

## Rally Croatia: Škoda drivers Emil Lindholm and Gus Greensmith target WRC2 championship lead

- › After winning WRC2 at Rally Mexico first time out with the new Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, Gus Greensmith (GBR) aims for another category victory at the FIA World Rally Championship's fourth round
- › Defending WRC2 champion Emil Lindholm from Finland (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) also chases top spot of the WRC2 overall standings at the season's first pure tarmac rally
- › For strategic reasons, WRC2 overall leader and Toksport WRT teammate Oliver Solberg from Sweden (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) is not nominated to score WRC2 points in Croatia
- › Both driving a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, youngsters Erik Cais (CZE) and Sami Pajari (FIN) are spicing up the fight for WRC2 victory

**Mladá Boleslav, 19 April 2023 – Expectations are high for Gus Greensmith (GBR) and co-driver Jonas Andersson (SWE) for Rally Croatia (20-23 April 2023), fourth round of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). Sharing a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 for the very first time, the British-Swedish duo won the WRC2 category on the gravel stages of Rally Mexico.**

Rally Croatia was first held in 2021 as a round of the FIA World Rally Championship and has been a major challenge for the participants ever since: Constantly changing grip conditions and a wide variety of road surfaces make the asphalt stages unpredictable, especially in the rain. The winding roads also offer numerous crests and jumps. "During Rally Mexico, I could already feel: The Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 and me – it just fits! And since I know after the test drives how good the Fabia is on asphalt as well, I can hardly wait to get the demanding special stages of Croatia under the wheels," Gus Greensmith expresses his anticipation.

One of his toughest opponents will be Toksport WRT teammate Emil Lindholm (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2). The asphalt tracks in Croatia have always been a good place for the defending WRC2 champion. In 2021, he finished second in the WRC3 classification. Last year Lindholm and co-driver Reeta Hämäläinen won the WRC2 Junior classification and finished third in the WRC2 overall standings. "After my second place on the gravel stages of Mexico, I now want to achieve a top result on asphalt as well," says Lindholm, currently placed third in the WRC2 standings.

Championship leader Oliver Solberg (SWE), also driving a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 for team Toksport WRT, on the other hand will not fight for WRC2 points this time. Rally Croatia is not one of the compulsory seven nominated events for the 21 years old son of former FIA World Rally Champion Petter Solberg. Nevertheless, he and co-driver Elliott Edmondson (GBR) will feature in the official rally results.

Lindholm and Greensmith will face strong competition also from their young and ambitious brand colleagues Erik Cais (CZE) and Sami Pajari (FIN). Both Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 drivers want to have an impact in the fight for WRC2 victory. German veteran Armin Kremer is looking forward to his competition debut at the wheel of the new Škoda Fabia RS Rally2. In the WRC Masters classification, which is reserved for drivers aged 50 and over, he will be up against Italian brand colleague Mauro Miele, the reigning WRC2 Masters champion.

Rally Croatia begins on Thursday (20 April) at 6:30 pm with a ceremonial start in Zagreb, the country's capital. Eight special stages covering 130.18 kilometres are scheduled for Friday (21 April). On Saturday (22 April), eight special stages totalling 116.60 kms have to be driven. Sunday (April 23) will be the final day with a further four special stages over 54.48 kms. In total, the teams have to tackle 20 special stages covering more than 300 kilometres.

### Did you know, that...

...Rally Croatia was held for the first time in 1974 in the former Yugoslavia under the name INA Delta TLX Rally and was part of the FIA World Rally Championship for the first time in 2021?

...the 2017 Rally Croatia saw the Hungarian team Dávid Botka/Márk Mesterházi, competing with a Škoda Fabia Rally2, as overall winners?

...Rally Croatia runs over a mix of fast and winding asphalt tracks, which can have different surfaces ranging from rough surfaces to smooth passages?

...the special stage Stojdraga-Hartje during the first leg runs over a distance of more than 25 kilometres through the picturesque Žumberak National Park?

### Top-3 WRC2 Drivers' overall classification (before Rally Croatia)

1. **Oliver Solberg (SWE), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, 43 points**
2. Yohan Rossel (FRA), (Citroën C3 Rally2), 28 points
3. **Emil Lindholm (FIN), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, 28 points**

### Top-3 WRC2 Teams overall classification (before Rally Croatia)

1. **Toksport WRT 2 (Škoda), 65 points**
2. **Toksport WRT (Škoda), 40 points**
3. M-Sport Ford World Rally Team, 30 points  
Hyundai Motorsport N, 30 points

### 2023 FIA World Rally Championship

Rallye Monte-Carlo	19-22 January
Rally Sweden	9-12 February
Guanajuato Rally México	16-19 March
<b>Croatia Rally</b>	<b>20-23 April</b>
Rally de Portugal	11-14 May
Rally Italia Sardinia	1-4 June
Safari Rally Kenya	22-25 June
Rally Estonia	20-23 July
Rally Finland	3-6 August

Acropolis Rally Greece	7-10 September
Rally Chile	28 September-1 October
Central Europe Rally (CZE/AUT/DEU)	26-29 October
Rally Japan	16-19 November

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#### Škoda Motorsport at Rally Croatia

After winning WRC2 at Rally Mexico at their competition debut with the new Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 (pictured), Gus Greensmith (GBR) and co-driver Jonas Andersson (SWE) target their second category victory of the season.

Source: Škoda Auto



#### Škoda Motorsport at Rally Croatia

Coming to the fourth round of the FIA World Rally Championship, reigning WRC2 champion Emil Lindholm (FIN) holds third place overall in the WRC2 standings.

Source: Škoda Auto



**Škoda Motorsport at Rally Croatia**  
Erik Cais/Petr Těšínský (CZE/CZE)  
want to continue their upward trend  
in the WRC2 category with their  
Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Team Orsák.

Source: Škoda Auto

### Škoda Motorsport

- › Škoda has been active in motorsport since 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as in circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the Škoda 130 RS.
- › Since 2009, the Škoda Fabia celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide.
- › Until 2014, the Škoda Fabia S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The Škoda Fabia S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The successor model Škoda Fabia R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) entered the scene in 2015. Later renamed to Škoda Fabia Rally2 and followed by the further developed Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo, the model collected nearly 2,000 victories in 68 countries until the end of the 2022 season.
- › During this period, Škoda Motorsport factory drivers Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE) and Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) won the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro. Škoda Motorsport also took the WRC2/WRC2 Pro Manufacturers' title five times in a row from 2015 to 2019.
- › Beginning with the 2020 season, Škoda Motorsport changed its strategy to supporting private teams. The success story continued: Driving a Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo run by Toksport WRT, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) und Emil Lindholm (FIN) became WRC2 Champions in 2021 and 2022. The Škoda Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT also won the WRC2 Teams' title three times in a row from 2020 to 2022.
- › Škoda Motorsport customer teams have also won titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC).

### Škoda Auto

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the Next Level – Škoda Strategy 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in important growth markets such as India or North Africa.
- › currently offers its customers twelve passenger-car series: the Fabia, Rapid, Scala, Octavia and Superb as well as the Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Enyaq iV, Enyaq Coupé iV, Slavia and Kushaq.
- › delivered over 731,000 vehicles to customers around the world in 2022.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; has additional production capacity in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs 45,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.