

Interlagos (Brazil), July 12, 2026

Rolex 6 Hours of São Paulo 2026

The new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance range confirms its performance and consistency at Interlagos

- The Rolex 6 Hours of São Paulo provided the new 2026 MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance range with an opportunity to demonstrate its performance and consistency at one of the most demanding circuits of the season.
- Michelin's partners overwhelmingly favoured the Medium specification, implementing tyre strategies that included double stints, particularly with the left-side tyres.
- BMW M Team WRT won the fourth round of the 2026 FIA World Endurance Championship with the No. 15 BMW M Hybrid V8, ahead of the No. 51 Ferrari 499P and the No. 12 Cadillac V-Series.R.

The new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance range successfully rose to the challenge of Interlagos. On a short, undulating circuit that is particularly demanding on tyres, Michelin's partners were able to take full advantage of the performance and consistency of the Medium specification throughout the six hours of a race run at a sustained pace.

Following an extremely close weekend of practice sessions, with several manufacturers featuring at the sharp end of the timesheets, the Rolex 6 Hours of São Paulo confirmed the exceptionally high level of competition in the FIA World Endurance Championship. Aston Martin, Genesis and Alpine successively set the fastest times in the three Free Practice sessions, before Cadillac Team JOTA locked out the front row of the starting grid.

Will Stevens claimed pole position at the wheel of the No. 12 Cadillac V-Series.R with a lap time of 1m23.041s, just 48 thousandths of a second ahead of Jack Aitken in the sister No. 38 car. The top six in Hyperpole were covered by less than three-tenths of a second.

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance Medium at the heart of tyre strategies

As anticipated by Michelin Motorsport's engineers, the high energy loads generated by the Interlagos circuit played an important role in shaping tyre strategies.

The teams overwhelmingly favoured the Medium specification from the 2026 MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance range.

Its consistency and stable grip levels enabled manufacturers to explore different options throughout the race, notably according to track position and the timing of pit stops.

The particular configuration of Interlagos, which places a significant proportion of the loads on the right-hand side of the Hypercars and, more specifically, on the right-rear tyre, also led teams to adapt the frequency of their tyre changes.

Several competitors therefore double-stinted the less heavily stressed left-side tyres, while replacing the right-side tyres more frequently. This strategy had already been observed during the 2025 edition and was once again made possible this year by the new generation of MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyres.

These different combinations confirmed the ability of Michelin tyres to maintain a consistent level of performance over long distances, while giving teams genuine freedom in the development of their race strategies.

BMW M Team WRT triumphs after six hours of racing

Starting from the second row of the grid, BMW M Team WRT's No. 15 BMW M Hybrid V8 quickly established itself among the leading cars. Following an excellent opening stint by Kevin Magnussen, the German car took the lead with Raffaele Marciello at the wheel and was already running in first place at the halfway point.

Run almost entirely under green-flag conditions, the race subjected the tyres to a sustained pace for the majority of the six hours.

The No. 15 BMW eventually claimed its second victory of the season, ahead of Ferrari AF Corse's No. 51 Ferrari 499P and Cadillac Team JOTA's No. 12 Cadillac V-Series.R.

Beyond the sporting result, the diversity of Hypercars running at the front throughout the weekend enabled Michelin Motorsport to gather a wealth of additional data with its new tyre range, introduced at the start of the 2026 season.

Another successful milestone for the 2026 MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance range

Following the opening rounds of the season and the 24 Hours of Le Mans, Interlagos represented a particularly valuable test for Michelin's new generation of tyres.

The high energy loads, the heavy braking zones at Turns 1 and 4, the succession of corners through the middle sector and the long uphill acceleration phase between Turn 12 and the start-finish line subject the tyres to almost constant stress.

In these conditions, the long-lasting performance and consistent grip of the 2026 MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyres met the expectations of Michelin Motorsport and its partners.

Pierre Alves, Michelin Endurance Programme Manager, analyses the race:

"We knew that Interlagos would represent an important test for our new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance range, because it is a circuit that places very specific demands on the tyres. Energy loads are high for practically the entire lap and are more heavily concentrated on the right-hand side of the car. The right-rear tyre is particularly stressed, both during acceleration phases and on the long uphill section that brings the cars back towards the pit straight.

"The data gathered last year enabled us to prepare very precisely for this race, and what we observed this weekend was broadly in line with our simulations. The Medium specification was overwhelmingly favoured and delivered the level of performance and consistency we expected. The teams were able to build different strategies and, once again, we saw double stints, particularly with the left-side tyres. The right-side tyres, which are more heavily stressed due to the configuration of the circuit, were logically replaced more frequently.

"What is particularly interesting for us is the stability of the grip throughout the stints. In a race run largely under green-flag conditions, at a sustained pace and with few neutralisations, the tyres were subjected to constant stress. Despite this, we achieved the consistency we had targeted during the development of this new range.

"Interlagos was an important milestone in our season because this circuit is very different from the tracks we have encountered since the start of the year. Our new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance range passed this test with flying colours."

The next round of the FIA World Endurance Championship will take place in Texas (United States), at the Circuit of The Americas near the state capital, Austin, where the 2026 Lone Star Le Mans will be held from September 4 to 6.

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.



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