

**ABB FIA Formula E Championship 2019/2020
BERLIN E-PRIX – Rounds 6 & 7**

MICHELIN Pilot Sport tyres for Formula E: show winning form as action resumes in Berlin

The 2019/2020 ABB FIA Formula E Championship got back under way this week, with all those involved observing a strict sanitary protocol. The first two e-prix of the six-race, nine-day meeting – which visits the abrasive track at Berlin’s former Tempelhof Airport – took place in hot summer sunshine.

In contrast to the series’ previous trips to the German capital, the first two races used a clockwise version of the 2.355-kilometre, 10-turn circuit, but the 24 drivers had to cope with the same, notoriously hard-wearing surface, although the track’s width provides good overtaking opportunities.

In addition to the exceptional circumstances associated with this season’s finale, the championship’s organisers and the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile) decided to spice up the competition a little by reducing the tyre allocation per driver by 25 percent, with just three sets available instead of four for each of the three pairs of e-prix. This decision fits perfectly with the spirit that drives the all-electric series which actively promotes the protection of the environment, a value it shares with Michelin.

“Although this new measure added to the challenge faced by the teams in terms of strategy, it had no negative impact on the quality of the show provided by the first two E-Prix in Berlin,” notes **Jérôme Mondain**, the manager of Michelin’s Formula E programme. “The drivers were able to race at their own pace thanks to the wise management of their quotas by their respective teams who switched between new and part-worn tyres. Many of them, but not all, chose to keep the tyres they used in qualifying for the race. We know this venue quite well because the championship has been here several times since the very first season, so we were confident the current MICHELIN Pilot Sport – which raced here in 2019 – would be up to the job. In fact, wear turned out not to be an issue and most of the drivers posted their fastest race laps towards the end of the races to provide yet another illustration of our tyres’ exceptional versatility.”

The current-generation MICHELIN Pilot Sport Formula E tyre is effectively capable of delivering top performance whatever the weather conditions, not to mention its fast warm-up characteristics, resistance to wear, high grip and consistency, while its low rolling resistance contributes to the range of the championship’s all-electric single-seater cars. On top of that, the track and air temperatures in Berlin reached close to 40°C and 30°C respectively.

The first of the 2019/2020 calendar’s six Berlin E-Prix, on August 5, was won by Antonio Felix Da Costa (DS Techeetah), ahead of André Lotterer (Tag Heuer Porsche Motorsport) and Sam Bird (Envision Virgin Racing).



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The winner of the second race (August 6) was Antonio Felix Da Costa, chased over the line by Sébastien Buemi (Nissan e.dams) and Lucas de Grassi (Audi Sport Abt Schaeffler).

The timetable for the second pair of races (on Saturday, August 8, and Sunday, August 9) will be identical to the first, with free practice in the morning, followed by qualifying in the afternoon and the e-prix themselves starting at 7:03pm local time. The circuit will be the same, too, although this time it will be run anticlockwise.

MICHELIN Pilot Sport for Formula E: the first connected tyre in motor sport

For the first time this season, Michelin has introduced a connected tyre in Formula E, the MICHELIN Pilot Sport equipped with the Michelin Track Connect system. This innovation is in line with the Group's development strategy, which already markets a Michelin Track Connect solution for Track Days enthusiasts. Michelin's goal is to extend the benefits of digital technologies applied to tyres to mass production vehicles, in order to provide the car and its driver with useful information, particularly in terms of safety and energy efficiency.

Michelin Track Connect for Formula E allows tyre pressures to be monitored automatically and reliably – whether hot or cold. This new solution addresses a demand expressed by motorsport's governing body, the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile), which has incorporated its use into Formula E's regulations. It also meets a requirement of the teams and the championship's promoter. Michelin Track Connect for Formula E uses a Michelin-designed and developed sensor embedded in a specific casing inside the MICHELIN Pilot Sport tyres which feature in the series. The data it collects is transmitted in encrypted form to the FIA and Michelin, who are the only recipients. Not only does this make sure that the information remains confidential, but it also allows the FIA to check minimum tyre pressures are adhered to. In addition to saving time, it is additional reassurance for the teams and helps to streamline the running of race days.



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