



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt – 24 April 2022

Dramatic wet and wild weekend in Portimao

- Fabio Quartararo (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) claims victory in Portimao
- Quartararo sets new race lap record of 1'39.435
- New race duration record time of 41'39.611

Fabio Quartararo dominated from start to finish to win the first European round of the 2022 MotoGP™ season in the Grande Prémio Tissot de Portugal at the Autódromo Internacional do Algarve in Portugal. Coming home in second and third places respectively were Johann Zarco (Pramac Racing) and Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia Racing).

Race tyre choice was made very difficult due to the changeable weather during most of the weekend and the green track surface but based on the race data gained here in November, lining up on the grid virtually all riders went for the Medium front and Medium rear MICHELIN Power Slicks. The only exceptions being Pol Espargaro (Repsol Honda Team) and Alex Marquez (LCR Honda Castrol) who both opted for the Hard rear option.

The weekend's drama kicked-off with poor weather conditions on Friday, with frequent heavy rain showers, strong winds and cool temperatures. This gave the riders a chance to put the MICHELIN Power Rain tyres to the test but did nothing to help them find a good set-up for the hoped-for dry race. However, with wet weather also forecast for FP3 on Saturday morning, the Friday Free Practice sessions were very important as they could give a direct route to Q2 for those riders able to find a fast lap time.

True to the weather forecast, Saturday morning FP3 was wet, although not raining at the start of the session, so the riders had to push again on Rain tyres to try to secure a place in Qualifying 2. However, the rain started half-way through the session and track conditions deteriorated, so those riders who set early fast laps were able to benefit from the improved track conditions and better their Friday times.

The weather finally broke on Saturday afternoon, with sun and breezy conditions improving track conditions in time for the Qualifying sessions, but dry race runs were still not possible in FP4. The mixed conditions were a real test for the riders during Qualifying, and Slick tyres were used for the first time during the weekend. Even though the track was continually drying, Johann Zarco navigated the damp



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patches to top a thrilling Q2 with a time of 1'42.003, running Soft front and rear MICHELIN Power Slick tyres.

Speaking after the race, Piero Taramasso, Michelin Two Wheel Motorsport Manager, said: "The weather this weekend meant that this was the first time our MICHELIN Power Rain tyres had been used here in Portimao, but despite this, and the very cool temperatures, I was very happy with their performance. In Qualifying, it was very difficult for the riders due to the damp patches, but again I was happy with the way our Soft Slicks worked.

"The race tyre choice was difficult for the teams due to the lack of dry track time, but with the data we had from the last race weekend here in November, they were able to make their decision. The temperatures were cooler than previous visits, but the tyres gave the riders the confidence to push throughout the race and the lap times were consistently fast as a result – with a new race lap record and race duration record. In addition, with six different constructors in the top six places, the versatility of our allocation was clear."

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