Press Release   **May 5, 2018**

Porsche 911 RSR starts from the first grid row

Stuttgart. At the premiere of the IMSA SportsCar Championship in Mid-Ohio, the best Porsche 911 RSR takes up Sunday's race from the first grid row. In a hotly contested qualifying on the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, the time-honoured 3.634-kilometre racetrack in America's Midwest, Nick Tandy posted the second fastest time in the GTLM class with the #911 Porsche 911 RSR. The Briton was only six-hundredths of a second off pole position. His teammate at round four of North America's premier sports car race series is Patrick Pilet (France), with whom he won the Sebring twelve-hour classic in March. Earl Bamber (New Zealand) planted the second 911 RSR fielded by the Porsche GT Team on fourth. He shares the cockpit of the #912 car with Laurens Vanthoor (Belgium). A look at the times clocked during qualifying shows just how competitive the strongly represented GTLM class is with four automobiles manufacturers: All eight cars were within just six-tenths of a second.

Qualifying quotes

Steffen Höllwarth, Programme Manager IMSA SportsCar Championship: "As expected, the qualifying was extremely close. Of course, it's a bit disappointing to set the fastest times in all sessions and then not in qualifying. However, we're heading into the race feeling positive, after all there's not much between us and the frontrunner. It'll certainly be a difficult race, because the track has its own idiosyncrasies when it comes

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to changing grip conditions. But our car is good over the distance. We're feeling confident and we'll attack all-out."

Nick Tandy (911 RSR #911): "I'm very pleased with this qualifying. The first grid row is a great place to start from. We saw in Sebring that we're fast with the 911 RSR, particularly over the distance. I'm not worried about the weather, which is often very changeable here. If it rains we switch to wet tyres, if it's dry we race on slicks. It's as simple as that."

Earl Bamber (911 RSR #912): "The team has prepared our 911 RSR very well for the circuit. We definitely have a fast car for the race."

The race starts on Sunday, 6 May, at 13.05 hrs local time (19.05 hrs CEST) and runs over 2:40 hours. A live broadcast outside the USA can be seen on www.imsa.com.

Qualifying result

GTLM class

1. Krohn/Edwards (SF/USA), BMW M8, 1:17.853 minutes
2. Tandy/Pilet (GB/F), Porsche 911 RSR, + 0.066 seconds
3. Sims/de Phillippi (GB/USA), BMW M8, + 0.079
4. Vanthoor/Bamber (B/NZ), Porsche 911 RSR, + 0.168
5. Magnussen/Garcia (DK/E), Chevrolet Corvette, + 0.261
6. Hand/Müller (USA/D), Ford GT, + 0.354
7. Westbrook/Briscoe (GB/USA), Ford GT, + 0.480
8. Gavin/Milner (GB/USA), Chevrolet Corvette, + 0.599

GTD class

1. Hawksworth/Heinemeier Hansson (GB/DK), Lexus RC, 1:19.317 minutes
2. Marcelli/Baumann (CAN/A), Lexus RC, + 0.053 seconds
3. Sellers/Snow (USA/USA), Lamborghini, + 0.565
7. Long/Nielsen (USA/DK), Porsche 911 GT3 R, + 1.431
9. Henzler/Schein (D/USA), Porsche 911 GT3 R, + 1.726

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Please note: Photo and video material of the IMSA SportsCar Championship is available to journalists in the Porsche media database at **https://presse.porsche.de**. You can find the latest information and photos regarding Porsche Motorsport, live from racetracks around the world, on the Twitter channel **@PorscheRaces**. The digital Motorsport Media Guide is available on **https://presse.porsche.de/motorsport**. More content is available at **www.newsroom.porsche.com**, the Porsche Communications service for journalists, bloggers and online multipliers.

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