

**2018/2019 FIA Formula E Championship
Round 3: Antofagasta Minerals Santiago E-Prix**

The new MICHELIN Pilot Sport tyres for Formula E break records in Chile heat

Since the FIA Formula E Championship's creation in 2014, the teams and drivers have had to contend with a staggering variety of conditions and challenges, and this season promises to be no exception. When 'Season 5' kicked off in December in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the weather turned out to be exceptionally cold for this part of the world (between 15 and 20°C) following a period of heavy rain, while the more recent Marrakech E-Prix in Morocco was marked by distinctly chilly temperatures, with the thermometer standing at just 3°C at the start of Free Practice 1. In contrast, the minimum temperature in Santiago was 20°C overnight, before climbing to 40°C for the start of Saturday's e-prix. As a result, ground temperatures soared to more than 60°C to establish a new 'high' for the all-electric series. The previous record had held since the 2015/2016 championship's visit to Putrajaya, Malaysia, where the air and track temperatures peaked at 39°C and 56°C respectively, although high levels of humidity added to the difficulty. Another record established in Santiago was the way the latest-generation MICHELIN Pilot Sport took the punishment thrown at it in its stride, despite extreme weather, constantly changing grip levels and a deteriorating track surface, and with no mid-race car swaps as in previous seasons!

The dusty circuit in Santiago's centrally-located O'Higgins Park combined recently-laid asphalt for some two-thirds of its distance with slabs of bumpy, hard-wearing concrete which provided little grip. When the track was still 'green' during Free Practice, the drivers reported considerable differences in grip levels, while its extremely long, fast left-hander only added to the challenge faced by the MICHELIN Pilot Sport in Chile.

"We were prepared for these conditions, but it's important to note that several new records were established in Santiago," says **Serge Grisin**, the manager of Michelin's Formula E programme. "To begin with, the air and track temperatures were exceptionally high, yet the MICHELIN Pilot Sport shrugged off that and other sorts of punishment to deliver all the way to the finish line. Some drivers, like Dragon Racing's José Marie Lopez, even used just one set of tyres for the entire day, from free practice and qualifying, to the race itself. That's quite simply outstanding. During our involvement in Formula E since 2014, we have come across a staggering spectrum of circuit types, grip levels and temperature ranges, not to mention hazards such as drain covers, painted road markings and tramway rails which are part and parcel of the city-centre venues we visit. In Santiago, we were faced with all this with what is practically a brand new tyre. These conditions were also a first for the latest Gen2 cars. I believe that speaks volumes for our ability to provide the teams with a versatile, high-performance tyre that is capable of covering very different situations and surface types. On top of that, the MICHELIN Pilot Sport's energy efficiency and very low rolling resistance enabled the drivers to benefit from the power potential of their respective cars all the way to the chequered flag."



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The Santiago E-Prix was won by Sam Bird (Envision Virgin Racing), ahead of Pascal Wehrlein (Mahindra) and Daniel Abt (Audi Sport Abt Schaeffler).

The next round of the 2018/2019 FIA Formula E Championship will take teams to Mexico City (Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez) on February 16.



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