

MICHELIN HEADS TO THE LONE STAR STATE AS IT RETURNS TO AMERICA

Michelin is heading back to the Americas this week as MotoGP™ makes its annual pilgrimage to the northern part of the continent for the Red Bull Grand Prix of The Americas at the Circuit of The Americas in Texas.

This coming weekend will again provide an intensive test of the MICHELIN Power Slick tyres on a 5,513m long track that is renowned for its abrasive and bumpy surface. This season the track has undergone similar work to that which met the teams in 2018, when heavy machinery was brought in to plane down the top layers of the surface and remove some of the bumps, this means that Michelin and the teams will be heading to the circuit unsure of what condition the asphalt will be in. The range of tyres which will be available have been picked to cope with the expected stress that will be faced over the 11-right and 9-left-hand turn configuration and the change to the surface. Available in soft, medium and hard compounds, the front selection will all be symmetrical, with the asymmetric rears having a harder right side to handle the extra demands that are placed on that edge of the tyre.

Situated on the outskirts of Austin in Texas, U.S.A. the Circuit of The Americas is one of the newest tracks on the MotoGP calendar and this season will see the seventh staging of the event at the modern facility and Michelin's fourth appearance since its return to the premier class of motorcycle racing. Set out over an anti-clockwise configuration, the track has parts that are echoes of famous sections from some celebrated tracks, such as Hockenheim, Istanbul Park, Silverstone, Interlagos and Österreichring. These corners, together with a 1,200m long straight and a very demanding surface, all add up to one of the biggest examinations of the year for the Michelin rubber.

Michelin is yet to face any wet weather at CoTA, but that doesn't mean that it cannot happen and the MICHELIN Power Rain tyres will be available to give the riders confidence to push to the limit if any rain should appear. Available in a soft and medium compound for both the front and rear, the rears will also feature an asymmetric right-hand-side like their slick counterparts, to cope with the added demands from the extra right-hand turns.

The third round of the season will get underway on Friday 12th April with two Free Practice sessions over the course of the day. Saturday will have further practices, before Qualifying in the afternoon will decide grid positions for the main event. When the lights go out to signal the start of the 20-lap race at 14.00hrs (21.00hrs CEST, 20.00hrs BST, 19.00UTC) on Sunday 14th April, it will herald the final episode in a trio of fly-away races to start the season, before the championship heads to Europe.

Piero Taramasso – Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager:

"Austin is a very demanding circuit for all involved and this year it feels like we are going there again not quite sure what to expect. The track has had some more repair work to try to smooth out the bumps, so it will be a case for all to see how it performs and how the asphalt works compared to other seasons. We have a strong line-up of compounds, which we think are ideally suited to what we expect from the track and will give the opportunity to push for some very strong performances and fast times, but until Friday morning we don't completely know how the circuit will behave. That being said though, Austin is a great event and we are always made to feel very welcome by the officials at CoTA and all the fans, so we will be determined to play our part in putting on a great show for them."



Tim Walpole – tim.walpole@motocom.co.uk – Phone: +44.7976.397.265

Alessandro Barlozzi – alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com – Phone: +33.6.42.23.55.93