



August 17, 2026



TEAM MUGEN AUTOBACS

2026 SUPER FORMULA Round 8 Race Report

Contrasting Fortunes for TEAM MUGEN AUTOBACS

#1 Iwasa Finishes 2nd as Strategy Pays Off

#16 Nojiri Left Disappointed by the Safety Car

Series: 2026 Japanese Super Formula Championship Round 8

Event: BOAT RACE 2026 Japanese Super Formula Championship Round 8 Tohoku Event

Distance: 3,586 m x 51 laps (182.886 km) *51 laps or 75 mins.

Saturday, August 8, 2026 Weather: Cloudy / Track: Dry

Sunday, August 9, 2026 Weather: Cloudy / Track: Dry

■ Qualifying Summary

Free Practice was held on Saturday morning. #16 Nojiri completed 41 laps and impressively set the fastest lap time, demonstrating the effectiveness of the setup brought to the event.

Qualifying took place that afternoon in the Q3 format, as this round featured a single-race schedule. #16 Nojiri set the best time in Q3 and secured pole position in impressive fashion. #1 Iwasa, who had taken pole at Autopolis, also held in the Q3 format, was unfortunately eliminated in Q2 this time and would start the race from 9th on the grid.





■ Race Summary

With rain clouds approaching the skies over SUGO and concerns about possible rainfall, the race started. #1 Iwasa passed one car at Turn 1 and another on Lap 2 to move up to 7th. Nojiri, starting from pole, also continued to lap steadily and maintained the lead.

#16 Nojiri pitted on Lap 21 for a tire change. He returned to the track in 11th, remaining first among the drivers who had already changed tires. #1 Iwasa without pitting moved up to 3rd on the provisional order.

On Lap 27, two cars went off track. After the Safety Car (SC) was deployed, #1 Iwasa made his tire change and immediately rejoined the track. At this point, #16 Nojiri would normally have moved into 2nd, but due to the timing of the SC deployment, #1 Iwasa effectively took 2nd place while #16 Nojiri dropped back to 4th.

The race resumed on Lap 36. On the following lap, #16 Nojiri was overtaken by one car using the Overtake System and fell to 5th. #1 Iwasa continued to push in pursuit of the leader, but held 2nd place, and the two cars finished the race in those positions.

Sunday, August 9

■ Qualifying (held Saturday, August 8)

#1 Iwasa 9th

#16 Nojiri PP

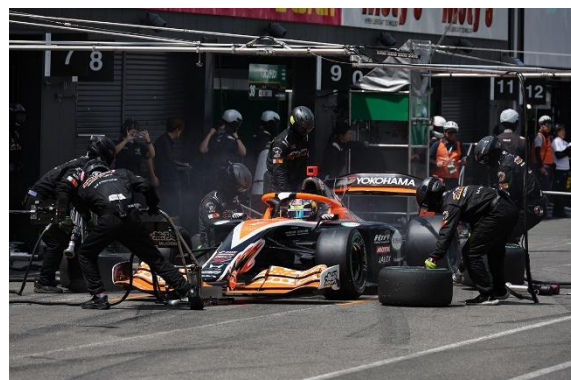
■ Race (held Sunday, August 9)

#1 Iwasa 2nd

#16 Nojiri 5th

[Iwasa]

Regarding qualifying, it was very disappointing to finish 9th in the end. In Free Practice, the feeling was not bad from the start of the session, and we were able to close the gap to the top to two-tenths of a second, but I was not able to put everything together.





In qualifying, the track temperature had dropped. Due simply to a lack of grip, the lap time was slow over the course of the lap, and I was unable to fully bring out the performance. I finished the race in 2nd. To be honest, I have mixed feelings because the race development helped us in terms of luck. However, we never gave up and kept pushing at full strength until the very end, so I am convinced that this 2nd place was something the entire team earned together.



Throughout the weekend, we lacked performance from qualifying, and honestly, it did not feel like we had the pace to fight at the front in the race either. We still have many weak points. We will improve them one by one, come back stronger in two months, and do our best to return to the top at Fuji, where we struggled in the previous round. Thank you very much for your support.

[Nojiri]

Qualifying for Round 8 has ended. Somehow, I was able to take pole position! Thank you very much. It was a very tight qualifying session in the Q3 format. SUGO is a circuit where you cannot set a time unless you attack fully, so I pushed as hard as I possibly could and managed to put together a good attack lap.



How should I spend the pole position prize, 1 million yen? I hope the team director does not take it from me (laughs). I would like to go out for a nice meal with team members. Thank you very much for your support.

[Director Tanaka]

Qualifying for the Tohoku Event was held in the Q3 format and even making it into the five-car Q3 session is difficult, but Nojiri showed excellent speed and secured pole position in fine style. Since the start of this season, we have continued to struggle to show our speed, but since the previous Fuji event, our original pace has returned, and I am very happy about that.

Iwasa was also in very good form, so we had high expectations

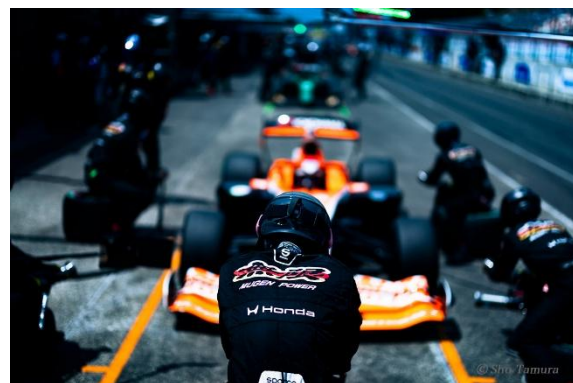




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for his qualifying result. However, he was unable to adapt the car just enough to the changing conditions in Q2 and was eliminated from Q2 by a very narrow margin. It really was such a small difference that kept him from advancing. That is part of the difficulty and appeal of SUPER FORMULA, but it was still frustrating.

Then came the race on Sunday afternoon. Nojiri made a strong start from pole position, never gave up the lead, and continued to lap at a high pace with a powerful drive. We felt that a victory was possible, so it was very disappointing that the introduction of the Safety Car changed the result so significantly. It was a race that was hard to accept. On the other hand, thanks to that Safety Car, Iwasa was able to finish 2nd, so the result itself was positive, but it was still an unsatisfying race. Even so, this is racing, so we will not give up and will keep fighting in the races ahead. Please continue to support TEAM MUGEN AUTOBACS in the remaining two events.



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