



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt, France – March 15, 2022

Michelin and the 1,000 Miles of Sebring (2022 FIA WEC)

- Numerous changes in the Hypercar class
- A new range of LMGTE Pro and Am slicks
- Wet-weather tyres carried over for 2022 in every class

The 2022 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) kicks off this week (March 16-18) with the 1,000 Miles of Sebring in Florida, USA, just days after the championship's pre-season Prologue test at the same venue on March 12-13.

A former US Army World War 2 airfield, Sebring International Speedway is the oldest permanent motor racing facility in the United States. It hosted its first race in 1950 and its notoriously fast yet bumpy track features different types of surface.

A number of changes have been introduced for the 2022 FIA WEC campaign and, in addition to its build-up for the season's opener in Florida, Michelin worked closely with its partners over the winter break to prepare for all six of the rounds that make up this year's calendar.

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport range for the 2022 FIA WEC

Hypercars

The headlining Hypercar class was inaugurated in 2021 and features both hybrid (Toyota Gazoo Racing, Peugeot Sport) and internal combustion-engined (Alpine Elf Team, Glickenhaus Racing) cars. At the beginning of last year, Michelin introduced a new portfolio of tyres to cover the different technology, weight and performance characteristics of these new prototypes. They were the first racing tyres to be developed entirely virtually, on a simulator, without using an actual car to finetune their specification.

"The results we obtained in 2021 speak volumes for the outstanding work accomplished by the engineers at Michelin Motorsport who developed our new Hypercar tyres using digital tools alone," says **Pierre Alves**, manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "In consultation with the championship's organisers and the FIA, the decision was consequently taken to carry them over to 2022, in spite of the numerous changes that have been introduced regarding the Hypercar class."



MOTORSPORT

New in the Hypercar class for 2022

Toyota Gazoo Racing: new tyre sizes

The Toyota GR010-Hybrids have traded their 31/71-18 tyres all-round for the fitment that will be used by the forthcoming LMDh prototypes, namely 29/71-18 at the front and 34/71-18 at the rear (i.e. wider at the rear). Michelin worked closely with the Japanese carmaker to provide it with tyres that are ideally suited to the performance characteristics of its cars.

Glickenhaus Racing: no changes

The cars fielded by the American film producer and director James Glickenhaus will also run 29/71-18 and 34/71-18 Michelin tyres front and rear respectively. The decision to carry over the same sizes was taken in light of the results obtained by the team's internal combustion biturbo V8-powered prototype in 2021.

Alpine Elf Team: from LM P1 to Hypercar tires

Although the Alpine A480 Gibson will continue to be equipped with 31/71-18 tyres all-round, it has switched to Hypercar tyres instead of the LM P1 covers it ran in 2021, which themselves dated from 2020. A test program with Michelin enabled Alpine Elf Team to work on the set-up of its car in its 2022 configuration.

Peugeot Sport: bespoke work

It is not yet known when the 9X8 will make its competitive debut. When it does, however, it will race on identically-sized tyres front and rear (31/71-18). Michelin has been working closely with the French carmaker throughout the development of its new prototype, during both the simulation and track-testing phases.

Hypercar tyres come in a choice of three compounds:

- **Soft**
- **Medium**
- **Hard**

This straightforward system helps to make race strategies simpler to understand, while at the same time carrying over the notion of temperature windows, albeit overlapping ones. For example, one compound may deliver optimal performances at track temperatures ranging from 10°C to 25°C, while another may cover a spectrum from 20°C to 40°C. The terms soft, medium and hard also facilitate dialogue between engineers, as well as within the teams themselves.

Wet-weather tires

In accordance with the regulations, all the Hypercar prototypes will be able to choose between the two types of wet-weather tyre Michelin introduced for the 2021 world championship.

The first is a DRYING WET which covers a wide range of temperatures and conditions, from damp to drying.



MOTORSPORT

In the case of heavier rain, or standing water, the drivers can opt for the FULL WET which features a compound developed specifically for these conditions. Together, these two types of wet weather tyre cover all the situations drivers can expect to encounter at the FIA WEC's European and non-European rounds.

New tyres for Le Mans GTE Pro and Le Mans GTE Am

Michelin has developed a range of all-new slicks for the highly-competitive LM GTE Pro and Am classes.

"Given how much the LM GTE Pro and LM GTE Am cars have evolved in recent years, we wanted to provide our partners in both classes with something new," explains **Pierre Alvens**. "Our work focused chiefly on the delivery of consistent performance with a view to providing the best balance possible as our tyres wear. For 2020, we introduced three types of compound that took into account the characteristics of the different circuits visited in the course of the season. Our partners asked us to do the same for 2022. As in the Hypercar class, the manufacturers involved are original-equipment customers for Michelin, so we enjoy strong working relationships with all of the teams and provide them with a very high level of service."

Three different slick options are available for the Le Mans GTE Pro and Le Mans GTE Am cars:

- **Cold-weather soft**
- **Hot-weather soft**
- **Hot-weather medium**

The wet-weather tyres available for these cars (DRYING WET and FULL WET) are identical to those raced last season.

All the Le Mans GTE Pro and Le Mans GTE Am cars run the same tyre sizes, namely 30/68-18 and 31/71-18 front and rear.

For the 1,000 Miles of Sebring, the latest GTE slicks will only be available to the LM GTE Pro teams. The LM GTE Am cars will be able to run the 2022 range from Round 2 of the FIA WEC, i.e. Belgium's TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps on May 7.

Michelin's ambition is to improve the mobility of its customers over the long-term. As a leader in the mobility domain, Michelin designs, manufactures and distributes tyres best-suited to customers' needs and uses, as well as services and solutions to enhance vehicle efficiency. Michelin also offers its customers ways to enjoy unique experiences during their journeys and when travelling. In addition, Michelin develops high-tech materials for many sectors of activity. Based in Clermont-Ferrand, Michelin has offices in 177 countries, employs 124,760 people and operates 68 tyre factories which together produced around 173 million tyres in 2021 (www.michelin.com).



MOTORSPORT

MICHELIN GROUP MEDIA RELATIONS
+33 1 45 66 22 22
CONTACTABLE SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

www.michelin.com
 @MichelinPress

27 cours de l'Île Seguin, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt, France