



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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Preview: Red Bull Grand Prix of the Americas

Michelin ready for the CoTA challenge

For the first and only time this season, and for the first time since 2019, the Michelin Motorsport team and the rest of the MotoGP™ paddock is heading to the United States of America for the Red Bull Grand Prix of The Americas at the Circuit of The Americas, set in the hills just outside downtown Austin, Texas.

As in the past, the undulating, abrasive and bumpy 5.514 km (3.426 miles) circuit will be a stern test for the MICHELIN Power Slick tyres. The track has been the subject of much work in recent years, including in 2018, when the top layers of the surface were planed to remove some of the bumps. This meant that the surface conditions were somewhat unpredictable and can therefore make optimum tyre choice difficult to judge.

Another unknown for this year will be the temperatures, as when the race has been held there in the past it has been in April when average temperatures are around 25° C, whereas in September the average is above 30° C.

Immediately recognizable by its 76.5m (251ft) observation tower, Circuit of The Americas is one of the more recent additions to the MotoGP calendar and this will be Michelin's fifth visit since its return to the premier class. With an anti-clockwise configuration, parts of the track are inspired by famous sections from some iconic racetracks, including Hockenheim, Silverstone, Interlagos and Österreichring. These corners, together with an intimidating 40m (133ft) climb to Turn 1, a 1,200m (0.74 miles) straight and a very demanding track surface, all add up to one of the biggest challenges of the year for the Michelin tyres.

The Michelin slick tyre allocation for CoTA has been chosen to cope with the expected demands that will be faced over each lap with its 11 right and 9 left-hand corners, and the abrasive track surface. Available in Soft, Medium and Hard compounds, the three front tyre options will all be symmetrical, while the four rears – which includes an additional Hard option due to the resurfacing – will be asymmetric, with a harder right side to cope with the extra stresses that are placed on that part of the tyre.

Although there has not been a wet race here since Michelin's return to MotoGP, it doesn't mean that it can't happen, and MICHELIN Power Rain tyres will be available to give the riders confidence to push to the limit if any rain should make



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an appearance. Available in Soft and Medium compounds for both the front and rear, the rears will also feature an asymmetric right-hand-side like their slick counterparts.

Commenting on the race weekend, Piero Taramasso, Michelin Two-Wheel Motorsport Manager, said: "Leaving Europe for the first time since the first two rounds in Qatar will be a big change for everyone, but it will be great to get back out in front of the fans in the US and let them see some of the incredible racing that MotoGP produces today.

"CoTA has always been quite challenging from a tyre perspective, and not only due to the layout of the track with its elevation changes and mix of corners, but also because the grip levels can be very difficult to judge. This will be further complicated this year as we have not raced here at this time of year before, so track temperatures could be quite different to what we know, and we have not raced here since April 2019 and much can change in that time. Having said that, I'm sure our tyre allocation will allow the riders to push to the limit as always and help to produce some exciting and close racing".

The on-track action will get underway on Friday 1 October with two Free Practice sessions, and Saturday will have two further Practice sessions, followed by Qualifying 1 and 2 to decide grid positions for the race. The lights will go out to signal the start of the 20-lap race at 14:00 local time on Sunday, before the championship heads back to Europe for the final three races of the 2021 season.

Michelin, the leading mobility company, is dedicated to enhancing its clients' mobility, sustainably; designing and distributing the most suitable tires, services and solutions for its clients' needs; providing digital services, maps and guides to help enrich trips and travels and make them unique experiences; and developing high-technology materials that serve a variety of industries. Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 170 countries, has 123,600 employees and operates 71 tire production facilities which together produced around 170 million tires in 2020. (www.michelin.com)

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