



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), 10 July, 2024

## **Rolex 6 Hours of São Paulo South America return for the MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyre range**

- After last month's Le Mans thriller, the second half of the 2024 FIA World Endurance Championship kicks off with a visit to Sao Paulo, a decade after its last trip to the Brazilian city.
- Interlagos may be the shortest circuit on the 2024 FIA WEC calendar, but it offers little respite for the drivers and their tyres.
- Michelin Motorsport's partners will be able to choose between its medium- and hard-compound slicks for the weekend's likely conditions.

Autodromo José Carlos Pace – more familiarly known around the world as Interlagos – is hosting a round of the FIA WEC for the fourth time after previous visits in 2012, 2013 and 2014, meaning it hasn't been used for world-class prototype racing for a decade. As a consequence, the drivers of the 19 Hypercars entered for the event by nine different car manufacturers have been busy familiarising themselves with the 15-turn, 4.309-kilometre circuit on the simulator, just as they prepared for Lusail (Qatar) and Imola (Italy) which were also new to the series this season. Similarly, Michelin Motorsport's preparations focused on analysing all the available data in as much detail as possible...

*"To all intents and purposes, Interlagos is another new venue for us, but we don't see that as a problem," says **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's four-wheel motorsport programmes. "Since the beginning of the year, our tyres have performed strongly at all the circuits we have visited so far, regardless of whether they were known territory or not. Simulator work has provided us with an overview of the challenges to expect in Brazil, and one thing we know for sure is that the circuit doesn't leave the drivers or their tyres much time to catch their breath. It is also physically demanding due to the different types of turn, including a climb that some compare to Spa-Francorchamps' Raidillon. The loads tyres will be subjected to differ from sector to sector, but the sequence of right-handers from Turns 6 to 8 promises to be a big test for the left slicks. That said, our pre-race groundwork didn't throw up any major concerns. Our range was effectively conceived to cover constraints such as these and perform across a broad spread of temperatures."*

For the FIA WEC's return to Interlagos, the Hypercar teams will be able to choose between two types of MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance slick:

- **Medium:** a particularly versatile compound for dry conditions.



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- **Hard:** for hotter weather, even though it is the beginning of winter in Brazil.

*"As always, our technical staff will be there to work closely with our partners and advise them on their respective tyre strategies," adds **Pierre Alves**. "Depending on the weather, they might need to switch from the medium slick to the hard in the course of the afternoon. That will make things interesting. Given the circuit's configuration, both compounds should be capable of reaching their working temperature quite quickly. After the Senna S, the turns through Sector 1 are good for putting heat in the rubber, especially as the track temperature could climb to as high as 40°C at the race's midpoint."*

Rain is not expected. Should the weather deteriorate, however, Michelin's partners will be able to benefit from the performance of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport WET. Its tread pattern is designed to race in heavy to light rain, as well as in drying conditions to tie in with the windows covered by the slicks.

Track action in Brazil begins with Free Practice 1 at 10:45am local time on Friday, July 12, followed by FP2 later the same day. Qualifying is on Saturday, and the ensuing Hyperpole shoot-out will determine Sunday's grid order. The tyre allocation per car is 12 for free practice, plus a further 18 for qualifying and the race. An additional set of medium slicks will be provided for the 10 drivers who contest the Hyperpole session. These tyres will be recovered subsequently for private testing purposes at a later date.

The Rolex 6 Hours of Sao Paulo is scheduled to start at 11:30am local time on Sunday, 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. The care placed in its products and deep customer knowledge inspire Michelin to offer the finest experiences. This spans from providing data- and AI-based connected solutions for professional fleets to recommending outstanding restaurants and hotels curated by the MICHELIN Guide.



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