# Alex Dunne deletes social media after Monaco crash but bounces back to reclaim F2 lead



In the world of motorsport, where the stakes are high and the pressure unrelenting, few moments can be as daunting for young drivers as a crash on a pivotal race day. For McLaren protégé Alex Dunne, the recent Monaco F2 feature race became a disheartening chapter in his burgeoning career. During the opening lap, Dunne was involved in a multi-car collision that led to a red flag, simultaneously costing him his championship lead and igniting a wave of vitriol directed at him across social media platforms.

In the wake of the incident, Dunne revealed the profound emotional toll this backlash took on him, stating that the torrent of negative messages prompted him to delete his social media accounts entirely. "I got a lot of stuff after Monaco. Normally, I'm not someone who reads things and gets annoyed about it. But I think an hour after the race, I just deleted all of social media from my phone because I've never received such bad messages in my life," he shared, barely managing to hold back tears. This poignant revelation underscored the all-too-common struggle young athletes face in the digital age, where online platforms can amplify criticism to unbearable levels.

Despite the setback in Monaco, Dunne’s resilience shone through during the subsequent race in Spain, dramatically reclaiming his championship lead by finishing second after starting from 19th. This remarkable drive was not only a testament to his skill but also reflected his determination to rise above the surrounding negativity. McLaren's team principal, Andrea Stella, spoke of Dunne's emotional journey, praising his openness as a sign of strength rather than frailty, while firm in his condemnation of the online abuse directed at the young driver.

The incident has brought the issue of online harassment in motorsport into sharp relief. While campaigns by organisations like the FIA and Formula 1 are ongoing, dedicated to combating toxic behaviour, 2025 has seen an alarming increase in hostility towards drivers, teams, and officials. This reality was echoed by other drivers facing similar challenges, such as Yuki Tsunoda and Esteban Ocon. Tsunoda became the target of abuse following a spirited rivalry with rookie driver Franco Colapinto, while Ocon expressed his own distress after a collision with teammate Pierre Gasly during the Monaco GP, questioning the impact of social media scrutiny on athletes' mental health.

Stella's comments on the situation reflect a broader concern about the culture of online abuse permeating elite motorsport. He urged a collective sense of responsibility among media outlets and fans alike, stressing the importance of restraint to avoid inflaming public outrage. According to Stella, the world of motorsport is a "difficult place" where unfounded attacks can affect young athletes profoundly. He drew parallels with the challenges faced by established champions early in their careers, reiterating that Dunne's response to adversity could pave the way for future successes.

As the motorsport community grapples with these issues, the need for dialogue about mental health and the culture of accountability in online interactions has never been more urgent. The young drivers, representing the future of the sport, deserve an environment that encourages their growth rather than stifles it through hostility. In a sport that thrives on passion and competitiveness, it is crucial to remember the human side of the athletes striving for excellence.

In an era where the impact of social media is felt more sharply than ever, Dunne’s experience serves as a powerful reminder of the need for empathy and responsible discourse. The support from his team and a growing awareness about online abuse may yet create a more nurturing atmosphere in which young drivers can not only compete but thrive.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.sportskeeda.com/f1/news-mclaren-prodigy-breaks-opens-online-hate-received-monaco-gp-incident), [[2]](https://www.sportskeeda.com/f1/news-mclaren-prodigy-breaks-opens-online-hate-received-monaco-gp-incident)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.sportskeeda.com/f1/news-mclaren-prodigy-breaks-opens-online-hate-received-monaco-gp-incident), [[5]](https://www.motorsportweek.com/2024/05/31/ocon-deeply-saddened-by-online-abuse-since-monaco-f1-clash/), [[6]](https://www.si.com/fannation/racing/f1briefings/news/f1-news-esteban-ocon-confronts-abuse-and-negativity-after-monaco-chaos-01hz8hzkn3x3)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.autosport.com/f1/news/mclaren-boss-stella-accuses-rivals-of-psychological-warfare-over-rear-wing-furore/10666075/), [[7]](https://www.gpblog.com/en/news/andrea-stella-talks-about-another-tough-2024-challenge.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.sportskeeda.com/f1/news-mclaren-prodigy-breaks-opens-online-hate-received-monaco-gp-incident), [[4]](https://www.formula1.com/en/latest/article/jubilant-brown-cites-stellas-unbelievable-leadership-as-key-to-mclaren.MCOzSLo7jHufKec4bdIHq)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.sportskeeda.com/f1/news-mclaren-prodigy-breaks-opens-online-hate-received-monaco-gp-incident> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.sportskeeda.com/f1/news-mclaren-prodigy-breaks-opens-online-hate-received-monaco-gp-incident> - McLaren protégé Alex Dunne faced intense online abuse after his crash in the Monaco F2 feature race, leading him to delete his social media accounts. The incident, occurring on the opening lap, resulted in a red flag and cost him his championship lead. Despite this setback, Dunne made a strong comeback in Spain, finishing second in the sprint race and reclaiming his lead. McLaren team principal Andrea Stella condemned the online abuse and expressed full support for Dunne.
3. <https://www.autosport.com/f1/news/mclaren-boss-stella-accuses-rivals-of-psychological-warfare-over-rear-wing-furore/10666075/> - McLaren team principal Andrea Stella accused rival teams of engaging in 'psychological warfare' by using media to spread negative opinions about McLaren's rear wing design. He stated that certain articles seemed to be vehicles for opponents to tarnish McLaren's image, describing it as an attempt to weaken the team through misinformation. Stella emphasized that such tactics had no concrete basis and aimed to distract McLaren from their focus. ([autosport.com](https://www.autosport.com/f1/news/mclaren-boss-stella-accuses-rivals-of-psychological-warfare-over-rear-wing-furore/10666075/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.formula1.com/en/latest/article/jubilant-brown-cites-stellas-unbelievable-leadership-as-key-to-mclaren.MCOzSLo7jHufKec4bdIHq> - McLaren CEO Zak Brown praised team principal Andrea Stella's leadership following the team's first constructors' title in 26 years. Brown highlighted Stella's ability to lead by example, empower team members, and push everyone to achieve their best, attributing McLaren's success to his 'unbelievable' leadership. ([formula1.com](https://www.formula1.com/en/latest/article/jubilant-brown-cites-stellas-unbelievable-leadership-as-key-to-mclaren.MCOzSLo7jHufKec4bdIHq?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.motorsportweek.com/2024/05/31/ocon-deeply-saddened-by-online-abuse-since-monaco-f1-clash/> - Esteban Ocon expressed being 'deeply saddened' by the online abuse he received following his first-lap clash with Pierre Gasly at the Monaco Grand Prix. The incident led to criticism over a perceived breach of a pre-race agreement, with Alpine boss Bruno Famin suggesting potential repercussions for Ocon. ([motorsportweek.com](https://www.motorsportweek.com/2024/05/31/ocon-deeply-saddened-by-online-abuse-since-monaco-f1-clash/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.si.com/fannation/racing/f1briefings/news/f1-news-esteban-ocon-confronts-abuse-and-negativity-after-monaco-chaos-01hz8hzkn3x3> - Following the Monaco Grand Prix, Esteban Ocon addressed the significant online abuse and criticism aimed at him due to an on-track incident with teammate Pierre Gasly. The collision sparked negative reactions and raised questions about Ocon's future with Alpine, with team principal Bruno Famin hinting at possible repercussions. ([si.com](https://www.si.com/fannation/racing/f1briefings/news/f1-news-esteban-ocon-confronts-abuse-and-negativity-after-monaco-chaos-01hz8hzkn3x3?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.gpblog.com/en/news/andrea-stella-talks-about-another-tough-2024-challenge.html> - McLaren team principal Andrea Stella discussed the challenges of dealing with misinformation and false claims in the media during the 2024 season. He found it difficult to address rumours and distractions, noting that many false claims were shared, requiring the team to manage them effectively. ([gpblog.com](https://www.gpblog.com/en/news/andrea-stella-talks-about-another-tough-2024-challenge.html?utm_source=openai))