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6 Hours of Barcelona

Michelin completes its 2026 Pilot Sport Endurance range at Barcelona with a new wet-weather tire containing 57% renewable and recycled materials

- Following revisions to the calendar due to geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the seventh round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) will take place at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya (Spain) on October 16–18, 2026.
- At an unexpected addition to this year's calendar, Michelin will provide its Hypercar partners with Soft and Medium tires designed to cover the full range of track temperatures likely to be encountered in Catalonia at this time of year.
- More grip on wet surfaces, greater versatility as the track dries, and improved longevity: a new wet-weather tire incorporating 57% renewable and recycled materials joins the 2026 Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance range at Barcelona.

Originally scheduled to conclude in Qatar and Bahrain, the 14th season of the FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) will now finish in Europe. The international geopolitical situation has prompted the organizers to replace these two events with the 6 Hours of Barcelona and the 6 Hours of Monza.

Measuring 4.657 km (2.894 miles), the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya features 14 turns, eight right-handers and six left-handers, combining long, high-speed corners with more technical sections. Its abrasive surface and sustained lateral loads place considerable demands on tires, particularly those on the left side of the car. Turn 3 and the final two fast corners, which have been part of the layout since the removal of the final chicane in 2023, are among the most demanding sections of the circuit. For Michelin's Hypercar partners, all competing this season on a new generation of tires, managing wear and maintaining consistent performance throughout each stint will be critical.

A new wet-weather tire with an even greater focus on sustainability

At Barcelona, Michelin is also introducing a new generation of wet-weather tires, featuring a newly developed rubber compound containing 57% renewable and recycled materials, compared with 45% for the previous generation.

This major step forward, made possible by significant technological developments, also delivers improved wet grip, greater longevity, and increased resistance to blistering, a phenomenon caused by overheating that can occur as the track begins to dry. These improvements will help teams manage changing track conditions more effectively and better prepare for the transition to slick tires.

The new wet-weather tire joins the Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance range, which equips every car in the Hypercar category and whose slick tires contain 50% renewable and recycled materials. These figures demonstrate Michelin's ability to combine sustainable performance, consistency over long stints, and reduced reliance on fossil-based and virgin raw materials in one of the most demanding environments in motorsport.

Pierre Alves, Michelin Motorsport Endurance Programs Manager:

"This will be the first time we race at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya with Hypercar machinery, but our teams already know the venue very well. We came to Barcelona for the 2019 season Prologue when we were supplying tires for the LMP1 category, and we have also raced here in the European Le Mans Series and Michelin Le Mans Cup.

"So, even though the tire data specific to Hypercars is different, this experience gives us a solid understanding of the circuit and its particular characteristics. Average speeds here should be comparable to those at São Paulo or Bahrain. However, the tires will be subjected to extremely high loads, with lateral acceleration exceeding 2 g for approximately one-third of the lap. Three particularly heavy braking zones, approaching Turns 1, 5 and 10, add to these demands.

"As a result, the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya has the highest tire energy density of any track on this season's calendar. The left-side tires will be subjected to greater loads than those on the right. We could therefore see teams double-stinting their right-side tires while replacing the left-side tires after a single stint. These strategies will also depend on weather conditions and track temperatures. Our tire range will allow us to support our partners across the different conditions they may encounter."

For the 2026 6 Hours of Barcelona, Hypercar competitors will have access to Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance tires in two distinct slick compounds:

- **Soft:** A compound that performs particularly well in cooler conditions, as well as when the track begins to dry following rainfall. These tires feature white sidewall markings.
- **Medium:** A highly versatile compound designed for dry-track conditions. These tires can be identified by their yellow sidewall markings.

In very wet conditions, Michelin's partners will be able to rely on the new Michelin Pilot Sport wet-weather tires, identified by their blue sidewall markings and featuring a tread pattern specifically designed for rain. Made with 57% renewable and recycled materials, they deliver optimal grip across a wide range of rainfall intensities, including when the racing line begins to dry. Their performance allows drivers to maintain competitive lap times in changing conditions while ensuring a smooth transition to slick tires.

For the entire race weekend, each Michelin partner will receive an allocation of 30 tires: 12 for free practice and 18 for qualifying and the race. The 10 cars qualifying for Hyperpole will receive four additional tires (Medium compound for this event), which Michelin will subsequently collect for reuse during private testing.

2026 6 Hours of Barcelona – Weekend Schedule (CEST)

- Friday, October 16: Free Practice 1 at 11:30 a.m.; Free Practice 2 at 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 17: Free Practice 3 at 11:00 a.m.; Hypercar Qualifying at 3:40 p.m.; Hypercar Hyperpole at 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 18: The 6 Hours of Barcelona gets underway at 12:00 p.m. (noon), for six hours of racing.

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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