



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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Grand Prix of Thailand **The 2025 MotoGP™ season opens at the Chang International Circuit: a highly demanding track requiring reinforced Michelin tires**

- Normally scheduled at the end of the season, the Thai Grand Prix marks the opening round this year. However, the weather is expected to be similar to that of previous years.
- Michelin Motorsport provides a special tire allocation for the Chang International Circuit, consisting of reinforced Hard front and rear tires.
- Achieving the perfect balance between suspension, chassis, engine, and electronics will be essential to fully exploit the grip and stability of the tires.

After two test sessions in Sepang (Malaysia) from February 5 to 7 and Buri Ram (Thailand) on February 12 and 13, the 2025 MotoGP season officially kicks off next weekend at the Chang International Circuit in Buri Ram (Thailand).

Normally part of the Asia-Oceania leg of the championship, which takes place between September and November, this year the Thai Grand Prix has been moved to a completely different period. However, the weather should not surprise the paddock, as it remains hot, humid, and unpredictable, with a risk of sudden heavy rainfall.

The Buri Ram circuit will also bring its own set of challenges. Located in the northern part of the country, about 500 km from Bangkok, the capital, the Chang International Circuit is highly demanding due to both its surface and layout. Its 4.554 km track features five left turns and seven right turns, along with two long straights, the longest of which reaches one kilometer. This profile presents extremely tough conditions not only for the tires but also for the riders and their bikes.

Due to this special configuration, proper traction control settings are crucial to avoid excessive rear-wheel slippage. The more the tire spins, the higher the risk of overheating, which reduces grip.

*"February test session confirmed that the Chang International Circuit is a very demanding track," says **Piero Taramasso**, Michelin's two-wheel competition manager. "Finding the right bike settings is both a major challenge and a key factor for performance on this circuit. At Buri Ram, the asphalt is hot, and the long straights generate a significant thermal load on the tires, both front and rear."*



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"This is the reason why Michelin supplies reinforced tires, particularly the Hard front tire and both rear tires. Thanks to this special construction, internal tire temperatures remain at a lower level. The tire allocation for the Thai GP is the same as that used for the IRTA tests in February and for the GP in 2024. We have therefore retained the tires that have already proven their effectiveness on this track, and to prepare for and manage the race, we rely on data collected last year at the same location."

For the Thai Grand Prix, Michelin's partners will have access to three symmetrical compounds (Soft, Medium, and Hard) for the front wheel. At the rear, they can choose between two compound options, Medium or Soft, with an asymmetrical tread pattern. As mentioned earlier, the Hard front and both rear tires will feature a more rigid internal structure.

In the event of rain, Michelin will offer its MICHELIN Power Rain range in Soft and Medium compounds, for both the front and rear, which will also be reinforced on the right side, similar to the MICHELIN Power Slick.

The 2025 Grand Prix of Thailand will begin on Friday, February 28, with an initial free practice session (10:45 AM – 11:30 AM, local time). The afternoon practice session (3:00 PM – 4:00 PM) will allow the 10 fastest riders to advance directly to the second phase of qualifying (Q2). After a final free practice session on Saturday morning (10:10 AM – 10:40 AM), Q1 will offer two additional riders the chance to qualify for Q2 (11:15 AM – 11:30 AM), which will determine the starting grid for the weekend. The Tissot Sprint race (13 laps) will start on Saturday at 3:00 PM, while the Grand Prix (26 laps) is scheduled for Sunday, March 2, again at 3:00 PM.

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.

Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 175 countries and employs 132,200 people.



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