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EXTENDED RACES ANNOUNCED FOR THE MID-OHIO SPORTS CAR CHALLENGE SCHEDULE

BRASELTON, Ga. April 21 – The International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) announced today that there will be an exciting addition to the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama series event schedule at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Challenge. The event will now feature two 45 minute races for the series, a change that will certainly be welcomed by entrants and fans alike.

Originally, the series only had one 30 minute race scheduled for the event. But as the Series Manager, Mike Simons explains, this change creates exciting new possibilities. “The Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama is a true developmental series, training drivers and equipping teams with the experience and skills they need to eventually advance to the American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patrón,” said Simons. “IMSA is eager to provide drivers with additional track time and extended races as it will allow teams increased opportunities to recognize their areas of strength as well as those areas where they need to improve, all in preparation for a potential graduation to the American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patrón.”

The new schedule will begin with a Promoter Test Day on Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by Practice, Qualifying, and the series' first race of the event on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. The second and final race of the event for the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama will be on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, following the American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patrón race.

The Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course is a 2.258-mile permanent road course, nestled in Lexington, Ohio. A competitive course with 13 turns, the track consistently proves challenging for competitors of all series. For drivers of the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama, the additional race and extended track time will give participants the ability to learn more about their Porsche 911 GT3 Cup cars, as well as the incredible reliability and consistency of their Yokohama ADVAN<sup>®</sup> ENV-R2<sup>™</sup> tires, helping them identify what changes can be made to achieve optimal results. Driver and team development is essential to the series; many of these participants are the future of racing.

The Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama is a developmental series designed to prepare drivers and teams for professional careers in sports car racing. The series features semi-professional drivers racing head to head in one of the world's most successful race cars, the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup car. The multi-class structure of the series teaches drivers essential skills for improving maneuvering abilities and driving techniques – all necessary proficiencies for an eventual career in the American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patrón.

The 2010 season of the Patrón GT3 Challenge continues May 21 – 23, 2010, with Rounds 3 and 4 at the 2010 American Le Mans Series Monterey Presented by Patrón, held at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. Please visit [www.imsachallenge.com](http://www.imsachallenge.com) for the latest schedule and updates.

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