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Motul Grand Prix of Japan
New asphalt and an expanded Michelin tyre allocation to meet the Motegi challenge

- The 16th round of the 2026 FIM MotoGP™ World Championship will take place from October 2 to 4 at Mobility Resort Motegi (Japan), a particularly demanding "stop-and-go" circuit for tyres.
- Completely resurfaced since last year's event, the Japanese circuit presents Michelin Motorsport with a new challenge, as its engineers will begin assessing the characteristics of the new asphalt from the very first laps.
- To prepare for the widest possible range of scenarios, Michelin will provide three front and three rear specifications, including reinforced constructions for both the front and rear Hard tyres.

The FIM MotoGP™ World Championship continues its Asian tour with the Motul Grand Prix of Japan, the 16th round of the 2026 season. Located around two hours from Tokyo, Mobility Resort Motegi is set amid the mountains and forests of the Japanese countryside. Owned by Honda, the circuit has hosted MotoGP since 2004 and is always a special event for the Michelin Motorsport teams.

The 4.801 km Japanese circuit features eight right-hand and six left-hand corners, but is above all characterised by a succession of heavy braking zones, hard acceleration and repeated drive out of corners. This typical "stop-and-go" layout places significant demands on the tyres: the front must provide stability and precision under braking, while the rear is subjected to high loads under acceleration.

This year, an additional unknown adds to the technical challenge: the entire circuit has been resurfaced. As Michelin Motorsport has no real-world data from the new asphalt, its engineers have prepared for the Japanese round using simulations and information collected during previous editions.

Friday's opening sessions will therefore be particularly important to assess the grip and abrasion levels of the new surface, as well as its ability to generate tyre temperature and the way it evolves as more laps are completed.

The weather adds another variable. Held at the same time of year as in 2025, the Grand Prix could take place in relatively cool conditions, while rain also remains a possibility at Motegi.

Piero Taramasso, Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Competition Manager:

"Motegi is a circuit we describe as 'stop and go', because the riders face a succession of very heavy braking zones, hard acceleration and repeated drive out of corners. As a result, both the front and rear tyres are subjected to significant demands. This year, however, our main challenge will be discovering the new asphalt, as the entire circuit has been resurfaced.

To cover the widest possible range of conditions, we will have three front and three rear specifications. At the front, the Soft, Medium and Hard retain the same level of stiffness as last year and all use symmetrical compounds. The Hard, however, features a specific reinforced construction. This is a solution particularly well suited to certain Asian circuits and one that we will also offer at Mandalika.

At the rear, we have selected a higher level of stiffness than in 2025 to give us an additional margin in view of the uncertainties associated with the new asphalt. The Soft and Medium use our standard casing, while the Hard features the reinforced casing that we already offered in Austria.

We will need to learn very quickly from Friday onwards and carefully monitor how the track evolves. The weather could also play an important role, with relatively cool temperatures forecast and the possibility of rain."

Tyres available for the 2026 Motul Grand Prix of Japan

- **Front:** three symmetrical specifications (Soft, Medium and Hard). All three retain the same level of stiffness as in 2025. The Hard features a reinforced construction, providing greater support under braking and improved resistance to high temperatures.
- **Rear:** three asymmetrical specifications (Soft, Medium and Hard), with a reinforced right shoulder to cope with the higher loads generated by the circuit's eight right-hand corners. The level of stiffness has been increased compared with 2025 to take into account the still-unknown characteristics of the new asphalt. The Soft and Medium use the standard casing, while the Hard features a reinforced casing already used this season in Austria.
- **Wet:** MICHELIN Power Rain tyres will provide the necessary performance in the wet conditions that can occur at Motegi at this time of year.

2026 Motul Grand Prix of Japan schedule

- **Friday, October 2:** Free Practice 1 (10:45–11:30) and Practice (15:00–16:00), with the ten fastest riders qualifying directly for Q2.
- **Saturday, October 3:** Free Practice 2, followed by Q1 and Q2 Qualifying between 10:50 and 11:30. The two fastest riders from Q1 will join the ten riders already qualified for Q2. The 12-lap Tissot Sprint will start at 15:00.
- **Sunday, October 4:** the 24-lap Motul Grand Prix of Japan will start at 14:00.

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 112, avenue Kléber - 75116 Paris

 +33 (0) 1 45 66 22 22 | 7 days a week  www.michelin.com

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