly with : · MFJ Superbike All Japan Road Race Championship · Japanese Formula 3 Championship · TOYOTA GAZOO Racing PARK* ²
Rd. 6	September 23-24	Sportsland SUGO	Knock Out	250km	Held jointly with : · Japanese Formula 3 Championship · Enjoy Honda* ¹ · TOYOTA GAZOO Racing PARK* ²
Rd. 7	October 21-22	Suzuka Circuit	Knock Out	2 Races	· TOYOTA GAZOO Racing PARK* ²

*1 Enjoy Honda is a family-oriented event organized by Honda in which fans can "See", "Play" and "Experience" for themselves.

*2 TOYOTA GAZOO Racing PARK is an event for car-lovers of all ages.

Point Allocation System

		Pole Position	Winner	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th and below
One Race per Round		1	10	8	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Two Races per Round	Race 1	1	5	4	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	0.5	0
	Race 2	1	5	4	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	0.5	0

Notes:

- 1) In the case of a 2-race format, half the number of points shall be awarded in each of the two races except for pole position which brings one point in 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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2017 Entry List

As of March 4th

Car No.	Driver	Date of Birth	Country of Origin	Team	Team Manager	Engine
1	Yuji Kunimoto 	1990/9/12	Japan (Kanagawa Prefecture)	P.MU/CERUMO · INGING	Yuji Tachikawa	TOYOTA R14A
2	Hiroaki Ishiura 	1981/ 4/23	Japan (Tokyo City)			
3	Nick Cassidy 	1994/ 8/19	New Zealand	KONDO RACING	Masahiko Kondo	TOYOTA R14A
4	Kenta Yamashita 	1995/8/ 3	Japan (Chiba Prefecture)			
7	Felix Rosenqvist 	1991/11/ 7	Sweden	SUNOCO TEAM LEMANS	TBA	TOYOTA R14A
8	Kazuya Oshima 	1987/ 4/30	Japan (Gunma Prefecture)			
10	Koudai Tsukakoshi 	1986/11/20	Japan (Tochigi Prefecture)	REAL RACING	Katsutomu Kaneishi	HONDA HR-417E
15	Pierre Gasly 	1996/ 2/ 7	France	TEAM MUGEN	Nagataka Tezuka	HONDA HR-417E
16	Naoki Yamamoto 	1988/7/11	Japan (Tochigi Prefecture)			
18	Kamui Kobayashi 	1986/9/13	Japan (Hyogo Prefecture)	KCMG	Ryuji Doi	TOYOTA R14A
19	Yuhi Sekiguchi 	1987/12/29	Japan (Tokyo City)	ITOCHU ENEX TEAM IMPUL	Kazuyoshi Hoshino	TOYOTA R14A
20	Jann Mardenborough 	1991/9/9	United Kingdom			
36	Andre Lotterer 	1981/11/19	Germany	VANTELIN TEAM TOM'S	Nobuhide Tachi	TOYOTA R14A
37	Kazuki Nakajima 	1985/1/11	Japan (Aichi Prefecture)			
40	Tomoki Nojiri 	1989/9/15	Japan (Ibaraki Prefecture)	DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING	Kiyoshi Muraoka	HONDA HR-417E
41	Takuya Izawa 	1984/6/1	Japan (Tokyo City)			
50	Takashi Kogure 	1980/8/1	Japan (Gunma Prefecture)	B-Max Racing team	Ryuji Kumita	HONDA HR-417E
64	Daisuke Nakajima 	1989/1/29	Japan (Aichi Prefecture)	TCS NAKAJIMA RACING	Satoru Nakajima	HONDA HR-414E
65	Narain Karthikeyan 	1977/1/14	India			

Honda Engine: 5 teams, 8 cars
Toyota Engine: 6 teams, 11 cars

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Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

<http://www.honda.co.jp/>

TOYOTA

Toyota Motor Corporation

<http://www.toyota.co.jp/>

Series Supporter



The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd.

<http://www.yrc.co.jp/>

Promotion Partner

HITACHI

Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd.

<http://www.hitachi-automotive.co.jp/>



J SPORTS Corporation

<http://www.jsports.co.jp/>

SONY

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Sony Corporation

<http://www.sony.com/electronics/action-camera>



NINKI INC.

<http://www.ninki.co.jp/>

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