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Repsol Grand Prix of Portugal
Michelin Power Slick tires take on Portimão's elevation changes and unpredictable weather

- The FIM MotoGP™ World Championship returns to the Autódromo Internacional do Algarve on November 20–22 for the penultimate round of the 2026 season, one week before the season finale in Valencia.
- On this undulating and technical circuit, MICHELIN Power Slick tires will need to combine braking stability, cornering grip and traction, with autumn weather conditions potentially causing rapid changes in track grip.
- In 2025, Michelin tires helped set new records for the fastest race lap and overall Grand Prix race time, confirming their performance and consistency on this demanding circuit.

Following the Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar, the FIM MotoGP™ World Championship heads to Portugal for the final European stretch of the season. Located in southwestern Portugal, near Portimão, the Autódromo Internacional do Algarve stands out for its dramatic elevation changes and variations in pace, which subject tires to very different demands over the course of a single lap.

Measuring 4.592 kilometers in its MotoGP™ configuration, the circuit features 15 corners, including nine right-handers and six left-handers. Downhill braking zones, compressions, blind crests and off-camber corner exits subject the tires to significant variations in load. The front tire must deliver precision and stability under braking and when leaning into corners, while the rear must provide traction under acceleration and maintain consistent performance throughout the race.

These mechanical demands are compounded by the influence of the Atlantic climate. Humidity, wind and temperature fluctuations can significantly affect track grip. Conditions during the 2025 event provided a clear illustration: track temperatures reached 24°C on Friday, although intermittent rain and residual moisture disrupted grip levels. Temperatures then dropped to 22°C on Saturday, before more stable conditions returned on Sunday, with a track temperature of 30°C at the start of the Grand Prix.

In these circumstances, the ability to bring tires up to operating temperature and maintain predictable handling will be crucial. Practice sessions will allow riders and teams, supported by Michelin's technical specialists, to evaluate the different tire options according to track conditions and prepare their choices for the Tissot Sprint and the Grand Prix.

Piero Taramasso, Michelin Two-Wheel Motorsport Manager

"Portimão is a particularly demanding all-around circuit for tires. Riders need confidence under braking, especially on the downhill sections, but also grip through fast corners and traction when accelerating out of turns. The elevation changes also cause tire loads to vary very rapidly.

The 2024 and 2025 editions provided us with valuable insights. Despite changeable weather and grip levels that were sometimes difficult to assess during practice, our tires enabled riders to progressively increase their pace and eventually set new records on Sunday, once the track had dried out again. The Hard front compound proved to be the benchmark, while the Soft rear for the Sprint and the Medium rear for the Grand Prix demonstrated their effectiveness.

This experience will help us support our partners again this year, especially as the race takes place two weeks later in the season. We will pay particular attention to humidity and temperatures, which can cause conditions to change from one session to another, with relatively low temperatures early in the day and milder conditions in the afternoon.

Our objective will be to enable riders to fully exploit the potential of their motorcycles, with the same level of confidence from the first lap to the last."

A tire allocation tailored to Portimão's demands

In preparation for this event, Michelin is drawing on data collected during previous editions and feedback from riders. Front-end stability, managing load variations and rear-tire consistency are the main areas of focus at this circuit.

For the Repsol Grand Prix of Portugal, Michelin's partners will have two front tire options available, featuring Soft and Medium compounds, both with symmetrical tread patterns. The Medium corresponds to the Hard compound used in 2025.

For the rear, the Soft and Medium compounds remain identical to those used during the 2025 season. The Soft tire features an asymmetrical tread pattern, with a reinforced right shoulder (using a harder compound to account for the greater number of right-hand corners), while the Medium tire retains a symmetrical construction. It was with this Medium rear tire that the records for the fastest race lap and overall Grand Prix race time were broken in 2025.

In the event of rain, the MICHELIN Power Rain range will allow teams to continue their preparations and compete in the best possible conditions.

Looking back at the 2025 edition

Álex Márquez won the Tissot Sprint ahead of Pedro Acosta and Marco Bezzecchi. Almost all riders opted for a MICHELIN Power Slick Hard front and Soft rear combination, with Somkiat Chantra the only rider to select a Medium front.

On Sunday, Marco Bezzecchi claimed victory ahead of Álex Márquez and Pedro Acosta in a Grand Prix held with a track temperature of 30°C. The entire grid chose the Hard front and Medium rear combination, with the exception of Álex Rins, who used a Medium front.

Pedro Acosta set a new fastest race lap record of 1'38.237, while Marco Bezzecchi completed the 25 laps in 41'13.616, establishing a new benchmark for the overall Grand Prix race time.

Weekend schedule

Riders will take to the track on Friday, November 20, for Free Practice 1, followed by the Practice session, which will determine the ten riders who qualify directly for Q2.

Saturday, November 21, will feature Free Practice 2 and qualifying, followed by the 12-lap Tissot Sprint at 3:00 p.m. local time.

The Grand Prix will take place on Sunday, November 22, following the warm-up session. The 25-lap race is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. local time.

About Michelin

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