
FORMULA 1 HITS THE BREAKS

Formula 1 has a break of over a month

The Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Grand Prix are cancelled

Originally scheduled for April 12 and 19, 2026, the Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Grands Prix had to be cancelled, forcing a break of over a month for the Formula 1 drivers. The 2026 season was set to feature 26 races, but the drivers will now only compete in 22, as the FIA has not scheduled any replacement races for the two cancelled events.



The causes and consequences of these cancellations

Causes, testimonies, and reactions.

The cancellations occur amid rising tensions in the Middle East, where recent regional conflicts have heightened security concerns throughout the Gulf. The proximity of conflict zones, combined with political instability and unpredictable local conditions, made it extremely difficult to guarantee safe environments for teams, staff, and spectators. Considering these factors, the FIA and Formula 1 opted to prioritize caution, deciding to temporarily suspend the two affected races. This decision reflects a careful approach aimed at minimizing any potential risks while ensuring the safety of everyone involved, from drivers to fans, in a region where circumstances can change rapidly.

A young French Formula 1 fan said: “As a Formula 1 fan, I look forward to every race weekend, and I’m very disappointed to see two races cancelled, but I think it’s normal given the risks linked to tensions in the Middle East. I would still have liked to see Formula 1 bounce back with two other Grands Prix elsewhere – for example, a return to France would have been amazing!”

This shows both the frustration and the understanding of motorsport fans.



To date, only Pierre Gasly has spoken out about this cancellation among the many Formula 1 drivers. He said he is sensitive to the current tense situation, as he has family living there, and emphasized that safety is the most important thing for him. He therefore said he understands the FIA’s decision.