

Motorsports Jun 30, 2017

New 911 RSR tackles another reliability test

With the six-hour race at Watkins Glen on 2 July the IMSA SportsCar Championship picks up pace again after taking a break for the 24 Hours of Le Mans. The Porsche GT Team sends two new 911 RSR to contest the event in the US state of New York.



The racer, designed from scratch by Porsche Motorsport in Weissach based on the seventh generation of the iconic 911 sports car, tackles the strongly represented GTLM class. In the GTD category, customer teams campaign the Porsche 911 GT3 R. The Porsche squad travels to Watkins Glen as the leader (driver and team) of the North American Endurance Cup. The other three events that make up this prestigious long-distance reliability competition are Daytona, Sebring, and Petit Le Mans.

The race

The storied Watkins Glen International racetrack, nicknamed "The Glen", is 5.472-kilometres long. It was built around a forested hilltop and opened in 1956. For many years, Watkins Glen hosted Formula 1: From 1961 to 1980, the United States Grand Prix was contested on the outskirts of this tranquil town, with Jim Clark and Graham Hill at the top of the winner's list with three victories each. 2015 marks the last Porsche victory at Watkins Glen courtesy of Wolf Henzler and Bryan Sellers in the 911 RSR.

The Porsche drivers

Patrick Pilet (France) and Dirk Werner (Germany) share the cockpit of the #911 Porsche 911 RSR. Manning the #912 vehicle are Laurens Vanthoor (Belgium) and – as his maiden race as a Porsche works driver – Gianmaria Bruni (Italy). Fielding the 911 GT3 R in the GTD class are the customer squads Park Place Motorsports with Jörg Bergmeister, Alegra Motorsports with Michael Christensen as well as CORE Autosports.

The Porsche vehicles



As a completely new development, the 911 RSR celebrated its race debut in January 2017 at the Daytona 24-hour race. It is campaigned by the Porsche GT Team in both the IMSA SportsCar Championship and the Sports Car World Endurance Championship WEC. Depending on the size of the restrictor, the motor, which is now positioned in front of the rear axle, puts out around 375 kW (510 hp). The level of downforce and the aerodynamic efficiency were significantly improved. The 911 GT3 R, mounted with the new ultra-modern, four-litre, flat-six engine with direct fuel injection, was designed by Porsche for worldwide GT3 series on the basis of the 911 GT3 RS production sports car. The 368+kW (500 hp) customer sport racer celebrated its first 2017 victory at Daytona.

The schedule

The six-hour race takes off on Sunday, 2 July, at 10.10 hrs local time (16.10 hrs CEST) and can be viewed live outside the USA on www.imsa.com.

Pre-race quotes

Dr. Frank-Steffen Walliser, Vice President and GT Cars: "The race at Watkins Glen is a real sports car classic. The tradition-steeped racetrack is very demanding and it's the next big challenge for the drivers, most of whom tackled the 24 Hours of Le Mans recently. We've successfully completed the first endurance races in the USA with our new 911 RSR. As a result, we're well placed in the North American Endurance Cup, the prestigious long-distance competition in which our 911 RSR has managed to earn points thanks to its reliability. We are keen to reinforce our top position by achieving a good result at Watkins Glen. We're particularly pleased to have Gianmaria Bruni contest his first race for Porsche here at Watkins Glen and we welcome one of the fastest GT pilots to the Porsche motorsport family. Our driver lineup is now set for the rest of the season."

Marco Ujhasi, Overall Project Manager GT Works Motorsport: "Despite the time pressure of the 24 Hours of Le Mans, we've taken the time to test at Watkins Glen. To find a perfect vehicle setup for this challenging circuit is particularly tricky. The test yielded some very useful data. Now we have to use the practice and qualifying sessions well and then we can line up on the grid with our 911 RSR fully prepared."

Sebastian Golz, Project Manager GT Customer Motorsport: "The many long, sweeping corners on this racetrack put the tyres under far more stress than on other circuits. Hence, managing the tyres correctly will be a key to success."

This is the IMSA SportsCar Championship

The IMSA SportsCar Championship is a sports car race series contested in the USA and Canada, which was run in 2014 for the first time. The series was formed from the merger of the American Le Mans Series and the Grand-Am Series. Sports prototypes and sports cars start in four different classes: GTLM (GT Le Mans), GTD (GT Daytona), P (Prototype) and PC (Prototype Challenge). The new Porsche 911 RSR runs in the GTLM class, with the Porsche 911 GT3 R contesting the GTD class.

911 GT3 RS: Fuel consumption combined 12.7 l/100 km; CO2 emissions 296 g/km

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Media Package

<https://newsroom.porsche.com/media-package/porsche-motorsport-imsa-2017-911-rsr-watkins-glen-usa-outlook>

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New 911 RSR tackles another reliability tests in the USA, press release, 06/23/2017, Porsche AG

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