



October 13, 2026



TEAM MUGEN AUTOBACS

2026 SUPER FORMULA Round 9 FUJI Race Report

Both Cars Qualify Strongly, but Lack of Race Pace Results in a Disappointing Finish

Series: 2026 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship - Round 9

Event: 2026 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship - Rounds 9 & 10

Distance: 4,563 m x 41 laps (187.083 km or 75 minutes)

Qualifying: Saturday, October 10, 2026, 09:45- Weather: Fine / Track: Dry

Race: Saturday, October 10, 2026, 15:00- Weather: Fine / Track: Dry

■ QUALIFYING SUMMARY

Qualifying took place on a clear Saturday morning. The two TEAM MUGEN

AUTOBACS cars made two timed attempts in Q1 and advanced to Q2. Both aimed for the front row in Q2, but their times did not improve as hoped. #1 Iwasa qualified fourth, while #16 Nojiri secured fifth on the grid.

■ RACE SUMMARY

The race began at exactly 15:00 under clear autumn skies. Starting from fourth on the grid, #1 Iwasa used an excellent line into Turn 1 to move up to second. However, he was repassed on the following lap, dropped to third, and held that position for some time.

He changed tires on lap 14. Although he temporarily led among the cars that had already stopped, he was unable to undercut the leading cars that made their stops later. By lap





29, once every car had completed its pit stop, he was running fourth. He pushed to recover and challenge for a podium place over the remaining laps, but ultimately finished fourth.

Meanwhile, #16 Nojiri started fifth and passed one car immediately to move into fourth. However, he gradually lost ground as his pace failed to improve, and changed tires on lap 12 when the pit window opened. He then attempted to move up the order through the undercut, but his pace never recovered. He finished 16th on the road and was classified 15th after another car received a post-race penalty.

Saturday, October 10

■ QUALIFYING

#1 Iwasa: 4th

#16 Nojiri: 5th

■ RACE

#1 Iwasa: 4th

#16 Nojiri: 15th

[#1 IWASA]

SUPER FORMULA Round 9 is over. We qualified fourth and finished fourth. It was a disappointing result. We faced essentially the same issue in qualifying and the race. The car did not feel particularly bad, but overall we seemed to be lacking grip.

Especially in qualifying, the car did not feel that bad from the cockpit, and I felt I had delivered a very strong performance. Even so, the lap time was around three-tenths of a second off the leader. I think the race was much the same.

When we tested the long-run setup in Friday free practice, the feeling was quite positive and the performance was better than on Saturday. However, we could not reproduce





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that today, which has left me with a lot of questions.

We will analyze everything from here so that we can fight back tomorrow. I will keep pushing hard and aim for a pole-to-win result. Thank you for your support.

[#16 NOJIRI]

I qualified fifth and believed we were in a position to fight for the win or at least a podium finish. However, once the race started, our pace did not improve nearly as much as expected. It became a very difficult race, and I dropped to 16th.* (*Classified 15th after another car received a post-race penalty.)

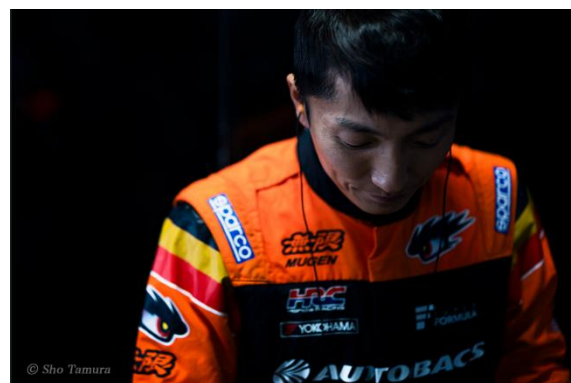
There is only so much we can do before tomorrow's race, but we qualified fifth today and I believe we are still in a position to challenge at the front. First of all, I want to make a strong attempt at pole position in tomorrow's qualifying.

The race has felt like wandering through a long tunnel. We have no choice but to work desperately to find even the smallest clue that may help us. I will keep giving it everything.

Please continue supporting us tomorrow.

[TEAM DIRECTOR TANAKA]

We understood that qualifying position would be a major factor in closing the championship gap during the second half of the season. However, in today's qualifying, the tire warm-up and the timing of our laps did not come together properly, so we were unable to deliver our best performance. I also believe we lacked speed compared with our rivals.



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In the afternoon race, both Nojiri and Iwasa struggled with poor car balance and were unable to obtain sufficient tire grip, resulting in a difficult race for both drivers.

Following today's Round 9 result, our rivals have extended their points advantage in the championship. However, we have not given up. We will do everything possible to improve the situation for Sunday's Round 10. Thank you for your continued support.



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