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FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA-WEC)
Innovating sustainably to push the limits of Endurance and mobility

- With the new 2026 MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyre range, Michelin takes a key step toward “all-sustainable” by integrating 50% renewable and recycled materials, now identifiable through the “Race to Vision” marking on the slick tread.
- In a largely stable 2026 Endurance calendar, Michelin benefits from an ideal framework to conduct an in-depth analysis of this new generation of tires.
- The FIA WEC stands out as a strategic innovation platform for Michelin, where technologies developed through simulation and on track are transferred to the automotive industry.

Editorial - Matthieu Bonardel, Director, Michelin Motorsport

Technological excellence and environmental responsibility advancing together in Endurance, driven by Michelin innovation

“For more than a century, Michelin has used motorsport as an accelerator of innovation for mobility. Through race duration, the consistency required, and the extreme constraints placed on tyres, Endurance racing provides a unique environment to develop technologies transferable to the road.

Michelin’s commitment to the FIA WEC is part of the Group’s ‘All Sustainable’ strategy, aiming for tyre production made exclusively from renewable and recycled materials by 2050, with a first milestone of 40% set for 2030. In a large-scale industrial context, motorsport enables rapid testing and validation of innovative solutions under extreme conditions.

Since the introduction of Hypercars, MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyres have stood out for their performance, longevity, and versatility. Building on this success, Michelin has chosen to go beyond continuity by developing a new generation of tyres.

The 2026 range incorporates 50% renewable and recycled materials while maintaining, and even improving, the core performance criteria. This development is based on a complete redesign of compounds and intensive use of digital simulation to master technical trade-offs from the earliest design phases.

Beyond tyres themselves, the FIA WEC represents a strategic platform for Michelin to demonstrate and collaborate with the entire automotive ecosystem. It enables the transformation of track-born innovation into concrete solutions for more sustainable mobility.”

New 2026 MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyre range: key objectives of an unprecedented development

The specifications for the new range are based on two complementary pillars: increasing the share of sustainable materials and improving overall performance, without degrading the environmental footprint across the tyre’s entire Life Cycle.

Main objectives

- Increase the share of renewable and recycled materials to 50% (vs. 30% previously).
- Improve warm-up performance in a context without tyre pre-heating.
- Enhance longevity and performance consistency, while broadening the operating windows overlap between different specifications.
- Maintain the very high level of performance achieved by the previous generation.

*“The FIA WEC—and Endurance racing as a whole—provides an ideal platform for innovation in composite materials and renewable and recycled resources,” explains **Pierre Alves**, Michelin Endurance Program Manager. “In the Hypercar category, the extreme requirements in performance, consistency, and longevity offer a unique environment to develop and validate new technologies.*

The development of the new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyres relied on a process combining digital simulation and real-world testing. Each on-track validation helped refine digital models, while rigorous work on material selection and adjustment ensured overall performance balance and fully consistent industrial production.

This program was validated through testing in Europe and the United States, followed by race conditions at the 2026 Rolex 24 at Daytona, with feedback fully aligned with expectations. The FIA WEC season will now further enrich these data and continue improving digital models, benefiting both competition and Michelin road tyres.”

Sustainable materials and circularity

The sustainable materials used include both renewable resources (natural rubber, vegetable oils, lemon and orange peel) and recycled materials (recovered carbon black, steel, polymers). Each integration is assessed through a full Life Cycle Analysis, ensuring an overall improvement in environmental impact. Michelin does not rely on "carbon credits," and the traceability of sustainable raw materials is complete.

It should also be noted that since 2025, Michelin has been recycling FIA WEC tyres using an innovative pyrolysis process that recovers regenerated carbon black, oils, steel, and gas. These raw materials can be reintroduced into new production cycles, significantly reducing the carbon footprint compared to traditional recovery solutions.

Unchanged tyre allocation and ever clearer identification

For the season opener at Imola and throughout the 2026 FIA WEC calendar, for six-hour races, each Hypercar will have 12 tyres for Free Practice, 4 tyres for Hyperpole, and 18 tyres for Qualifying and the race. In Qatar and Bahrain, at the end of the season, the race allocation increases up to 32 tyres due to longer race durations. These quantities will then be adapted for the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

All teams will use MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyres in sizes 29/71-18 at the front and 34/71-18 at the rear, providing a wider rear tread.

The different compounds will be easily identifiable through specific color codes visible on the tyre sidewalls.

*"We chose color codes based on tyre operating windows according to track temperature," explains **Pierre Alves**. "A Soft tyre is not necessarily more performant than a Medium if it is not within its optimal temperature range. The color displayed on the sidewall therefore becomes essential information to share and understand race strategies. It made sense to associate white with cold, red with heat, and yellow with intermediate conditions."*

Thus, from trackside or in the pits, spectators and teams will distinguish up to four colors:

- **Soft:** white sidewall, symbolizing cold and the softest compound

- **Medium:** yellow sidewall, representing a wide temperature range
- **Hard:** red sidewall, associated with very hot track conditions
- **Wet:** blue sidewall, universal code for wet conditions

Manufactured at the Cataroux plant in Clermont-Ferrand (France), each racing tyre requires approximately one hour to produce, more than half of which is done manually. A large-scale artisanal approach combining rigor, precision, and consistency down to the smallest detail—including the sidewall color.

The 2026 calendar... decoded by Pierre Alves

- April 14: FIA WEC **Prologue** (Italy, Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari, Imola)
- April 19: **6 Hours of Imola** (Italy, Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari, Imola)
- May 9: **TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps** (Belgium, Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps)
- June 13–14: **24 Hours of Le Mans** (France, Circuit de la Sarthe)
- July 12: **Rolex 6 Hours of São Paulo** (Brazil, Autódromo José Carlos Pace)
- September 6: **Lone Star Le Mans** (USA, Circuit of the Americas)
- September 27: **6 Hours of Fuji** (Japan, Fuji Speedway)
- October 24: **1,812 km of Qatar** (Qatar, Lusail International Circuit)
- November 7: **Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain** (Bahrain, Bahrain International Circuit)

"Beyond the shift of the 1,812 km of Qatar from early March to late October, the 2026 FIA WEC calendar follows a clear continuity, with seven out of eight events maintaining the order and seasonality of 2025 despite this delayed start. The Prologue now takes the form of eight hours of testing at Imola, allowing us to begin on-track activities and properly prepare for the opening round.

Within this largely controlled sporting framework, the 2026 season nevertheless marks a technical breakthrough with the introduction of the new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyre range. While the circuits are well known, Michelin approaches this season as a true blank sheet from a tyre perspective. Responsible logistics solutions, favoring maritime transport, and a reduction in the number of tyres used are fully aligned with the Group's environmental commitments.

Initial indicators are very positive. Feedback collected during the 24 Hours of Daytona and preparatory testing, notably in Qatar, confirms the potential of the new compounds on demanding surfaces. The diversity of circuits on the 2026 calendar will provide an ideal ground to deepen knowledge and usage of this new generation of tyres, with 17 prototypes equipped, including new partner Genesis Magma Racing.”

Michelin partners for the 2026 FIA WEC season: 8 manufacturers and 17 cars

The world's leading tyre manufacturer, Michelin has supplied its pioneering products to the elite of the FIA WEC since the championship's creation in 2012. Today, Michelin is the exclusive supplier of the top Hypercar category, a position that will continue until at least 2029.

This season, Michelin will equip 17 prototypes. Alongside partners already present in 2025 (Alpine, Aston Martin, BMW, Cadillac, Ferrari, Peugeot, and Toyota), the Korean manufacturer Genesis joins the grid.

- **AF CORSE:** 1 × Ferrari 499P
- **ALPINE ENDURANCE TEAM:** 2 × Alpine A424
- **ASTON MARTIN THOR TEAM:** 2 × Aston Martin Valkyrie
- **BMW M TEAM WRT:** 2 × BMW M Hybrid V8
- **CADILLAC HERTZ JOTA TEAM:** 2 × Cadillac V-Series.R
- **FERRARI AF CORSE:** 2 × Ferrari 499P
- **GENESIS MAGMA RACING:** 2 × Genesis GMR-001
- **PEUGEOT TOTALENERGIES:** 2 × Peugeot 9X8
- **TOYOTA GAZOO RACING:** 2 × Toyota GR010 Hybrid

Photos and/or attachments available on: [Michelin Motorsport FIA WEC | Flickr](#)



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 129,800 people. (www.michelin.com).

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