

# press release



**8 March 2017**

**Rounds 5 & 6 – Bahrain International Circuit – 10 / 11 March 2017**

## **PREVIEW**

### **A four-way fight for the inaugural TCR Middle East title**

The inaugural season of TCR Middle East will come to an end on Saturday at Bahrain International Circuit, with four drivers in contention to be crowned the series' first-ever champion.

Liqui Moly Team Engstler's Brandon Gdovic and Luca Engstler, who shared race victories in the opening event at Dubai at the wheel of their Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR cars, are still on top of the standings, with Gdovic leading by six points ahead of his teammate who turned 17 today.

However, during the second race meeting in Abu Dhabi, a new contender broke into contention: Josh Files in the Honda Civic TCR run by the Dubai-based Lap57 team. The Briton won both races at Yas Marina and climbed to third in the classification, only 12 points behind the leader.

Davit Kajaia is also in contention, thanks to twice finishing second behind Files at Abu Dhabi in the Mulsanne Racing Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR. However, the gap of 27 points to the leader – when 55 are still at stake – means the Georgian's hopes are slim.

The upcoming weekend will be packed with action, as the TCR Middle East Series shares the bill with the Middle East Porsche GT3 Cup, the BIC 2000cc Challenge and two Bahraini motorcycling series BSBK and BMR 600.

The TCR Middle East Series will hit the track on Friday, with two 30-minute Practice sessions and a 35-minute Qualifying, while the two 60-kilometre races will take place on Saturday.

### **TCR in Bahrain – the event at a glance**

Lap distance: 2.56 km  
Race distance: 24 laps

Timetable:	Friday, 09:15/09:45	Free Practice 1
	Friday, 12:35/13:05	Free Practice 2
	Friday, 15:30/16:05	Qualifying
	Saturday, 12:00	Race 1
	Saturday, 15:45	Race 2

all times: GMT +3

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## Success ballast for Files, Kajaia and Gdovic

Luca Engstler, the youngest of the title contenders who is currently placed second in the TCR Middle East Series classification, will have an advantage compared to his closer competitors in Bahrain.

The German's Volkswagen Golf GTi car will run on the minimum weight of 1285 kilograms, including the driver.

All of Engstler's rivals' cars will be laden by Success Ballast. Josh Files' Honda Civic will carry the maximum 30-kilo ballast plus 30 kilos of BoP for a total running weight of 1345 kg; Davit Kajaia's Alfa Romeo Giulietta will run at 1265 kg, including 20 kilos of ballast and a BoP reduction of 40 kilos; Brandon Gdovic's Volkswagen will weigh 1295 kg with a ballast of 10 kilos.

News, results, standings and pictures are available at [www.middleeast.tcr-series.com](http://www.middleeast.tcr-series.com)