



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), February 26, 2025

Qatar 1,812KM

Michelin begins its 13th season in the FIA-WEC World Endurance Championship with the 1,812 km of Qatar

- After two days of Prologue, Qatar and the Lusail Circuit host the opening round of the 2025 FIA-WEC World Endurance Championship.
- Michelin's Endurance tire ranges provide performance perfectly suited to the high constraints generated by racing cars.
- MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tires exclusively equip all 18 prototypes in the premier "Hypercar" category. This season, eight globally renowned manufacturers will compete for the title.

After two Prologue days on February 21 and 22, the season officially kicks off this week with the 1,812 km of Qatar. The first free practice session will take place on Wednesday, February 26, followed by qualifying on Thursday, February 27, in the late afternoon.

The race, covering a distance of 1,812 km or a maximum duration of 10 hours, will start on Friday, February 28, at 2:00 PM local time (12:00 PM Western Europe), two hours later than in 2024. This distance was chosen as a reference to Qatar's National Day, celebrated on December 18 (18/12).

The Lusail Circuit Analyzed by Pierre Alves, Michelin's Endurance Program Manager

"The Lusail Circuit's asphalt consists of a smooth 'macro' and a rough 'micro' texture. This means the surface is smooth— the smoothest of all the circuits in the championship— yet relatively abrasive. It also offers a good level of grip. Drivers must carefully manage the initial laps with new tires to avoid the 'graining' phenomenon, which affects endurance and consistency.*

The sequence of three right-hand turns (Turns 12 to 14), beginning with an entry at more than 200 km/h before maintaining a nearly constant trajectory through the next two, puts considerable strain on the left-side tires. On this circuit, the left rear tire is the most stressed, while the left front tire experiences significant wear. We provide our Hypercar partners with MICHELIN Pilot Sport slicks in Medium and Hard compounds, as well as a rain tire. The race schedule has been adjusted, with a start time of 2:00 PM instead of noon, meaning there will be only three hours of daylight and seven hours of night racing with lower temperatures. As a result, our partners' tire strategies will likely differ from last year."



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*Graining is an abnormal wear phenomenon caused by tire usage. In some cases, small pieces of rubber can detach from the tire's surface and reattach in the form of granules, making the tread uneven and degrading performance.

For the 1,812 km of Qatar, each Hypercar is allocated 12 tires for practice and 32 for qualifying and the race. All teams will use MICHELIN Pilot Sport tires with dimensions of 29/71-18 at the front and 34/71-18 at the rear (with a wider tread at the rear than at the front).

Last year, the expertise of Michelin's teams and the quality of the Endurance tires allowed teams to triple their stints on a then-new and highly abrasive track. For the 2025 edition, despite the schedule shift, Michelin anticipates similar tire strategies regarding stint length. However, if humidity or rain comes into play, teams will need to adapt their approach and rely on the MICHELIN Pilot Sport rain tire range.

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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