

**2016 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC)
Round 8: 6 Hours of Shanghai**

***Michelin secures 2016 Manufacturers' world
endurance title with Porsche***

The 6 Hours of Shanghai was dominated from start to finish by Michelin's partner Porsche whose victory settled the fight for the 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship's Manufacturers' crown in its favour.

After posting the fastest lap during Saturday's qualifying session, Porsche Team got away to a flying start in Sunday's race and its two prototypes were running at the top of the order early on.

The N°1 Porsche 919 Hybrid (Bernhard/Webber/Hartley) led practically from lights out to the chequered flag. However, about two-and-a-half hours into the season's penultimate clash, the German make's supremacy was challenged by Toyota Gazoo Racing when the N°6 Toyota TS050-Hybrid of Sarrazin/Conway/Kobayashi – with Kamui Kobayashi at the wheel – started to put pressure on the N°2 Porsche (Jani/Dumas/Lieb) which was in the hands of Neel Jani.

After some fine overtaking manoeuvres, the Japanese driver came out on top thanks to his car's superior speed through the twisty part of the Chinese track.

Moments later, the other Toyota of Buemi/Nakajima/Davidson was looking for a way past the N°2 Porsche, as well. It ended up finding a way through but then fell back to fourth after the next round of pit stops during which the Porsches were quicker.

The leaderboard then stabilised for the ensuing hour, with Porsche running first and third, and the Toyotas in second and fourth places.

Meanwhile, Audi Sport's two cars recovered from a slower start only to tangle later in the race. The incident forced the N°7 Audi R18 (Fässler/Lotterer/Tréluyer) to pit for repairs.

Two hours from the end, positions changed again when the N°6 Toyota TS050-Hybrid was forced to pit from second place due to a puncture. The Japanese car was consequently relegated to fourth, leaving the two Porsches at the front of the field once more.

However, Toyota Gazoo Racing hadn't said its final word. While the N°5 TS050-Hybrid was running extremely close to the N°2 Porsche in the battle for second place, the twin Toyota N°6, with Sébastien Buemi first, then Kamui Kobayashi, came back in contention thanks to a series of fast times.



With 45 minutes remaining, Kobayashi founding himself dicing again with Jani. Just as he had done two hours previously, he managed to steal past to appear in second spot. Immediately afterwards, the German car pitted, allowing the other Toyota to recover third place.

The two Toyotas pitted for the final time with 20 minutes to go but, unlike their opponents, who had opted for fresh rubber, they stayed on the same tyres. This strategy, which was made possible thanks to the consistency of Michelin's tyres, allowed them to further increase their respective cushions over the N°2 Porsche by 20 seconds.

Meanwhile, the win ended up in Porsche's hands thanks to the N°1 919 Hybrid which, as a result, sewed up the 2016 FIA WEC Manufacturers' crown in favour of the German carmaker, as Toyota held on to secure the other two places on the podium.

Hostilities will now resume in two weeks' time in Bahrain where the crews of the N°2 Porsche and the N°6 Toyota will settle the fight for the 2016 Drivers' title once and for all.

The 2016 6 Hours of Shanghai saw Porsche Team and Toyota Gazoo Racing run the 'Hot Weather' version of the MICHELIN SOFT tyre, while Audi Sport opted for the 'Hot Weather Plus' variant.

LM GTE Pro dominated by Ford Chip Ganassi Team UK

The Chinese clash saw Michelin win the LM GTE Pro and LM GTE Am classes, too.

After dominating qualifying, the Ford GTs took the top two prizes in the former, chased over the line by the N°51 Ferrari 488 GTE (Bruni/Calado) which made it an all-Michelin podium.

'Am' victor was the N°98 Aston Martin V8 Vantage of Dalla Lana/Lamy/Lauda, ahead of the KCMG's N°78 Porsche 911 RSR (Ried/Henzler/Camathias) and AF Corse's Ferrari 458 Italia (Perrodo/Collard/Aguas). The LM GTE Pro FIA Drivers', Manufacturers' and Teams' Cups, as well as the LM GTE Am Drivers' Cup will all be settled at the championship's final round in Bahrain on November 19.

Jérôme Mondain, manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes: "On behalf of the Michelin Group, I would like to congratulate our partner Porsche on winning the 2016 Manufacturers' title. We are delighted to be able to share this success with Porsche after working in tandem with them all season. Congratulations, too, to Ford Chip Ganassi Team UK which claimed another assertive victory. We'll be back in action in Bahrain in two weeks' time when our teams will be just as focused for the last round of the 2016 FIA WEC which promises to another very close race."



Michelin tyres for the 2016 6 Hours of Shanghai – class by class

LM P1 (size: 31/71-18)

Dry conditions:

- SOFT 'Hot Weather Plus'
- SOFT 'Hot Weather'
- SOFT 'Cold Weather'

Damp or drying conditions:

- MICHELIN Hybrid

The 'slick' MICHELIN Hybrid does not have a tread pattern. It was first used to replace the conventional intermediate tyre in 2012. Its revolutionary compound enables it to be used in damp or drying conditions.

Wet conditions:

- WET
- Full WET

The 'Wet' and 'Full Wet' have the same tread pattern but different compounds.

Number of tyres authorised for the 6 Hours of Shanghai: 8 sets for the race

LM GTE Pro and Am (size: 30/68-18 front / 31/71-18 rear)

Dry conditions:

- MEDIUM
- MEDIUM 'Cold Weather'

Wet conditions:

- WET
- Full WET

Number of tyres authorised for the 6 Hours of Shanghai: 6 sets for the race

