

Mandalika (Indonesia), October 11, 2026

Pertamina Grand Prix of Indonesia
Michelin Power Slick tyres rise to the dual challenge of heat and speed at Mandalika, setting new records

- Michelin brought two symmetrical front tyre specifications and two asymmetrical rear tyre specifications to Indonesia. The reinforced construction of the rear tyres, combined with a more robust right shoulder to cope with the greater number of right-hand corners, enabled riders to perform consistently at the highest level.
- Raúl Fernández broke the all-time lap record. The SuperFile Trackhouse MotoGP Team rider also secured his first MotoGP™ pole position. Both the race lap record and the overall Grand Prix race duration record were also improved.
- After 17 rounds, the 2026 FIM MotoGP World Championship has seen eight different pole-sitters and eight different Grand Prix winners. These statistics highlight the remarkable versatility of Michelin tyres, which adapt to different riding styles and the characteristics of the various racing machines.

This year, the Pertamina Mandalika International Circuit hosted its fifth MotoGP Grand Prix. Inaugurated in 2021, the circuit is located on the Indonesian island of Lombok, near Bali, and is renowned for its fast and demanding layout. Despite having just one relatively short straight (507 metres), riders reach top speeds of 320 km/h, while the circuit's 17 corners – six left-handers and eleven right-handers – follow one another in rapid succession.

This configuration, combined with intense heat and a particularly abrasive track surface, places considerable mechanical and thermal demands on the tyres. To meet these challenges, Michelin developed a specific tyre allocation, notably featuring rear tyres with a reinforced casing and a more resistant rubber compound on the right shoulder, which is subjected to greater stress due to the predominance of right-hand corners.

The pace at Mandalika was already extremely fast during Friday's practice sessions, with Raúl Fernández stopping the clock at 1'28.725 during the afternoon's Practice session. In doing so, he broke the previous circuit record of 1'28.832, set by Marco Bezzecchi (Aprilia Racing) in 2025. The following day, the SuperFile Trackhouse MotoGP Team rider secured his first MotoGP pole position, becoming the eighth different rider to claim the top spot on the starting grid this season.

Michelin brought two rubber compounds, Soft and Medium, for the weekend at the Indonesian circuit. During Friday's practice sessions, the French tyre manufacturer's partners quickly identified the Soft compound as the best option for the front, both for the Tissot Sprint and the Grand Prix.

At the rear, however, it was not until Saturday morning's sessions that the most suitable compound was definitively identified. The Soft rear was also the almost unanimous choice for Saturday afternoon's Tissot Sprint, with Johann Zarco (Castrol LCR Honda) the sole exception.

On Sunday, for the Grand Prix, every rider opted for the Medium rear compound, while retaining the Soft at the front.

Piero Taramasso, Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Competition Manager:

"It was a particularly intense race weekend, as it is unusual for the circuit record to be broken as early as Friday. During the opening sessions, the track is generally still dirty, and teams are busy working on their bike set-ups. However, Raúl Fernández had clearly found the right tyre combination for a time attack from his very first laps, allowing him to set a new benchmark.

For this Grand Prix, we had anticipated weather conditions similar to those experienced last year and selected a tyre allocation capable of covering a wide range of situations. Track temperatures never dropped below 50°C throughout the weekend, reaching 54°C when Raúl set his record lap and climbing to as high as 57°C at the start of the Grand Prix. This was another opportunity to demonstrate our expertise in managing thermal variations.

To achieve this, we selected a reinforced rear tyre casing, also used in Thailand, whose construction helps keep temperature peaks under control. By combining a symmetrical front tyre, providing stability and confidence, with an asymmetrical rear tyre offering excellent feedback and consistent performance, we gave our partners a tyre package perfectly suited to the demands of this race, while enabling them to set new records.

The new race lap record set by Marco Bezzecchi on lap 19, together with the significant reduction in the overall Grand Prix race time, are extremely important indicators of performance for us."

On Saturday afternoon, Marc Márquez (Ducati Lenovo Team) won the Tissot Sprint using a Soft front and Soft rear tyre combination. He finished ahead of Ai Ogura (SuperFile Trackhouse MotoGP Team) and Fabio Di Giannantonio (Pertamina Enduro VR46 Racing Team), both of whom had selected the same tyre combination.

On Sunday, Marco Bezzecchi (Aprilia Racing) claimed victory in the Grand Prix, ahead of Raúl Fernández and Jorge Martín (Aprilia Racing). All three riders had chosen the same tyre combination: Soft at the front and Medium at the rear.

New records at Mandalika

All-time lap record

Raúl Fernández now holds the outright circuit lap record with a time of 1'28.725.

Grand Prix

The new race lap record belongs to Marco Bezzecchi (Aprilia Racing), who posted a time of 1'29.960 on lap 19. The previous record had stood for just one year, having been set by Fermín Aldeguer in 2025 with a lap of 1'30.499.

The overall race duration was also significantly reduced, with a new benchmark of 40'46.582, compared with the previous record of 41'04.389 set in 2024. This represents a substantial average improvement of more than six-tenths of a second per lap.

The next round of the MotoGP World Championship will take place in Australia. The Australian Grand Prix will be held from October 23 to 25 at Phillip Island.

About Michelin

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