



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), September 24, 2025,

## ***6 Hours of Fuji*** **MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tires: key to strategy at the foot of Mount Fuji**

- The penultimate round of the 2025 FIA World Endurance Championship season, the 6 Hours of Fuji, will be held from September 26 to 28 at Fuji Speedway.
- This year, Michelin is offering a new compound combination: Soft and Medium, to adapt to the unstable weather conditions frequently encountered in the Shizuoka region.
- The hybrid layout of Fuji Speedway (fast and technical) puts tire thermal management to the test—a decisive factor for victory.

### **A must-attend round on the calendar**

Since joining the FIA WEC calendar in 2012, Fuji Speedway has become a classic in global endurance racing. Located at the foot of Mount Fuji in Shizuoka Prefecture, the 4.563 km track features 16 turns and a 1.5 km straight where Hypercars exceed 300 km/h.

The Japanese circuit combines high-speed sections with demanding technical sectors. This hybrid configuration puts heavy stress on the tires: significant cooling on the long straight, followed by intense lateral and longitudinal loads in Sector 2, which alone generates 75% more energy than Sectors 1 and 3 combined. Tire thermal management will therefore be one of the major challenges of this 2025 edition.

### **Michelin: Soft and Medium compounds for a strategic challenge**

After offering Medium and Hard specifications in 2023 and 2024, Michelin is introducing a new choice this year: Soft and Medium. This change is based on the experience of last year's race, where despite high track temperatures (up to 45°C), the entire grid opted for the Medium compound, which delivered consistency and performance throughout the event.

The Soft compound will provide a new strategic tool. It will be particularly valuable during transitions between wet and drying track conditions, or in cooler weather, thanks to its fast warm-up and immediate grip.

The Medium compound retains its central role: versatile and robust, it remains the go-to solution to cover all endurance scenarios at Fuji Speedway.



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The track surface, relatively smooth, generates low mechanical wear but makes tire warm-up challenging at the start of stints. The introduction of the Soft compound will allow Michelin's partner teams to optimize their strategy during these delicate phases.

### **A high-intensity sporting context**

At Fuji, the title battles are more intense than ever. With Ferrari and the #51 499P crew leading thanks to strong results since the start of the year, rivals are counting on Fuji to reshuffle the cards before the Bahrain finale.

### **Hypercar Manufacturers' standings:**

Ferrari – 203 points

Porsche – 138 points

Cadillac – 134 points

### **Hypercar Drivers' standings:**

Alessandro Pier Guidi / Antonio Giovinazzi / James Calado (Ferrari 499P #51) – 115 pts

Philip Hanson / Robert Kubica / Yifei Ye (Ferrari 499P #83 AF Corse) – 100 pts

Kévin Estre / Laurens Vanthoor (Porsche 963 #6) – 79 pts

### **FIA World Cup for Teams:**

AF Corse (Ferrari 499P #83) – 189 pts

Proton Competition (Porsche 963 #99) – 117 pts

### **Pierre Alves, Michelin Endurance Program Manager**

*"Fuji is a unique race in the season, with its contrasts between a majestic setting dominated by Mount Fuji and a track that is a real challenge for engineers and drivers alike. The circuit combines a very fast straight that significantly cools the front tires with technical sections where lateral and longitudinal loads become extreme, especially on the rear axle. Thermal management is therefore the key to performance."*



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*Our decision to introduce the Soft tire this year illustrates this approach. We know that at Fuji, the weather is often unstable: the transition between wet and drying track conditions is a real challenge. The Soft compound gives our partners an additional strategic tool, thanks to its quicker warm-up and instant grip. At the same time, the Medium compound retains its central role thanks to its versatility and consistency, as shown in 2024 when it was used from the first to the last lap.*

*We have learned a lot over the past two years and now arrive with a package suited to all possible configurations. Michelin's objective is clear: to allow our partner teams to drive with confidence and focus on their race. Fuji is demanding, unpredictable, and strategic. It is in this type of context that the qualities of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tires can truly make the difference."*

### **Practical information**

The 2025 6 Hours of Fuji will take place from September 26 to 28:

Friday, September 26: Free Practice 1 at 10:15 a.m. (local time) and Free Practice 2 at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 27: Free Practice 3 at 9:50 a.m., Qualifying at 3:00 p.m., and Hyperpole at 3:20 p.m.

Race start: Sunday, September 28 at 11:00 a.m. (local time, 4:00 a.m. in Western Europe).

### **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.



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Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 175 countries and employs 129,800 people.

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**+33 1 45 66 22 22**

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