

**FIA World Endurance Championship 2019/2020
Total 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps – Round 6**

***FIA WEC action to resume for Michelin and its partners at
Spa-Francorchamps***

After kicking off in August last year at Silverstone, Great Britain, and continuing with visits to Fuji (Japan), Shanghai (China), Bahrain and Austin, Texas (USA) for February's Lone Star Le Mans, the 2019/2020 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) was put on hold in March as the Covid-19 pandemic took a hold.


The championship's organisers consequently were compelled to take into account the different cancellations and postponements – including the Le Mans 24 Hours, originally scheduled to wrap up the season in June – to produce a revised calendar. As a result, the campaign will resume with this weekend's Total 6 hours of Spa-Francorchamps, before trips to Le Mans on September 19-20 and, finally, in Bahrain in November. The plan for 2021 is a season that runs over a single calendar year.

The 30 entrants and 84 drivers who are slated to contest the 2020 Total 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps will take to the track for Free Practice 1 at 4:25pm local time on Thursday, August 13. This will be followed on Friday by two further free practice sessions (starting at 9:30am and 2:00pm respectively) and qualifying (6:00pm). The race itself will get under way at 1:30pm on Saturday, August 15.

Once again, the trip to the Belgian Ardennes will serve as a full-scale dress rehearsal for Le Mans and, after several months' downtime, the WEC's teams and players are keen for action to resume, including Michelin Motorsport's Endurance Racing Manager **Pierre Alves**. "It's going to be great to be racing once more," he says, "and where better than at Spa-Francorchamps which is such a legendary circuit but also extremely hard on the cars, the drivers and their tyres alike? Even though the event is going to take place behind closed doors, it will be a welcome opportunity for the teams to fine-tune their preparations for Le Mans. Our Team Advisors will be in big demand for their technical advice and the data we collect at Spa-Francorchamps will be fed into the simulation software we use for Mans, so we will need to analyse it very carefully. Spa is effectively notorious for its combination of fast portions and tighter turns for which the teams tend to opt for low-downforce set-ups in order to benefit from the tyres' mechanical grip through the corners. In contrast, the accent at Le Mans is on higher aerodynamic downforce."

Forecasters are predicting conditions for the race weekend similar to those associated with the venue to May, with a 50-percent chance of rain for Friday and Saturday, and the thermometer rising to no higher than 25°C.





The tyres chosen by Michelin's partner teams for the 2020 Total 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps 2020 are:

LMP1-H: Soft hot and medium

LMP1-nH: Soft hot and Medium

LMP2: Medium and hard

GTE-Pro: Soft and medium

GTE-Am: Soft and medium (except Porsche Am, medium and hard)

Also available for the Belgian fixture will be Michelin's range of wet-weather tyres, while the LMP1 runners will have the option of fitting the MICHELIN Hybrid intermediate in damp/drying conditions. As so often at Spa-Francorchamps, tyre strategy stands to play a decisive role whether the rain stays away or if the weather proves mixed, and there is still everything to play for in the chase for the 2019/2020 titles in the different categories.

