
GABRIEL BORTOLETO WILL BE FUTURE AUDI F1 DRIVER

- > Promising Brazilian talent will drive alongside Nico Hülkenberg
 - > Mattia Binotto: “Ideal combination of experience and youth”
 - > Bortoleto: “One of the most exciting projects in motorsport”
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Neuburg a. d. Donau, November 6, 2024 – The driver pairing for Audi’s entry into Formula 1 in 2026 has been set. One of the most promising talents for the future will represent the four rings in the pinnacle of motorsport: Brazilian Gabriel Bortoleto (20) will drive alongside German Nico Hülkenberg (37) for Stake F1 Team Kick Sauber next year, which will transform into the Audi F1 factory team in 2026. The experienced Hülkenberg, who was confirmed in April, and the promising F1 rookie Bortoleto form a well-matched driver pairing for Audi’s Formula 1 project.

Hailing from São Paulo, Bortoleto made a strong impression in 2023 by dominating his debut season and winning the FIA Formula 3 Championship. He is currently leading the FIA Formula 2 Championship standings. His career began at the age of six in karting, and by twelve, he had moved to Europe with his family to pursue his Formula 1 dream. Joining the future Audi F1 factory team now gives Bortoleto the opportunity to show his talent at the highest level of motorsport.

The team already confirmed German driver Nico Hülkenberg for the upcoming season back in April. With a balanced mix of experience and youth, the team is preparing for the transition to the Audi F1 factory team in 2026.

Gernot Döllner, CEO of AUDI AG and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sauber Motorsport AG: “We are currently witnessing a generational shift in Formula 1, with young drivers immediately making an impact. By signing Gabriel Bortoleto, we have secured one of these top talents. His signing underscores Audi’s long-term strategy and commitment to Formula 1.”

Mattia Binotto, COO and CTO of Sauber Motorsport AG: “Gabriel has already demonstrated in the junior categories that he has what it takes to be a winning driver. We are very pleased that he will become a team member of Sauber and Audi. Together with Gabriel, we are on a journey towards success, and we will evolve into a unified force to shape a new era for Audi in motorsport. Nico and Gabriel represent the ideal combination of experience and youth, positioning us strongly for the future.”

Gabriel Bortoleto: “This is one of the most exciting projects in motorsport, if not in all of sports. Joining a team that combines the rich motorsport history of Sauber and Audi is a true honor. Beyond simply being a member, I aim to grow with this ambitious project and reach the pinnacle of motorsport. I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity given to me by the team and for the chance to work alongside an experienced driver like Nico. Both programs have a proven track record of nurturing young talent, and I am confident that together we will write our own success story.”

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The Audi Group is one of the most successful manufacturers of cars and motorcycles in the premium and luxury segment. The Audi, Bentley, Lamborghini and Ducati brands produce at 21 locations in 12 countries. Audi and its partners are present in more than 100 markets worldwide.

In 2023, the Audi Group delivered around 1.9 million cars of the Audi brand, 13,560 vehicles of the Bentley brand, 10,112 cars of the Lamborghini brand and 58,224 motorcycles of the Ducati brand to customers. In the 2023 fiscal year, the Audi Group generated revenue of €69.9 billion and an operating profit of €6.3 billion. In 2023, an annual average of more than 87,000 people worked for the Audi Group worldwide, including around 53,000 at AUDI AG in Germany. With its attractive brands and a large number of new models, the company is systematically continuing on its path to becoming a provider of sustainable, fully connected premium mobility.

Audi will enter Formula 1 for the first time in 2026 with its own factory team and a hybrid drive system ("Power Unit") developed in Germany. The future team is based at two locations: Audi Formula Racing GmbH, which was founded specifically for the project, is developing the Power Unit in Neuburg an der Donau. Hinwil in Switzerland will be home to the development of the racing car as well as the planning and operating of the races. Formula 1 is regarded as the pinnacle of motorsport and, with its global reach, is one of the most important sports platforms in the world. Another decisive factor for the entry of Audi is the new FIA regulations, which from 2026, will include novel fuels derived from synthetic and renewable biological sources and increase the electric share of the hybrid drive unit to almost 50 percent.
