



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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6 & 8 Hours of Bahrain 2021 Michelin tyres poised for key role at Sakhir 2021 FIA WEC double-header finale

The curtain is about to fall on the 2021 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) with back-to-back rounds at the modern yet scenic International Sakhir Circuit in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The first race – of a duration of six hours – will be held on October 30 and the second (eight hours) on November 6.

The duration of the two clashes is not the only difference between them, for they are scheduled to run from 11am until 5pm and from 2pm until 10pm local time respectively, which means the 6 Hours of Bahrain will take place entirely in daylight, while the second contest will include five hours of night-time action around a track lit up by 495 floodlights.

Meanwhile, this year's trip to Bahrain comes three weeks earlier than it did in 2020. So while the weather will still probably be mild, the conditions could well be up to 8°C warmer, with the thermometer likely to approach 30°C and the track temperature reaching as high as 40°C. Once the sun sets, however, the figures promises to dip to as low as 15°C or even 10°C, as higher humidity makes the circuit's surface more slippery.

Located in a desert setting, Sakhir (5.412km) features a long start/finish straight but calls for repeated heavy braking and hard reacceleration out of the many slow to medium turns (five right/10 left). The near-absence of fast corners makes big longitudinal demands on tyres, while grip performance is poised to play a fundamental role given the car's aerodynamic loads. Sakhir is also the most abrasive circuit visited by the FIA WEC.

Pierre Alves (Endurance Racing Programme Manager, Michelin Motorsport): "Grip levels will differ from day to day as the track cleans and rubbers up. Lap times will therefore probably tumble over the second weekend, so our technicians and engineers will take a close look at the data and tires after the first race to help our partners to optimize the performance of their MICHELIN Pilot Sports for the 2021 championship's final round."



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“The Hypercar runners will be able to choose between the ‘soft hot weather’ and ‘medium hot weather’ MICHELIN Pilot Sport for both races, while our GTE partners have two distinct choices. For the hotter six-hour daytime race, they will be able to run our ‘medium’ or ‘medium hot weather’ compound, and then either the soft or medium for the eight-hour round. This approach was taken in collaboration with the three makes involved in the classes where all the titles have yet to be settled.”

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)

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