



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Austin (USA), April 14, 2024

## ***Red Bull Grand Prix of The Americas*** **The 2024 MICHELIN Power Slick MotoGP™ tyres** **increased the pace and lowered the times**

- The 2024 MICHELIN Power Slick MotoGP tyres allowed Michelin's partners to beat the circuit lap record during Friday practice.
- The Grand Prix was very spectacular, with a large number of overtakes and high rider confidence in their tyres.
- In qualifying, the circuit lap record was lowered by more than a second by Maverick Viñales (Aprilia Racing), who also beat the fastest race lap record the next day. The duration of the Grand Prix and Sprint races were also improved.
- Whatever the track temperature, the Medium compound MICHELIN Power Slick was perfect for the front. At the rear, all riders chose the Soft for the Sprint race, and some switched to the Medium for the Grand Prix, with excellent results each time.

A great weekend of two-wheel competition has just ended on the Circuit of The Americas (COTA), near Austin, the state capital of Texas. This is a spectacular circuit, and in particular its first left turn which follows an uphill run with an elevation change of more than 40 metres. The Texan circuit extends over 5.513 km, has 20 turns (9 right and 11 left), and also a long straight of more than 1,200 m, where the motorcycles reach 350 km/h.

It's a playground where the MotoGP riders were able to fully express themselves, with four of them breaking the all-time circuit lap record in the qualifying practice session on Friday afternoon. The next day, the pace intensified further with Maverick Viñales (Aprilia Racing) setting a new reference time of 2:00.864 during Q2, 1.028 below the previous record of Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team), established at 2:01.892 when he took pole position in 2023. Other records (see below), just as significant, were also set during this weekend which highlighted the versatility and consistency of the new MICHELIN Power Slick compounds.

*"After the three very different races that have taken place since the start of the season, we have seen at each stage that our new rubber compounds are successful and represent a real asset for our partners," says **Piero Taramasso**, manager of Michelin Two-Wheel competition. "Whether in Qatar, Portugal and now the United States, we have broken several records each time."*



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*"In Austin, even if the grip level remained low throughout the weekend, the pace was impressive. We also saw that Maverick Viñales set the new race lap record on the 14th lap of the Grand Prix. He knew how to take full advantage of his Medium compound front and rear tyres during his fightback after the start and throughout the Grand Prix, to ultimately triumph. This is characteristic of the long-term performance and exceptional consistency of our tyres, which continue to offer their best after more than 40 minutes of intense battles on the track. Finally, I would note that our tyres support the progress in performance of all our partners, with the first three places in qualifying and in the Grand Prix being occupied by three different manufacturers."*

In Austin Michelin brought front tyres with a symmetrical tread, with three compounds – Soft, Medium and Hard. For the rear, Michelin partners had the choice of Soft and Medium, and these tyres were asymmetrical, with the right shoulder harder than the left to suit the circuit layout.

On Saturday afternoon, Maverick Viñales (Aprilia Racing) won the 10-lap Sprint race ahead of Marc Márquez (Gresini Racing) and Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing).

The next day, the 20-lap Grand Prix was again won by Maverick Viñales (Aprilia Racing), this time ahead of Pedro Acosta (Red Bull GASGAS Tech 3), and Enea Bastianini (Ducati Lenovo Team).

During the Grand Prix, the action on the track was constant with a high number of overtakes throughout - from the lights going out until the chequered flag. A spectacle made possible by the consistent performance of Michelin tyres, regardless of the rubber compound chosen (Soft or Medium).

### **The new records broken during this 2024 COTA weekend:**

- All time circuit lap record: 2:00.864, by Maverick Viñales (Aprilia Racing), which improved on the previous record of 2:01.892 by more than a second.
- Race lap record: 2:02.891, also set by Maverick Viñales, who achieved this exceptional time during the second half of the Grand Prix, on the 14th lap.
- Sprint race duration: 20:27.825. This is more than seven seconds faster than in 2023 (20:35.270), and represents an improvement of seven-tenths of a second per lap, on average.



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- Grand Prix race duration: 41:09.503, which is an improvement of more than 5 seconds.

The next round of the MotoGP World Championship will be the Gran Premio de España from 26 to 28 April 2024, at the Jerez circuit in Andalusia, southern Spain.

### **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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