

ABU DHABI AUTONOMOUS RACING LEAGUE SIM SPRINT – YAS MARINA FULL GP 2026

Race 1 – Grand Final Session Report – Sporting Bulletin 2026/16

Subject: Race 1 Grand Final – Official Session Report

The following report summarises the conduct and outcome of the A2RL Sim Sprint Race 1 Grand Final, held on Friday 22 May 2026 at Yas Marina Full GP. The Grand Final was run over 12 laps from a qualifying grid order on a rolling start from the pit lane. Race Director: Lisa Crampton. Flags: Victor Gutierrez. Steward: Maurizio Bartolomei. All times are in Gulf Standard Time (GST).

1. Pre-Race & Free Practice

- **GPS/IMU concern:** At the outset of the session, Autonomia's Levente Puskas raised a concern regarding GPS and IMU signal quality, noting a suspected time-related degradation that worsens as the session progresses. Car #71 TII Racing (Michael Baumgartner) corroborated this, confirming that degraded localisation behaviour had been observed during free practice, particularly when multiple cars were on track simultaneously. As a precaution, a full server reset was agreed between the free practice session and the race to reduce the likelihood of GPS degradation recurring.
- **Server crash during free practice:** Approximately three laps into the free practice session, a global connection reset was triggered on the original server. The cause was not immediately identified by Autonomia. The session was briefly interrupted. Following the reset, Autonomia switched to a new server ("Sim Sprint Grand Final Race Server") for the race, as the original server's visualiser failed to reconnect to the stream. Autonomia confirmed that the friction model was identical on the new server.
- **Lap count confirmed:** During the pre-race briefing, a discrepancy was noted between the published digital presentation (which referenced 24 laps) and the Pre-Event Briefing (which stated 12 laps). Race Control confirmed that 12 laps is the correct distance for the Grand Final at Yas Marina Full GP. The 24-lap figure in the presentation relates to a general reference not specific to this circuit. A bulletin correction will be issued.
- **50% race distance threshold:** Following discussion amongst teams, Race Control confirmed that 50% of the race distance (6 laps) would be the minimum threshold for the Grand Final to be declared an official result. If the race were terminated before 6 laps due to a server issue, it would be rerun. If terminated at or after 6 laps, the result at that point would stand. This threshold will be formalised in a bulletin.
- **FCY and Red Flag test:** At Kinetiz AI's request, a Full Course Yellow and Red Flag were tested at the end of free practice to verify flag simultaneity across all cars. Both tests completed without issue.
- **Starting grid:** Cars lined up in qualifying order from the pit lane for a rolling start: P1 Kinetiz AI (#3), P2 PoliMOVE (#5), P3 TUM (#33), P4 Constructor Racing (#8), P5 Unimore Racing (#6), P6 TII Racing (#71), P7 DARC (#10).

2. Race Summary

- **Formation lap:** All seven cars exited the pit lane in qualifying grid order without incident. A rolling start was executed.
- **Lap 1:** Race Control noted a clean overtake by Car #6 Unimore Racing on Car #71 TII Racing at Turn 1. A potential track limits violation by Car #33 TUM at Turn 6 exit was flagged by Race Control for post-session review. Blue flag was sent to all cars in error by Victor Gutierrez following the Lap 1 completion; this was immediately corrected and a clear flag issued to all.
- **Lap 2:** Car #71 TII Racing stopped at the entry of Turn 5, triggering a Code 60. TII Racing confirmed a manual restart was required. During the Code 60 period, Car #33 TUM overtook and gained a position. This was identified by Race Control as a breach of Code 60 regulations (overtaking only permitted to pass a stranded or significantly impaired vehicle). A drive-through penalty was issued to Car #33 TUM. Car #8 Constructor Racing was reported by Car #71 TII Racing for an unsafe rejoin onto the circuit before Turn 5 following the Code 60 incident. This was noted and referred for review.
- **Lap 4:** The drive-through penalty for Car #33 TUM was executed. Race Control confirmed the flag removal once Car #5 PoliMOVE had passed.
- **Laps 5–6:** Racing continued under green flag conditions. The gap between Car #3 Kinetiz AI (P1) and Car #10 DARC (#7) was confirmed at approximately 48–49 seconds after Lap 6.
- **Lap 7:** Race Control flagged a potential track limits violation by Car #6 Unimore Racing at Turn 9. Referred for post-session review.
- **Lap 8:** Race Control and Steward Maurizio Bartolomei identified a potential track limits violation by Car #33 TUM at Turns 10–16 exit. Referred for review.
- **Lap 9:** Race Control flagged a potential track limits violation by Car #5 PoliMOVE at Turn 7 exit. Referred for review.
- **Lap 11:** Contact was observed between Car #8 Constructor Racing and Car #6 Unimore Racing at Turns 10–11. Unimore Racing continued. Car #8 Constructor Racing was reported by Car #71 TII Racing (Arun Muraleedharan) for an unsafe rejoin at Turns 14–15 following this incident. Both matters referred to Stewards.
- **Lap 12 (Final lap):** All cars completed the final lap. Car #3 Kinetiz AI crossed the finish line first and received the chequered flag. Finish order called by Race Director: P1 Kinetiz AI, P2 PoliMOVE, P3 TUM. Car #5 PoliMOVE was noted as crossing the pit lane entry line at the end of the race; Race Control confirmed this had previously been assessed as not constituting a penalty (consistent with Sprint Race precedent). Car #10 DARC completed their first-ever Grand Final.

3. Post-Race Team Comments

- **Unimore Racing – Alessandro Toschi:** Raised a concern that the Code 60 flag did not appear to arrive at all cars simultaneously, which may have contributed to the Turn 5 incident on Lap 2. Requested that Race Control verify flag delivery timestamps against the server logs.
- **Constructor Racing – Arun Muraleedharan:** Reported Car #6 Unimore Racing for an unsafe rejoin before Turn 5 at Turns 14–15 on Lap 11. Details to follow in a formal submission.

- **Steward – Maurizio Bartolomei:** Confirmed he would send track limits observations to Lisa Crampton and Alex Winkler for post-session review.
- **DARC – Christoforos Chatzikomis:** Thanked all teams and Race Control for the race and invited feedback on their performance. Commended for completing their first Grand Final.
- **Kinetiz AI – DARC:** Chequered flag confirmed as received after the start/finish line crossing, consistent with the issue identified in the Sprint Race. Teams were asked to check their chequered flag response behaviour post-session.

4. Platform Notes

- **GPS/IMU:** Levente Puskas and TII Racing confirmed GPS/IMU concerns going into the race. The server reset before the race appeared to mitigate the issue – no GPS-related incidents were reported during the 12-lap race. Autonoma confirmed post-session that the GPS degradation observed in the Sprint Race was not observed during the Grand Final. Investigation into the root cause of the Sprint Race degradation is ongoing.
- **Server crash during free practice:** A global connection reset occurred during free practice after approximately 3 laps. A separate “Sim Sprint Grand Final Race Server” was deployed for the race following a failure to restore the visualiser on the original server. The cause of the crash was identified as a triggered connection reset rather than a server failure, but the exact trigger was not confirmed.
- **Code 60 flag simultaneity:** Unimore Racing raised a concern about unequal Code 60 flag delivery timing across cars. Race Control acknowledged the concern and requested that Autonoma review server-side flag logs to verify simultaneity. This is a recurring concern from the Sprint Race and should be resolved before Race 2.
- **Chequered flag latency:** Multiple teams (DARC, Kinetiz AI) confirmed that the chequered flag was received after the start/finish line crossing, consistent with the issue reported during the Sprint Race. Autonoma to confirm exact start/finish line coordinates and agree a flag buffer protocol for Race 2. This was addressed in Sporting Bulletin 2026/14 and remains an open action item for Autonoma.
- **Red flag simultaneity:** Victor Gutierrez noted that the red flag simultaneity issue from the Sprint Race had not been resolved prior to the Grand Final. Autonoma to confirm this is addressed before Race 2.

5. Incidents Referred for Stewards' Review

The following incidents were noted during the session and are referred to the Stewards for post-session review. Stewards' decisions will be published in a separate bulletin.

- **GF-01:** Car #33 TUM – Lap 1, Turn 6 exit. Potential track limits violation. Flagged by Race Control.
- **GF-02:** Car #71 TII Racing – Lap 2, Turn 5 entry. Stopped on track, Code 60 issued, manual restart. No sporting penalty anticipated pending review.
- **GF-03:** Car #33 TUM – Lap 2. Overtaking under Code 60 to gain position. Drive-through penalty issued and executed during Lap 4. Matter closed subject to confirmation that the drive-through was correctly served.
- **GF-04:** Car #8 Constructor Racing – Lap 2. Unsafe rejoin before Turn 5 following Code 60 incident. Reported by Car #71 TII Racing. Under review.

- **GF-05:** Car #6 Unimore Racing – Lap 7, Turn 9. Potential track limits violation. Flagged for review.
- **GF-06:** Car #33 TUM – Lap 8, Turns 10–16 exit. Potential track limits violation. Flagged by Race Control and Steward.
- **GF-07:** Car #5 PoliMOVE – Lap 9, Turn 7 exit. Potential track limits violation. Flagged by Race Control.
- **GF-08:** Cars #8 Constructor Racing / #6 Unimore Racing – Lap 11, Turns 10–11. Contact. Under review.
- **GF-09:** Car #6 Unimore Racing – Lap 11, Turns 14–15. Unsafe rejoin reported by Car #8 Constructor Racing. Under review.
- **GF-10:** Code 60 flag delivery simultaneity. Platform investigation required (Autonoma).

Grand Final provisional classification and points will be published following completion of the Stewards' review.