

Montmeló (Spain), October 18, 2026

6 Hours of Barcelona

Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance Tires Demonstrate Perfect Synergy Between Wet and Dry Conditions

- The Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya (Spain) hosted the penultimate round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) in changeable weather conditions.
- Making its competitive debut, the new Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance W wet-weather tire, featuring a rubber compound containing 57% renewable and recycled materials, demonstrated excellent grip on a wet track, followed by consistent performance and versatility as the asphalt progressively dried.
- The complementary performance of Michelin's wet-weather and slick tires gave the French manufacturer's partners considerable strategic freedom, allowing them to choose when to change tires while maintaining a strong race pace.

Originally scheduled to take place in Qatar, the seventh round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) was ultimately held at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya. Measuring 4.657 km in length, the circuit features 14 corners, including eight right-handers and six left-handers, combining long, fast sweeping bends with more technical sections. Its abrasive surface and sustained lateral loads placed significant demands on the tires, particularly those on the left-hand side of the cars. However, changeable weather conditions added another challenge, requiring Michelin's partners to adapt their strategies.

Perfect Complementarity Between Tire Compounds

At noon, when the race got underway, the air temperature was barely 16°C, while the track temperature stood at just 20°C. Heavy rainfall had left the circuit soaked, making wet-weather tires the obvious choice for all Michelin partners. After approximately two hours of racing, the rain stopped and a dry racing line gradually began to emerge. The first switches from Michelin Pilot Sport W wet-weather tires to Soft slicks took place smoothly, allowing teams to maintain a strong race pace. An hour later, Medium-compound slicks began to appear, primarily on the left-hand wheels, which were subjected to the greatest stresses, to cope with the increasing demands of the asphalt as it dried. The second half of the race featured a combination of single and double stints, predominantly on Medium tires, whose versatility enabled teams to maintain high and consistent performance levels as the checkered flag approached.

Pierre Alves, Michelin Motorsport Endurance Program Manager

"The rain gave us an opportunity to demonstrate the qualities of our new Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance W, which was unanimously selected by our partners for the start of the race. With this tire, our objective was to improve wet grip, longevity and resistance to blistering, a phenomenon that can cause blisters to form on the tread surface as the track dries. The first two hours of racing confirmed these improvements: the tire performed well in wet conditions, then remained fast and consistent on an increasingly dry track. During this transition phase, lap times even remained comparable to those recorded on slicks after the tire changes. This consistency gave our partners valuable freedom in executing their strategies. For a competitive debut, this is extremely satisfying, as these performances reward a genuine technological challenge: rethinking the rubber compound formulation to incorporate 57% renewable and recycled materials while simultaneously improving several tire performance criteria. More broadly, this weekend allowed us to deploy our full range of specifications and confirm how well they complement one another across a wide variety of conditions."

Throughout the race weekend, each Michelin partner had an allocation of 30 tires: 12 for free practice and 18 for qualifying and the race, with two slick compounds and the new wet-weather tire available:

- **Soft:** A compound that performs particularly well when temperatures drop, but also when the track begins to dry following rainfall. Containing 50% renewable and recycled materials, this tire features white sidewall markings.
- **Medium:** A highly versatile compound for dry-track conditions, containing the same percentage of renewable and recycled materials. These tires, which also contain 50% renewable and recycled materials, can be identified by their yellow sidewall markings.
- **Wet:** New dedicated Michelin Pilot Sport W wet-weather tires (blue sidewall markings), featuring a tread pattern specifically designed for rain. Containing 57% renewable and recycled materials, they provide optimal grip regardless of rainfall intensity, including when the racing line begins to dry. Their performance enabled competitive lap times in changing conditions while ensuring a smooth transition to slick tires.

The 2026 6 Hours of Barcelona was won by the #8 Toyota GR010 Hybrid (Sébastien Buemi, Brendon Hartley, Ryō Hirakawa), ahead of the sister #7 car (Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi, Nyck de Vries). This one-two finish secured Toyota Racing the 2026 FIA WEC Manufacturers' World Championship title. The third step of the podium went to the #50 Ferrari 499P driven by Antonio Fuoco, Miguel Molina and Nicklas Nielsen.

The next and final round of the 2026 FIA World Endurance Championship will take place at Monza (Italy), from November 6 to 8.

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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