



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt – 12 September 2021

Scorching pace in the heat of Aragón

- Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) takes the win
- Bagnaia also sets new all-time circuit lap record of 1'46.322
- New race duration record of 41'44.422

After a high-pressure race-long battle, Michelin's Hard front and Soft rear MICHELIN Power Slick tyres resisted the high track temperatures to carry Francesco Bagnaia to a gripping victory at the Gran Premio TISSOT de Aragón, just ahead of Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team), with third place taken by Joan Mir (Team Suzuki Ecstar).

In Qualifying 2, there was the usual hotly contested battle for the best grid positions and Francesco Bagnaia came out on top with a new all-time lap record of 1'46.322, demolishing the previous record of Marc Marquez by more than three-tenths of a second, which had stood since 2015.

Another record this weekend was for the race duration, with a race time of 41'44.422, again beating another record which was set back in 2015.

Consistently high temperatures throughout the weekend, without the usual cool mornings experienced when the race was held slightly later in the year, gave the teams more time to test all the available slick options and focus on machine set-up and race-distance runs, and this helped in terms of tyre selection for the race.

All but one of the riders on the grid went for the Hard front and Soft rear tyre combination, the exception being Johann Zarco (Pramac Racing), who decided to go for the Medium front option.

The versatility and performance of the 2021 MICHELIN Power Slick tyres was highlighted this weekend by the fact that in FP3, with the riders battling for a place in Q2, less than 0.5 seconds covered the top 14 places, and 4 different manufacturers were in the top 4 positions. This was much the same in FP4 with just over 0.5 seconds covering the top 13 riders.

Piero Taramasso, Michelin Two-Wheel Motorsport Manager, said: "Aragón can be hard on rear tyres, particularly through Turns 10, 16 and 17, but we are very happy with how all the options in the allocation performed during all sessions over the weekend, and then in the race.



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“The tyre performance was clearly highlighted by the fast lap times that were achieved, despite the high temperatures and age of the asphalt here, and this performance was accessible for all riders and teams. I was particularly pleased to see the new all-time lap record set by Pecco in Qualifying, and also the great pace and consistency shown during the race with our Soft rear tyres”.

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