

Rally Estonia: Nordic and Estonian Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 drivers set sights on WRC2 glory

- › The eighth round of the FIA World Rally Championship heads to Estonia, known for its fast, flowing gravel stages that favour confident, high-speed crews
- › Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 drivers Lauri Joona and Mikko Heikkilä (Finland), along with local contenders Robert Virves and Egon Kaur (Estonia), are aiming for strong results on home terrain
- › Competing in only his second WRC2 points-scoring event this season, Nikolay Gryazin (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) is looking to kick-start his championship campaign in Estonia

Mladá Boleslav, 16 July 2025 – Following three events on the rough, rocky terrain of Southern Europe, the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) now transitions to the smooth and fast gravel stages of the north. At Rally Estonia (17–20 July 2025), nine Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews will compete for WRC2 points. Traditionally, drivers from Nordic countries set the pace in these conditions.

Now midway through the 2025 season, the fight for the WRC2 title is becoming increasingly tactical. Each WRC2 competitor must nominate seven points-scoring events out of 14 rounds, with only their six best results counting towards the championship. This regulation encourages each driver to select their preferred events. The current top four in the WRC2 standings are Oliver Solberg (Sweden), Yohan Rossel (France), and Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 drivers Gus Greensmith (England) and Roberto Dapra (Italy). Having already scored points at least three times each, none of these drivers will be competing for WRC2 points at Rally Estonia.

By contrast, Rally Estonia will be only the second points-scoring event of the season for Nikolay Gryazin and co-driver Konstantin Alexandrov. Competing in a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 for Toksport WRT, the Bulgarian-Kyrgyzstani duo secured third place in the WRC2 category at Rally Islas Canarias. Nikolay Gryazin emphasised, “In Estonia, my championship campaign will really begin, and I need a top result to catch up. I love the fast gravel roads in the Tartu area, which suit my Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 very well.”

His strongest competitors are local Estonian crews or drivers from other Nordic countries, several of whom are also competing in Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 cars. From Finland, Lauri Joona/Samu Vaaleri (MS Munaretto) and Mikko Heikkilä/Kristian Temonen (TGS Worldwide) are always contenders for a WRC2 podium on fast gravel stages. Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (Toksport WRT) and Egon Kaur/Ermo Veltson (Sports Racing Technologies) will be flying the flag for Estonia. In total, nine Škoda crews will be contesting WRC2 points.

The Delfi Rally Estonia, the eighth round of the FIA World Rally Championship, features 20 stages covering a total of 308.35 kilometres. The rally opens with a ceremonial start in Tartu on Thursday, 17 July 2025 at 18:30 (17:30 CEST), followed by the short show stage 'Visit Estonia Tartu vald'. After three days of high-speed action, the winner will be crowned at the historic Kääriku Sports Center on Sunday, 20 July 2025 at approximately 14:20 (13:20 CEST).

Did you know, that...

...Rally Estonia only joined the FIA World Rally Championship calendar in 2020?

...four editions have been held since then, except for 2024, when Rally Estonia was part of the FIA European Rally Championship?

...on three occasions, WRC2 was won by then-Škoda factory driver Andreas Mikkelsen, who is not currently competing in the championship?

...Rally Estonia features some of the fastest stages in the WRC season, with average speeds regularly exceeding 120 km/h?

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 7 of 14 events)

1 Oliver Solberg (SWE), Toyota 85 points

2 Yohan Rossel (FRA), Citroën, 82 points

3 Gus Greensmith (GBR), Škoda, 57 points

4 Roberto Dapra (ITA), Škoda, 49 points

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 7 of 14 events)

1 PH Sport, Citroën, 163 points

2 Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT NG, Toyota, 89 points

3 Sarrazin Motorsport-Iron Lynx, Citroën, 64 points

4 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 64 points

2025 FIA World Rally Championship

Rally Monte-Carlo	22-26 January
Rally Sweden	12-16 February
Safari Rally Kenya	20-23 March
Rally Islas Canarias (ESP)	24-27 April
Rally de Portugal	15-18 May
Rally Italia Sardegna	5-8 June
Acropolis Rally Greece	26-29 June
Rally Estonia	17-20 July
Rally Finland	31 July-3 August
Rally del Paraguay	28-31 August
Rally Chile Bio Bío	11-14 September
Central European Rally (CZE/AUT/DEU)	16-19 October
Rally Japan	6-9 November
Rally Saudi Arabia	27-30 November

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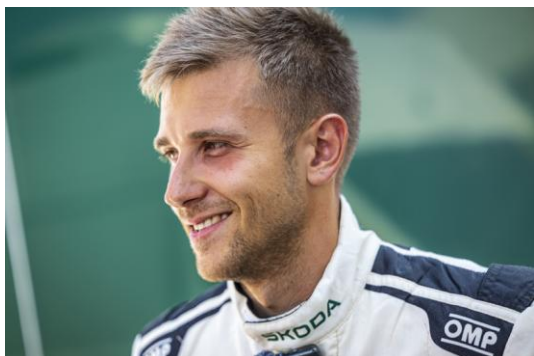
Media images:



Škoda crews at Rally Estonia

Estonians Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT) are used to fast gravel stages with numerous jumps.

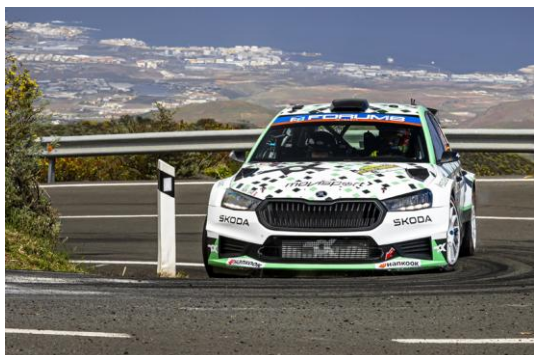
Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Estonia

24-year-old Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver Robert Virves carries the hopes of Estonian fans.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Estonia

After finishing third in WRC2 on the tarmac roads of Rally Islas Canarias, Nikolay Gryazin and co-driver Konstantin Aleksandrov (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT) want to score again on Estonian gravel.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Estonia

Hailing from Finland, Lauri Joona and co-driver Samu Vaaleri (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team MS Munaretto) are candidates for a WRC2 podium position.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Estonia

Mikko Heikkilä/Kristian Temonen (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team TGS Worldwide) from Finland compete for WRC2 points.

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. Mikkelsen became WRC2 Champion again in 2023 with team Toksport WRT, when the all-new Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 entered the scene. The Škoda Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT also won the WRC2 Teams' title four times in a row from 2020 to 2023. In 2024, the WRC2 title fight was not decided until the season finale. Škoda driver Oliver Solberg of team Toksport WRT finished second overall.
- › 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;
- › aims to become one of the top five best-selling brands in Europe by the end of the decade with attractive offers in entry-level segments and additional electric models;
- › effectively exploits the potential in important growth markets such as India, North Africa, Vietnam and the ASEAN region;
- › It currently offers customers 12 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq;
- › in 2024, it delivered more than 926,000 vehicles to customers worldwide;
- › has been part of the Volkswagen Group, one of the world's most successful car manufacturers, for more than 30 years;
- › is part of Brand Group CORE, an organisational merger of the Volkswagen Group's volume brands, with the aim of achieving joint growth and significantly increasing the overall efficiency of all five volume brands;
- › As a Volkswagen Group brand, it independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions for other Group brands;
- › operates three production plants in the Czech Republic; has production capacities in China, Slovakia and India, mostly through group partnerships, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine in cooperation with a local partner;
- › It employs around 40,000 people worldwide and is active in almost 100 markets.