

# 4 HOURS OF **LE CASTELLET**

16 JULY 2023

## **OFFICIAL PROGRAM**

CIRCUIT **PAUL RICARD**



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**GOOD YEAR**



**MICHELIN**

**AVIS**

#ELMS EUROPEANLEMANSSERIES.COM



# GO



# GOOD YEAR



## READY FOR ANYTHING



**BRAKING**



**HANDLING**



**GRIP**

### EAGLE F1 ASYMMETRIC 6

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RACING TEAM TURKEY CELEBRATE  
OVERALL VICTORY IN BARCELONA



GETTING READY  
TO GO RACING

## **THE ELMS IS READY TO GO RACING AT LE CASTELLET**

The European Le Mans Series has always provided some of the best racing action found anywhere in the world and with a 42-car grid filled with some of the best teams and drivers, the 2023 season promises more of the same this weekend for Round 2, the 4 Hours of Le Castellet.

The Circuit Paul Ricard has hosted an ELMS race every year since 2010, the only circuit to be on the calendar for the past 14 seasons.

The ELMS features full grids across the four classes – LMP2, LMP2 Pro/Am, LMP3 and LMGTE - with the ultimate prize of an automatic invitation to 2024 24 Hours of Le Mans on offer for the very best teams in each category. The huge grid will feature 17 drivers and 4 teams who will be racing at home in the French round of the ELMS.

LMP2 is the leading class for drivers rated as silver, gold or platinum, with all teams choosing to use the Oreca 07 chassis powered by the Gibson V8 engine. LMP2 Pro/Am teams use the same cars as LMP2, but the driver line up must feature at least one bronze rated driver, who must also take part in qualifying on Saturday afternoon.

The LMP2 cars are identified by a dark blue number panel, whereas LMP2 Pro/Am have a light blue number panel.

The opening race of the season in Spain, the 4 Hours of Barcelona, was won overall by a LMP2 Pro/Am car, the no34 Racing Team Turkey Oreca, and three of the top four finishers were Pro/Am entries. So, expect to see lots of action amongst the two LMP2 classes here at the Circuit Paul Ricard.

LMP3 is the junior Le Mans Prototype category, with teams choosing to use either the Ligier JS P320 or Duqueine M30-D08 chassis, all powered by the same Nissan V8 engine. The driver line ups are a mixture of professional and amateur drivers, with many of the stars of the future choosing to compete in LMP3 as the first step on the ladder to the 24 Hours of Le Mans. The number panel on a LMP3 car is purple.

The no17 COOL Racing Ligier left Barcelona with maximum points and French driver Adrien Chila will race at his home event as championship leader alongside his Latin America teammates, Marcos Siebert and Alejandro Garcia.

2023 marks the final season of the LMGTE category, with GT3 taking over next year. For the final season there are 12 cars entered with five Ferrari 488s, four Porsche 911s and three Aston Martin Vantage. The driver line ups in LMGTE must also feature one bronze driver who must compete in qualifying. The number panel on a LMGTE cars is orange.

The no16 Proton Competition Porsche is the current championship leader after beating the no50 Formula Racing Ferrari by just 1.4 seconds in Spain last time out. You can expect the LMGTE category to be just as close in Le Castellet.

The European Le Mans Series attracts drivers from all walks of life from drivers who have competed and won at the very top of motorsport, including Formula One and the WEC, the next generation of star drivers and the amateur (bronze) drivers who want to take on the challenge of competing against the very best.

The friendly and welcoming paddock embodies the professionalism that surrounds top level endurance racing, with open access for the thousands of fans to get up close and enjoy the sport.

**excellium**  
Racing 100

With TotalEnergies, the World Endurance Championship becomes 100% certified sustainable fuel



TotalEnergies becomes the 1st official supplier of 100% certified\* sustainable fuel for the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC), including the 24 Hours of Le Mans 2022, and European Le Mans Series (ELMS). A fuel composed of biofuel which reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 65%\*\*.



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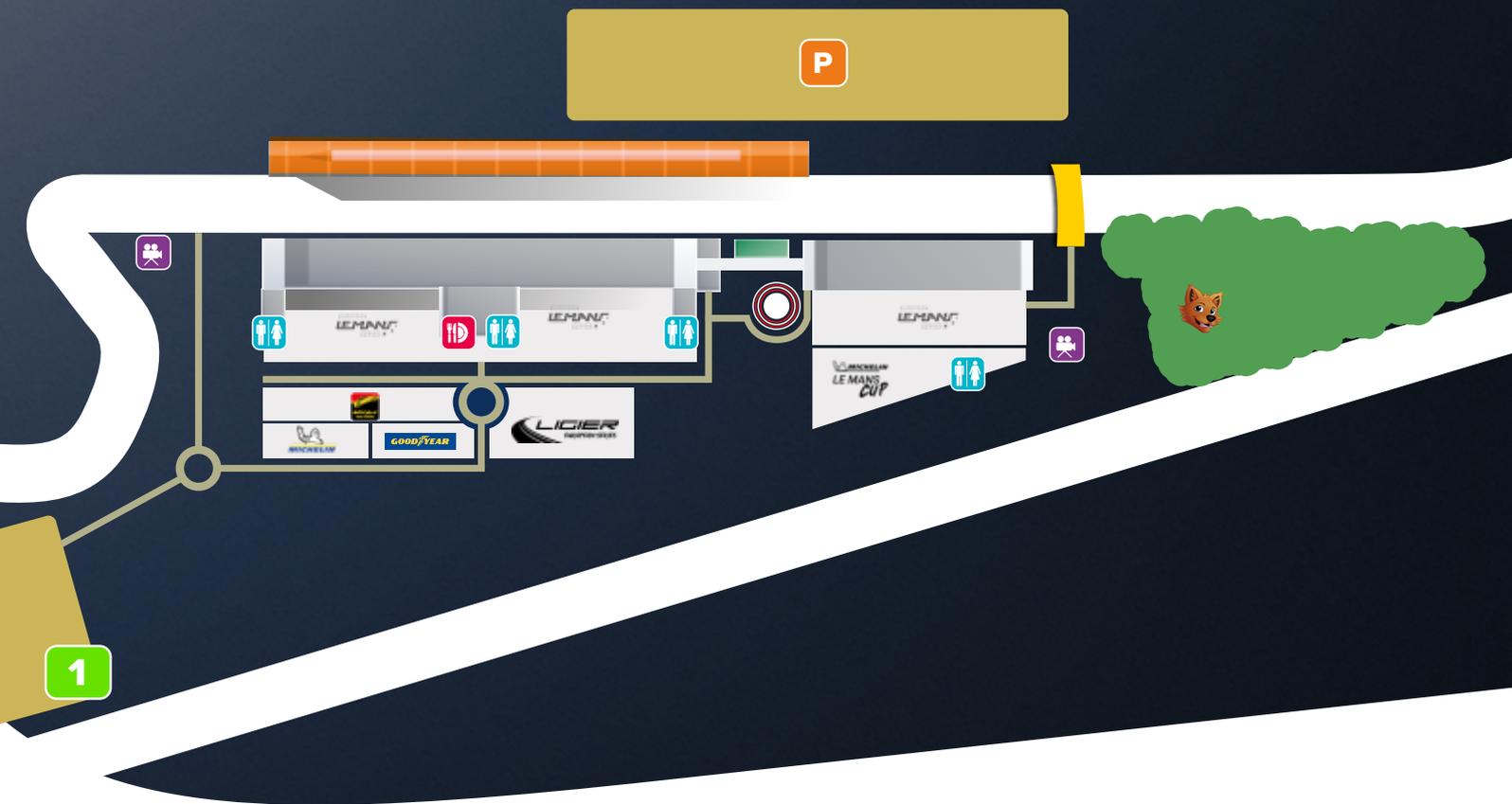


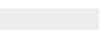
[competition.totalenergies.com/eng](https://competition.totalenergies.com/eng)

\*Excellium Racing 100 is a certified 100% sustainable product according to the mass balance system applied by the International Sustainability Carbon Certification (ISCC).

\*\*In line with the methodology provided by the European RED II directive (2018/2001), Excellium Racing 100 can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 65% compared to its fossil equivalent.

# 4 HOURS OF LE CASTELLET



-  GRANDSTANDS
-  PODIUM
-  PIT BUILDING
-  PADDOCKS
-  CAR PARK
-  FOOTBRIDGE / TUNNEL
-  GIANT SCREEN
-  FAN ZONE & FOODTRUCK
-  FOODTRUCKS
-  TOILETS

## 1 ACCREDITATION CENTRE

2760 ROUTE DES HAUTS DU CAMP, 83330 LE CASTELLET

|                 |   |                      |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| Tuesday 11/07   | > | <b>08:30 - 18:30</b> |
| Wednesday 12/07 | > | <b>08:00 - 19:00</b> |
| Thursday 13/07  | > | <b>08:00 - 18:00</b> |
| Friday 14/07    | > | <b>08:00 - 17:00</b> |
| Saturday 15/07  | > | <b>08:00 - 17:00</b> |
| Sunday 16/07    | > | <b>08:30 - 12:00</b> |

16 JULY 2023

# 4 HOURS OF LE CASTELLET



**ADDRESS**

Circuit Paul Ricard  
2760 Route des Hauts du Camp  
83 330 Le Castellet – France



**WEBSITE**

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**CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD  
BUILT IN 1970**



TRACK LENGTH: **5.771 KM**  
LONGEST STRAIGHT: **1.8 KM**  
TRACK WIDTH: **BETWEEN 10 & 12 M**  
PIT LANE: **414,70 M**  
START LINE OFFSET: **111 M**  
14 TURNS: **5 LEFT/9 RIGHT**

## ELMS RESULTS 2022

#9

**PREMA RACING**

L. COLOMBO / L. DELETRAZ / F. HABSBURG

#34

**RACING TEAM TURKEY**

S. YOLUC / C. EASTWOOD / J. AITKEN

#17

**COOL RACING**

M. SMITH / M. BENHAM / M. JAKOBSEN

#32

**RINALDI RACING**

P. EHRET / N. VARRONE / M. GIDLEY

- RACE WEEKEND -

THURSDAY

PRIVATE TESTS

The duty of the ELMS is to offer its competitors a full season to race their cars on some of **the best tracks in Europe**, while keeping tight control of the costs associated with running in a top European wide series.



90'

FRIDAY

FREE PRACTICE 1

For **all categories** (LMP2, LMP2 Pro/Am, LMP3, LMGTE)



90'

BRONZE DRIVER  
COLLECTIVE TESTS

Dedicated to all the **Bronze drivers**



30'

SATURDAY

FREE PRACTICE 2

For **all categories** (LMP2, LMP2 Pro/Am, LMP3, LMGTE)



90'

QUALIFYING SESSIONS

1 session per category, **Live Stream on Youtube**



15'<sub>x4</sub>

SUNDAY

**4 HOURS RACE**

Followed by the **podium ceremony**, **Live Stream on Youtube**

- TIMETABLE -

**FRIDAY 14 JULY 2023**

|              |              |                        |                               |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>09:00</b> | <b>09:30</b> | MITJET NORTH EUROPE    | FREE PRACTICE 1               |
| <b>09:40</b> | <b>10:20</b> | LIGIER EUROPEAN SERIES | FREE PRACTICE 1               |
| <b>10:30</b> | <b>11:30</b> | MICHELIN LE MANS CUP   | FREE PRACTICE 1               |
| <b>11:40</b> | <b>13:10</b> | ELMS                   | FREE PRACTICE 1               |
| <b>13:30</b> | <b>14:00</b> | MITJET NORTH EUROPE    | FREE PRACTICE 2               |
| <b>14:10</b> | <b>14:50</b> | LIGIER EUROPEAN SERIES | FREE PRACTICE 2               |
| <b>15:00</b> | <b>15:40</b> | MICHELIN LE MANS CUP   | BRONZE DRIVER COLLECTIVE TEST |
| <b>15:50</b> | <b>16:20</b> | ELMS                   | BRONZE DRIVER COLLECTIVE TEST |
| <b>16:30</b> | <b>16:45</b> | MITJET NORTH EUROPE    | QUALIFYING SESSION 1          |
| <b>16:50</b> | <b>17:05</b> | MITJET NORTH EUROPE    | QUALIFYING SESSION 2          |
| <b>17:15</b> | <b>17:30</b> | LIGIER EUROPEAN SERIES | QUALIFYING SESSION 1          |
| <b>17:35</b> | <b>17:50</b> | LIGIER EUROPEAN SERIES | QUALIFYING SESSION 2          |
| <b>18:00</b> | <b>19:00</b> | MICHELIN LE MANS CUP   | FREE PRACTICE 2               |

**SATURDAY 15 JULY 2023**

|              |              |                        |                                 |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>09:00</b> | <b>10:00</b> | LIGIER EUROPEAN SERIES | RACE 1                          |
| <b>10:10</b> | <b>11:40</b> | ELMS                   | FREE PRACTICE 2                 |
| <b>11:55</b> | <b>12:15</b> | MITJET NORTH EUROPE    | RACE 1                          |
| <b>12:25</b> | <b>12:40</b> | MICHELIN LE MANS CUP   | QUALIFYING SESSION - GT3        |
| <b>12:50</b> | <b>13:05</b> | MICHELIN LE MANS CUP   | QUALIFYING SESSION - LMP3       |
| <b>13:20</b> | <b>14:20</b> | LIGIER EUROPEAN SERIES | RACE 2                          |
| <b>14:30</b> | <b>14:45</b> | ELMS                   | QUALIFYING SESSION - LMGTE      |
| <b>14:55</b> | <b>15:10</b> | ELMS                   | QUALIFYING SESSION - LMP3       |
| <b>15:20</b> | <b>15:35</b> | ELMS                   | QUALIFYING SESSION - LMP2 PROAM |
| <b>15:45</b> | <b>16:00</b> | ELMS                   | QUALIFYING SESSION - LMP2       |
| <b>16:15</b> |              | ELMS                   | QUALIFYING PRESS CONFERENCE     |
| <b>16:15</b> | <b>16:35</b> | MITJET NORTH EUROPE    | RACE 2                          |
| <b>17:10</b> | <b>19:00</b> | MICHELIN LE MANS CUP   | RACE                            |

**SUNDAY 16 JULY 2023**

|              |              |                     |                             |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>09:00</b> | <b>09:20</b> | MITJET NORTH EUROPE | RACE 3                      |
| <b>09:45</b> | <b>10:15</b> | ELMS                | PITWALK & AUTOGRAPH SESSION |
| <b>10:35</b> |              | ELMS                | PITS OPEN                   |
| <b>10:40</b> |              | ELMS                | PITS CLOSED                 |
| <b>11:23</b> |              | ELMS                | 1' BOARD                    |
| <b>11:24</b> |              | ELMS                | GREEN FLAG                  |
| <b>11:30</b> | <b>15:30</b> | ELMS                | RACE                        |
| <b>16:15</b> | <b>16:35</b> | MITJET NORTH EUROPE | RACE 4                      |

# CATEGORIES



## - LMP2 -

*The Le Mans Prototype 2 is the ELMS premier class. Because of their superior performance, and level of technological development, LMP2 has star status on the ELMS grid.*



GIBSON TECHNOLOGY  
4.2-LITRE V8 PRODUCING  
550 HORSEPOWER



6 GEARS

BLUE  
RACE NUMBER  
BACKGROUND



FUEL TANK  
CAPACITY  
69 LITRES



MINIMUM  
WEIGHT :  
950kg



GOODYEAR  
TYRES  
**GOODYEAR**



CARBON BRAKE  
DISCS 15"  
(380mm)



TOP SPEED: 312Kph  
Set at Circuit Paul Ricard

# - LMP2 PRO/AM -

*LMP2 Pro/Am category run the same car as LMP2 but the lineup must include at least one Bronze driver.*



GIBSON TECHNOLOGY  
4.2-LITRE V8 PRODUCING  
550 HORSEPOWER



6 GEARS

BLUE  
RACE NUMBER  
BACKGROUND



FUEL TANK  
CAPACITY  
69 LITRES



MINIMUM  
WEIGHT :  
950kg



GOODYEAR  
TYRES  
**GOODYEAR**



CARBON BRAKE  
DISCS 15"  
(380mm)



TOP SPEED: 312Kph  
Set at Circuit Paul Ricard

- LMP3 -

*LMP3 is the training ground for endurance racing, an arena in which drivers, team members, engineers and mechanics hone their skills in Le Mans Prototypes.*



NISSAN VK56  
PRODUCING 455  
HORSEPOWER



6 GEARBOX

PURPLE  
RACE NUMBER  
BACKGROUND



FUEL TANK  
CAPACITY  
100 LITRES



MINIMUM  
WEIGHT :  
950kg



MICHELIN  
TYRES



STEEL DISCS  
355.6mm



TOP SPEED: 286Kph

Set at Circuit Paul Ricard

- LMGTE -

*LMGTE will provide one final season of action-packed racing before the category switches to GT3 in 2024.*



NORMALLY  
ASPIRATED - 5.5L  
TURBOCHARGED - 4L



6 GEARS

ORANGE  
RACE NUMBER  
BACKGROUND



TANK  
CAPACITY  
MIN 85 LITRES  
MAX 100 LITRES



MINIMUM  
WEIGHT :  
1245kg



GOODYEAR  
TYRES  
**GOODYEAR**



TOP SPEED: 281Kph  
Set at Circuit Paul Ricard

## NICO LAPIERRE

### RACING FOR THAT ELUSIVE ELMS VICTORY AT LE CASTELLET

The European Le Mans Series grid is filled with some of the world's top endurance racing drivers and teams, all vying for that exclusive chance to become a European Champion and grab one of the highly sought after places on the grid at the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

COOL Racing has been part of the ELMS since 2017 and the team's Team Principal, and driver in the no37 Oreca-Gibson, Nicolas Lapierre, has tasted the winner's champagne on many occasions over the years. A four-time LMP2 winner at the 24 Hours of Le Mans and double FIA World Endurance LMP2 Champion is just part of his impressive racing resume, but this season he has his sights set on the ELMS title that has so far eluded him.

As Team Principal, Nicolas Lapierre has steered the Swiss team's development and this has resulted in some impressive results, including becoming the 2022 ELMS LMP3 Champions.





**The season started well for Nico Lapierre the driver, as well as Nico Lapierre the Team Principal, securing a 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> in LMP2 Pro/Am in the no37 car alongside his co-drivers Alexandre Coigny and Malthe Jakobsen. The teams other LMP2 entry finished 4<sup>th</sup> in class and the no17 Ligier took the victory in LMP3. So how does Lapierre sum up the team's performance in the opening round in Spain?**

"Let's say it was mixed feelings after Barcelona opening round," he admitted. "As a Team Principal, I was happy with the win of Alex Garcia, Marcos Siebert and Adrien Chila in LMP3. It's a great way to start the season, with a new line-up and keeping in mind it's always difficult to defend your championship title!"

"In LMP2, the pole position by Reshad de Gerus was positive, but in the race, we should have had a better result, both with the #47 and #37 cars," Lapierre continued.

"We had some small contacts, but they were clearly not helping the pace, and also a penalty for the #47. When you look at the level in the ELMS, to win you have to have a faultless race. The podium in Pro/Am was good but we want more. As a team we can do better, we already saw some improvement at Le Mans. As a driver, I had some fun on track, with great battles. But again, I want more!"

**Round 2 is the 4 Hours of Le Castellet, the home event for all of the many French drivers and teams on the grid this weekend, including Nicolas Lapierre, a track he knows very well. So, what does he think of the Circuit Paul Ricard and what is his favourite corner?**

"The Circuit Paul Ricard is a little bit special to me," Lapierre said. "I have spent a lot of time on this track, testing with the ORECAs, the Toyota and Alpine. I have been involved in the development of many ORECA prototypes and we always tested at Le Castellet. The factory is close to the circuit, so can imagine I know well the place. I also made a lot of endurance tests with Toyota."

## **THE CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD IS A LITTLE BIT SPECIAL TO ME**

"I also like the area and I am used to have great time with my family in the South of France. So, it's one of the best destinations on the ELMS calendar; maybe even more special this year as it will be France's national day on Friday."

"Regarding my favourite part of the circuit, it will not be a surprise to anyone, I would say Signes corner, flat out!"

**While Nicolas Lapierre has plenty of experience at the Circuit Paul Ricard, and bearing in mind his impressive resume, it was a bit of a shock to discover that he has only scored one ELMS podium finish at Le Castellet and that was back in 2016 when he finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with Dragonspeed. The obvious question is, will he be looking to add another podium this weekend?**

"Thank you for the reminder; I will tell it to the team," he said with a smile. "For sure, I hope and I am convinced we can improve this result. We have all the parts of the puzzle to make something great, in all the classes we are involved, and we need to have a strong result. Considering the pace we have shown, considering the tests we made at Paul Ricard, our target is clearly to fight for the win."

EUROPEAN  
**LEMAN**  
SERIES

**WATCH  
LIVE**



**ALL RACES ARE LIVE-BROADCASTED ON  
OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

- SPOTTER GUIDE -

**22 UNITED AUTOSPORTS USA**   
 P2   M. Seto  P. Hanson  O. Jarvis



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**25 ALGARVE PRO RACING**   
 P2   J. Allen  K. Simpson  A. Lynn



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**28 IDEC SPORT**   
 P2   P. Lafargue  P. L. Chetin  L. Hörr



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**30 DUGUINE TEAM**   
 P2   N. Pino  R. Binder  N. Jani



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**43 INTEREUROPOL COMPETITION**   
 P2   J. Aberdein  O. Caldwell  R. Andrade



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**47 COOL RACING**   
 P2   V. Lomko  R. De Gerus  J. M. Lopez



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**65 PANIS RACING**   
 P2   J. Van Uiterl  M. Maldonado  T. Van Der Helm



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**3 DKR ENGINEERING**   
 P2   T. Van Rompuy  S. Alvarez  N. Berthon



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**19 TEAM VIRAGE**   
 P2   A. Meitschull  I. Rodriguez  T. Calderon



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**20 ALGARVE PRO RACING**   
 P2   F. Poordad  T. Vautier  J. Hawksworth



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**21 UNITED AUTOSPORTS USA**   
 P2   D. Schneider  A. Meyrick  N. Piquet Jr



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**23 UNITED AUTOSPORTS USA**   
 P2   J. McGuire  G. Smith  P. Di Resta



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**24 NIELSEN RACING**   
 P2   R. Sales  B. Hanley  M. Beche



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**34 RACING TEAM TURKEY**   
 P2   S. Yoluc  C. Eastwood  L. Deletraz



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**37 COOL RACING**   
 P2   A. Coigny  M. Jakobsen  N. Lapierre



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

- SPOTTER GUIDE -

**81** DRAGONSPEED USA   
  
 H. Hedman  S. Montoya  J. P. Montoya



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**83** AF CORSE   
  
 F. Perrodo  M. Vaxivière  G. Barnicoat



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**99** PROTON COMPETITION   
  
 G. Roda  J. Ried  G. Bruni



ORECA 07 - GIBSON  

**4** DKR ENGINEERING   
  
 A. Bukhantsov  J. Winslow  P. Perino



DUQUEINE M30 - D08 - NISSAN  

**5** RLR M SPORT   
  
 J. Dayson  V. Eriksen  J. Manchester



LIGIER JS P320 - NISSAN  

**7** NIELSEN RACING   
  
 A. Wells  R. Harper-Elam



LIGIER JS P320 - NISSAN  

**8** TEAM VIRAGE   
  
 M. Espirito Santo  N. Adcock  M. Jensen



LIGIER JS P320 - NISSAN  

**10** EUROINTERNATIONAL   
  
 M. Luethen  G. Van Berlo



LIGIER JS P320 - NISSAN  

**11** EUROINTERNATIONAL   
  
 M. R. Bell  J. A. All



LIGIER JS P320 - NISSAN  

**12** WTM BY RINALDI RACING   
  
 T. Kretz  L. Weiss  O. Turjo



DUQUEINE M30 - D08 - NISSAN  

**13** INTEREUROPOL COMPETITION   
  
 M. Cristóvão  K. Askey  W. Brichacek



LIGIER JS P320 - NISSAN  

**15** RLR M SPORT   
  
 H. Felbermayr  G. Julien  M. Kepczyk



LIGIER JS P320 - NISSAN  

**17** COOL RACING   
  
 A. Chia  M. Siebert  A. Garcia



LIGIER JS P320 - NISSAN  

**31** RACING SPIRIT OF LEMAN   
  
 J. Wolff  A. Doquin  J.-L. Foubert



LIGIER JS P320 - NISSAN  

**35** ULTIMATE   
  
 E. Trouillet  M. Lahaye  J.-S. Lahaye



LIGIER JS P320 - NISSAN  

- SPOTTER GUIDE -

**16** **PROTON COMPETITION**   
  R. Hardwick  Z. Robichon  A. Picariello



PORSCHE 911 RSR - 18  

**44** **GMB MOTORSPORT**   
  J. Møller  G. Birch  N. Thim



ASTON MARTIN VANTAGE AMR  

**50** **FORMULA RACING**   
  J. Laurson  C. Laursen  N. Nielsen



FERRARI 488 GTE EVO  

**51** **AF CORSE**   
  K. Lentoudis  R. Agas  U. De Pauw



FERRARI 488 GTE EVO  

**55** **SPIRIT OF RACE**   
  D. Cameron  D. Perel  M. Griffin



FERRARI 488 GTE EVO  

**57** **KESSEL RACING**   
  T. Kimura  G. Huffaker  F. Schandorff



FERRARI 488 GTE EVO  

**60** **IRON LYNX**   
  C. Schlavoni  M. Cressoni  M. Cairolì



PORSCHE 911 RSR - 19  

**66** **JMW MOTORSPORT**   
  M. Berry  L. Manafin  J. Lancaster



FERRARI 488 GTE EVO  

**72** **TF SPORT**   
  A. Robin  M. Robin  V. Masse Clot



ASTON MARTIN VANTAGE AMR  

**77** **PROTON COMPETITION**   
  C. Ried  G. Levorato  J. Andlauer



PORSCHE 911 RSR - 19  

**93** **PROTON COMPETITION**   
  M. Fassbender  M. Rump  R. Lietz



PORSCHE 911 RSR - 19  

**95** **TF SPORT**   
  J. Hertschorn  B. Tuck  J. Adam



ASTON MARTIN VANTAGE AMR  



**MICHELIN**

# LE MANS CUP





CLOSE BATTLES IN LMP3  
AT LE MANS

ANDERS FJORBACH AND VALENTINO ROSSI  
BATTLE FOR THE LEAD AT LE MANS



## AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP

Launched in 2016, the Michelin Le Mans Cup has become the main series for amateur and young professional drivers looking for an introduction to Endurance racing.

The Michelin Le Mans Cup grid at Le Castellet will feature a huge 42 cars, which is divided into two classes: LMP3 and GT3. The race will last 1 hour and 50 minutes, with a mandatory pitstop at the midpoint of the race.

All cars in the Le Mans Prototype 3 (LMP3) category are built according to the ACO LMP3 technical regulations, with four different chassis to choose from: Ligier, Duqueine, Adess and Ginetta, with the first two being the chassis of choice for all of the teams this season.

The LMP3 category for Round 3 at the Circuit Paul Ricard is once again full of new and established talent, with 16 teams running a total of 26 Ligier JS P320-Nissans competing against 4 teams running the Duqueine M30-D08-Nissan.

On the LMP3 grid there are 11 drivers and 5 teams racing under the Red, White and Blue Tricolour of France, including current championship leader Gillian Henrion, who will race alongside his teammate Julien Gerbi in the no16 Team Virage Ligier. Another French driver, Fabien Michal, is in second place with teammate Kirill Smal, the pair just 4-points behind the leaders in the no2 CD Sport Ligier.

There are plenty of other top teams ready to challenge for the win at Le Castellet, with reigning champions Racing Spirit of Lemans leading the way. 2021 champions Nielsen Racing have a two-car entry and four-time LMP3 Champions DKR Engineering have entered a single Duqueine to challenge for the top step of the podium.

The eligible car list in GT3 category extends to every constructor which has an approved FIA GT3 chassis. Aston Martin Vantage, Honda NSX, Audi R8 LMS EVO II, Ferrari 296, Porsche 911 GT3 R Type 992 and Lamborghini Huracan EVO2 are entered in the series this year. There are several other manufacturers with eligible cars and GT3 is set to become the benchmark for GT in the European Le Mans Series, the FIA WEC and the 24 Hours of Le Mans from next season.

Six different manufacturers will be represented on the 12 car GT3 grid at the Circuit Paul Ricard, with championship leaders after the first three races being Tim Creswick and Anders Fjordbach in the no86 HCR with CaffeineSix Porsche 911. The Danish team have a six-point advantage over their nearest rivals in the no10 Racing Spirit of Lemans Aston Martin Vantage of French duo, and Round 1 winners, Arnold Robin and Valentin Hasse-Clot.

Reigning GT3 champions GMB Motorsport returning with a pair of Honda NSX GT3s to defend their title. The driver line-up the Danish team includes former F1 driver and 24 Hours of Le Mans winner Jan Magnussen in the #88 Honda.

There will be a pair of the brand new Ferrari 296 GT3, run by Italian team AF Corse as well as three Lamborghini Huracans, run by former champions Iron Lynx and German team Leipert Motorsport.

A single Audi R8 LMS run by Steller Motorsport and two further Porsche 911 GT3 Rs run by Team Parker Racing make up a mouth-watering grid of GT3 machinery, all challenging for the opportunity to win an automatic entry to the 2024 24 Hours of Le Mans.

The friendly and welcoming paddock offers open access for the thousands of fans to get up close and enjoy the Michelin Le Mans Cup, with both the qualifying and race taking place on Saturday 15 July.

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# VALENTIN HASSE CLOT

Valentin Hasse Clot has been a familiar name in the world of Endurance Racing over the past few seasons as the 27-year-old Frenchman has been making his mark in the Michelin Le Mans Cup and European Le Mans Series.

The 2020 GT4 European Champion became an Aston Martin works driver as the 2021 graduate of the Aston Martin Racing Driver Academy, following in the footsteps of ELMS and MLCM racer Ross Gunn and two-time class winner at Le Mans, and his 2023 TF Sport teammate, Jonny Adam.





Hasse Clot's 2023 season got off to a great start in Barcelona, winning the opening round of the Michelin Le Mans Cup from pole position alongside fellow French driver Arnold Robin in the no10 Racing Spirit of Lemans Aston Martin Vantage GT3.

Arnold Robin qualified the no72 TF Sport Aston Martin Vantage AMR in 4<sup>th</sup> for the first ELMS race, the 4 Hours of Barcelona, where he would be competing alongside his younger brother Maxime and Valentin Hasse Clot.

Unfortunately, their race was cut short after a spinning LMP3 car on the opening lap caused several GTE competitors to go off in avoidance and Robin was one of the drivers caught up in the accident. While Robin was OK, the no72 TF Sport Aston Martin had to retire before it had completed a single lap of the race.

"There were mixed emotions in Barcelona indeed," admitted Hasse Clot. "With pole position, fastest lap and victory in Michelin Le Mans Cup on Saturday, we were in a very good state of mind before attacking the ELMS race on Sunday. The cherry on the cake was when Arnold qualified the car on the second row for his very first GTE qualifying session. He got caught up in an accident after two corners, but there is nothing we can do but accept it and come back stronger."

**So how does Valentin Hasse Clot approach a race weekend when he and Arnold are competing in two championships with two different teams?** "The first big advantage is track time," Hasse Clot immediately responded. "This allows Arnold to make a GT3 qualifying session before the one in GTE, and a race start before the ELMS one on Sunday. Thanks to this, we share more moments and memories together, which strengthens our team spirit.

## **PAUL RICARD IS OUR HOME RACE IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP**

"Being in different teams does not really affect our approach since we are racing Aston Martin in both categories," he continued. "At the end of the day the cars are very close from each other. We do the same lap times with the GT3 and the GTE. Our Michelin Le Mans Cup team Racing Spirit of Léman adapts completely to our ELMS program with TF Sport. Without this flexibility it would be impossible."

**This weekend is the home event for all three drivers, so what does Valentin think of the Circuit Paul Ricard?** "Paul Ricard is our home race in the championship. Obviously, it makes this race a bit special for us," he said. "The recent years have provided a lot of good memories for us three on this circuit. My favourite place is the high-speed corner of Signes; it's a bend for brave drivers!"



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GT3 **Honda NSX GT3** 



 L. E. Pedersen  J. Magnussen

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After Barcelona and Le Mans, the tension is about to ramp up in Le Castellet. Some 20 Ligier JS P4s and Ligier JS2 Rs will battle at Circuit Paul Ricard in Le Castellet on 14 and 15 July in the third heat of the championship, which is already promising to be a tight affair. The last meeting at Le Mans in June shook up the classifications and narrowed the gaps in both categories. The arrival of new drivers and the return of the Romanian team Smart Driving to the Ligier JS P4 category are also likely to spice up the races.

#### THE JS P4 CATEGORY

With 58 points, Mihnea Stefan (#48 Team Virage) still leads the overall championship. But his eventful race at Le Mans, which he finished in seventh place, allowed his rivals to catch up in the provisional classification. On the strength of a runner-up finish at Le Mans, Simone Riccitelli and Jacopo Mazza (#7 LR Motorsport) are in the Romanian driver's rear-view mirror on 40 points. But the Italian pair are caught in a vice-like grip by Team Virage, as behind them is the bronze duo of Kevin Madsen/Lance Fenton (#1 Team Virage), winners of the Le Mans Heat.

George King and Bernardo Pinheiro (#60 Team Virage), in fourth place with 36 points, and the Dimitri Enjalbert/Anthony Nahra duo (#17 Pegasus Racing), on 33 points, cannot be overlooked.

Kevin Madsen and Lance Fenton (#1 Team Virage) who were tied with Yuki Tanaka (#16 Pegasus Racing) after Barcelona, overtook their rival in the AM class at Le Mans. The Americans have 68 points to the Japanese driver's 61. David Caussanel will rejoin his teammate with whom he shared the #16 car in Barcelona. HPRacing by Monza Garage's #4 is third on 30 points

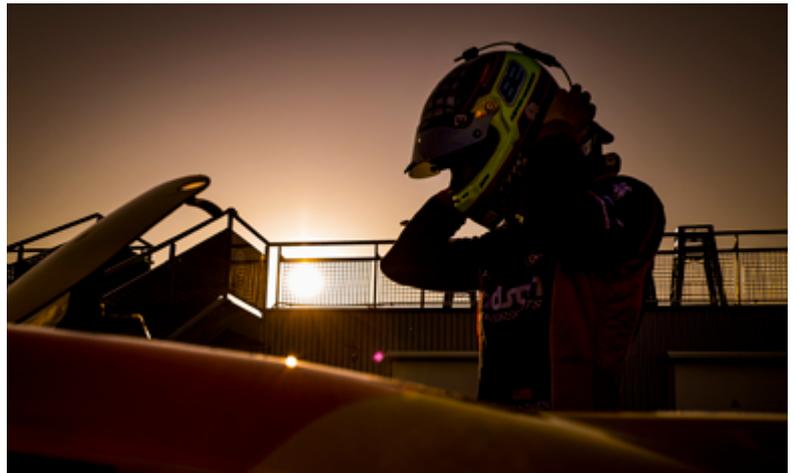




**THE JS2 R CATEGORY**

Julien Lemoine (#42 ANS Motorsport), David Rodorigo (#43 LR Motorsport) and Gilles Poret (#95 CTF Performance) are within a few points of each other in the general and AM classification. They have respectively 61, 58 and 52 points. In fourth place, Jacques Nicolet (#86 Les Deux Arbres) has 32 points.

Simon Butler and Maximus Mayer (#10 RLR MSport) lead the PRO-AM class with 50 points. But their rival Christophe Weber (#29 Pegasus Racing) is close behind on 43 points.



**NEWCOMERS AT CIRCUIT PAUL RICARD**

Present last year, Smart Driving returns to the Ligier European Series in the sport-prototype category. The #5 Ligier JS P4 will be driven by Australian Dylan Young and young Moroccan driver Moulay El Alaoui. Another first-time entry in the championship will be the father/son duo of Nicola and Daniele Cazzaniga with the HPRacing by Monza Garage team in the #4 Ligier JS P4.

In the JS2 R category, a well-known figure in the Ligier European Series will be at the controls of the #29 Pegasus Racing entry alongside Christophe Weber: Julien Schell, the squad's team manager. The two drivers already raced together last season at the Spa-Francorchamps Heat.

 [A look back at Ligier European Series' Le Mans Heat during the 2023 24 Hours of Le Mans](#)

**CATEGORIES**

A SPORT-PROTOTYPE CATEGORY WITH THE LIGIER JS P4

A GT CATEGORY WITH THE LIGIER JS2 R

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