

MICHELIN HEADS HOME FOR THREE RACES IN TWO DAYS

Michelin is back in France for the ninth race of the MotoGP™ World Championship as the tour heads to Le Mans and the SHARK Helmets Grand Prix de France which will also feature the climax of the MotoE™ World Cup with a double-header over the weekend.

Le Mans is an extremely significant race for Michelin with its history at the circuit on both two- and four-wheels. The iconic track is one of the most recognised and historic circuits in the world and one at which Michelin holds all the records in MotoGP. The 4,185m layout with its five left and nine right turns is a configuration that is very tight, with a number of lower gear corners, this demands a stable front tyre and the MICHELIN Power Slicks will have a compound that will meet those requirements under heavy braking, whilst the new for 2020 rear construction will provide the drive under acceleration to help set fast lap-times.

Resurfaced in 2016, the Bugatti Circuit has a medium-severity level for the asphalt and the range of MICHELIN Power Slick tyres have been chosen to give all manufacturers and riders the optimum choice to select the best configurations for their respective bikes in readiness for the 27-lap race. The choice will be soft, medium and hard compounds for the front and rear, with the rear versions featuring an asymmetric finish with a harder right-hand-side, designed to contend with the extra corners that go in that direction, with all the fronts being symmetric.

Michelin and the MotoGP field traditionally visits Le Mans in May, but due to the calendar change because of COVID-19, the paddock will head there in October this season, meaning wet weather is a greater possibility in the Sarthe region of France at this time of year. With this prospect a range of MICHELIN Power Rain tyres will be available in soft and medium compounds for the front and rear to combat any wet conditions, similar to the slick tyres, the rear wets will have an asymmetric finish with a harder right side, with the fronts being symmetric.

Michelin will be on its home-track on Friday morning for the first of two Free Practice sessions on that day. Saturday will see two more practice sessions followed by Qualifying in the afternoon, as the riders will fight it out for the best grid positions. The main event will take place on Sunday 11th October at the earlier time of 13.00hrs local time (12.00hrs BST, 13.00hrs CEST, 11.00hrs UTC).

MotoE has a double-header to see the title decided

Michelin's second season as the official tyre of the FIM Enel MotoE World Cup will come to an exciting culmination at the French company's home round as the title will be decided during the two races at Le Mans.

This season has seen the introduction of new MICHELIN Slick MotoE tyres - with their redesigned rear slick and the whole range now featuring biomaterials and regenerated materials - and during this year's exciting races, records have been broken with the new tyres and riders have improved their riding styles and performance because of the extra grip afforded to them from the latest evolution of MotoE tyres on their Energica Ego Corsa all-electric motorcycles.



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The two races will see Michelin's new slick tyres for MotoE - which are more efficient and environmentally friendly - available in a medium compound at the front and soft at the rear, both of which are symmetrical, if wet weather arrives at Le Mans then the MICHELIN Power Rain is in the allocation in a soft front and extra soft rear, both of which are also symmetrical in design.

Michelin's busy MotoE weekend will see it participate in MotoE practice sessions on Friday, ahead of the E-Pole on Saturday morning. The first race will take place later that day as the field will line up at 16.15hrs local time (16.15hrs CEST, 15.15hrs BST, 14.15hrs UTC), followed by the final race of the season at 15.40hrs local time (15.40hrs CEST, 14.40hrs BST, 13.40hrs UTC) on Sunday 11th October.

Piero Taramasso – Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager:

“Le Mans is usually one of our busiest races as a company as we have many people from Clermont-Ferrand and the other Michelin factories visit us during the weekend, but that will not happen this year due to the protocols, but we will still have a very busy time with three races in two days. Le Mans is a circuit that needs special attention as there are lots of slower corners and hard braking, so the front tyre has a lot of work to do, so we chose the compounds carefully to suit that, plus this season we will be going at a completely different time to usual, it could be very cold in the morning, but with the compounds we have selected for the weekend we have taken that into consideration.

“MotoE will come to a close during the weekend, with two races and the winner decided. It has been a really positive season for us, we have had some great racing so far and the new tyres we introduced for this year have performed really well. The information we gather from them will help translate what we take from the track to the street, as we look at more environmentally friendly options as Michelin moves forward.”



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