

PORSCHE

**SPRINT CHALLENGE
JAPAN**



Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023

Round 3-4 Report : Sportsland SUGO

14 May 2023

ENGLISH



PORSCHE



Contents

Contents	1
Round 3-4 Entry List	2
Sportsland SUGO - Course	3
Round 3-4 Qualify (14, May Sunday) Report	4 - 5
Round 3 Qualify Result	6
Round 3 Starting Grid	7
Round 3 Race (14, May Sunday) Race Report	8 - 9
Round 3 Race Result	10
Round 4 Qualify Result	11
Round 4 Starting Grid	12
Round 4 Race (14, May Sunday) Race Report	13 - 14
Round 4 Race Result	15
Driver and Team Point Standings (after Round 4)	16
Round 3-4 Photo Gallery	17 - 18

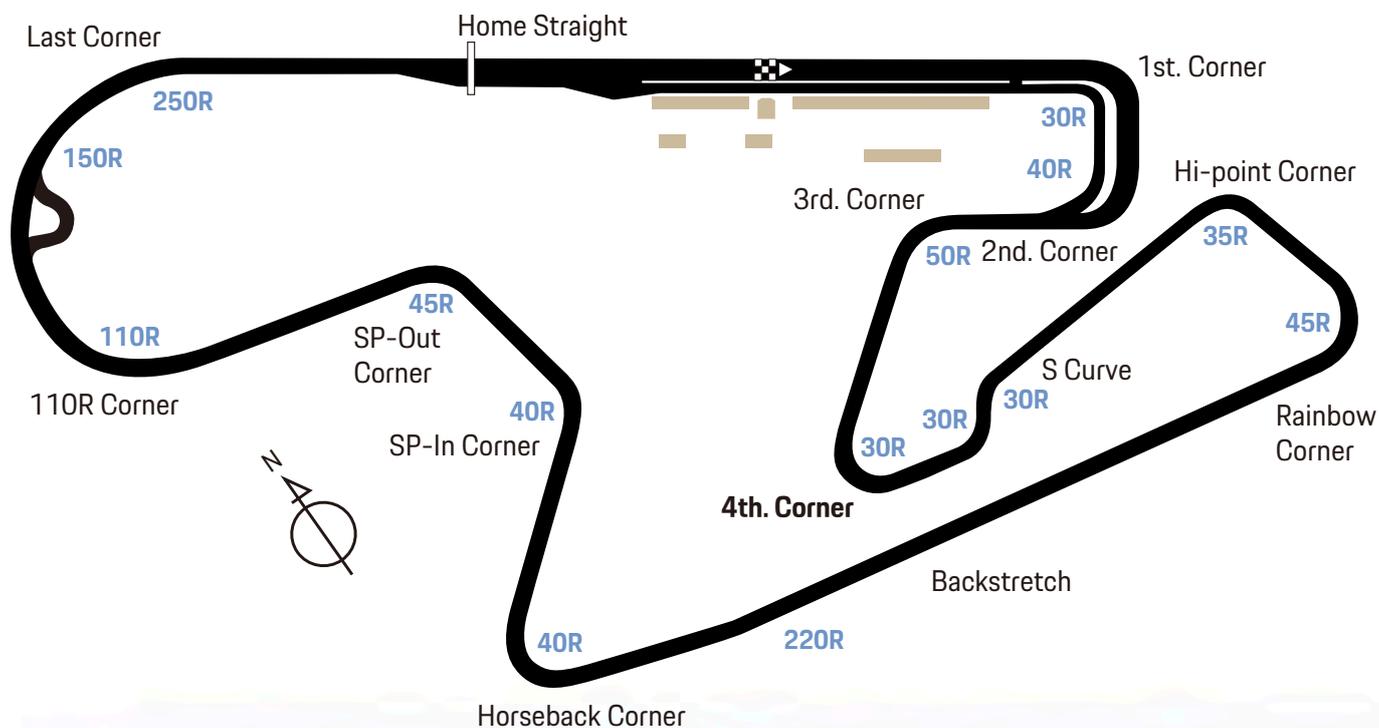


Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 3-4 Entry List

	Class.	Machine	Car No.	Driver Name	Program Name	Entrant Name
1	GT3- I	911 GT3 Cup Type991 Gen.2	1	KEN YAMAMOTO	Car Shop K with Wise Door PCJ	KEN YAMAMOTO
2			9	Kenjin KOBAYASHI	KDC KOBAYASHI DENTAL CLINIC991	SHARAKU RACING
3			15	Hikoichiro KAMITORI	GRENA Racing	Hikoichiro Kamitori
4			16	Hiroyuki KISHIMOTO	Swiftwing Racing	Sato Shokai
5			22	Masaya KOYAMA	Koyama Clinic GT3	Masaya Koyama
6			36	Shunsuke SATO	SATO EYE CLINIC GT3	Shunsuke Sato
7			76	Keiichiro TAKAGI	Toriyoshi Porsche	Keiichiro Takagi
8			77	MUSASHI	TARO racing	MUSASHI
9			78	Takashi NANATSUYA	T.N-CO.GARAGE	Takashi Nanatsuya
10			84	Masa TAGA	GIRODISC-CREF MOTOR-SPORT CUP	CREF Motor Sport
11			90	Ryosuke KURE	IDI KURE 911	SHIFT
12	GT3- II	911 GT3 Cup Type991 Gen.1	26	Tsuyoshi HASHIMURA	244Racing PORSCHE	Tsuyoshi Hashimura
13			88	Hiroshi YAMADA	K-1 Racing	Hiroshi Yamada
14	GT4	718 Cayman GT4 Clubsport	71	Ryoma HENZAN	Porsche Japan GT4 Racing	PORSCHE JAPAN
15			86	LO Piu	SUNRISE BLVD.718GT4CS	SUNRISE BLVD.



Sportsland SUGO - Course



Sportsland SUGO

Overall Length : 3.5865m
 Max Straight Length : 704.50m
 Minimum R : 20m
 Course Width : 10.0 - 12.5m
 Max gradient : 10%
 Altitude Difference : 69.83m

PSCJ Course Record

GT3-I Class	: #84 Masa TAGA	1'24.505	2022 SUGO Champion Cup Race Series Rd.2 (15, May, 2022)
GT3-II Class	: #26 Tsuyoshi HASHIMURA	1'27.563	2023 SUGO Champion Cup Race Series Rd.1 (14, May, 2023)
GT4 Class	: #71 Ryunosuke SAWA	1'27.256	2021 SUGO Champion Cup Race Series Rd.2 (16, May, 2021)

Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 3-4 Qualify



08:00 -08:30 am. / Weather : 14°C Rain / Track : 17°C Cloudy

On Sunday, May 14th, the 3rd and 4th races of the PSCJ 2023 were held at the Sportsland SUGO (Miyagi Prefecture). While the official qualifying session held in the early morning, where the best lap times and second-best lap times are used to determine the starting grid for both races, the racetrack surface condition was still wet with light rain and occasional cold winds.

Right after the start of the qualifying session at 8:00 am, all the machines except #86 entered the course. All the machines were fitted with rain tyres and carefully examined the racetrack surface conditions. In the early stages of the qualifying session, the winner of the previous round at Fuji, #90 R. KURE, recorded a 1' 36.208 early in the third lap to become the provisional leader, with last year's series champion, #1 K. YAMAMOTO, in second place at 1' 38.919, over 2.7 seconds behind, but in second-best lap time at 1' 39.947. 947 was ahead of #90 KURE's 1:40.732, and provisionally the pole-sitters for the 3rd and 4th races were split. #1 YAMAMOTO picked up the pace in the next few laps but stalled after two runs in the low 1 min and 37 sec. From the third place onwards, the second group of drivers warmed up their tyres carefully and started to improve their lap times steadily, with veteran driver #84 M. TAGA taking the provisional second row of

the starting grid with lap times of 1' 38.809 and 1' 38.973.

As the tyres warmed up and the water on the racetrack gradually cleared away, all the machines began to make their full-time attacks, but just before the 15-minute mark of the qualifying session, #88 H. YAMADA spun off at the exit of the S corner. He returned to the track under his own power, but a yellow flag was waved out for that section. At this point, the top seven machines in the GT3-I Class, as well as #71 R. HENZAN in the GT4 Class, were all under 1 min 40 sec, with #26 T. HASHIMURA in the GT3-II Class in 8th position at 1' 40.375. The rain was still coming down, but as it had eased off, the racetrack surface, which had been fully wet, was gradually drying out, and the provisional session leader, #90 KURE, improved his best lap time to 1' 35.379 just before the yellow flag was waved out. Of the machines that pitted at this timing, #1 YAMAMOTO and #90 KURE both adopted the strategy of switching to slick tyres.

Nonetheless, in the second half of the qualifying session, the second group of drivers, who had carefully warmed up their rain tyres, all set new best lap times and jumped up the order, making for a dizzying turnaround. #16 H. KISHIMOTO set a 1' 35.973 on the 12th lap to move up to provisional second place, while #76

Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 3-4 Qualify

K. TAKAGI took over provisional second place immediately after with a 1' 33.497 at the 13th lap. During that time, provisional pole sitter #90 KURE improved his best lap time to 1' 31.027. Meanwhile, the defending champion, #1 YAMAMOTO on slick tyres struggled to get his tyres warmed up and spun at the First corner, but after returning to the racetrack under his own power, he took advantage of the drying racetrack surface and increased his pace furiously. In the last few minutes, #1 YAMAMOTO hit the 1 min 32 sec mark, and with less than 0 minutes remaining, he took the provisional lead by just 0.03 seconds with a lap time of 1' 31.024 in his final time attack, which was measured after the chequered flag. However, #90 KURE, who also pushed hard until the last attack, eventually outpaced #1 YAMAMOTO with a 1:29.154 to take pole position for the 3rd and 4th races of the championship. 3rd place in both races went to #76 K. TAKAGI with the third best lap time of 1' 34.498, sharing the second row with #84 TAGA in 4th place. 5th place overall went to #26 HASHIMURA in the GT3-II Class, with both his best and second-best times in the latter half of 1 min and 34 sec.

The comments from the drivers after the qualifying session

■ GT3-I Class Front row #1 K. YAMAMOTO

"I tried attacking on rain tyres at first, but my times stalled, and the grip of the tyres started to drop, so I took a chance and switched to slick tyres for the last 15 minutes of the session. It took a while to warm up and at first the tyres were slippery on the S corner and up-hills, and the grip on braking was poor, so I was scared to see if I could make it to the end. Then I spun once. In the coming race, I want to be competitive and not let Kure swim away by himself."

■ GT3-I Class - 3rd Place #76 K. TAKAGI

"I thought the racetrack surface would gradually start to dry out and the water would clear, so our strategy was to start out with used rain tyres and then switch to new rain tyres midway through the race to set a faster time. I was able to get in the 33-second range, but the grid immediately behind me was full of experienced and skillful drivers, so I felt a lot of pressure within the 37-second range. I thought that the strategy against the top two machines would have been to go on with slick tyres."

■ GT3-II Class Pole Position #26 T. HASHIMURA

"It is my first time in the rain on the course of Sugo, and it is also my first time on rain tyres, so I was not sure if I should go with rain tyres or slick tyres if I had to change tyres once during the 30 minutes of the qualifying session, but I knew the later I went, the better the conditions would be, so once I got to the pits, I could have waited a bit longer, maybe three minutes or so. But I think I did okay for my first wet driving in Sugo. I think it will be dry after this, so I am hoping to set an official course record today."



GT3-I Class #76 K.TAKAGI



GT3-I Class : #84 M.TAGA



GT3-II Class Pole Position : #26 T.HASHIMURA



GT4 Class Pole Position : #71 R.HENZAN

Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 3 Qualify Result

2023.05.14		SUGO INTERNATIONAL RACING COURSE(3.5865km)				Weather : Cloudy		Course : Wet		
Pos	No.	Class	Driver	Type	Team	BestTime	Ave.Km/h	Laps	Behind	
1	90	GT3- I	1 Ryosuke KURE	991-2	IDI KURE 911	1'29.154	144.821	15/15		
2	1	GT3- I	2 KEN YAMAMOTO	991-2	Car Shop K with Wise Door PCJ	1'31.024	141.846	14/14	1.870	
3	76	GT3- I	3 Keiichiro TAKAGI	991-2	Toriyoshi Porsche	1'33.497	138.094	13/15	4.343	
4	84	GT3- I	4 Masa TAGA	991-2	GIRODISC-CREF MOTOR-SPORT CUP	1'34.626	136.447	16/17	5.472	
5	26	GT3-II	1 Tsuyoshi HASHUMURA	991-1	244Racing PORSCHE	1'34.667	136.388	12/13	5.513	
6	16	GT3- I	5 Hiroyuki KISHIMOTO	991-2	Swiftwing Racing	1'34.869	136.097	16/16	5.715	
7	77	GT3- I	6 MUSASHI	991-2	TARO racing	1'35.665	134.965	17/17	6.511	
8	78	GT3- I	7 Takashi NANATSUYA	991-2	T.N-CO.GARAGE	1'36.643	133.599	10/13	7.489	
9	71	GT4	1 Ryoma HENZAN	Cayman GT4CS	Porsche Japan GT4 Racing	1'37.228	132.795	14/15	8.074	
10	9	GT3- I	8 Kenji KOBAYASHI	991-2	KDC KOBAYASHI DENTAL CLINIC991	1'37.417	132.537	15/15	8.263	
11	15	GT3- I	9 Hikoichiro KAMITORI	991-2	GRENA Racing	1'37.489	132.440	14/14	8.335	
12 ※	22	GT3- I	10 Masaya KOYAMA	991-2	Koyama Clinic GT3	1'39.027	130.383	14/16	9.873	
13	88	GT3-II	2 Hiroshi YAMADA	991-1	K-1 Racing	1'39.361	129.944	8/10	10.207	
14	36	GT3- I	11 Shunsuke SATO	991-2	SATO EYE CLINIC GT3	1'39.808	129.362	9/12	10.654	
15	86	GT4	2 LO Piu	Cayman GT4CS	SUNRISE BLVD.718GT4CS	1'41.428	127.296	4/8	12.274	

Entry : 15 cars

※No.22 : Pit Road Entrance White Line Cut --> Reprimand



GT3-I Class : #9 K.KOBAYASHI

Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 3 Starting Grid

Class:GT3

1	2	1	991-2	KEN YAMAMOTO Car Shop K with Wise Door PCJ	GT3- I
2	4	84	991-2	Masa TAGA GIRODISC-CREF MOTOR-SPORT CUP	GT3- I
3	6	16	991-2	Hiroyuki KISHIMOTO Swiftwing Racing	GT3- I
4	8	78	991-2	Takashi NANATSUYA T.N-CO.GARAGE	GT3- I
5	10	15	991-2	Hikoichiro KAMITORI GRENA Racing	GT3- I
6	12	88	991-1	Hiroshi YAMADA K-1 Racing	GT3- II
7	14				

1	90	991-2	Ryosuke KURE IDI KURE 911	GT3- I
3	76	991-2	Keiichiro TAKAGI Toriyoshi Porsche	GT3- I
5	26	991-1	Tsuyoshi HASHIMURA 244Racing PORSCHE	GT3- II
7	77	991-2	MUSASHI TARO racing	GT3- I
9	9	991-2	Kenji KOBAYASHI KDC KOBAYASHI DENTAL CLINIC991	GT3- I
11	22	991-2	Masaya KOYAMA Koyama Clinic GT3	GT3- I
13	36	991-2	Shunsuke SATO SATO EYE CLINIC GT3	GT3- I

Class:GT4

8	16	86	LO Piu Cayman GT4CS SUNRISE BLVD.718GT4CS	GT4
---	----	----	--	-----

15	71	Ryoma HENZAN Cayman GT4CS Porsche Japan GT4 Racing	GT4
----	----	---	-----



Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 3 Race



GT3-II Class Rd.3 Winner : #90 R.KURE / 2nd #1 K.YAMAMOTO

Started at 12:12 pm. / Weather : Sunny 20°C / Track : Dry 30°C

The morning's light rain had stopped, and although thick clouds remained, the racetrack conditions were dry for the 3rd race of the season, a complete change from the qualifying session. The formation lap started at 12:10 and the rolling start was called off at 12:12 to officially start the race.

#90 R. KURE, who made a clean acceleration from pole position on the inside, continued to lead the race, with #1 K. YAMAMOTO, last year's series champion, aggressively following closely behind him. A little behind, #76 K. TAKAGI followed them in third position, but by the end of the opening lap, he was almost 3 seconds behind the top two machines. In fourth place, #84 M. TAGA, starting from the outside of the same second row, followed #76 TAKAGI by a narrow margin, with several more machines lined up within a few tenths of a second in the early stages of the race.

In the Second corner of the second lap, #76 TAKAGI succumbed to the hard push by #84 TAGA and was passed just before the Hairpin corner. Behind, the battle for fifth place was heated, with several machines racing each other from the S corner to the Rainbow corner, where #26 T. HASHIMURA lined up alongside #16 H. KISHIMOTO. Then, between the Back stretch and the Umanose (Horseback) corner, #78 T.

NANATSUYA, who was behind #26 HASHIMURA, overshot before the Umanose corner and crashed his left front into the right rear of #16 KISHIMOTO. Both machines returned to the pits on their own but retired at that point. The safety car was brought in midway through the second lap of the race and was forced to slow down for the third and fourth laps to check the racetrack conditions. The safety car returned to the pit road at 12:25 when the gap between all the machines was closed and the race resumed from the sixth lap.

#90 KURE, who showed a clever restart acceleration from the Last corner to the 10%UP, widened the gap to second position #1 YAMAMOTO, who was just one step too late on the restart. #84 TAGA in third position also closed the gap to the first two machines. In the second group, #76 TAKAGI was chased by GT3-II Class leader #26 HASHIMURA, but #77 MUSASHI was also slowly closing in on them, setting his fastest lap time from behind. On the seventh lap, #26 HASHIMURA and #77 MUSASHI swapped positions. #77 MUSASHI kept increasing his pace and was just 0.3-0.4 seconds behind #76 TAKAGI in a heated battle for fourth place.

The race leader, #90 KURE, lapping precisely in the latter half of the 1 min 25 sec range, gradually widened the gap to #1 YAMAMOTO running in second place and #84 TAGA running in third place in a one-sided game. #90 KURE, finished solidly in

Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023- Round 3 Race

the lead at the end of the 12-lap race, showed his overwhelming strength by finishing 5.653 seconds ahead of second place and 16.006 seconds ahead of third place.

The GT3-II Class was dominated by #26 HASHIMURA, who also finished 6th overall, setting a new course record on the ninth lap with a time of 1' 27.563. The GT4 Class was won by this year's Porsche Japan Junior Programme driver #71 R. HENZAN, driving a Cayman GT4 CS.

The comments from the top finishers of the Rd.3

■ The GT3-I Class winner #90 R. KURE

"I do not have an ample driving experience at Sugo, but it is a track I like. Today, before the PSCJ race, there was a domestic FR car race at the same time, so it was the first time I had a double-header, and it was quite tough. I only had to rehydrate before the start. After two laps the safety car came in and I lost the gap, but I had the advantage in lap time, so I thought I could make it as long as I drove accurately and without mistakes. The restart went well. I did not have any strategy, for it was the first time for me to be in the lead when the safety car was introduced."

■ The GT3-I Class 2nd place #1 K. YAMAMOTO

"I thought I was able to stay with the top runner for the first two laps, but I am not very good at the High-point corner, so I could see the difference there. Then I was left behind at the restart. I was going to stick around a bit longer and let him pull me along, but I drove the rest of the race as it was just like a practice run. But I am getting a good feeling that I am closing the gap little by little."

■ The GT4 Class winner #71 R. HENZAN

"As a karting and formula driver, I initially thought the Cayman GT4 CS had a lot of rolls and was heavy. I could not go all the way where I could have gone at full throttle. If I thought it was too slow and went too far into it, it would be even slower. It is just like, turn, I am going to turn. But instead of making this car go towards me, or rather, I started to look for reasons for the behaviour, how I could get the best performance out of the car. When I was in karts, I was riding instinctively, so when I got out of shape, I did not know what was wrong with me. So now it is a challenge for me to perform every single manoeuvre - running, turning and stopping - at a high level, and it has become interesting to drive GT4."



Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 3 Race Result

2023.05.14		SUGO INTERNATIONAL RACING COURSE(3.5865km)				Weather : Cloudy		Course : Dry			
Pos	No.	Class	Driver	Type	Team	Laps	Time	Delay	Ave.km/h	BestTime	Lap
1	90	GT3- I	Ryosuke KURE	991-2	IDI KURE 911	12	20'43.441		124.603	1'25.616	8
2	1	GT3- I	KEN YAMAMOTO	991-2	Car Shop K with Wise Door PCJ	12	20'49.094	5.653	124.039	1'26.253	8
3	84	GT3- I	Masa TAGA	991-2	GIRODISC-CREF MOTOR-SPORT CUP	12	20'59.447	16.006	123.020	1'27.861	7
4	76	GT3- I	Keiichiro TAKAGI	991-2	Toriyoshi Porsche	12	21'01.945	18.504	122.776	1'27.895	8
5	77	GT3- I	MUSASHI	991-2	TARO racing	12	21'02.437	18.996	122.728	1'27.780	8
6	26	GT3- II	Tsuyoshi HASHIMURA	991-1	244Racing PORSCHE	12	21'03.751	20.310	122.601 R	1'27.563	9
7	9	GT3- I	Kenji KOBAYASHI	991-2	KDC KOBAYASHI DENTAL CLINIC991	12	21'05.448	22.007	122.436	1'27.880	12
8	22	GT3- I	Masaya KOYAMA	991-2	ゴヤクリエックGT3	12	21'14.260	30.819	121.590	1'29.515	11
9	15	GT3- I	Hikoichiro KAMITORI	991-2	GRENA Racing	12	21'14.995	31.554	121.520	1'28.783	12
10	36	GT3- I	Shunsuke SATO	991-2	SATO EYE CLINIC GT3	12	21'20.443	37.002	121.002	1'29.567	12
11	88	GT3- II	Hiroshi YAMADA	991-1	K-1 Racing	12	21'27.012	43.571	120.385	1'30.989	12
12	71	GT4	Ryoma HENZAN	Cayman GT4CS	Porsche Japan GT4 Racing	12	21'27.605	44.164	120.329	1'30.800	12
13	86	GT4	LO Piu	Cayman GT4CS	SUNRISE BLVD.718GT4CS	12	21'29.259	45.818	120.175	1'31.147	11
	※ 78	GT3- I	Takashi NANATSUYA	991-2	T.N-CO.GARAGE	2	3'22.379	10 Laps	127.596	1'37.863	1
	16	GT3- I	Hiroyuki KISHIMOTO	991-2	Swiftwing Racing	2	4'15.460	10 Laps	101.084	1'37.085	1

Entry : 15 cars

R : Course Recoed (Previous Record : 1'28.454 / GT3-II Class)

Fastest Lap : #90 R.KURE 1'25.616 8/12 150.806km/h

Safety Car : 12:17:04 - 12:25:00 (Lap 3 to Lap 6)

※ #78 Dangerous driving behavior (Collision with another vehicle) --> Downgrade 5 places on the starting grid for the next race.

※ #78 : Pit Road Entrance White Line Cut --> Reprimand



Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 4 Qualify

2023.05.14 SUGO INTERNATIONAL RACING COURSE(3.5865km) Weather : Cloudy Course : Wet

Pos	No.	Class	Driver	Type	Team	BestTime	Ave.Km/h	Laps	Behind
1	90	GT3- I	Ryosuke KURE	991-2	IDI KURE 911	1'31.027	141.841	13/15	
2	1	GT3- I	KEN YAMAMOTO	991-2	Car Shop K with Wise Door PCJ	1'32.396	139.740	13/14	1.369
3	76	GT3- I	Keiichiro TAKAGI	991-2	Toriyoshi Porsche	1'34.498	136.631	15/15	3.471
4	84	GT3- I	Masa TAGA	991-2	GIRODISC-CREF MOTOR-SPORT CUP	1'34.670	136.383	14/17	3.643
5	26	GT3- II	Tsuyoshi HASHIMURA	991-1	244Racing PORSCHE	1'34.748	136.271	10/13	3.721
6	16	GT3- I	Hiroyuki KISHIMOTO	991-2	Swiftwing Racing	1'35.271	135.523	15/16	4.244
7	77	GT3- I	MUSASHI	991-2	TARO racing	1'35.819	134.748	16/17	4.792
8	71	GT4	Ryoma HENZAN	Cayman GT4CS	Porsche Japan GT4 Racing	1'37.412	132.544	13/15	6.385
9	78	GT3- I	Takashi NANATSUYA	991-2	T.N-CO.GARAGE	1'37.584	132.311	11/13	6.557
10	9	GT3- I	Kenji KOBAYASHI	991-2	KDC KOBAYASHI DENTAL CLINIC991	1'37.651	132.220	12/15	6.624
11	15	GT3- I	Hikoichiro KAMITORI	991-2	GRENA Racing	1'38.063	131.664	11/14	7.036
12 ※	22	GT3- I	Masaya KOYAMA	991-2	Koyama Clinic GT3	1'39.091	130.298	13/16	8.064
13	36	GT3- I	Shunsuke SATO	991-2	SATO EYE CLINIC GT3	1'39.917	129.221	8/12	8.890
14	86	GT4	LO Piu	Cayman GT4CS	SUNRISE BLVD.718GT4CS	1'41.479	127.232	7/8	10.452
15	88	GT3- II	Hiroshi YAMADA	991-1	K-1 Racing	1'41.572	127.116	8/10	10.545

Entry : 15 cars

※No.22 : Pit Road Entrance White Line Cut --> Reprimand



Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 4 Starting Grid

2023.05.14 SUGO INTERNATIONAL RACING COURSE(3.5865km)

Class:GT3

1	2	1	991-2	KEN YAMAMOTO Car Shop K with Wise Door PCJ	GT3- I
---	---	---	-------	---	--------

2	4	84	991-2	Masa TAGA GIRODISC-CREF MOTOR-SPORT CUP	GT3- I
---	---	----	-------	--	--------

3	6	16	991-2	Hiroyuki KISHIMOTO Swiftwing Racing	GT3- I
---	---	----	-------	--	--------

4	8	9	991-2	Kenji KOBAYASHI KDC KOBAYASHI DENTAL CLINIC991	GT3- I
---	---	---	-------	---	--------

5	10	22	991-2	Masaya KOYAMA Koyama Clinic GT3	GT3- I
---	----	----	-------	------------------------------------	--------

6	12	88	991-1	Hiroshi YAMADA K-1 Racing	GT3-II
---	----	----	-------	------------------------------	--------

7	14				
---	----	--	--	--	--

1	90	991-2		Ryosuke KURE IDI KURE 911	GT3- I
---	----	-------	--	------------------------------	--------

3	76	991-2		Keiichiro TAKAGI Toriyoshi Porsche	GT3- I
---	----	-------	--	---------------------------------------	--------

5	26	991-1		Tsuyoshi HASHIMURA 244Racing PORSCHE	GT3- II
---	----	-------	--	---	---------

7	77	991-2		MUSASHI TARO racing	GT3- I
---	----	-------	--	------------------------	--------

9	15	991-2		Hikoichiro KAMITORI GRENA Racing	GT3- I
---	----	-------	--	-------------------------------------	--------

11	36	991-2		Shunsuke SATO SATO EYE CLINIC GT3	GT3- I
----	----	-------	--	--------------------------------------	--------

13	*78	991-2		Takashi NANATSUYA T.N-CO.GARAGE	GT3- I
----	-----	-------	--	------------------------------------	--------

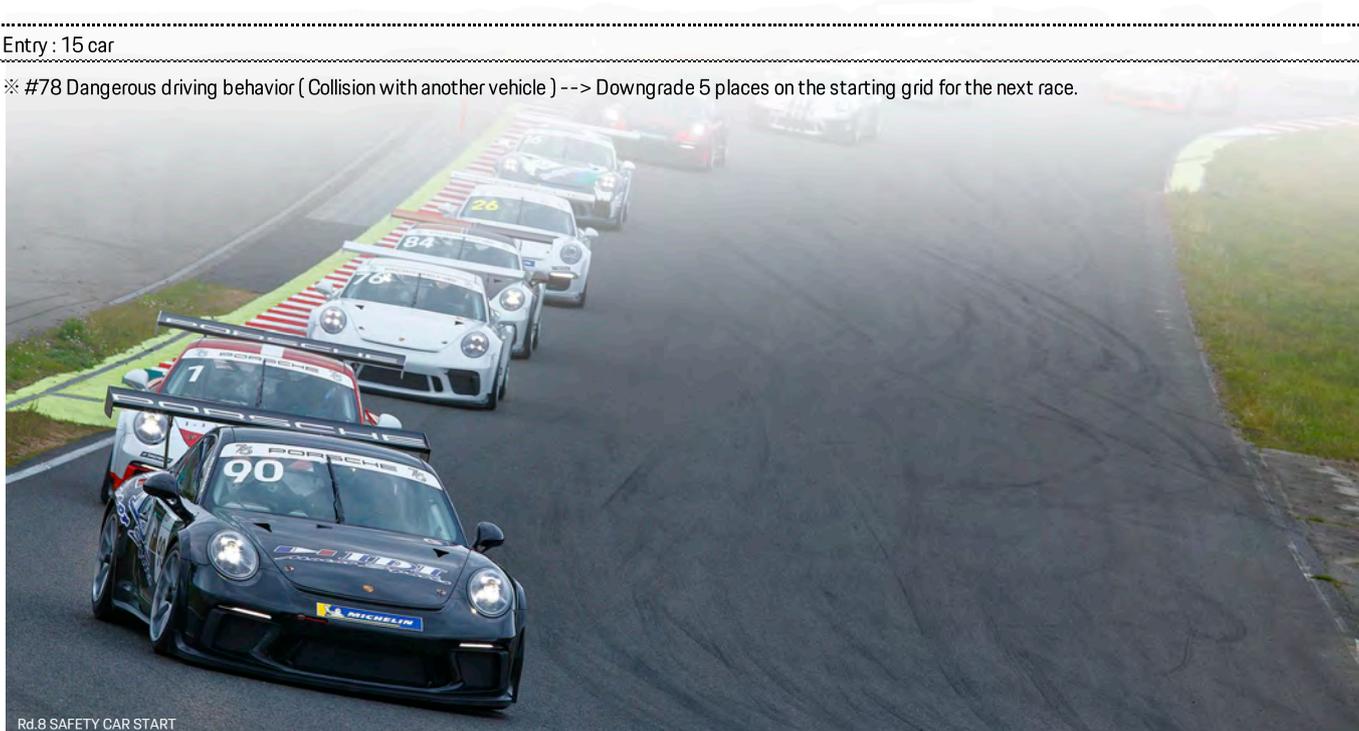
Class:GT4

8	16	86		LO Piu Cayman GT4CS SUNRISE BLVD.718GT4CS	GT4
---	----	----	--	--	-----

15	71			Rvoma HENZAN Cayman GT4CS Porsche Japan GT4 Racing	GT4
----	----	--	--	---	-----

Entry : 15 car

※ #78 Dangerous driving behavior (Collision with another vehicle) --> Downgrade 5 places on the starting grid for the next race.



Rd.8 SAFETY CAR START

Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 4 Race



GT3-II Class Rd.4 Winner: #90 R.KURE / 2nd #1 K.YAMAMOTO

Started at 3:02 pm. / Weather : Sunny 19°C / Track : Dry 24°C

The formation lap started at 15:00. Just little after 15:02, when all the machines were lined up, the signals turned blue, and the 4th race officially got underway. Front row starter #1 K. YAMAMOTO attempted to line up with pole position driver #90 R. KURE from the outside but was unable to make up the half-length advantage given to #90 KURE on the starting grid, and #1 YAMAMOTO was soon right on the tail of #90 KURE as they exited the Second corner. The top two machines, which outpace others with the best lap times, slowly pulled away from the second-row starters by the High-point corner.

Behind #76 K. TAKAGI, who was frantically defending his third position, were four other machines, - #84 M. TAGA, #26 T. HASHIMURA, #16 H. KISHIMOTO and #77 MUSASHI in seventh position, all within a mere two seconds of each other, and it became a close battle where one mistake could change the position. #77 MUSASHI overtook #16 KISHIMOTO in the third lap before the Rainbow corner to move up to sixth place and started to chase down #26 HASHIMURA, who was driving a GT3-II Class machine, in front of whom a gap had widened up during that battle.

In the battle for the lead, it looked as if #90 KURE would once again take the lead in sole possession as the previous race, but on the third lap, #1 YAMAMOTO set a lap time with 1' 25.967 and was unable for #90 KURE to create any gap. #90 KURE responded with a 1' 25.719 on the fourth lap, but #1 YAMAMOTO also showed his persistence with a series of laps in the 1 min 25 sec range. The position remained the same and the top two machines were almost always in the 1 min 25 sec range, making for a fast-paced battle. Both drivers set their fastest lap times of the day on the fifth lap, with #90 KURE setting a 1' 25.266 and #1 YAMAMOTO a 1' 25.516.

Meanwhile, the battle in the second group began to move from the middle stage of the race. #77 MUSASHI passed #26 HASHIMURA in the First corner on the fifth lap to move up to fifth, and #84 TAGA started chasing #76 TAKAGI in front of him hard by applying the intense pressure from the Hairpin corner to the S corner and High-point corner on the eighth lap. From the 10%UP to the main straight and into the First corner, #76 TAKAGI took a clever blocking line, and #84 TAGA, trying to slipstream him, ran wide on the outside in the First corner. Taking advantage of this loss, the #77 MUSASHI steadily closed in behind the two machines, and the gap was down to just five-tenths of a second from over 3.1 seconds in the sixth lap.

Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 4 Race

In the end, it was #90 KURE who took the chequered flag, running at a high pace in the latter half of 1 min 25 sec to 26 sec flats until the final lap. In the last two laps, #1 YAMAMOTO slowed slightly to the latter half of 1 min and 26 sec, finishing in second place, 5.248 seconds behind #90 KURE. #76 TAKAGI, who was defending third place, suffered a painful half-spin at the Hairpin corner with less than two laps to go, and #84 TAGA, who was in the nose-to-tail with #76 TAKAGI, narrowly avoided the spin, but the two machines tangled lightly in the escape zone and lost a lot of time. The battle for third place was won by veteran driver #77 MUSASHI, who was calmly chasing from behind with a perfect sense of distance, and he took the chequered flag in third place, his first podium finish since the final race in 2021 and a valuable 12-point haul. The 4th place chequered flag went to #26 HASHIMURA, who took the GT3-II Class win at the same time. The GT4 Class was won by this year's Porsche Japan Junior Programme driver #71 R. HENZAN, who consistently raced in the 1 min 29 sec range.

The comments from the top finishers of the Rd.4

■ The GT3-I Class winner #90 R. KURE

"Of course, the pole-to-finish win was exactly what I was aiming for, but the gap to KEN YAMAMOTO did not open up and I realised that if I let my guard down, I would get carried away, so I concentrated on going full throttle to avoid making any mistakes. Compared to the FR machine in the morning, when I drive the 911, I try to make the most of the traction at the start of the race. The car has a slight oversteer, so I try to enter the corner shallowly and change direction as quickly as possible, consulting with the tyre grip to make sure I can accelerate as much as possible. I have turned the second half of the season around with all the wins, so I will be aiming for the series championship."

■ The GT3-I Class 3rd place #77 MUSASHI

"Watching the battle between the two machines in front of me up close, I came to myself halfway through, thinking, 'They are so energetic, but they are so energetic they might hit each other, or I might hit them too, or they might hit me (laughs)'. A podium for a long time since the last time? It is not a numbing experience, it is more like a fish in troubled waters, and I was just lucky to pick it up!"

■ The GT3-I Class 6th place #76 K. TAKAGI

"As I had a hunch in the morning that it was going to be a day where I was going to be pushed from behind all the time. I knew Masa TAGA's pace was fast, so I knew I could have let him go first and chased him, but I was desperate not to let him go. I was able to stay in front for quite a while, but it did not last until the very end."



L) GT3-I Class Rd.4 2nd KYAMAMOTO / R) GT3-I Class Rd.4 Winner #90 R.KURE



GT3-I Class Rd.4 3rd : #77 MUSASHI



GT3-II Class Rd.4 Winner #26 T.HASHIMURA



GT4 Class Rd.4 Winner : #71 R.HENZAN / 2nd #86 LO Piu

Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 4 Race Result

2023.05.14		SUGO INTERNATIONAL RACING COURSE(3.5865km)				Weather : Cloudy	Course : Dry				
Pos	No.	Class	Driver	Type	Team	Laps	Time	Delay	Ave.km/h	BestTime	Lap
1	90	GT3- I	1 Ryosuke KURE	991-2	IDI KURE 911	12	17'15.458		149.631	1'25.266	5
2	1	GT3- I	2 KEN YAMAMOTO	991-2	Car Shop K with Wise Door PCJ	12	17'20.706	5.248	148.877	1'25.516	5
3	77	GT3- I	3 MUSASHI	991-2	TARO racing	12	17'48.105	32.647	145.058	1'27.315	4
4	26	GT3- II	1 Tsuyoshi HASHIMURA	991-1	244Racing PORSCHE	12	17'50.799	35.341	144.693	1'27.689	5
5	84	GT3- I	4 Masa TAGA	991-2	GIRODISC-CREF MOTOR-SPORT CUP	12	17'55.332	39.874	144.083	1'27.412	7
6	76	GT3- I	5 Keiichiro TAKAGI	991-2	Toriyoshi Porsche	12	17'57.548	42.090	143.786	1'27.288	6
7	16	GT3- I	6 Hiroyuki KISHIMOTO	991-2	Swiftwing Racing	12	17'58.746	43.288	143.627	1'28.117	8
8	9	GT3- I	7 Kenji KOBAYASHI	991-2	KDC KOBAYASHI DENTAL CLINIC991	12	17'58.948	43.490	143.600	1'27.768	8
9	15	GT3- I	8 Hikoichiro KAMITORI	991-2	GRENA Racing	12	17'59.327	43.869	143.549	1'28.481	8
10	22	GT3- I	9 Masaya KOYAMA	991-2	Koyama Clinic GT3	12	18'05.656	50.198	142.713	1'29.082	5
11	36	GT3- I	10 Shunsuke SATO	991-2	SATO EYE CLINIC GT3	12	18'06.514	51.056	142.600	1'28.776	11
12	88	GT3- II	2 Hiroshi YAMADA	991-1	K-1 Racing	12	18'19.198	1'03.740	140.954	1'29.400	12
13	71	GT4	1 Ryoma HENZAN	Cayman GT4CS	Porsche Japan GT4 Racing	12	18'20.485	1'05.027	140.790	1'29.120	8
14	86	GT4	2 LO Piu	Cayman GT4CS	SUNRISE BLVD.718GT4CS	12	18'32.287	1'16.829	139.296	1'30.144	6
DNS	78	GT3- I	Takashi NANATSUYA	991-2	T.N-CO.GARAGE						

Entry : 15 cars / Start : 14 cars

Fastest Lap : #90 R.KURE 1'25.266 5/12 151.425km/h



Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Point Ranking (after Rd.4)

GT3-I Class Ranking

Rank.	Car No.	Driver Name	Total	4/2 FUJI		5/14 SUGO		6/18 FUJI		9/8 Suzuka	
				Rd.1	Rd.2	Rd.3	Rd.4	Rd.5	Rd.6	Rd.7	Rd.8
1	90	Ryosuke KURE	80	20	20	20	20				
2	1	KEN YAMAMOTO	60	15	15	15	15				
3	84	Masa TAGA	46	12	12	12	10				
4	76	Keiichiro TAKAGI	33	5	10	10	8				
5	77	MUSASHI	29	8	1	8	12				
6	9	Kenjin KOBAYASHI	19	DNF	8	6	5				
7	31	OOKA	14	10	4	--	--				
7	16	Hiroyuki KISHIMOTO	14	2	6	DNF	6				
9	15	Hikoichiro KAMITORI	13	DNF	5	4	4				
9	22	Masaya KOYAMA	13	3	2	5	3				
11	78	Takashi NANATSUYA	9	6	3	DNF	DNS				
11	36	Shunsuke SATO	9	4	0	3	2				

GT3-II Class Ranking

Rank.	Car No.	Driver Name	Total	4/2 FUJI		5/14 SUGO		6/18 FUJI		9/8 Suzuka	
				Rd.1	Rd.2	Rd.3	Rd.4	Rd.5	Rd.6	Rd.7	Rd.8
1	26	Tsuyoshi HASHIMURA	80	20	20	20	20				
2	88	Hiroshi YAMADA	60	15	15	15	15				

GT4 Class Ranking

Rank.	Car No.	Driver Name	Total	4/2 FUJI		5/14 SUGO		6/18 FUJI		9/8 Suzuka	
				Rd.1	Rd.2	Rd.3	Rd.4	Rd.5	Rd.6	Rd.7	Rd.8
1	71	Ryoma HENZAN	80	20	20	20	20				
2	86	LO Piu	30	--	--	15	15				
3	86	Yoshitomo MAKINO	27	15	12	--	--				
3	51	Tatsuo YAMAGUCHI	27	12	15	--	--				



PORSCHE

SPRINT CHALLENGE JAPAN



Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round 3-4 Gallery



Porsche Sprint Challenge Japan 2023 - Round3-4 Gallery



GT3-I Class Rd.3 : L) 2nd #1 K.YAMAMOTO / Winner #90 R.KURE



GT3-II Class Rd.3 : Top 2 Drivers



GT4 Class Rd.3 : Top 2 Drivers



GT3-I Class Rd.4 : Top 3 Drivers



GT3-II Class Rd.4 : Top 2 Drivers



GT4 Class Rd.4 : Top 2 Drivers