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919 Hybrids to start from first and second rows of the grid

The two Porsche 919 Hybrids will start from second and third places on the grid in Sunday's six-hour race at the Nürburgring, round four of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC). The new Porsche 911 RSR tackles its home race from pole position.



LMP1 Qualifying

The championship leading Le Mans winners, Earl Bamber (NZ), Timo Bernhard (DE) and Brendon Hartley (NZ) qualified on the front row. Grid position three went to the crew of the reigning world champion Neel Jani (CH), André Lotterer (DE) and Nick Tandy (GB).

In the WEC, the average of the two fastest laps of two drivers counts for the qualifying result. Bernhard/Hartley achieved an average time of 1:38.272 minutes for car number 2. Jani/Lotterer in car number 1 managed a time of 1:38.278 min. Lotterer actually set the outright fastest qualifying lap of 1:37.886 minutes but could not make up for the fact that Jani had lost the rear on his flying lap. Pole-position went to Toyota. The respective third drivers of each Porsche 919 Hybrid – Nick Tandy (GB) and Earl Bamber (NZ) – were not involved in qualifying on this occasion.

The third free practice session in the morning saw the two Porsche 919 Hybrids in P3 (car number 2, 1:40.635 minutes) and P4 (car number 1, 1:40.767 minutes). Practice and qualifying took place in dry conditions. For the six-hour race on Sunday, 1pm to 7pm, a risk of rain is forecast.

Quotes after qualifying

Fritz Enzinger, Vice President LMP1: "After this thrilling qualifying with it's very close lap times, we feel confident for the race. In free practice we had very good lap times on our longer runs. This has confirmed that our new aerodynamic kit for high-downforce is working very well. And it is also this aspect that makes us optimistic for the second half of the season. We will try everything to fulfil our target and defend both championship titles."

Andreas Seidl, Team Principal: "We have used free practice to improve the 919's set-up with the new high downforce aero. In qualifying

it was André in particular who impressively exploited the car's potential. He obviously is comfortable with the new aerodynamics and I'm very happy for him that he managed the outright fastest lap today. Coming from P2 and P3, everything is possible in tomorrow's race."

Drivers Porsche 919 Hybrid car number 1

Neel Jani (33, Switzerland): "We finished P3 but I'm personally unhappy as I threw a possible pole away. André had a great lap and showed the true pace of the car but I had a moment at Turn 12 and lost the rear. Looking at the data that cost us half a second which would have been good enough for pole. It's disappointing but it's a long race tomorrow. We have a great car and we'll attack tomorrow."

André Lotterer (35, Germany): "It was nice to set the fastest outright lap in qualifying. Unfortunately Neel lost time but that's what happens when you need to push to the very limit. The high downforce kit suits my driving style better. The car is quick and the long runs look good for tomorrow's race so hopefully it should be a good race for Porsche starting P2 & P3."

Drivers Porsche 919 Hybrid car number 2

Timo Bernhard (36, Germany): "Unfortunately, on my flying lap I had to overtake a slow moving LMP2 car which was far from ideal. It's disappointing the [LMP2] driver didn't look in his mirrors while on his in- or out-lap as it cost me two or three tenths of a second.

Otherwise it could have been close for pole-position. Tomorrow we start the race with full momentum, will attack and try to get the maximum out of it."

Brendon Hartley (27, New Zealand): "I've got mixed emotions as we definitely had a car capable of getting pole today. My lap wasn't 100% perfect while Timo was delayed by traffic. We missed out on pole by just over one-tenth of a second so it was very close.

Thankfully the No8 Toyota, our closest rival in terms of the championship, starts from P4."

GT Qualifying

The new Porsche 911 tackles its home race on the Nürburgring from pole position in the Sports Car World Endurance Championship WEC. In the qualifying on the 5.148-kilometre circuit in Germany's Eifel region, Michael Christensen (Denmark) and Kévin Estre (France) set the quickest time in the GTE-Pro class with the numbr 92 contender. For Porsche, this is the first pole in this traditionally cutthroat category since the race in Bahrain in 2013. In the second (#91) 911 RSR fielded by the Porsche GT Team, Richard Lietz (Austria) and Frédéric Makowiecki (France) clocked the third fastest time.

This marks the second pole position in a row for the 911 RSR, which Porsche Motorsport in Weissach designed from scratch for this season on the basis of the high-performance 911 GT3 RS sports car. At the Bowmanville race in the IMSA SportsCar Championship a week ago, the 510 hp racer also occupied the front grid spot.

The fastest Porsche in the GTE-Am class, in which customer teams field two 911 RSR from the 2015 model year, was the number 77 race from Dempsey Proton Racing in second place. One of the drivers is Porsche Young Professional Matteo Cairoli (Italy). Gulf Racing takes up the race from fourth on the grid.

More quotes in the [press release](#) (downloads).



The 911 RSR

Results GT

GTE-Pro class

1. Christensen/Estre (DK/F), Porsche 911 RSR, 1:54.007 minutes
2. Thiim/Soerensen (DK/DK), Aston Martin, + 0.345 seconds
3. Lietz/Makowiecki (A/F), Porsche 911 RSR, + 0.511
4. Mücke/Pla (D/F), Ford GT, + 0.687
5. Rigon/Vilander (I/SF), Ferrari 488 GTE, + 0.750
6. Priaulx/Tincknell (GB/GB), Ford GT, + 0.800
7. Calado/PierGuidi (I/I), Ferrari 488 GTE, + 1.030
8. Turner/Adam/Serra (GB/GB/BRA), Aston Martin, + 1.375

GTE-Am class

1. Dalla Lana/Lamy/Lauda (CAN/P/A), Aston Martin, 1:56.721 minutes
2. Ried/Cairolì/Dienst (D/I/D), Porsche 911 RSR, + 0.408
3. Flohr/Castellacci/Molina (CH/I/P), Ferrari 488 GTE, + 1.237
4. Wainwright/Barker/Foster (GB/GB/GB), Porsche 911 RSR, 1.306
5. Mok/Sawa/Griffin (MYS/J/IRL), Ferrari 488 GTE, + 1.614

Livestream und TV

The six-hour race starts on Sunday at 13.00 hrs CEST. Sport 1 broadcasts live from 12.30 to 19.45 hrs. Sport 1.de televises the race as a live stream. Eurosport televises the last hour of racing as well as the podium ceremony live from 18.15 to 19.15 hrs. The FIA WEC App is free in its basic version. For a fee, the App offers a live stream of the entire race plus live timing.

Results LMP

All scores: <http://www.fiawec.com/en/season/result>

All results: <http://fiawec.alkamelsystems.com>

Link Collection

Link to this article

<https://newsroom.porsche.com/en/motorsports/porsche-motorsport-fia-wec-2017-imp1-gt-919-hybrid-911-rsr-nuerburgring-qualifying-13962.html>

Media Package

<https://newsroom.porsche.com/media-package/feb621f5-facb-4d54-800f-1dbd74f322e4>

Downloads

Porsche 919 Hybrids to start from first and second rows of the grid, press release, 07/15/2017, Porsche AG

First pole in the WEC for the new 911 RSR, press release, 07/15/2017, Porsche AG

Videos

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/225677647>

External Links

<http://www.porsche.com/usa/eventsandracing/motorsport/>