



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Gotemba (Japan) – September 15, 2024

6 Hours of Fuji **The medium MICHELIN Pilot Sport slick delivers metronome-like consistency at Fuji Speedway**

- Ideal weather for the 2024 6 Hours of Fuji enabled Michelin's partners to benefit fully from the potential of their Pilot Sport slicks.
- In addition to its hallmark consistency, the MICHELIN Pilot Sport performed strongly despite the high speeds, repeated heavy braking and hard re-acceleration associated with the Japanese circuit.
- The fast warm-up performance of Michelin's slicks also meant that the Hypercars were at their peak just corners after leaving the pits.

This year's FIA World Endurance Championship calendar included a trip to Fuji Speedway for the 11th time since the WEC's creation in 2012. At this time of year, the weather at the foot of Mount Fuji in Japan's Shizuoka Prefecture is frequently hot and humid, although rain is by no means exceptional. Indeed, tropical storm Yun-Yeung swept over the circuit during the 2023 race. In contrast, the 2024 6 Hours of Fuji was an all-sunny affair, with air and track temperatures reaching 32°C and 45°C respectively.

Fuji Speedway – the property of Toyota since 2005 – features a straight of almost 1.5 kilometres in length, down which the prototypes exceed 300kph. Sector 3 of the 4.563km, 16-turn track is very twisty, however, meaning that the cars are much less reliant on aerodynamic downforce for grip. The onus on mechanical grip instead makes far bigger demands on their tyres. Yet in spite the circuit's unique challenges, Michelin's Pilot Sport slicks provided further evidence of their ability to soak up the constraints, while at the same time contributing to consistent lap-times over double stints.

This resilience enabled the Hypercar teams to run different strategies, changing just the left-hand tyres and successfully combining fresh and part-worn tyres during the six-hour classic to which Michelin took a choice of medium- and hard-compound slicks.

The allocation per car was 12 tyres for Free Practice, four mediums for the Hyperpole session and 18 for qualifying and the race.

"This is the second year that our current-generation MICHELIN Pilot Sport slicks have raced at Fuji Speedway, although last year's changeable weather prevented us from collecting as much data as we would have liked," says **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's endurance-racing programmes.



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"The nomination of our medium and hard slicks for the 2024 6 Hours of Fuji proved perfectly founded and notably enabled us to demonstrate the medium's exceptional versatility once more. Our partner teams were able to double-stint in spite of the demands this track makes on tyres due to repeated heavy braking and re-acceleration. On top of that, the constraints are asymmetric, with more wear on the left. Even so, the consistency and warm-up performance of our tyres were remarkable. Last but not least, I would like to congratulate Hertz Team JOTA on winning the 2024 Hypercar Teams title."

The pace of the early part of Sunday's 2024 6 Hours of Fuji provided plenty of drama – including a Safety Car interruption – as the pole-winning #2 Cadillac V-Series.R of Bamber/Lynn led for the opening stint. The #6 Porsche 963 (Vanthoor/Estre/Lotterer) then took control, albeit under pressure from Ferrari AF Corse and Toyota Gazoo Racing whose cars spent some periods at the front of the field. Each time, however, the German prototype managed to recover the lead and went on to take the win, chased over the line by the #15 BMW M Hybrid V8 (Vanthoor/Marciello/Wittmann), another of the race's front-runners. The result was BMW M Team WRT's first top-three FIA WEC finish and its drivers were joined on the podium by Lapierre/Schumacher/Vaxiviere in the #36 Alpine A424. The Hypercars lapped on medium MICHELIN Pilot Sport slicks throughout.

Hertz Team JOTA secured the 2024 Hypercar Teams' title in Japan when both its cars finished ahead of its main rival, the #83 AF Corse Ferrari 499P (Kubica/Shwartzman/Ye).

The fights for the 2024 Drivers' and Manufacturers' world crowns will be settled at the season finale – the BAPCO Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain – on October 31/November 2.

About Michelin

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