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Pertamina Grand Prix of Indonesia
Michelin faces the dual challenge of heat and speed at Mandalika

- Michelin is retaining its 2025 tyre allocation, with two symmetric front specifications – Soft and Medium – and two asymmetric rear compounds – Soft and Medium. The rear tyres feature a reinforced casing to better manage thermal stresses.
- Very high temperatures, abrasive asphalt and a fast, demanding layout make Mandalika a major challenge for the riders, bikes and tyres.
- Several significant records were broken at the 2025 Grand Prix, including the outright circuit record, race lap record and Tissot Sprint duration. The riders will be looking to raise the performance bar once again at this relatively new circuit.

As was the case last year, the Pertamina Grand Prix of Indonesia, round 17 of the 2026 season, takes place the weekend immediately after the Motul Grand Prix of Japan. The FIM MotoGP™ World Championship will visit the Pertamina Mandalika International Street Circuit for the fifth time. Inaugurated in 2021, the circuit attracts an enthusiastic crowd throughout the race weekend. Located on the island of Lombok, in the southern part of the Indonesian archipelago, the 4.3-kilometre track features 17 corners – six left-handers and 11 right-handers – as well as a short, 507-metre straight.

Its abrasive asphalt, combined with high ambient temperatures and numerous fast sequences of corners, places particularly high demands on the tyres. To address these extreme conditions and accommodate different riding styles, Michelin Motorsport introduced a specific tyre allocation. This package has been retained for 2026, with two specifications ultimately selected for both the front and rear.

Piero Taramasso, Michelin Two-Wheel Motorsport Manager:

"This will be our fifth visit to Mandalika, and the circuit remains every bit as exciting. It is extremely demanding on the riders, bikes and tyres, with numerous sequences of high-speed corners that will showcase the consistency and versatility of our tyres.

"However, we will need to keep a close eye on temperatures: last year, track temperatures reached 60°C. We have therefore brought rear tyres with a reinforced casing to better manage the thermal stresses. The compounds remain the same as in 2025, when the Soft performed very well in the Tissot Sprint and the Medium proved perfectly suited to the Grand Prix the following day.

"We approach this event with both vigilance and confidence. As always, it will also be a fantastic celebration: the Indonesian fans' passion for motorcycle Grand Prix racing is remarkable, with more than 140,000 spectators attending over the course of last year's weekend. We are looking forward to giving them another demonstration of the performance of our tyres."

For the 2026 Pertamina Grand Prix of Indonesia, Michelin's partners will have symmetric Soft and Medium front tyres available, together with asymmetric Soft and Medium rear tyres. The latter combine a stiffer casing with a harder compound on the right shoulder to cope with the greater number of right-hand corners.

In the event of rain, MICHELIN Power Rain tyres will be available in Soft and Medium compounds, with symmetric front tyres and asymmetric rear tyres.

The records to beat

Circuit record

Marco Bezzecchi has held the outright Mandalika circuit record since last year, with a lap time of 1'28.832. The previous record was held by Jorge Martin, who had set a time of 1'29.088.

Tissot Sprint

The benchmark time for the Tissot Sprint is 19'37.047. In 2025, the average lap time was improved by three tenths of a second compared with 2024 (19'41.354).

Grand Prix

The race lap record also dates from 2025. On lap nine, Fermin Aldeguer – who took his maiden MotoGP victory at Mandalika – stopped the clock at 1'30.499, compared with Enea Bastianini's 1'30.539 in 2024.

Weekend schedule

The Pertamina Grand Prix of Indonesia will get under way on Friday morning, October 8, with the first Free Practice session from 10:45 to 11:30. A second session, scheduled from 15:00 to 16:00, will determine the 10 fastest riders who will progress directly to the second phase of qualifying (Q2).

Following a final Free Practice session on Saturday morning from 10:10 to 10:40, Q1 will give two additional riders the opportunity to progress to Q2, which will determine the starting grid for the weekend.

The 13-lap Tissot Sprint will start at 15:00 on Saturday, while the 27-lap Grand Prix is scheduled to get under way at 15:00 on Sunday, October 11.



MOTOSPORT

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