



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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A NEW TRACK SURFACE AND A NEW CHALLENGE AT ASSEN

Preview: Assen 2021

Following the race in Sachsenring, the Michelin Motorsport team and the MotoGP™ Paddock will move swiftly west to the historic TT Circuit Assen in the Netherlands for the 90th Motul TT Assen.

The only circuit to have held a Grand Prix since the beginning of the championship, this year the circuit will not only play host to the MotoGP World Championship during the weekend, but also the next round of the FIM Enel MotoE™ World Cup. In addition, with health restrictions easing, the circuit will welcome a socially distanced 11,500 spectators on each of the three days.

During 2020, the circuit was resurfaced and due to not being able to test before the race Michelin will bring a larger allocation than usual, in accordance with the regulations, of four front and four rear MICHELIN Power Slicks.

The TT Assen Circuit has had many changes to its layout through the years, but the current 4,542m (2.822 miles) configuration with its short 487m (0.303 miles) straight and mix of six left-hand and twelve right-hand corners, is still one of the most revered and loved circuits in the world. It is held in such high regard that it is known as ‘The Cathedral’ of motorcycle racing and it has a history of producing very exciting and close racing.

It is a traditional track in terms of its layout, in that it still includes high-speed curves and banked corners, whilst incorporating all the safety requirements of a more modern circuit. It is this configuration of 18 corners that places greater demands on the rear tyres compared to those on the front. This means that the rear allocation of Soft, Medium and two Hard MICHELIN Power Slicks, with their asymmetric design featuring a harder right-hand-side, will be able to cope with the increased temperatures and stresses that the tyres will endure through the fast right corners, which are one of the key features of the track. While the front tyres have a less stressful time, the demands placed upon them are equally important, so the Soft, Medium and two Hard options with a symmetric finish, have been selected to work at their optimum with their rear counterparts.

With the cancellation of the race in Finland, Assen is still currently the most northerly track on the calendar and this geographic location has brought its share of wet weather to the event in the past. In the event of wet conditions, the MICHELIN Power Rain tyres in Soft and Medium with a symmetric design will be available for the front, with the rear options comprising asymmetric Soft and Medium options – both with a harder right-hand-side.



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Giving his view on the forthcoming race, Piero Taramasso, Michelin Two-Wheel Motorsport Manager, said: “With such a long and esteemed history of hosting top-level motorcycle racing, the Assen TT Circuit is one of the tracks that the riders, and our team, look forward to every year. Its ‘old school’ layout with a mix of long and fast, and banked corners means that the races are usually very exciting and I’m sure the lucky Dutch fans that can get a ticket won’t be disappointed this weekend.

“From a technical perspective, our 2021 Assen tyre allocation for MotoGP has been developed to resist the very specific demands that will be placed on the tyres by the number of corners and the brand new asphalt, to provide consistent grip and predictability for the riders throughout the race. In MotoE our tyres will also offer the same performance characteristics, but they are designed to offer a quick warm-up to take into account the much shorter race distance in this class.”

The MotoGP weekend schedule will start with two Free Practice sessions on Friday, before two further sessions on Saturday, which will be followed by Qualifying 1 and 2 on the same day to decide the all-important grid positions. The MotoE riders will have one Free Practice session on Friday and another on Saturday morning, followed by EPole during the afternoon. The action on Sunday will get underway with the 26-lap MotoGP race starting at 14:00 local time, followed by the start of the 7-lap MotoE race at 15:30.

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