

**2018/2019 FIA World Endurance Championship
Round 4: 6 Hours of Fuji**

***The 2018/2019 FIA WEC continues with a visit to Japan's
Fuji Speedway where tyre choice is always critical***

This weekend sees Round 4 of the 2018/2019 FIA World Endurance Championship travel to Fuji Speedway, Japan, an atypical circuit which sits at the foot of Mount Fuji. Inaugurated in 1965, the 4.563-kilometre long track's most notable single feature is its 1.5-kilometre straight which is the longest of the calendar, with the exception of the Le Mans 24 Hours' Mulsanne Straight. Indeed, the chief challenge for engineers here is to find the ideal set-up due to the combination of this long straight, which calls for low downforce to favour top speed, and the twistier infield - especially the portions from Turn 3 to 8 and from Turn 10 to 16 – where aerodynamic downforce is needed to provide cornering grip.

A further influencing factor is the frequently fickle weather in this part of Japan which sits between the ocean and Mount Fuji. For this year's 6 Hours of Fuji, forecasters predict clouds and showers, with temperatures ranging from 28°C for free practice to 22°C for Sunday's race.

"It's always hard to find the ideal set-up for Fuji, especially in terms of the cars' aerodynamics," notes **Jérôme Mondain**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "The teams seek to strike the most effective balance between a low-downforce configuration for the straight and higher downforce for the circuit's slower parts. The low-downforce option tends to win the day, however, so tyres need to deliver as much grip as possible for the infield section, in spite of an unfavourable set-up."

For the 2018 Fuji 6 Hours, Michelin's LM P1, LM P2, LM GTE Pro and LM GTE Am partners will be able to choose between **SOFT** and **MEDIUM** slicks, with WETs and Full WETs also available if it rains. The LM P1 teams will have the additional possibility of fitting the versatile MICHELIN Hybrid slick which is a competitive alternative in drying conditions.

Endurance racing has always been big in Japan where, every year, thousands of fans flock to the Fuji Speedway, and the drivers' autograph-signing session is particularly popular. Furthermore, the circuit is the property of Toyota, which means Toyota Gazoo Racing's world-renowned Japanese duo Kamui Kobayashi and Kazuki Nakajima will be competing on home turf.

