



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), November 2nd, 2023

## **8 Hours of Bahrain**

### **Michelin prepared for the challenge of Bahrain's abrasive, sandy track-surface**

- The seventh and final round of the 2023 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) takes teams to Bahrain's Sakhir International Circuit on November 4.
- The season's only eight-hour fixture will settle the fight for the 2023 Drivers' titles.
- Last outing for the FIA WEC's LM GTE Am class which has been a particularly successful hunting ground for Michelin over the years.

Season 11 of the FIA WEC will conclude with the 8 Hours of Bahrain at Sakhir International Circuit, near Manama, where the battle for the 2023 Drivers' crowns in the headlining Hypercar class will be settled.

Coated with sand carried by the wind from the surrounding desert, the circuit's track surface is the most abrasive of the calendar. Contrasting day- and night-time temperatures at this time of the year are a further challenge for the drivers, cars and, of course, their tyres.

The 5.412-kilometre loop features a combination of slow and moderately fast corners (5 left/10 right), leading to repeated heavy braking and hard re-acceleration that submit tyres to considerable longitudinal constraints.

Cornering grip is crucial, too, while the race's format calls for versatile and consistent tyres, two areas in which the current MICHELIN Pilot Sport Hypercar range - which hasn't previously competed in Bahrain - excels.

*"The most suitable tyre compounds for Sakhir are the Medium and the Hard," says **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "We will use the free practice sessions to evaluate the full breadth of the Medium's operating window, as well as its capacity to handle the hard-wearing track surface. Our Hard compound promises to be the Hypercar teams' preferred choice for the early part of the race, so we will keen to understand the ideal moment to switch to the medium later on without jeopardising consistency. This is where the support that our engineers and technicians provide our partner teams truly comes into its own."*



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The track temperature is likely to be at its hottest for the race's start at 2pm local time on Saturday, November 4. It will then fall as sunset approaches at around 5pm. The track will be illuminated by 495 floodlights for the remaining five hours after nightfall and this variety of conditions will provide Michelin with valuable information for its work ahead of 2024.

*"All the data we bring back from Bahrain will be analysed carefully to help us prepare for venues like Qatar, Imola, Sao Paulo and Austin that are either new to the championship or haven't been visited for some time," notes **Pierre Alves**. "Bahrain will also be the ideal occasion to thank all the LM GTE Am teams that have placed their confidence in our tyres over the years. It's been a tremendous adventure, with all the teams involved free to work with the tyre supplier of their choice. But all of them have turned to Michelin Motorsport for several seasons now."*

### **About Michelin**

Michelin's ambition is to sustainably improve its customers' mobility. The leader in the mobility sector, Michelin designs, manufactures, and distributes the tires best suited to their requirements and uses as well as services and solutions to improve transport efficacy. Michelin also puts forward offers that allow its customers to enjoy unique moments when traveling. Michelin also develops high-technology equipment intended for multiple fields. Based in Clermont-Ferrand, Michelin is present in 175 countries, employs 132,200 people and operates 67 tire factories that, together, produced approximately 167 million tires in 2022. ([www.michelin.com](http://www.michelin.com)).

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