



Alpine Academy

The Alpine Academy programme enters its eighth year in 2023 with its biggest ever line-up featuring eight drivers from seven different nationalities.

Jack Doohan and Victor Martins remain Academy Drivers as they prepare to race in the FIA Formula 2 Championship in 2023. Nikola Tsolov, Matheus Ferreira, Kean Nakamura and Abbi Pulling, all Affiliate Drivers in 2022, become fully fledged Academy Drivers in 2023 while Gabriele Mini and Aiden Neate round off the line-up as they embark on their debut years on the Academy programme.

Jack (Virtuosi Racing) and Victor (ART Grand Prix) will race in the FIA Formula 2 Championship with a two-pronged attack in the FIA Formula 3 Championship as Nikola gears up for his rookie year at the ART Grand Prix stable with Gabriele at Hitech Grand Prix.

Abbi is set to race in the new F1 Academy Series with Matheus preparing for his debut campaign in single seaters in Italian Formula 4 with Van Amersfoort Racing.

New recruit Aiden will announce his racing plans in due course while Kean remains in European Karting with Kart Republic for the 2023 season.

Davide Brivio, Director of Racing Expansion Projects, Alpine Racing

Davide Brivio became Director of Racing Expansion Projects in January 2022 and is working within his role to help Alpine Racing expand within the motorsport industry. Hoping for the brand to explore a variety of series in the future, Davide is also responsible for the young drivers working with the Alpine Academy. The Italian boasts a successful career as a team manager in two-wheel racing, having previously worked for Yamaha's MotoGP and World Superbike outfits and Suzuki MotoGP. He guided the former to multiple world championships before leading Suzuki to championship success in 2020. Throughout his career as a team manager, Davide is applying his wealth of knowledge into his current role within Alpine Racing.

What are the objectives of the Alpine Academy in 2023?

"The Alpine Academy's objective this year is to continue supporting our drivers throughout the season in their respective series to help them achieve the best results possible and, of course, to win races and championships. We believe we have a fantastic line-up for 2023 with three great drivers heading into Formula 2, including reigning Formula 3 champion Victor Martins and Jack Doohan who had a great rookie season in 2022. We also have two promising drivers making the move up to Formula 3 and four other drivers set to race in four other categories. With each of our drivers the target, as always, remains the same: we are aiming to be at the top in every championship and develop them as drivers to help them progress their careers in motorsport. "

What are your thoughts on the biggest ever Academy line-up?

"This year we have eight young drivers in our Academy as we have combined our Academy with our Alpine Affiliate programme from previous seasons. We are very happy with the line-up for 2023 and all our young drivers have the potential to succeed in their respective championships. We are exploring some new championships away from Formula 2 and Formula 3, including Abbi in the F1 Academy Series, Matheus in Italian Formula 4 and Kean in karting. Our drivers are well placed across the junior categories and we are confident in the capabilities of them all. We are very satisfied with the line-up and look forward to working closely with all our drivers."



How is the wider Alpine Racing umbrella looking to benefit from the Academy programme?

“Alongside developing the individual drivers, our Academy programme is also helping to develop Alpine Racing as a brand. It is everyone’s ambition for the programme to develop our young drivers for the highest levels of motorsport, and now Alpine Racing includes a wide range of activities outside of Formula 1. When we are talking about drivers, we are of course talking about Formula 1 first and foremost but, we must consider that we are involved in other categories too so why not also aim for those. We are looking to develop drivers for our endurance programme and other programmes, which we will be involved in for the future. The Academy’s aim remains the same, but its role is changing. It is developing drivers for all that the racing umbrella covers, and it is therefore becoming even more important to the brand.”

Julian Rouse, Alpine Academy Director

Julian Rouse joined the Alpine Academy in March 2022 as Academy Director and is responsible for identifying and managing the team’s young driver talent. With a background in team management across various racing categories, both in single-seaters and in sportscars including stints at Fortec Motorsport and Arden International, Julian has brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the role. After starting as a race engineer and then as Sporting Director at Arden overseeing GP2, GP3, Formula Renault 3.5 and Formula 4, he has a proven track record of helping to develop young talent, working with drivers who have since progressed into Formula 1, Formula E and the World Endurance Championship during his time as a race team manager.

What were your main assessments leading the Academy in 2022?

“It was great to be involved with the Alpine Academy from the beginning of last season and help oversee the talented roster of drivers. It’s always satisfying when we see our drivers represent Alpine on the podium and by lifting silverware and the season was really capped off with Championship wins for Victor in FIA Formula 3 and for Nikola in Spanish Formula 4. This is what we are here to achieve, and I have every faith in all of our drivers to demonstrate the capability of picking up trophies and driver titles. I learnt a lot over the course of the season, not just about our drivers, but also about the Alpine brand and how we can leverage Alpine’s presence across other motorsport categories to bring our drivers experience and opportunities in racing.”

What is the reasoning behind the expanded line-up?

“We have our eyes set on expanding the brand’s racing activities in the future and by increasing the line-up and the diversity of our drivers helps match our future vision. The primary focus remains targeting the right calibre of driver who has the ability to reach Formula 1. That objective will not change. What we want to do is harness Alpine’s commitment to other disciplines of motorsport and convert our talent into competent and professional racing drivers. Eventually we want to identify opportunities to place our drivers into different racing projects.”

What would mark a successful season for the programme this year?

“Quite simply, winning drivers’ championships is the target. I firmly believe we have a competitive line-up in Formula 2 with Jack and Victor who are both very capable of fighting regularly at the front of the grid. In Formula 3, we’ve already seen the immense talent that Nikola and Gabriele have to offer, even at a young age, and they both have the potential to succeed in that category. Elsewhere, Abbi emerged as a W Series frontrunner and I’m looking forward to seeing what she can achieve in the F1 Academy Series. We’ll follow closely Matheus in his first year in single-seaters, Aiden as well and Kean in Karting. I take great satisfaction from seeing first-hand the regular progress that our drivers make and I hope they all apply the benefits from being on the Academy programme into their racing.”



Jack Doohan
FIA Formula 2 Championship, Virtuosi Racing

Instagram: @jackdoohan
Twitter: @JackDoohan33

Age: 20
Nationality: Australian

2022 (FIA Formula 2 Championship)

Wins: 3
Podiums: 6
Pole Positions: 3
Fastest Laps: 4
Points: 128

Previous Championships:

2022: 6th in FIA Formula 2 Championship
2021: 2nd in FIA Formula 3 Championship
2020: 2nd in F3 Asian Championship. 26th in FIA Formula 3 Championship
2019: 2nd in F3 Asian Championship. 11th in Euroformula Open Championship
2018: 5th in British F4 Championship (1st Rookie)

Bio

Jack enters his second year with the Alpine Academy after a successful first season in 2022, where he competed his rookie season in the FIA Formula 2 Championship, highlighted by three wins, six podiums and three pole positions. The Australian scored 128 points across the campaign and repeatedly fought at the front, taking the fight for top rookie and a top three spot in the championship to the final race of the season.

After several years impressing in karting in his native Australia, Jack – son of five-time MotoGP world champion Mick - made the switch to single seaters in 2018 in the British F4 Championship. He took three wins and 12 podiums en-route to fifth in the championship and the first-placed rookie.

Campaigns in the Italian F4 Championship and the ADAC F4 Championship yielded valuable experience for the young Australian. Two consecutive second places in the Asian F3 championships prepared Jack for the move to Formula 3 with HWA Racelab in 2020.

A swap to Trident Racing the season after produced incredible results with Jack claiming four wins and seven podiums, which propelled him to second in the championship. He joined MP Motorsport for the final two rounds of the 2021 Formula 2 Championship, qualifying a stunning second in Abu Dhabi. A full-time campaign in Formula 2 with Virtuosi Racing followed last year – finishing in sixth place – with numerous outstanding results including a dominant Feature Race win in Belgium. Jack took part in two FP1 outings for BWT Alpine F1 Team and participated in the post-Abu Dhabi Young Driver Test.

Quote

Jack: *“I’m very excited to be going into my second season with the Alpine Academy. Last year was a great first one together and I was welcomed very well by everyone, and I found my feet quickly at the team. It was great to branch out to the Formula 1 team at times, like at the private tests and on the simulator, and get to know people at the factory and on the race team. I’m looking forward to seeing what we can achieve this year. The targets remain the same – to win the championship - and I have a great group of people around me to help reach the targets. I’ll do my best to act as a senior member of the programme and help some of the younger and new drivers on the Academy, especially at our training camps.”*



Victor Martins
FIA Formula 2 Championship, ART Grand Prix

Instagram: @victormartinsfr
Twitter: @VictorMartinsFR

Age: 21
Nationality: French

2022 (FIA Formula 3 Championship)

Wins: 2
Podiums: 6
Pole Positions: 0
Fastest Laps: 1
Points: 139
Championships: 1

Previous Championships:

2022: 1st (Champion), FIA Formula 3 Championship
2021: 5th, FIA Formula 3 Championship
2020: 1st (Champion), Formula Renault Eurocup
2019: 2nd, Formula Renault Eurocup
2018: 5th (3rd Rookie), Formula Renault Eurocup
2017: 2nd (1st Rookie), French Formula 4

Bio

Victor remains on the Alpine Academy after winning the 2022 FIA Formula 3 Championship in a nail-biting finale in Monza. Victor was triumphant by just five points courtesy of an impeccable season where he claimed two wins, six podiums and one fastest lap.

Victor returned to the Academy at the start of the 2021 season, having previously been on the programme between 2018 and 2019 after catching the eye during his French Formula 4 campaign in 2017 as a young rookie. His raw speed propelled him to a fifth-place finish in his maiden Eurocup effort before he narrowly missed out on the title to Oscar Piastri a year later. The Frenchman set his sights on winning the Eurocup title in 2020 with ART Grand Prix, which he achieved following his seven wins and seven podiums across the 20-race season, ensuring his return to the programme.

After an impressive post-season Formula 2 test In Abu Dhabi, Victor steps up to FIA Formula 2 with ART Grand Prix.

Quote

Victor: *"I'm ready to take another step in my career with the Alpine Academy in 2023. I'm very grateful to be racing with their support this season and it means a lot to have their trust. This is my fifth season in working with the Academy programme, and I am really looking forward to seeing what will happen this season. The support from the Academy has been hugely beneficial to me in developing myself both as a person and as a racing driver. Together we won the FIA Formula 3 Championship last year and I am ready to continue that success together in Formula 2 this year and, beyond that, into Formula 1. A big thank you to Alpine for their trust and for everyone who supports me for making it possible."*



Gabriele Mini
FIA Formula 3 Championship, Hitech Grand Prix

Instagram: @gabrieleminiofficial

Twitter: @MiniGabriele

Age: 17

Nationality: Italian

2022 (Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine)

Wins: 3

Podiums: 9

Pole Positions: 3

Fastest Laps: 5

Points: 242

Previous Championships:

2022: 2nd Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine

2021: 7th, Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine

2020: 1st (Champion), Italian Formula 4 Championship

Bio

Gabriele joins the Alpine Academy for the 2023 season on the back of finishing runner-up in the Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine (FRECA). The Italian teenager has been impressive since he started racing single seaters in 2020, when he won the Italian Formula 4 Championship at the first attempt.

He continued to show strong performances in FRECA in 2021, where he collected four podiums and narrowly missed out on claiming best rookie in the series.

In 2022, Gabriele picked up three wins and nine podiums on his way to finishing second in the FRECA Championship. For 2023, his career trajectory continues as he steps up to the FIA Formula 3 Championship with Hitech Grand Prix alongside his debut year as an Alpine driver.

Quote

Gabriele: *"I'm very happy and proud to be joining the Alpine Academy. Being linked to such a Formula One team can only bring positives and it will help me grow as a driver. I am very thankful for their trust, and I will give my utmost on and off track to honour their colors. I'm looking forward to meeting the team in Enstone and take advantage of their expertise and guidance. I am also very grateful to All Road Management for their support since 2019. Without them, I would not be where I am today. I cannot wait to start the FIA Formula 3 season and be in Bahrain for the official tests. My objective for the season is to keep on learning and fight at the front of a very competitive field as soon as possible"*



Nikola Tsolov
FIA Formula 3 Championship, ART Grand Prix

Instagram: @nikola_tsolov
Twitter: @NikolaTsolov

Age: 16
Nationality: Bulgarian

2022 (Spanish Formula 4 Championship)

Wins: 13
Podiums: 18
Pole Positions: 15
Fastest Laps: 17
Points: 400
Championships: 1

Previous Championships:

2022: 1st (Champion), Spanish Formula 4 Championship

Bio

Nikola steps up to Alpine Academy membership after an impressive debut single-seater season as an Affiliate driver in 2022, where the Bulgarian won the Spanish Formula 4 Championship.

Nikola began karting at the early age of nine, and very quickly started to win races and championships in his native Bulgaria (2016 and 2017 Champion in the Bulgarian Republic Mini Championship). He continued karting through to 2021, winning the WSK Open Cup (60 Mini) and finishing runner-up in the Italian Karting Championship (X30 Senior) and WSK Final (OK).

He became an Alpine Affiliate driver in March 2022 and then dominated his rookie year in single seaters, taking the Spanish F4 Championship by 113 points with 13 wins from 21 races and a further five podium visits.

2023 marks a new chapter for Nikola as he progresses to the FIA Formula 3 grid with ART Grand Prix.

Quote

Nikola: *"I'm super excited to continue working with the Alpine Academy for the 2023 season as well as competing in the FIA Formula 3 Championship with ART Grand Prix. Last season was my first in single seaters where I raced in Formula 4 and I know the step up to Formula 3 will not be easy, especially as it's a much faster and more physical car to drive than anything I've done before. That said, to have Alpine's support will help me overcome these challenges and I look forward to counting on their support and advice in these next steps of my career. I've had a busy pre-season preparing and I'm really excited to go racing now. I'm confident that with Alpine we can achieve great things together and continue our success to the top!"*



Sophia Floersch
FIA Formula 3 Championship, PHM Racing by Charouz

Instagram: @sophiafloersch

Twitter: @SophiaFloersch

Age: 22

Nationality: German

2022 (European Le Mans Series)

Wins: 0

Podiums: 1

Pole Positions: 0

Fastest Laps: 0

Points: 23

Previous Championships:

2022: European Le Mans Series, 24 Hours of Le Mans – LMP2

2021: Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters, FIA World Endurance Championship – LMP2, 24 Hours of Le Mans – LMP2, European Le Mans Series

2020: FIA Formula 3 Championship, European Le Mans Series, 24 Hours of Le Mans – LMP2

Bio

Sophia joins the Alpine Academy for the 2023 season, making a return to formula racing after two years away competing in endurance series. In 2020, 2021 and 2022 she competed in both the 24 Hours of Le Mans – LMP2 and the European Le Mans Series, finishing in 9th place in the 2020 24 Hours of Le Mans – LMP2 alongside Beitske Visser and Tatiana Calderón.

The 22-year-old German driver will return to FIA Formula 3 Championship for the 2023 season, racing for PHM Racing by Charouz, having competed in the series previously in both 2018 and 2020 with Van Amersfoort Racing and Campos Racing respectively.

Joining the Academy alongside racing in the series, she will benefit from a tailor-made racing and development programme. Sophia's arrival in the program is part of Alpine's ambition to expand its opportunities to young talents, especially in upping its game for the World Endurance Championship and Le Mans 2024.

Quote

Sophia: *"Joining the Alpine Academy is an honour and a major opportunity for me in my career, I am aiming to work hard and make the most of their advice and guidance to achieve the best results possible this season. I am looking forward to making a return to FIA Formula 3 this time with PHM Racing by Charouz, I have great ambitions and I am sure by applying the knowledge and expertise from Alpine, it will only help me to continue developing as a driver. I am very grateful for the trust and support the Alpine Academy has shown me and I can't wait to start this new chapter and represent the Alpine brand on the global stage."*



Abbi Pulling
F1 Academy

Instagram: @abbipulling
Twitter: @abbipulling

Age: 19
Nationality: British

2022 (W Series)

Wins: 0
Podiums: 2
Pole Positions: 0
Fastest Laps: 2
Points: 73

Previous Championships:

2022: 4th, W Series
2021: 7th, W Series, 14th British Formula 4 Championship
2020: 6th, British Formula 4 Championship

Bio

Abbi becomes an Alpine Academy driver in 2023 as she continues to climb the single-seater ladder. Abbi has shown promising talent since beginning racing in 2018 with a standout campaign in the 2020 British Formula 4 Championship where she finished sixth courtesy of regular top ten finishes and a handful of podiums.

The British driver raced in W Series in 2021 and 2022, claiming three podium finishes and regularly fighting near the front. This year Abbi will race in the new F1 Academy series.

Quote

Abbi: *"I am very pleased to be continuing with the Alpine Academy for the 2023 season, alongside racing in the new Formula 1 Academy Series. Last year, I learnt a huge amount of information being part of the Alpine Affiliate programme. The support has been fundamental to my career progression both on track technically, and off-track too – for example the winter training programme. We have an exciting plan for this coming season, as well as the seasons beyond too. I have already learnt a great deal in the ten months of being part of the Alpine, so one of this year's aims is to keep learning and developing. A new series this year brings new challenges, however I am confident with the preparation I have been undergoing over the winter, to be in the best possible position."*



Matheus Ferreira
Italian F4 Championship, Van Amersfoort Racing

Instagram: @matheusferreira.racing

Age: 15

Nationality: Brazilian

2022 (FIA Karting European Championship – OK)

Wins: 0

Podiums: 0

Fastest Laps: 0

Points: 11

Previous Championships:

2022: 10th, FIA Karting European Championship – OK

2021: 2nd, FIA Karting European Championship – Junior, 2nd, WSK Super Master Series – OK Junior

Bio

Matheus steps up to the Alpine Academy programme in 2023 after a year as an Affiliate in 2022 during his final campaign in karting.

Matheus competed in the FIA Karting European Championship – OK category - in 2022 as he now steps up to single-seaters in the Italian Formula 4 Championship with Van Amersfoort Racing this season.

The Brazilian finished second in the 2021 WSK Champions Cup – OK Junior as well as runner-up in the FIA Karting European Championship – Junior series.

Quote

Matheus: *“This season marks a new chapter for me - the first year in racing single seaters, competing in the Italian F4 Championship. I am super excited for this next phase of my career, especially with the support of the Alpine Academy, which has been a central part of my progress so far. Over the winter months I have been focused on learning in preparation for the season ahead as well as my winter training programme. The aim of 2023 is to have a successful season in Italian F4 that will stand me in good stead to progress up the motorsport ranks to higher levels of single-seater racing. It is also great to be part of the Alpine Academy now, after joining as an Affiliate driver last year.”*



Kean Nakamura
FIA European Championship, Kart Republic

Age: 15
Nationality: Japanese

2022 (FIA Karting European Championship – OK)

Wins: 1
Podiums: 7
Fastest Laps: 1
Points: 82

Previous Championships:

2022: 4th, FIA European Karting Championship – OK
2021: 2nd, WSK Champions Cup – OK Junior
2020: 2nd, WSK Super Master Series and WSK Euro Series (60 Mini)
2019: 2nd, British Karting Championship, 1st (Champion), IAME International Final (X30 Mini) and Motorsport UK Kartmasters Grand Prix – IAME Cadet

Bio

Kean advances to the Alpine Academy after joining as an Affiliate in 2022 after showing impressive performances in karting championships.

The youngster boasts an impressive karting record to date with multiple wins and podiums along the way. In 2022, Kean finished fourth in the FIA European Championship – OK category. He will continue karting in 2023 with Kart Republic alongside his full Academy membership.

Quote

Kean: *“It is an honour to continue working with Alpine for another year. Making the step up to the Academy is an exciting move as I head into the 2023 season of FIA European Championship Karting with Kart Republic and I am eager to see what we can achieve together. I know that there is a long road ahead but with the support and guidance from the Alpine programme I will continue working hard and push myself to achieve great results. I appreciate all the assistance I have already received from the team and I will stay motivated as we prepare for the coming season and continue to develop my experience in karting. I would like to thank everyone involved and I cannot wait to see what my future with the Alpine Academy holds.”*