



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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## *A new Mexican venue for the MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV*

Following on from early May's clash in the streets of Monaco, the 2021 ABB FIA Formula E World Championship switches back to its double-header format this weekend as it moves on to Puebla, Mexico, before the series enters its final phase with trips to New-York, USA, and London, Great Britain, in July, and the season's finale in Berlin, Germany, in August.

For Formula E's return to Mexico, the protagonists will discover a new circuit that is standing in for Mexico City's Autodromo Hermanos Rodrigues which has hosted the country's round since the championship's 2015/2016 campaign. This year, however, the latter is serving as a field hospital/vaccination centre as part of the nation's efforts to combat the pandemic.

Puebla is situated a little more than 100 kilometres from Mexico City and its circuit sits at an altitude similar to that of Autodromo Hermanos Rodrigues, i.e. a little more than 2,100 metres above sea level.

It is consequently the highest venue of the season, a distinction that has consequences for the drivers and their cars. In addition to the physical complications associated with the rarity of the air, the thermal management of the all-electric single-seaters is more complex due to the low oxygen levels. That said, it is a phenomenon with which the teams and Michelin are perfectly familiar.

Given that the 2.982-kilometre, 15-turn circuit is uncharted territory for everyone, and in accordance with Formula E's regulations, the teams were given details of the tracks exact configuration three weeks ahead of the first of Puebla's two races to allow them to prepare on their respective simulators.

"From what we understand, this anti-clockwise track poses several challenges," notes Jérôme Mondain, the manager of Michelin's Formula E programme. "To begin with, it is a permanent facility that combines a road course and an oval, and it's the first time we will see the Formula E cars race on banking. Secondly, the track hasn't been resurfaced for the race and the grip levels are variable, with the occasional bumpy portion. Lastly, we don't know how clean the surface will be, nor how much grip it will provide. What we do know, though, is that the weather is likely to be very hot at this time of the year, so that's another parameter we will need to take into account. In spite of all these unknowns, we have every reason to feel confident."



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“The MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV has provided evidence of its extraordinary versatility time after time and we have every intention of showcasing it once again in Puebla.”

### Revised tyre numbers for Puebla

Although tyre quotas have been halved compared with last season, drivers will be authorised to use three sets instead of two for the Mexican double-header. Given that nobody has prior knowledge of either the circuit or the tyre-wear rates they can expect, the FIA – in agreement with Michelin – has decided to reduce tyre allowances by just 25 percent compared with 2020, in-line with the cut applied to one-race meetings. The drivers will consequently have a package of 12 tyres (compared with 16 in 2020, and instead of eight as dictated by the latest regulations) for the three practice sessions, two qualifying sessions and two E-Prix.

As has been the case at all the races contested since the beginning of the season, and in order to minimise the risk of contamination, all the parties involved – **including Michelin’s staff** – will remain within their bubble on their arrival in Mexico. There will therefore be no contact between those involved in the championship and the public who will be authorised to spectate from another part of the circuit, although their numbers will be restricted.

Michelin, the leading mobility company, is dedicated to enhancing its clients’ mobility, sustainably; designing and distributing the most suitable tires, services and solutions for its clients’ needs; providing digital services, maps and guides to help enrich trips and travels and make them unique experiences; and developing high-technology materials that serve a variety of industries. Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 170 countries, has 123,600 employees and operates 71 tire production facilities which together produced around 170 million tires in 2020. ([www.michelin.com](http://www.michelin.com))

## MICHELIN GROUP MEDIA RELATIONS

+33 (0) 1 45 66 22 22

7 days a week

[www.michelin.com](http://www.michelin.com)

 @MichelinPress

27 cours de l’Ile Seguin, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt