2026 BST FIM SPEEDWAY GP OF SWEDEN – MALILLA – BURB'S BRIEFING

Hello and welcome to Burb's Briefing! Here is some information and a few talking points which may assist your coverage of the BST FIM Speedway GP of Sweden – Malilla this Saturday ...

WHERE?

- Malilla's Skrotfrag Arena hosts its 20th Speedway GP since it first staged a round in 2005.
- It missed the 2013 series when Gothenburg and Stockholm were the Swedish venues, as well as the 2020 event, which was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Friday sees the venue host the opening round of the FIM Speedway Under-21 World Championship (SGP2) for a third straight season.
- Malilla is home to former Swedish Elitserien champions Dackarna. The club stormed to its first Bauhaus Elitserien title since 2007 in 2021 – ending a wait of 14 years. It then regained the trophy in 2023.
- The town of Malilla has around only 1,400 residents, with the track located deep in the middle of a forest. Camping is provided for fans near the circuit throughout the FIM Speedway weekend.
- It is the only Swedish round on this year's calendar and the local community comes out in force to support the event, with volunteers helping with everything from track maintenance to catering to ensure everything runs smoothly.

WHEN?

Saturday, July 11

- Speedway GP Qualifying – 14:00 CEST
- BST FIM Speedway GP of Sweden – Malilla - 19:00 CEST

FIM JURY

REFEREE: Pawel Slupski (Poland)

JURY PRESIDENT: Thierry Bouin (France)

FMNR REPRESENTATIVE: Tony Olsson (Sweden)

RACE DIRECTOR: Phil Morris (Great Britain)

ZMARZLIK & KURTZ: BATTLE FOR THE LEAD

- Polish icon Bartosz Zmarzlik raced to a record-extending 30th SGP win at the DEWALT FIM Speedway GP of Poland – Wroclaw on June 20 – the 300th Speedway GP event since the series launched in May 1995.
- This means Zmarzlik has won 10% of the Speedway GP events ever staged over the past 31 years.
- Despite that historic record, this was Zmarzlik first SGP win in over a year. His 29th victory came at the ATPI FIM Speedway GP of Great Britain – Manchester R5 on June 14, 2025.
- That Wroclaw result saw Zmarzlik go from three points behind Brady Kurtz going into R5 to holding a three-point lead over his Aussie title rival, who finished fourth on his Polish PGE Ekstraliga home track.
- Zmarzlik has reached all five Speedway GP finals so far this season, winning in Wroclaw, finishing third in Landshut, Prague and Manchester R4 and taking fourth spot in Manchester R3.
- Kurtz has so far missed just one SGP final – scoring eight points at the opening round in Landshut. He won R4 in Manchester, as well as taking second places in Prague and Manchester R3 and fourth spot in Wroclaw.
- After riding rounds on his club tracks in Manchester and Wroclaw, Kurtz returns to familiar territory again this weekend. He raced for Malilla club Dackarna from 2022-2024.
- Kurtz won the 2025 Malilla event – the second of a record-breaking five straight Speedway GP wins, smashing a 20-year record of four set by Swedish great Tony Rickardsson on his way to a sixth and final FIM Speedway World Championship in 2005.
- Zmarzlik has a fine record in Malilla, where he has won four times in nine Speedway GP visits – topping the podium in 2017, 2021, 2022 and 2024.
- His 2022 victory was a huge moment as Zmarzlik sealed his third Speedway GP World Championship with a round to spare.
- His 2024 triumph was also one to savour as it was the night he smashed Aussie legend Jason Crump's 12-year record of 23 Speedway GP wins, moving on to No.24. He has won six more since then.
- Both Zmarzlik and Kurtz are pulling away from the competition with Britain's Robert Lambert third on 63 points – 19 points behind Zmarzlik.

COMEBACK KING – JEPSEN JENSEN

- Danish star Michael Jepsen Jensen heads to Malilla placed fourth in the Speedway GP standings on 61 points.
- MJJ is writing an incredible comeback story in his first full Speedway GP season since 2015. He largely disappeared from the sport's biggest stage after that season but re-ignited his career with an incredible two years at Polish club Grudziadz, where he was signed as a mid-season replacement for the injured Jason Doyle in 2024 and stayed for 2025.
- Jepsen Jensen's comeback gathered pace with a 2025 Danish Championship win – his first national title – before he qualified for Speedway GP at the 2025 FIM SGP Challenge in Holsted.
- Despite scoring just two championship points at the opening round of 2026 in Landshut, MJJ has hit back with three final appearances in the last four rounds. It's four from the last six if we include his third place as a wild card at the 2025 FIM Danish Speedway GP.
- While Zmarzlik's one-year wait for a win was widely discussed in the build-up to Wroclaw, MJJ has waited even longer for a victory – his one and only previous win came as a wild card at the FIM Nordic Speedway GP in Vojens on September 22, 2012 – nearly 14 years ago.
- That was part of a stellar season, which saw him win the 2012 FIM Speedway World Cup Final with Denmark here in Malilla. He also won the 2012 FIM Speedway Under-21 World Championship.
- With Jepsen Jensen on 61 championship points with five rounds to go, he's very much in this year's medal race – only two points behind Lambert in third and 21 short of leader Zmarzlik.

MISSING IN MALILLA

- Three riders sit out the Malilla round as Dan Bewley, Jack Holder and home hero Fredrik Lindgren have all withdrawn due to injury.
- British racer Bewley has missed the past four rounds, having suffered a broken femur and a compressed vertebra in his back when he took a tumble in a Danish Speedwayligaen meeting in Outrup on May 20.
- Aussie ace Holder crashed out of the DEWALT FIM Speedway GP of Poland – Wroclaw, suffering a broken arm in his second ride.
- Meanwhile, Lindgren suffered an ankle injury when he crashed out of Polish club Lublin's trip to Leszno on May 17. This is the fifth straight round he has missed out on.
- Despite racing in Lublin's last two PGE Ekstraliga matches, Lindgren withdrew from his home SGP. He does not have another ride in Poland until August 9, with his next Speedway GP in Lodz on August 1.

- Speedway GP substitutes Anders Thomsen of Germany, Jan Kvech of Czech Republic and Kai Huckenbeck from Germany take their places.

RACE FOR 2027

- Competition for places in the 2027 Speedway GP series will be intense in the coming months as the FIM SGP Challenge takes place at former FIM Italian Speedway GP venue Terenzano on July 25. The top four riders there are guaranteed berths in the 2027 SGP series.
- Seven members of Saturday's line-up compete in Terenzano – Kacper Woryna, Dominik Kubera, Michael Jepsen Jensen, Robert Lambert, Kim Nilsson, Andzejs Lebedevs and Kai Huckenbeck.
- **FIM SGP CHALLENGE LINE-UP (in draw order):** 1. Chris Harris (Great Britain), 2. Kacper Woryna (Poland), 3. Luke Becker (USA), 4. Dominik Kubera (Poland), 5. Paco Castagna, 6. Jack Holder (Australia), 7. Michael Jepsen Jensen (Denmark), 8. Anders Rowe (Great Britain), 9. Robert Lambert (Great Britain), 10. Frederik Jakobsen (Denmark), 11. Kim Nilsson (Sweden), 12. Andzejs Lebedevs (Latvia), 13. Kai Huckenbeck (Germany), 14. Jaimon Lidsey (Australia), 15. Keynan Rew (Australia), 16. Rohan Tungate (Australia), 17. Nicolas Vicentin (Italy), 18. Brando Lunardi (Italy).
- The top seven riders in the 2026 Speedway GP World Championship qualify automatically for the 2027 series. These places are currently occupied by Zmarzlik (82), Kurtz (79), Lambert (63), Jepsen Jensen (61), Holder (55), Max Fricke (50) and Kacper Woryna (49).
- Danish racer Leon Madsen is chasing in eighth spot on (45), with Patryk Dudek (40), Jason Doyle (39) and Andzejs Lebedevs (32) bidding to close the gap in the qualification race.
- Another route into the 2027 SGP series is winning the 2026 Speedway European Championship, which features several of Saturday's line-up – reigning champion Patryk Dudek, plus Madsen, Huckenbeck, Jepsen Jensen, Lebedevs, Jan Kvech, Nazar Parnitskyi and Woryna.
- Also in SEC action are former world No.3 Maciej Janowski, triple SEC champion Mikkel Michelsen, former British champion Adam Ellis, Piotr Pawlicki and former SGP2 bronze medallist Mathias Pollestad.
- Nilsson also looks set to join the series as first reserve, with Danish star Rasmus Jensen suspended from the sport following an altercation with an official at the Danish Championship Final.
- The SEC series gets underway with round one at Polish track Zielona Gora next Saturday (July 18). Madsen and Lebedevs are both Zielona Gora riders, while Dudek returns to his boyhood club.

HOME HEROES

- With Lindgren missing his home round due to injury, wild card Kim Nilsson is the sole Swedish star in the starting line-up.
- He earned his spot in Malilla by winning his first Swedish Championship in Karlstad on June 23.
- Nilsson raced as wild card in Malilla last year, scoring four championship points.
- He's no stranger to Speedway GP, having raced full-time in the 2023 series. He qualified as winner of the 2022 FIM SGP Challenge in Glasgow.

WHERE TO WATCH

Fans can catch every moment of 2026 Speedway GP and SWC action live on global broadcaster Warner Bros. Discovery's streaming platforms HBO Max or discovery+. Coverage of every Speedway GP Qualifying session is also available on these platforms.

HBO Max is available across Europe, with FIM-MOTO TV providing coverage around the world.

ACROSS EUROPE: Live on HBO Max and discovery+

BRITAIN: Live on HBO Max and TNT Sports

POLAND: Live on Eurosport 3, HBO Max and Player

SWEDEN: Live on Kanal 9 and HBO Max

DENMARK: Live on 6'eren and HBO Max

AUSTRALIA: Live on Fox Sports

GERMANY: Live on HBO Max and discovery+

ACROSS THE BALTICS: Live on Go3, TV3 Sport and HBO Max

CZECHIA: Live on HBO Max

SLOVAKIA: Live on STVR Sport and HBO Max

USA/CANADA: Live on Racer

REST OF THE WORLD: Live on FIM-MOTO TV