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Grand Prix of Australia
**Michelin Power Slick tires ready to tackle the challenges of speed
and asymmetric loads at Phillip Island**

- The 18th round of the 2026 FIM MotoGP™ World Championship will take place from October 23 to 25 at Phillip Island (Australia), a fast, flowing circuit whose long left-hand corners place particularly high demands on tires.
- Michelin is bringing the same tire allocation as in 2025, comprising three asymmetric front specifications (Soft, Medium and Hard) and two rear specifications (Soft and Medium). These solutions proved highly effective in meeting the circuit's demands last year.
- From cool temperatures and strong winds to sudden showers and potentially hot conditions, Phillip Island's notoriously unpredictable weather will be a key factor in tire selection and race strategies.

The FIM MotoGP World Championship continues its overseas tour with a stop in Australia for the 18th round of the 2026 season. From October 23 to 25, the riders will take to the Phillip Island circuit, one of the most spectacular and demanding venues on the calendar. Located on an island south of Melbourne, overlooking the Bass Strait, the 4.445 km track is characterized by its long, high-speed corners, flowing changes of direction and relatively few heavy braking zones. This unusual layout places considerable demands on tires, particularly on their left-hand side.

Completely resurfaced in 2024, the track now offers a good level of grip. The data collected over the past two editions has given Michelin Motorsport a thorough understanding of the circuit's specific demands, allowing it to retain the tire specifications that performed successfully in 2025.

A fast circuit that places exceptional demands on the left-hand side of the tires

Phillip Island features a distinctive layout, with seven left-hand corners and five right-handers. Its long, high-speed turns keep the motorcycles leaned over for extended periods, generating significant mechanical and thermal loads on the left shoulder of the tires, particularly at the rear.

Conversely, the right-hand side is subjected to considerably less stress and must quickly regain its operating temperature when it comes into contact with the asphalt. This imbalance between the two sides of the tire represents one of the main technical challenges of the Australian Grand Prix.

To meet these demands, Michelin provides asymmetric tires for both the front and rear, featuring a stiffer left shoulder to withstand the high loads and control temperatures. This specific configuration is also used at just two other circuits on the championship calendar: the Sachsenring in Germany and Valencia in Spain.

An unchanged tire allocation for 2026

Building on the successful results achieved at last year's event, Michelin Motorsport has decided to retain exactly the same tire allocation for the 2026 Australian Grand Prix.

At the front, riders will have a choice of three asymmetric Michelin Power Slick specifications: Soft, Medium and Hard. At the rear, two asymmetric specifications, Soft and Medium, will be available. All feature constructions and rubber compounds designed to cope with the particularly high loads placed on the left-hand side.

This allocation will allow teams to select the combinations best suited to track conditions, motorcycle characteristics and individual riding styles. In particular, the tires must strike the right balance between rapid warm-up, cornering grip, stability and consistent performance throughout the races.

In wet conditions, riders will also be able to rely on Michelin Power Rain tires, available in Soft and Medium compounds, with a symmetric construction at the front and an asymmetric design at the rear.

Unpredictable weather adds another layer of complexity

Weather conditions at Phillip Island can change very quickly. Its coastal location exposes the circuit to sometimes powerful winds, while temperatures can remain relatively low, even during the Australian spring. Sudden rain showers are also possible, although warm and sunny conditions cannot be ruled out.

These variations can significantly affect track temperatures and tire behavior. They make the versatility of Michelin's allocation particularly important, as it has been designed to cover a wide range of conditions and give riders a high level of confidence, regardless of how the weather develops.

Piero Taramasso, Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Competition Manager

"Phillip Island is a truly unusual circuit. It is very fast and flowing, with few heavy braking zones and long corners that place considerable demands on the tires. Its main characteristic is its asymmetry: the left-hand side of the tires works extremely hard, while the right-hand side is subjected to much less stress. This is why, as at the Sachsenring and Valencia, we bring asymmetric tires for both the front and rear."

"The asphalt, which was renewed in 2024, provides a good level of grip, and we now have a solid base of reference data. We have therefore decided to bring exactly the same specifications as in 2025, with three front options and two rear options. They worked very well last year, and we are confident in their ability to meet the demands of this circuit."

"The other major unknown is the weather. At Phillip Island, we can encounter low temperatures, strong winds and rain, but also warmer conditions. Our allocation needs to be able to cope with all these situations. Finally, this is a circuit where racing is always extremely close, with small gaps between riders and plenty of overtaking. We are once again expecting a great show."

A race weekend promising close and exciting battles

Renowned for producing close racing and plenty of overtaking opportunities, Phillip Island regularly delivers particularly exciting races. The flowing nature of the track and its high speeds help keep the field closely matched, making the Australian Grand Prix one of the most popular events among riders and MotoGP fans alike.

Track action will begin on Friday, October 23, at 10:45 a.m. local time with Free Practice 1 (45 minutes). The one-hour Practice session will follow at 3:00 p.m., with the ten fastest riders progressing directly to the second qualifying session (Q2).

On Saturday, October 24, following Free Practice 2, Qualifying will take place between 10:50 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The two fastest riders from Q1 will join the ten already qualified for Q2. The 13-lap Tissot Sprint is scheduled to start at 3:00 p.m.

Finally, the 2026 Australian Grand Prix will get underway on Sunday, October 25, at 2:00 p.m., with riders competing over 27 laps.

At a circuit where speed, riding precision and the management of thermal loads are essential, Michelin Power tires will once again play a decisive role in helping riders deliver consistent, competitive performances throughout the weekend.

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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