



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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BAPCO Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain **The MICHELIN Pilot Sport range returns to Sakhir for the 2024 FIA WEC finale**

- An exacting circuit for the eighth and last round of the 2024 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) on Saturday, November 2.
- An eight-hour race that starts in daytime heat and ends in the relative cool of night, making tyre strategy particularly decisive.
- Bahrain's abrasive, sand-coated track surface makes this fixture a test of tyre performance and longevity.

In keeping with tradition, the FIA WEC community is poised to gather at Sakhir International Circuit for the season's ultimate clash, with both world titles still to be settled this time around. Continuing the formula introduced in 2021, the Bahrain fixture is an eight-hour race, instead of its previous six-hour format.

The start will be given on Saturday, November 2, at 2pm local time when the heat will be at its fiercest, with the track temperature potentially in excess of 50°C. After nightfall, at around 5pm, the last five hours in darkness will take place under 495 floodlights as the track cools gradually to less than 30°C before the chequered flag falls at 10pm. As in the past, this variation of some 20°C means the Hypercar teams will need to take particular care over their respective tyre strategies.

The 5.412-kilometre circuit near Manama is the most abrasive of the campaign owing to sand blown across it from the surrounding desert. Its combination of slow and medium turns (5 left/10 right) call for repeated heavy braking and hard re-acceleration, submitting tyres to high longitudinal forces in addition to the impeccable cornering grip they need to provide.

As each day progresses, the cars tend to brush the sandy coating aside, but the nighttime breeze brings it back, resulting in less grip during the next day's early running. The ensuing 'micro-slides' associated with this cycle naturally affect tyre consistency and longevity, leading to possible premature wear.

This is the second visit to Bahrain of Michelin's Pilot Sport range for the Hypercar prototypes after it rose successfully to the circuit's unique challenges in 2023.



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*"The stakes at this year's 8 Hours of Bahrain are high," says **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing programs. "It's a demanding circuit for the season's finale, so we will be fully focused. Like last year, the nominated slicks for Sakhir are the medium- and hard-compound MICHELIN Pilot Sports. Free practice will enable us to determine the optimum operating windows of each one and how they overlap, as a function of the drivers' personal preferences. The mission of our technical team advisors will include working closely with the teams to establish the ideal moment for switching from the hard to the medium, or perhaps even mixing the two depending on how the conditions evolve."*

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)

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