



Free F1 live streaming site showing British Grand Prix 2018 sees Formula One enter beoutQ piracy row

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A live stream service hosting free F1 races has prompted Formula One's governing body, the FIA, to wade into an international dispute about the illegal broadcasting of major sporting events.

The piracy row comes ahead of the British Grand Prix, set to start at 2.10pm BST on Sunday, 8 July, at Silverstone.

The race will be broadcast in the UK on Channel 4 and Sky Sports F1, and in the US on ESPN 2, with current world champion Lewis Hamilton looking to reclaim his championship lead from pole position.

But F1 authority, the FIA, is more focused on broadcasts from beoutQ, a pirate service that has allegedly been stealing signal from a legitimate broadcaster and streaming it illegally.

"It has come to our attention that certain Formula 1 content from the 2018 FIA Formula One Championship has been illegally transmitted by the channel known as beoutQ operating primarily within the MENA region," the sport's governing body said in a statement provided to The Independent.

beIN MEDIA GROUP - whose content has allegedly been pirated by beoutQ - has described the pirate channel as a major operation with multi-million dollar ties to the Saudi Arabian government.

"The pirate channel BeoutQ is not a small outfit operating out of someone's bedroom. This is piracy on a massive commercial scale with multimillion dollar funding underpinning," said Tom Keaveny, managing director of beIN MEDIA GROUP.



About beIN MEDIA GROUP and beIN MENA

beIN MEDIA GROUP, chaired by Nasser AL-KHELAIFI, is an independent company established in 2014, and the owner of beIN, the leading sport and entertainment global network. beIN is now distributed across 43 countries within Europe, North America, Asia, Australia, Turkey, Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Aside from building the beIN SPORTS premium network, beIN MEDIA GROUP is expanding beyond sports into entertainment through production and distribution as well as in the digital space. In November 2015, a new platform was launched in MENA including 28 beIN owned channels with 20 related to sports, 4 to movies and 4 to kids, in addition to growing numbers of third party channels. In March 2016, beIN MEDIA GROUP acquired MIRAMAX film studios offering movie production capabilities and a library of over 700 films. beIN MEDIA GROUP acquired Digiturk the leading PAY TV operator in Turkey, in August 2016.

beIN MENA is a multi-genre platform providing exclusive access to prime sporting competitions including: Olympics, FIFA World Cup, UEFA Champions League, football leagues from Europe including Spain's La Liga, England's Premier League, Italy's Serie A, France's Ligue 1, German's League Bundesliga, UEFA Europa League, FIFA Confederation Cup, Copa America; Africa Cup of Nations, CAF Champions League, AFC Champions League, AFC Cup, AFC Asian Cup 2019. Among the world's other most popular sports, tennis (including Roland Garros, US Open, Australian open and Wimbledon as well as the ATP Masters series), basketball (NBA), motorsports (Dakar Rally, NASCAR, Formula1), cycling (Tour de France), rugby (Six Nations) and many more including NFL, MLB and athletics also broadcast by beIN.

beIN MENA also offers complete spectrum of entertainment including blockbuster movies, series and best kids programs through acquiring several exclusive channels like Jeem & Baraem. Stunning local and global entertainment besides best in class sports events all delivered through state of art technology.

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