

Pre-event media briefing: FIA WTCC DHL Race of Qatar

Event	FIA WTCC DHL Race of Qatar
Circuit	Losail International Circuit
Date	26-27 November 2015
Rounds	23 and 24 of 24
Entries	19 (18 starters)
Circuit length	5.380 kilometres
Race distance	2 x 12 laps
Lap record (qualifying)	To be established
Lap record (race)	To be established
WTCC appearances	None (Qatar hosts the WTCC for the first time)
Time zone	GMT +3 hours
Sunrise/sunset	05h59/16h43 (Friday 27 November)
Average temperature	22°C-29°C (for November)

Pointers	<p>1: While José María López is WTCC champion for a second time, the battle for the runner-up spot is tightly poised with Sébastien Loeb five points ahead of Citroën team-mate Yvan Muller</p> <p>2: With a future in cross-country rallying planned, Qatar could be Loeb's final WTCC appearance</p> <p>3: Norbert Michelisz starts the Qatar finale seven points ahead of Mehdi Bennani in the race for the Yokohama Drivers' Trophy</p> <p>4: Not since 2005 has Rob Huff failed to win during the course of a WTCC season. The LADA driver is currently winless in 2015</p> <p>5: Gabriele Tarquini is on course to finish 2015 as the highest-placed Honda driver. However, Michelisz and Tiago Monteiro can overhaul him</p> <p>6: Rickard Rydell is once again a non-starter, his team not in a position to air-freight his car from Europe</p> <p>7: The Chevrolet RML Cruze TC1s will carry zero compensation weight in Qatar. But the Citroën C-Elysées and Honda Civics will run with 60 and 40 kilograms of success ballast respectively, while the LADA Vestas have 10 kilograms added</p>
Notable firsts	<p>1 WTCC Race of Qatar is the championship's first night race, the first to take place in the Middle East and the first to be run on a Friday</p> <p>2 Nasser Al-Attiyah will make his first start in the WTCC when he drives for Campos Racing in his home event. He was given special dispensation to drive the car for a promotional exercise on Tuesday evening</p> <p>3 DHL, the leading global brand in the logistics industry, is the WTCC Race of Qatar Event Presenting Partner, the first time this season it has performed the role</p>

Planned media activities	<p>Wednesday 25 November</p> <p>16h00-17h00: Pre-event press conference, QMMF, Salwa Road 24, Doha, Qatar. Attendees: Nasser Saleh Al-Attiyah, Mehdi</p>
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	<p>Bennani, Rob Huff, José María López, Norbert Michelisz plus QMMF President and FIA Vice-President Nasser Khalifa Al-Attiyah, François Ribeiro and Nael Attiyat of DHL. Followed by a photo opportunity and trip on a Dhow boat.</p> <p>Thursday 26 November 11h00-22h00: Media Accreditation Centre open 11h30-23h00: Media Centre open</p> <p>Friday 27 November 13h30-23h00: Media Accreditation Centre open 13h30-until the last journalist leaves 16h10 (approx.): WTCC post-qualifying press conference (Media Centre). Fastest three overall and quickest Yokohama Drivers' Trophy contender will be in attendance. One additional driver may also be invited 23h30 (approx.): WTCC post-race press conference (Media Centre). Top three drivers and winning Yokohama Drivers' Trophy contender from each race will be in attendance. Additional drivers may be invited</p>
<p>Other media information</p>	<p>1: Not including broadcast media, 36 national press, eight international press and 13 all-season pass holders will attend 2: Coverage of both Free Practice sessions will be streamed on official website, Fiawtcc.com, which also provides live timing, news updates, videos and photo galleries, driver and background information, plus links to the WTCC's social media channels 3: The site also includes a dedicated media section 4: A delegation of Polestar Cyan Racing representatives will be in attendance throughout the event ahead of the team's participation in the WTCC from 2016 5: DHL, the WTCC's Official Logistics Partner, has signed as the Event Presenting Partner</p>

ENDS

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