

2019 FIA World Rally Championship
Round 9/14: NESTE Rally Finland

The MICHELIN LTX Force M6 and H4 prepared for Finland's unique high-speed forest roads and spectacular jumps

A longstanding highlight of the FIA World Rally Championship calendar, Rally Finland kicks off the second phase of the 2019 campaign after the summer break which began after mid-June's visit to Sardinia. As usual, the event will be based in Jyväskylä, a university town with a population of around 150,000 in the central-southern part of the country.

While the 2018 Rally Finland some two-thirds of its route undergo big changes, this year's itinerary features only a few minor adjustments, notably on Saturday which includes a trip to 'Leustu' for the first time since 2014.

Competitive action will get underway with Thursday evening's super-special in the centre of Jyväskylä before crews head west on Friday for two attempts at 'Moksi', 'Urria' and 'Ässämäki', which are all identical to last season, as well as 'Äänekoski' which has been modified slightly. The leg will conclude with another try at the super-special in the streets of Jyväskylä.

Saturday's programme will be the longest of the week with almost 133 competitive kilometres in the Jämsä region. The day's menu includes the legendary 'Ouninpohja' test where spectators are again expected to flock to its spectacular leap.

The show will end on Sunday with two more classic stages to be tackled twice each. Both are renowned for their big jumps and 'Ruuhimäki' will serve as the Power Stage to wrap up the 1,373.67km route which includes 307.58km divided into 23 stages.

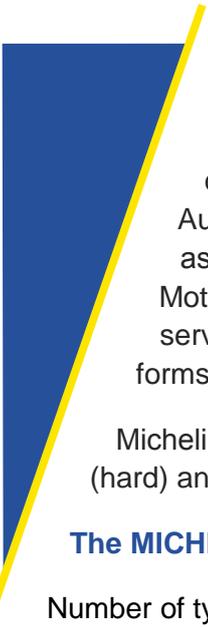
"Everyone at Michelin Motorsport is pleased to see business resume after the summer recess," says **Arnaud Rémy**, the manager of Michelin's rally programmes. "Because of its unique mix of smooth, extremely fast gravel roads and innumerable impressive jumps, Finland has been one of the WRC's most prominent rounds for more than four decades. It is also the fastest rally of the season and the cars frequently exceed 200kph on the tree-lined stages. The precision of the feedback drivers get from their tyres is therefore crucial and we expect the MICHELIN LTX Force to play a leading role once again as the front-runners battle it out in the Finnish forests."

For the 2019 Rally Finland, Michelin Motorsport will provide its WRC partners with H4 (hard compound) and M6 (medium) versions of the MICHELIN LTX Force H4 which were developed to cover a broad spectrum of gravel events. Their specification was registered with the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile) before the start of the season, so they were designed to be sufficiently versatile to perform across an exceptionally wide range of temperatures, on a variety of surface types, from hard-packed to soft ground and mud, and in all types of weather.



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To achieve this, not only are they robust and resistant to wear but they are also capable of delivering peak performance over long distances in conditions ranging from Australian sunshine, to muddy Wales, arid Sardinia and high-speed Finland. This assortment of challenges was dialled into the MICHELIN LTX Force's design by Michelin Motorsport engineers based on data collected over many seasons. This information also serves for the development of road tyres in-line with Michelin's policy of using the different forms of motorsport in which it competes as a real-world laboratory.

Michelin's WRC2 runners will be able to choose between the MICHELIN Latitude Cross H90 (hard) and the MICHELIN Latitude Cross S80 (soft).

The MICHELIN LTX Force H4 and MICHELIN LTX Force M6 (WRC runners)

Number of tyres available for Rally Finland: **524**

Drivers are authorised use up to 28 tyres (including shakedown) from a total allocation of 28 M6s (medium compound) and 16 H4s (medium compound).

The MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross H90 and MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross S80 (WRC2 runners)

Number of tyres available for Rally Finland: **476**

Drivers are authorised to use up to 26 tyres (including shakedown) from a total allocation of 26 S80s (hard compound) and 16 H90s (soft compound).

Michelin's staff for the 2019 NESTE Rally Finland

Michelin will have a staff of 16 in Finland:

- **Matthieu Bonardel** (director of Michelin Motorsport)
- **Arnaud Rémy** (manager of Michelin's rally programmes)
- 2 coordinators
- 4 technical team advisors (CTEs)
- 6 fitters
- 2 Press officers



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