



PORSCHE

Press Release

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Super Pole, 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps/Belgium

Best Porsche 911 GT3 R takes up endurance classic from sixth grid row

Stuttgart. The best-placed Porsche 911 GT3 R tackles the 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps from the sixth grid row. In the hotly contested Super Pole, contested by the top 20 qualifiers and only one driver per team, Laurens Vanthoor (Belgium) lapped the tradition-steeped 7.004-kilometre racetrack at the wheel of the #117 nine-eleven in 2:19.894 minutes. With this result, the local hero and his teammates Timo Bernhard (Germany) and Earl Bamber (New Zealand) head into the 70th edition of the Ardennes marathon for the KÜS Team75 Bernhard squad from P11.

Frédéric Makowiecki helmed the cockpit of the Porsche 911 GT3 R (#911) for the Manthey-Racing team. For the Frenchman, the clock stopped at 2:19.649 minutes, which represented ninth place in the Super Pole. This position, however, was not upheld. Due to a speed infringement in the pit lane during free practice, Frédéric Makowiecki and his teammates Romain Dumas (France) and Dirk Werner (Germany) will be relegated ten spots down the grid. Thus, Manthey-Racing tackles the long-distance classic in Belgium from position 19.

A total of 221 drivers and 63 vehicles tackle this year's 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps. Thirteen manufacturers are represented at the 70th edition of the Ardennes marathon, which is regarded as the largest and most important GT3 event in the world.

The schedule

Saturday, 28 July

16:30 hrs: Race start

Sunday, 29 July

16:30 hrs: Race finish

Comments on the Super Pole

Dr Frank-Steffen Walliser (Vice President Motorsport and GT Cars): “The Super Pole was okay, but not fantastic. The pressure of competition here at Spa is extremely high. We are not coping as well with the heat as our competitors, but we’re within striking distance. It’s supposed to be slightly cooler on Saturday and that would help us. The important thing at Spa is not to make mistakes. The key to this race will be consistency.”

Sebastian Golz (Project Manager 911 GT3 R): “We concluded the Super Pole on positions nine and twelve, so nothing is lost yet. The rate of retirements at Spa is high, hence we need to now focus on the race, put in a consistent drive and keep out of any trouble. Then anything’s possible here.”

Laurens Vanthoor (Porsche 911 GT3 R #117): “I’m not happy with the result. I had a clean and flawless lap, but in terms of pace I couldn’t do more. It’s not easy for us in this heat. I hope if the temperature cools down on Saturday during the race it’ll be better.”

Frédéric Makowiecki (Porsche 911 GT3 R #911): “My lap was good but unfortunately I made a small mistake in Eau Rouge because the tyre pressure wasn’t quite right. But all in all I’m satisfied. We have a good car and now we need to concentrate on the race.”

Result Super Pole

1. Vanthoor/Riberas/Mies (B/ES/D), Audi R8 LMS, 2:18.578 minutes
2. Baumann/Kirchhöfer/Martin (AUT/D/B), Aston Martin Vantage, +0.605 seconds
3. Rast/Müller/Frijns (D/CH/ND), Audi R8 LMS, +0.788 seconds
4. Aleshin/Molina/Rigon (RU/ES/IT), Ferrari 488 GT3, +0.855 seconds
5. Van der Linde/van der Linde/Schmidt (ZA/ZA/CH), Audi R8 LMS, +0.915 seconds
9. Makowiecki/Dumas/Werner (F/F/D), Porsche 911 GT3 R, +1.071 seconds
12. Bamber/Bernhard/Vanthoor (NZ/D/B), Porsche 911 GT3 R, +1.316 seconds

This is the Intercontinental GT Challenge

The Intercontinental GT Challenge is the first global racing series with GT3 vehicles as the top class. It was founded in 2016 by the SRO Motorsports Group led by Stéphane Ratel. Rather than compete with a factory squad, Porsche supports international customer teams in their campaign with the 911 GT3 R by providing works drivers and engineers from Weissach. For each race, a maximum of four vehicles selected by the manufacturer are entitled to earn points. Of these, the two best-placed vehicles at the end of the race are awarded points for the manufacturer's overall classification. In the driver's category, however, the drivers of all cars nominated by manufacturers are eligible for points.

The Blancpain GT Series Endurance Cup

The Blancpain GT Series Endurance Cup, also run by the SRO Motorsports Group, is reserved for race cars that comply with FIA GT3 regulations. Storied racetracks, cost-effective conditions of participation and equality in terms of technology thanks to the Balance of Performance form the framework of this customer-oriented championship. The season highlight of the championship, the 24 Hours of Spa, is run alongside the Intercontinental GT Challenge. In the series contested all over Europe, there are overall classifications for teams and drivers.

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