



WorldSBK Pirelli Portuguese Round - Preview

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PRESS RELEASE



Pirelli debuts a new front tyre at Portimão

Compared to the standard SC1, the E1164 development front features a brand-new structure and compound. The new Pirelli-equipped Sportbike category also makes its debut on the Portuguese circuit.

- **New front option.** At Portimão, the first European round of the **FIM Superbike World Championship** after the traditional season opener in Australia, **Pirelli** will provide Superbike riders with a brand-new front tyre. This new **soft tyre is designated the E1164** which, compared to the standard SC1, features a new structure and compound. This development specification, making its debut, will join the other two standard solutions - the **soft SC1** and the **medium SC2**, both available for sale on the market.
- **SCX instead of SCQ.** As in previous years, Pirelli has again decided that for the Portimão round the rear supersoft SCX - known until last season under the development specification E0126 – will take on the role normally reserved for the extrasoft SCQ – ie to be used exclusively in free practice, **qualifying**, and the **Superpole Race**. This decision is due to the fact that the Portuguese circuit is quite demanding on tyres, offering low grip that leads to wheelspin and exposes the rear tyres — particularly within the right shoulder — to frequent and significant thermal variation. In addition, the undulating layout forces riders into heavy braking, often downhill, increasing stress on the front tyres. For the rear in the long races, riders will be able to choose between the **soft SC0** – last year's race tyre, previously known under the development specification E0125 – and the **medium SC1**, which until last season carried the D0286 development code and has now been promoted to the new standard medium option.
- **Sportbike makes its debut.** The new **FIM Sportbike World Championship** also makes its debut on the Portuguese circuit. This category replaces the Supersport300 class and features six manufacturers with bikes that differ markedly in terms of engine configuration and power. What they have in common will be the same tyres for everyone: **Pirelli DIABLO Superbike SC1 compound for both front and rear, in sizes 120/70 front and 180/60 rear** — the same already used in the FIM World WRC Championship which is now entering its third season.



At Portimão, focus on the front tyre development

"While at Phillip Island we had two rear development options available, for the first European round of the premier production-based championship we decided to concentrate on improving our front-tyre range by developing the E1164 specification. This alternative to the standard soft SC1 features an innovative structure designed to enhance stability under braking and on corner entry, as well as a new compound intended to deliver more consistent performance over race distance. The Algarve circuit, with its characteristics and its elevation changes that place significant stress on the front tyres during braking, is indeed particularly well-suited to testing the performance of a new front tyre.

This weekend we will also see the debut of the new FIM Sportbike World Championship, replacing Supersport 300. Like all other classes, it will use Pirelli tyres — specifically DIABLO Superbike slicks in SC1 compound for both axes. The same equipment will also be used in the WorldWCR, the FIM Women's World Championship, which will feature 24 riders at the start for a total of six events this season. It will therefore be a round rich in content and news for both paddock workers and enthusiasts".