



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), April 17, 2024

6 Hours of Imola New coloured sidewalls for the MICHELIN Pilot Sport family of tyres

- Round 2 of the 2024 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) takes Michelin to the second new venue on this season's calendar.
- The MICHELIN Pilot Sport tyres for the FIA WEC's Hypercar prototypes will feature new coloured sidewall markings at Imola to indicate their respective compounds.
- Michelin is the exclusive tyre supplier to the FIA WEC's Hypercars, 19 of which have been entered for the 6 Hours of Imola.

After the season's dramatic opener in Qatar at the beginning of March, the nine Hypercar prototype manufacturers involved in the FIA WEC will regather at Autodromo Dino e Enzo Ferrari for Round 2. A field of 19 Hypercars has been entered for Imola which is situated 40 kilometres from Bologna, and less than 100km from Ferrari's base in Maranello.

The race is therefore something of a special fixture for the Italian make whose three 499Ps will face opposition on home turf from the prototypes developed by Michelin's other Hypercar partners, namely Alpine, BMW, Cadillac, Isotta Fraschini, Lamborghini, Peugeot, Porsche and Toyota.

The six-hour Italian race will also see the maiden appearance of Peugeot's new 9X8 which, from now on, will run on the same sized tyres as its rivals (29/71-18 in the front and 34/71-18 in the rear, instead of four 31/71-18 tyres).

The 4.9-kilometre, 21-turn circuit is one of four venues that have been added to this year's FIA WEC calendar, the others being Lusail (Qatar), São Paulo (Brazil) and Austin (Texas, USA). It is consequently another step into uncharted territory Michelin's competitive, versatile Hypercar range.

*"Imola is a bit of a contrast to Qatar," says **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "To begin with, it isn't all that tough on tyres compared with Lusail which made big energy-related demands on them. Secondly, it is bumpy, while Qatar is perfectly smooth now that it has been relaid. Imola is also what you might call an "old school" track, and slightly narrower with few passing opportunities. The longitudinal and lateral forces exerted on our tyres promise to be balanced there. The Aqua Minerali sequence [Turns 11 to 13] is likely to be their biggest test, with an estimated vertical load on the left-hand tyres of more than 900kg at 200kph."*



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"Given the weather forecast, we expect to see the medium compound used the most frequently, but our partners might be tempted to triple-stint the hard alternative. As usual, our technical experts will be on-hand to advise on the most judicious choice."

Easier to identify

For the 6 Hours of Imola, Michelin Motorsport will provide its partners with a choice between medium and hard slicks. To distinguish between the two, they will have different coloured sidewalls, with the medium picked out in yellow and the hard in red. This will enable spectators to know which teams are running which compound at any given time, whether the cars are at a standstill or moving. This will be a first for the new system in world-class endurance racing.

In all, four colours will be employed over the season:

White sidewalls (soft slick): White symbolises cold, wintry weather and this compound – the softest in the range – is the best-suited to cooler conditions.

Yellow sidewalls (medium slick): The choice of yellow for the medium compound is indicative of the wide temperature window this compound covers.

Red sidewalls (hard slick): Red is readily associated with heat. When the track temperature is high, the most appropriate compound to use is the hardest one.

Blue sidewalls (rain tyre): Blue is a colour commonly associated with water. It has also been chosen for the wet-weather tyres used by the GT3 cars.

From Imola, all the Hypercars – including the Peugeots - will be fitted with 29/71-18 front tyres and wider 34/71-18 rears. Each car may use up to 12 tyres during practice, plus a further 18 for the race. Four additional tyres will be made available to the 10 cars that qualify for the Hyperpole shoot-out. Michelin specifies the compound used for this session (medium in the case of Imola) and recovers the covers afterwards for private testing purposes at a later date.

Action at Autodromo Dino e Enzo Ferrari will kick off with the first of Friday's free practice runs at 12 noon on April 19. Free Practice 3 and Qualifying follow the next day, with the inaugural 6 Hours of Imola due to start at 1pm CET on Sunday, April 21.



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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).

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