

2016 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC)
6 Hours of Mexico (Round 5)

Michelin covers all the conditions in Mexico

- ***The MICHELIN Hybrid showcases its value once again***

As anticipated, the inaugural 6 Hours of Mexico was marked by changeable weather. The Michelin tyres available for round five of the 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship covered the entire spectrum of conditions encountered in the course of the race and the teams which applied the most judicious strategies gained an edge as the afternoon unfolded.

Mexico City's Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, which sits at an altitude of almost 2,300 metres, features several long, high-speed straights, while another challenge is the frequent phenomenon of localised rain which can result a very wet track in one place, while the asphalt is entirely dry elsewhere.

The conditions were bright and quite warm for the start but rain began to fall with some two-and-a-half hours remaining, prompting Michelin's partners to pit for a tyre change. They didn't all re-join on the same rubber, however.

"When it started to rain, the teams had to think quickly in order to decide on the best strategy," reports Jérôme Mondain, manager of Michelin's FIA WEC programme. "Some of cars switched directly to rain tyres, but Audi Sport opted for our Hybrid tyre which resembles a slick but which was developed to race in damp or drying conditions. The rain effectively stopped after around quarter of an hour, at which time the N°7 Audi R18 was lapping between five and seven seconds faster than its rivals thanks to its tyre choice. We saw a similar scenario unfold in LM GTE Pro when the two AF Corse Ferraris stayed out on slicks and managed to gain a lap on their rivals who went for a different choice. Once again, the teams' strategies, coupled with the versatility of the range we had in Mexico, had a significant influence on the result. I would also like to underline the performance of our LMP2 partner Extreme Speed Motorsport which finished on the podium again, even though only two of the 11 cars in this class were on Michelin tyres."

The entertaining six-hour race was ultimately won by the N°1 Porsche 919 Hybrid of Timo Bernhard, Mark Webber and Brendon Hartley, ahead of the N°7 Audi R18 (André Lotterer / Marcel Fässler). The N°6 Toyota TS-050 Hybrid (Stéphane Sarrazin / Mike Conway / Takeru Kobayashi) made it an all-Michelin podium.

The next round of the 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship will take teams to Austin, Texas, USA, on September 17.



Michelin's tyres for the 2016 6 Hours of Mexico

LM P1 (31/71-18)

Dry conditions:

- SOFT Hot Weather Plus
- SOFT Hot Weather

Damp/drying conditions:

- MICHELIN Hybrid

The slick MICHELIN Hybrid tyre was first used instead of the traditional intermediate in 2012. Its revolutionary compound allows it to be used in damp and/or drying conditions despite not having a tread pattern.

Rain:

- WET
- Full WET

The difference between Wet and Full Wet tyres concerns the properties of their respective compounds. They feature the same tread pattern.

Number of tyres authorised for the 6 Hours of Mexico: 8 sets for the race

LM P2 (front: 30/65-18 / rear: 31/71-18)

Dry weather:

- MEDIUM Cold weather
- MEDIUM

Wet conditions:

- WET
- Full WET

Number of tyres authorised for the 6 Hours of Mexico: 4 sets for the race



LM GTE Pro and Am (front: 30/68-18 / rear: 31/71-18)

Dry weather:

- MEDIUM
- MEDIUM Cold Weather
- MEDIUM Hot Weather

Wet conditions:

- WET
- Full WET

Number of tyres authorised for the 6 Hours of Mexico: 6 sets for the race

Total number of tyres available for Michelin's 19 partner cars: 2,200

