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6 Hours of Monza
At Monza, Michelin Gears Up for a FIA WEC Season Finale Where Speed and Strategy Will Be Key

- The 2026 FIA World Endurance Championship season will conclude on November 6–8 at Monza, Italy. This marks an unusual time of year for the event, as the circuit has not hosted the championship since July 2023.
- The second-fastest circuit on the calendar after Le Mans, Monza features long straights, demanding braking zones and a new track surface (2024) that provides high levels of grip in dry conditions.
- Michelin will supply the Soft and Medium compounds from its new Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance tire range, incorporating 50% renewable and recycled materials. Both specifications are expected to offer a wide variety of strategic options, including the possibility of double or even triple stints.

Originally scheduled to take place in Bahrain, the final round of the 2026 FIA World Endurance Championship will instead be held at Italy's Autodromo Nazionale Monza. Due to the geopolitical situation in the Middle East, the organizers were forced to revise the final two rounds of the calendar, replacing the Qatar and Bahrain events with the 6 Hours of Barcelona and the 6 Hours of Monza.

This return to Lombardy presents a unique challenge for the Michelin Motorsport teams. When the FIA WEC last visited Monza in July 2023, the race took place in summer conditions, with high track temperatures. This year, in early November, competitors will face potentially much cooler and wetter conditions, which could influence tire performance and strategic decisions.

Opened in 1922 and measuring 5.793 km (3.600 miles), Monza is one of the fastest and most iconic circuits in motorsport. Its flowing yet demanding layout combines long straights, chicanes and high-speed corners. Hypercars reach top speeds comparable to those recorded at Fuji, but do so several times over the course of a single lap. They spend nearly 40% of their time traveling at speeds above 250 km/h (155 mph) and approximately 70% of each lap at full throttle.

These characteristics place very specific demands on the tires. At the front, precision and stability are essential under heavy braking, particularly on the approach to the chicanes, which offer the main overtaking opportunities. At the rear, the tires must efficiently transfer the Hypercars' power to the track during repeated hard acceleration, while maintaining traction and consistent performance throughout each stint.

Another distinctive feature of the 2026 event is the circuit's complete resurfacing in 2024. The new asphalt provides high levels of grip in dry conditions and should contribute to significantly faster lap times, potentially 2 to 2.5 seconds quicker than in 2023. However, its limited drainage capacity could make driving particularly challenging in wet conditions, a possibility that cannot be overlooked at this time of year.

Pierre Alves, Endurance Racing Program Manager, Michelin Motorsport

"Monza has a rather unique profile, combining extremely high speeds with relatively low energy demands on the tires. The front tires are subjected to significant loads under braking, where they need to deliver excellent stability and precision, while the rear tires must provide outstanding traction during acceleration. The resurfacing carried out in 2024 has also changed the circuit's characteristics, delivering more grip and lap times that should be significantly faster than in 2023.

However, the biggest unknown this year is the weather. We're returning to Monza in November rather than in the middle of summer, with potentially low temperatures and a risk of rain. We've selected the Soft and Medium compounds from our new Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance range, both of which should be capable of delivering long stints.

The Soft will be the tire of choice for drivers chasing pole position, but race strategies remain wide open. Depending on temperatures and how track conditions evolve, we could see teams double-stinting or even triple-stinting their tires. It promises to be a particularly interesting season finale from both a technical and strategic standpoint."

For the final round of the season, Michelin will therefore provide its Hypercar partners with the Soft and Medium specifications from the latest generation of Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance tires. Introduced in 2026, this new range combines high levels of performance and durability with 50% renewable and recycled materials in its slick tire compounds.

Thanks to their operating characteristics and endurance capabilities, both specifications should give teams considerable flexibility when developing their race strategies.

During the race, track temperatures, vehicle behavior and evolving grip levels will determine whether teams opt for Soft or Medium tires, as well as how many stints they complete on a single set.

In the event of rain, teams will also have access to the latest-generation Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance W (Wet) tires, successfully introduced at the Barcelona race. Incorporating 57% renewable and recycled materials, these tires have been designed to deliver high levels of grip and consistent performance on wet or drying tracks. This could prove to be an additional advantage in potentially changeable weather conditions.

2026 6 Hours of Monza – Event Schedule

Friday, November 6

- 10:30 AM – Free Practice 1
- 2:30 PM – Free Practice 2

Saturday, November 7

- 10:30 AM – Free Practice 3
- 3:00 PM – Hypercar Qualifying
- 3:20 PM – Hypercar Hyperpole

Sunday, November 8

- 11:00 AM – Start of the 6 Hours of Monza

All times local (CET).

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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