

2019 FIA World Rally Championship
Round 12/14: Wales Rally GB

The MICHELIN LTX Force M6 and S6 for the WRC runners
A new range of tyres for Michelin's WRC2 crews

Moving on from the punishing, hot and dusty stages of Rally Turkey, the FIA World Rally Championship players travel to potentially cold and muddy Wales as autumn takes a grip of the British Isles.

At this time of year, heavy rain is by no means a rarity in the North Wales/Liverpool region, while fog is a familiar sight in its immense forests where the log-lined tracks can be treacherously slippery and littered with sharp stones and shards of slate.

Once again, therefore, crews will be looking to take advantage of the strength and versatility of their Michelin's tyres, which are the same as those which also deliver winning performance on the FIA WRC's hotter fixtures.

New for WRC2: the MICHELIN Latitude Cross S70, M80 and H90

Michelin's WRC partners will be able to count on the medium-compound MICHELIN LTX Force M6 and the 'soft' S6 which were nominated together for the first time for this event in 2018 following the introduction of the firm's revised WRC range at Rally Finland, a couple of months previously.

Meanwhile, Michelin's WRC2 runners will have access to a new tyre line-up, with the addition of a third choice – the all-new soft-compound Latitude Cross S70 – alongside the existing hard MICHELIN Latitude Cross H90 and Latitude Cross S80, now the medium option that has been renamed 'M80'.

Michelin Motorsport's engineers developed the newcomer over a period of several months and it was put through its paces by a number of experienced drivers in a variety of R5 machinery.

The nominated WRC2 tyre for Wales Rally GB is the MICHELIN Latitude Cross M80, while the Latitude Cross S70 is also available to cover the possibility of wet weather and/or temperatures below 15 °C.

"Although last year's weather for Wales Rally GB was quite mild, we are still banking on rain and fog for this event which is a notoriously hard one to call as far as the conditions are concerned," says **Arnaud Rémy**, the manager of Michelin's rally programmes. "The high-speed Welsh stages are effectively a big challenge for our partners and always complex for our team advisers to call when it comes to assisting the drivers with their tyre strategy. We are guided by advice from the weather experts, but we can also count on the extensive experience we have built up of this rally over many years to assess the many different possible scenarios."



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The 2019 Wales Rally GB features 22 special stages (one fewer than last season) that total 309.76 kilometres, which is slightly shorter than in 2018 (318.13km). The itinerary's overall distance is up, however, from 1,419.06 to 1,625.14 kilometres, due in part to the fact that the service park has switched from the Deeside industrial estate to the delightful seaside resort of Llandudno which will host Sunday's finish festivities, as well.

The competition will kick off on Thursday afternoon with a start ceremony on the spectacular seafront in Liverpool, followed by a mixed dirt/asphalt test at the Oulton Park racetrack.

Friday's menu comprises two loops and nine stages, with the last one scheduled for after nightfall. Saturday's leg promises to be the toughest, though, since it packs almost half of the week's total distance and crews will not visit service during the almost-14 hours they will spend in their cars. Sunday's programme features more forest action, including the Power Stage, close to Brenig Reservoir.

With three rounds of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship remaining, competitors know they will be able to depend on their Michelin rubber as the chase for this year's titles enters its final phase.

The MICHELIN LTX Force M6 and MICHELIN LTX Force S6 (WRC runners)

Number of tyres available for Wales Rally GB: **540**

Drivers are authorised use up to 32 tyres (including shakedown) from a total allocation of 32 M6s (medium compound) and 16 S6s (soft compound).

The MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross M80 and MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross S70 (WRC2 runners)

Number of tyres available for Wales Rally GB: **712**

Drivers are authorised to use up to 30 tyres (including shakedown) from a total allocation of 30 M80s (hard compound) and 16 S70s (soft compound).

Michelin's staff for the 2019 Wales Rally GB

Michelin will have a staff of 14 in Wales:

- **Arnaud Rémy** (manager of Michelin's rally programmes)
- 2 coordinators
- 4 technical team advisors (CTEs)
- 6 fitters
- 1 Press officer



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