

2018/2019 FIA World Endurance Championship
Round 5: 6 Hours of Shanghai

MICHELIN's 'Wet' and 'Full Wet' endurance racing tyres combine safety and winning performance at 6 Hours of Shanghai

Atrocious weather and torrential rain for Sunday's 6 Hours of Shanghai led to numerous safety-car interruptions, and Race Control was even forced to bring out the red flags to suspend the action on two occasions.

The race started under the safety car in the hands of Yannick Dalmas who was responsible for evaluating the track conditions and ensuring the drivers' safety, especially when visibility was severely hampered by heavy, 'Level 3' rain.

MICHELIN Pilot Sport road tyres allowed the four-time Le Mans winner's Porsche 911 Turbo to keep up a sufficiently high speed to set the pace during the wait for conditions to improve. Every time the rain eased, even slightly, Race Control restarted the race but the safety car soon returned and remained ready to intervene all the way to the finish.

Whenever competitive racing was authorised, MICHELIN's 'Wet' and 'Full Wet' tyres enabled the action to take place in spite of the conditions, helped by the latter's ability to clear around 120 litres of water every second at high speed.

With two hours remaining, the weather improved sufficiently for the safety car to be called in and, with the rain down to 'Level 1', jousting was able to start in earnest, despite one final safety car appearance 20 minutes from the flag due to a crash involving the N°17 BR1-AER.

The LM P1 class was dominated by Toyota Gazoo Racing as the N°7 (Conway/Kobayashi/Lopez) and N°8 (Buemi/Nakajima/Alonso) Toyota TS050-Hybrids pulled clear to finish first and second. Third place went to the SMP Racing-run N°11 BR1-AER (Aleshin/Petrov/Button).

DragonSpeed's Michelin-equipped N°31 Oreca 07-Gibson (Gonzalez/Maldonado/Davidson) claimed second place in LM P2.

There was plenty of drama in LM GTE Pro but Aston Martin ended up with the spoils despite late charges by the Porsche 911 RSRs. The class was eventually won by the N°95 AMR Aston Martin Vantage of Sørensen/Thiim, ahead of the N°91 Porsche of Lietz/Bruni and the similar machine of Christensen/Estre.

The German make locked out the podium in LM GTE Am, with Dempsey-Proton Racing's two 911 RSRs split by the Team Project 1 machine.

"Despite the extremely difficult conditions, it turned out to be a tremendous race," said **Jérôme Mondain**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "Michelin's 'Wet' and 'Full Wet' tyres made real contributions to the safety and performance of the drivers who were consequently able to deliver two exciting hours of battling towards the end of the race."





“The weather we were treated to at Fuji and Shanghai means we go back to France having depleted almost our entire stock of rain tyres!”

The next round of the 2018/2019 FIA World Endurance Championship will take teams to iconic Sebring, in Florida, USA, next March, when endurance racing fans will be treated to a double-header weekend that will also include IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship action.

