



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), April 9, 2025

## ***Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar*** **An “abrasive” challenge for the fourth round of the 2025 FIM MotoGP™ World Championship**

- The 2025 FIM MotoGP™ World Championship continues its global tour in the desert with the Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar, held at the Lusail International Circuit from April 11 to 13.
- To handle the high demands of the Lusail layout, Michelin has introduced a tailored range of tires with stiffer specifications. In particular, a new, more durable MICHELIN Power Slick Soft Rear tire and a new Hard Front tire providing greater stability.
- The Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar remains one of the most challenging events of the season, combining demanding “Tilke-style” layout, highly abrasive surface, wind-blown sand, and humidity from nighttime scheduling.

The 2025 FIM MotoGP™ World Championship continues its global journey and stops in the desert for its fourth round: the Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar, held at the Lusail International Circuit from April 11 to 13.

Previously scheduled as the season opener, the Qatari round was delayed in 2025 to accommodate Ramadan, which began on Saturday, March 1 and ended on Sunday, March 30 with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr. In Qatar, Eid al-Fitr holidays started on Sunday, March 30 and lasted until Monday, April 7, 2025.

For over twenty years, the Emirate of Qatar has hosted the MotoGP World Championship at the Lusail International Circuit, located just a few kilometers from the capital Doha. The track was modernized in 2023 and resurfaced. While the two previous editions left room for technical surprises, Michelin now has a firm grip on the characteristics of the new asphalt. The extensive data collected and processed by Michelin’s simulation systems has also helped redefine the high-stress zones of the layout and refine the tire allocation.

The combination of the typical “Tilke-style” layout—long straight and sharp direction changes—with the new surface characteristics makes this a fast circuit overall, but very abrasive and demanding on tires. The size and shape of the stones that make up the top asphalt layer (known as macro-roughness) offer a good level of grip, but challenge the consistency and durability of the softer tires.



## MOTORSPORT

This track characteristic evolves very slowly over the years, as repeated vehicle passes gradually wear down the stone edges.

Another typical feature of Lusail is the presence of sand on the track. This fine layer deposited by the wind increases tire slippage, which in turn accelerates wear. Both front and rear tires are affected by this.

To meet these challenges, Michelin has introduced a tailored tire range with stiffer specifications. This year's allocation includes three symmetric front tires (Soft, Medium, and Hard) and two rears, one being a reinforced asymmetric Soft (stronger on the right) and the other a symmetric Medium.

In case of rain, riders can rely on the MICHELIN Power Rain tires, available in Soft and Medium versions in Qatar—symmetric for the front and asymmetric for the rear with a reinforced right side.

As is tradition in Lusail, the races take place at night. The Tissot Sprint (11 laps) is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 at 8:00 PM (local time), and the Grand Prix (22 laps) on Sunday, April 13 also at 8:00 PM. These times ensure more moderate track temperatures compared to daytime, significantly influencing tire compound choices.

*"For the 2025 edition, we've reworked the Soft rear tire specification to make it stiffer and therefore more resistant to Lusail's aggressive conditions," says **Piero Taramasso**, Michelin Two-Wheel Motorsport Manager. "At the same time, we've also brought a modified Hard front tire to Qatar to offer more versatility. It provides a grip level similar to a Medium front tire, but the new Hard offers better stability. The nighttime work dynamic is reversed compared to other rounds: we start on a warmer track that cools as the laps go by, whereas it's usually the opposite. Plus, humidity combines with the fine layer of sand blown in by the wind, which significantly reduces grip—a real added challenge!"*

### 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.



## MOTORSPORT

---

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 129,800 people.

MICHELIN GROUP MEDIA RELATIONS

**+33 1 45 66 22 22**

7 days a week

---

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