



Paris (France), 8 July 2026

Rolex 6 Hours of São Paulo 2026

Michelin builds on its Interlagos experience to take on a new challenge with its 2026 MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance range

- The Rolex 6 Hours of São Paulo marks the start of the second half of the 2026 FIA World Endurance Championship season on a demanding circuit where tires are under constant stress.
- Building on the knowledge gained from the resurfaced Interlagos track in 2025, Michelin will tackle this year's event with its new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance range in Medium and Hard specifications.
- High energy loads, concentrated primarily on the right-rear tire, will once again shape Hypercar teams' race strategies throughout the six-hour race.

Following the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the FIA World Endurance Championship heads to Brazil for the fourth round of the 2026 season at the Autódromo José Carlos Pace, better known as Interlagos. Measuring 4.309 km (2.677 miles), this historic circuit, located in the southern part of São Paulo, once again welcomes the Hypercar field to one of the most iconic venues on the global motorsport calendar. With its dramatic elevation changes, succession of fast corners and one of motorsport's most famous straights leading into the legendary Senna S, Interlagos presents a challenge that is as spectacular for the drivers as it is demanding for the tires. Overtaking opportunities are plentiful, but they require particularly severe braking and acceleration phases.

A circuit where tires are constantly under pressure

Despite its relatively short lap, Interlagos offers virtually no respite for the tires. Energy loads remain high throughout the lap, with a particularly strong bias toward the right-hand side of the car.

The opening sector is characterized by two heavy braking zones at Turns 1 and 4, while the right-rear tire is subjected to significant traction loads on the exit of Turn 3.

The second sector primarily showcases the mechanical grip of all four tires through a succession of medium-speed corners.

Finally, the long acceleration zone beginning at Turn 12 and continuing all the way to the start-finish line once again places considerable demands on the right-rear tire, which must simultaneously cope with high engine torque and the circuit's characteristic uphill climb.

These combined demands make Interlagos a circuit where tire management is one of the key factors in overall performance.

An extra year of data benefiting manufacturers

The 2025 edition marked an important milestone following the complete resurfacing of the circuit. Michelin Motorsport devoted a significant part of the weekend to analyzing the behavior of its tires on the new asphalt in order to provide the Hypercar teams with the best possible support in defining their race strategies.

The wealth of data collected last year now enables Michelin to approach the 2026 edition with a much deeper understanding of the circuit's characteristics while opening a new chapter with the 2026 MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance range.

Michelin's partners will have two slick specifications available:

Medium, designed to cover the majority of conditions typically encountered at the Brazilian circuit;

Hard, developed for the highest track temperatures and the most demanding thermal conditions.

Pierre Alves, Michelin Endurance Programs Manager:

"Interlagos may look relatively short on paper, but it is one of the most demanding circuits of the season for tires. Energy loads remain high almost continuously throughout the lap and are concentrated mainly on the right-hand side of the car, with the right-rear tire being subjected to particularly severe demands. The heavy braking zones at Turns 1 and 4 are followed by successive acceleration phases, especially on the exit of Turn 3 and along the long uphill climb from Turn 12 to the pit straight, placing the right-rear tire under constant stress. Between these two sections, the twisty middle sector requires a tremendous amount of mechanical grip from all four tires, making the overall balance of the car especially important.

Last year, we learned a great deal thanks to the newly resurfaced track. We analyzed every stint, every pressure and temperature evolution, as well as the performance of the various strategies adopted by the teams.

Several manufacturers demonstrated that it was possible to complete double stints consistently, and in some cases even to replace only the right-side tires during pit stops. This clearly illustrates both the consistency of our tires and their ability to maintain a high level of performance over extended runs.

That experience now provides us with an extremely valuable foundation. We arrive at Interlagos with our new-generation MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tires, and we will continue working very closely with each manufacturer to help them fully unlock the potential of these tires."

2026 Rolex 6 Hours of São Paulo schedule

Track action will begin on Friday, July 10, with the first Free Practice session scheduled for 11:00 a.m., followed by a second session at 3:50 p.m.

On Saturday, July 11, competitors will take part in a third Free Practice session at 10:10 a.m., before Hypercar Qualifying at 3:25 p.m., followed by Hyperpole at 3:45 p.m.

The 2026 Rolex 6 Hours of São Paulo will get underway on Sunday, July 12, at 11:30 a.m. local time, with the race contested over a six-hour duration.

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 122,600 people.

Follow all our news on

X@Michelin



MICHELIN GROUP PRESS OFFICE