

**2019/2020 FIA World Endurance Championship
Round 3: 4 Hours of Shanghai**

***Durability and race-winning performance: the hallmarks of
Michelin's endurance racing tyres***

After early-October's 6 Hours of Fuji in Japan, the third round of the 2019/2020 FIA World Endurance Championship takes teams to Shanghai for a four-hour showdown instead of the six-hour format the Chinese fixture has proposed in recent years. It is also the second time that the race comes at the start rather than at the end of the season, but the stakes at play are as high as ever ahead of the year's final clash in Bahrain at the beginning of December.

The 4 Hours of Shanghai take place at the tentacular city's high-tech 5.451-kilometre circuit which features a cocktail of long straights – two of which are particularly long and fast – and slow turns. It is consequently an exacting venue and a big challenge for tyres which have to cope with the track's highly abrasive surface, while at the same time handling high levels of aerodynamic downforce and the forces generated by frequent heavy braking and hard reacceleration through the twistier parts.

"Shanghai is the toughest track of the championship as far as tyre wear is concerned," says **Pierre Alvès**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing activities. "The track's abrasive surface and demanding layout can lead to more tyre degradation than we see at most other circuits, while the drivers are switching from fast to slow portions all the time, which puts additional constraints on tyres. Through the slower sections, where the cars benefit from less downforce, it is the tyres that provide most of the grip. Along the straights, though, tyres need to contend with the constraints associated with the higher downforce levels. The 4 Hours of Shanghai is consequently a big challenge for our engineers, but they have good experience of the circuit and we know that our tyres are capable of delivering the required consistency and performance to cover at least two stints, which the regulations make necessary. Strategies will therefore focus on having the right tyres on the car as a function of the conditions of the moment."

Practice for Shanghai starts on Thursday when forecasters are predicting temperatures of around 20°C before the thermometer climbs a little higher to 22°C for Sunday's race which is expected to take place in sunshine. There is no talk of rain at this stage but the frequently overcast sky in this part of China can lead to showers and damp conditions, forcing teams to adjust their tyre-strategy plans.

For this year's 4 Hours of Shanghai, Michelin's partners in all four classes will be able to choose between the firm's hard- and medium-compound endurance racing tyres, although some have opted for a combination of mediums and softs in LM GTE Am which permits tyres to be changed after very stint.

In the case of wet weather, teams can fit either Wets or Full Wets, while the LM P1 prototypes can run the versatile MICHELIN Hybrid which revels especially in drying conditions.

