



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), April 16, 2025

## **6 Hours of Imola**

### **Michelin adopts a new tyre strategy for the Italian round of the 2025 FIA WEC**

- The 2025 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) returns to Imola, Italy, for the second consecutive year. The event will also mark the second appearance of Michelin's Endurance tyre ranges on this iconic circuit.
- Drawing on valuable data gained from the 2024 edition, Michelin Motorsport has refined its tyre strategy for this second round of the season, updating its compound selections accordingly.
- The MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyres will exclusively equip all 18 prototypes in the top-class Hypercar category, where eight car manufacturers compete for victory.

Following the 1812 km of Qatar held at the end of February, the eight manufacturers entered in the premier class of world-class Endurance racing will reconvene at the Enzo and Dino Ferrari Circuit. Eighteen Hypercar prototypes will take the start, supported by the Michelin Motorsport teams for this first European round of the season.

The Imola circuit, 4.9 km in length and featuring 21 corners, is among the most recent additions to the calendar. Introduced in 2024, it has already allowed Michelin's Endurance ranges—renowned for their versatility and sustained high performance—to showcase their full potential.

Building on the lessons learned from last year's race, Michelin's technical teams have opted to evolve the range of tyres offered to their partners for the 6 Hours of Imola 2025.

*"Last year, we supplied our partner teams with MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyres in Hard and Medium compounds. For this edition, we believe that while the Medium compound remains highly suitable, it will be even more effective when paired with the Soft," explains **Pierre Alves**, Manager of Michelin's Endurance racing programmes. "Our analyses have confirmed that the Medium tyre delivers excellent performance across a broad temperature range, including in high-heat conditions. And since, in 2024, temperatures dropped from 30°C the week before the race to just 12°C upon our arrival... should we face similar conditions again, the Medium-Soft combination will offer our partners a broader performance window. Additionally, the Soft compound serves as an excellent transition towards our wet-weather tyres, should the need arise."*



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*"Given that the Imola track layout does not naturally lend itself to rapid tyre warm-up, we believe this combination will enable our partners to reach optimal performance from the very first laps and maintain consistency throughout the six-hour race. This setup should not only make triple stints viable once again but also allow for a generally faster race pace. As such, we may see new benchmark lap times being set."*

In 2024, it was Kamui Kobayashi, Mike Conway, and Nyck de Vries (Toyota Gazoo Racing) who claimed victory at the 6 Hours of Imola, driving a Toyota GR010 Hybrid fitted with Michelin tyres. It was also noted that the #50 Ferrari 499P led for 129 laps on the same set of tyres—equivalent to more than 630 km. This exceptional longevity underscores the endurance performance consistency of Michelin's tyre ranges.

For the 6 Hours of Imola, each Hypercar will be allocated 12 tyres for free practice, and 18 for qualifying and the race. All teams will run MICHELIN Pilot Sport tyres sized 29/71-18 at the front and 34/71-18 at the rear (providing a wider contact patch at the rear). In the event of wet or rainy conditions, teams will adapt their strategy accordingly by using the dedicated MICHELIN Pilot Sport wet-weather range, available in the same dimensions.

It should be noted that Michelin will supply an additional four tyres to the 10 cars qualifying for the Hyperpole session. Michelin selects the compound to be used (Medium in this instance), and the four tyres are then withdrawn from the total race allocation. They will be repurposed later for private testing.

The Enzo and Dino Ferrari circuit will host the first free practice sessions on Friday, April 18, starting at 12:00 p.m., with two sessions scheduled. A third free practice session followed by qualifying will take place on Saturday. The official start of the 6 Hours of Imola 2025 is set for Sunday, April 20, at 1:00 p.m.

### **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.



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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.

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