



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Le Mans (France), June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## **2024 Le Mans 24 Hours A race of three-thirds!**

- The first 8 hours: fickle weather and a variety of tyre strategies...
- The middle 8 hours: a period of heavy showers that put the MICHELIN Pilot Sport Wet (which contains 45 percent renewable or recycled raw materials) firmly centre stage...
- The decisive final 8 hours: a ferocious fight in drying conditions before the last two nail-biting hours as rain swept over Le Mans yet again...

Changeable weather played a significant role in how the 92<sup>nd</sup> running of the Le Mans 24 Hours unfolded, with the pre-start festivities held in bright conditions before they steadily deteriorated as rain clouds gathered over Circuit de la Sarthe.

France's soccer World Cup-winning superstar Zinedine Zidane flagged the cars away at the stroke of 4pm Saturday and it soon became apparent that the Hypercar teams had gone for different strategies. Many of them chose to run the medium-compound MICHELIN Pilot Sport on the still-warm track, but others preferred the soft option in anticipation of the anticipated dip in temperature as the evening approached. In both cases, they kicked off by double-stinting to showcase the performance of both options.

Ninety minutes in, the situation began to evolve with the first of the numerous showers that affected the race. The front-running drivers headed immediately for the pits to switch to the MICHELIN Pilot Sport Wet, while others stood firm and stayed out on slicks. It was the latter who reaped the biggest reward when the rain ceased soon afterwards, and the former were forced to pit a second time to revert to the soft slick.

The situation in the Hypercar class – which had already clocked up 9,000 passing maneuvers – started to settle down at last at around sunset, but conditions took another turn for the worse during the early hours of the morning. Visibility out of the cars' cockpits became so limited by spray at one point that Race Control decided to dispatch the Safety Car for a long period.

Competitive action resumed at 8am Sunday with what amounted to a fresh start and the field bunched together once more. It marked the beginning of the weekend's third and final phase...

As the racing line dried, the Hypercars engaged in an uncompromising battle, aided by the performance of their soft-compound Michelin slicks. As the pace increased, however, the teams didn't shirk from running triple-stint strategies, reassured by their tyres' exceptional consistency.



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With two hours to go, Toyota Gazoo Racing, Ferrari AF Corse, Porsche Penske Motorsport and Cadillac Racing were all still in contention, but wet weather intervened once again, leading them to revise their respective game-plans with the chequered flag looming fast. Toyota Gazoo Racing and Ferrari AF Corse both put the potential of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport Wet to maximum effect as they engaged in a thrilling late scrap that was fuelled by quick lap-times and serviced by the slick work of their respective mechanics during the remaining pit-stops.

The dying moments were high on suspense as everyone wondered whether the race-leading #50 499P had enough energy left in its 'tank' to complete its final lap. The prototype of Antonio Fuoco, Miguel Molina and Nicklas Nielsen kept going to take the chequered flag, though, to secure the big prize. The Italian machine was chased over the line by the #7 Toyota GR010 Hybrid (José Maria Lopez/Kamui Kobayashi/Nyck de Vries) and Ferrari AF Corse's #51 car (Alessandro Pier Guidi/James Calado/Antonio Giovinazzi).

*"Wow! What a race that was! This year's 2024 Le Mans 24 Hours delivered an exceptional, exciting, drama-packed show," enthused **Pierre Alves**, manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "The performance of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport Wet – which contains 45 percent renewable or recycled raw materials – played a considerable role in how the weekend unfolded. In addition to being safe and competitive in the wet, it was durable in the dry and fulfilled its mission to the letter. I would also like to underline the versatility and consistency of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport Soft which enabled the teams to triple stint with ease, even when the fight on the track was at its fiercest."*

*"I want to congratulate both Ferrari and Toyota who kept our eyes riveted on the timing screens throughout the last two hours. And last but not least, a huge bravo to everyone at Michelin Motorsport who worked so hard yet again to make the 2024 Le Mans 24 Hours such a big success for us!"*

The next round of the FIA World Endurance Championship will take teams to Brazil for the 6 Hours of Sao Paulo's return to the calendar on July 14.

### **About Michelin**

Michelin is building a world-leading manufacturer of life-changing composites and experiences. Pioneering engineered materials for more than 130 years, Michelin is uniquely positioned to make decisive contributions to human progress and to a more sustainable world.

Drawing on its deep know-how in polymer composites, Michelin is constantly innovating to manufacture high-quality tires and components for critical applications in demanding fields as varied as mobility, construction, aeronautics, low-carbon energies, and healthcare.



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