

2019 FIA World Rally Championship
Round 10/14: ADAC Rallye Deutschland

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5 and S6 ready for Rallye Deutschland's challenging cocktail of asphalt and concrete stages

Although the majority of the rounds that make up the calendar of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship take place on gravel, the year's asphalt fixtures counts amongst the sport's most iconic competitions, including the wintry Rallye Monte-Carlo and France's Tour de Corse which, this year, was held at the end of March.

This week, Round 10 takes competitors to Germany for the campaign's third sealed-surface rally which is famous for its mix of asphalt and abrasive concrete roads that pose an additional challenge for tyres. The stages themselves vary from narrow vineyard lanes and tracks over army ranges which features numerous changes of surface, to smoother, fast, flowing country roads. Rain is frequently a factor that the teams and crews need to take into account.

Although the overall length of the 2019 Rallye Deutschland has been shortened slightly from 1,221.89 to 1,160.35 kilometres compared with 12 months ago, the total competitive distance has increased from 325.76km to 343.95km, while the menu includes 19 special stages instead of 18.

As in 2018, the service park is based on the shores of Bostalsee Lake, around 60km south of Trier. For the first time, the wooded recreational park will also host the official start ceremony on Thursday evening.

Friday's programme comprises two attempts at a loop of narrow stages through the vineyards of the nearby Mosel Valley, plus two visits to a very tricky super-special in Wadern-Weiskirchen.

Saturday's action accounts for almost half of the event's competitive distance, beginning with a trip to the country roads in Germany's Saarland region in the morning, followed by a run over the Baumholder army ranges. The latter are famed for the large concrete blocks – known as hinkelsteins – that line the roads, as well as for the spectacular Gina jump where the cars perform leaps of up to 40 metres long.

Hostilities will conclude on Sunday in St. Wendel after two goes at the classic Grafschaft stage along the steep banks of the Mosel River and the week's Power Stage.

"Germany's round of the WRC stems the recent sequence of five gravel rallies," notes **Arnaud Rémy**, the manager of Michelin's rally programmes. "Rallye Deutschland is always an interesting event, if only because of the wide spectrum of stage types and surfaces it features. The drivers switch from high-speed, often slippery vineyard access lanes in the Mosel Valley to tough, hard-wearing, part-concrete, part-asphalt tracks through an army camp, as well as flowing woodland roads."



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“Over the years, it has become a good opportunity for us to showcase the versatility of our asphalt tyres, whether the conditions are dry or wet.”

If the weather is dry or damp, Michelin’s WRC partners will be able to choose between the hard-compound MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5 and the softer MICHELIN Pilot Sport S6. In the case of very heavy rain, they will be able to fit the MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3 (FW = Full Wet), the specific tread pattern of which is designed to combat the phenomenon of aquaplaning.

“The ‘sea-to-land ratio’ of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3 is 27.5 percent in order to increase its water-clearance capacity,” says **Arnaud Rémy**. “Although its tread is narrower than that of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5 and S6 [175mm, compared with 202mm], its grooves are deeper [7mm instead of 6mm]. The MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3 is intended solely for extreme conditions, however, and the allocation per driver is just eight tyres for the entire event.”

The individual package in Germany for each WRC crew is 36 MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5s, 26 Pilot Sport S6s and eight Pilot Sport FW3s, of which up to 36 may be used.

WRC2 Pro and WRC drivers may use up to 34 tyres (including for shakedown) from an overall allowance of 34 MICHELIN Pilot Sport RH3s, 26 Pilot Sport RSs and eight 8 Pilot Sport FW3s.

Michelin will have 1,788 tyres for the 2019 Rallye Deutschland: WRC: 858 / WRC2 Pro and WRC2: 930.

Michelin’s staff for the 2019 ADAC Rallye Deutschland

Michelin will have a staff of 14 in Germany:

- **Arnaud Rémy** (manager of Michelin’s rally programmes)
- 2 coordinators
- 4 technical team advisors (CTEs)
- 6 fitters
- 1 Press officer



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