



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), September 11, 2024

## **6 Hours of Fuji**

### **MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyre ranges facing Fuji Speedway's changeable weather conditions**

- The 2024 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) continues with its 11th visit to Fuji Speedway.
- Michelin will be out to provide further evidence of its Endurance range's exceptional versatility at the highly-varied Japanese venue.
- Michelin Motorsport has selected its Medium- and Hard-compound slicks to give the drivers the optimum options to cover the entire race.

Just two weeks after having braved the heat at Circuit of The Americas (CoTA) in Texas, USA, Michelin's FIA WEC partners and the 18 prototypes involved in the championship's Hypercar class are racing at Japan's Fuji Speedway this weekend.

Situated at the foot of Mount Fuji (3,776 metres), around two hours to the southwest of Tokyo, the circuit benefits from a stunning backdrop. Since its inauguration in 1965, it has helped to drive the economy of Shizuoka Prefecture and has been the property of Toyota since 2005.

The Japanese carmaker will consequently be keen to shine at the 4.563-kilometre, 16-turn track which is notorious for its near-1.5km straight where the cars exceed 300kph.

Fuji has long been familiar territory for Michelin Motorsport and the six-hour classic has figured on the FIA WEC calendar since the championship's creation in 2012. Exceptions were 2020 and 2021 when it was cancelled due to the Covid pandemic.

Michelin's FIA WEC Hypercar range first competed there last year when its engineers were able to harvest that valuable data that has helped them prepare for the 2024 race.

*"With Austin still fresh in our minds, here we are already on the other side of the globe," says **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's endurance-racing programmes. "We have considerable experience of Fuji Speedway, so we have good reason to feel confident, and we've prepared a strong package to give the drivers the confidence they will need from lights-out to the chequered flag."*



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*"The track itself is very varied and puts different performance parameters to a real test, from the cars' engines and their aerodynamics, to the mechanical grip provided by our tires. Our range proved a perfect match for the circuit in last year's mild to hot conditions when it provided the necessary grip, stability and consistency, in addition to coping with the high downforce loads. This consideration is especially important through Turns 4 and 5, and through Sector 3. The left-hand tires in general and the front-left in particular face the biggest demands here, so we will be particularly attentive to that. The forecasters aren't expecting any exceptional weather. However, following the typhoon that rocked the country recently, rain clearly cannot be ruled out over the weekend."*

Because of their broad, comfortably overlapping operating windows, Michelin's medium and hard compounds have been nominated for the 2024 6 Hours of Fuji to cover the anticipated spectrum of ground temperatures. In the case of wet weather, the Hypercar teams will be able to count on the French firm's Rain tyre which contains 45 percent sustainable raw materials.

The 2023 race was won by the #7 Toyota GR010 Hybrid of Mike Conway/Kamui Kobayashi/José Maria Lopez, ahead of the team's #8 sister car (Sébastien Buemi/Brendon Hartley/Ryo Hirakawa). Third was the #6 Porsche Penske Motorsport-run Porsche 963 (Kevin Estre/Laurens Vanthoor/André Lotterer).

Action at Fuji Speedway is scheduled to begin with free practice on Friday, September 13, followed by the next day's qualifying and Hyperpole sessions. The race itself is due to start at 11am local time Sunday.

### **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 ([www.michelin.com](http://www.michelin.com)).



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