

## Rally Finland: Another WRC2 podium for Škoda crew Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo

- › **Sharing a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT, Estonian pairing Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo finishes the ninth round of the World Championship third in WRC2.**
- › **Former WRC2 champions Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen from Finland bring their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 home in WRC2 fourth position.**
- › **Three other Škoda crews also collect WRC2 points.**

**Jyväskylä (FIN), 3 August 2025 – After winning WRC2 at the recent Rally Estonia, Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo also stood on the category podium at Rally Finland. The Estonians powered their Toksport WRT run Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 to third position in WRC2 at the FIA World Rally Championship's ninth round. Their local teammates, Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen, as well as three more Škoda crews also finished inside the top 10 of WRC2.**

Not surprisingly, Rally Finland favoured the local drivers. With average speeds on the stages repeatedly exceeding 125 kph and countless jumps, experience was the most valuable asset for both drivers and co-drivers. While Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen won their home event overall, the WRC2 category saw a three-day long duel between eventual winners Roope Korhonen/Anssi Viinikka and Jari-Matti Latvala/Janni Hussi. Only one other Finnish pairing could regularly match the speed of the front-running duo: Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew Emil Lindholm and Reeta Hämäläinen. The former WRC2 champions even led the category after the Friday morning loop.

However, a puncture during the first stage after the lunch break cost the Toksport WRT pairing more than a minute, dropping them back to twelfth position. "The rally is not over yet," Lindholm showed an extra dose of "sisu" (Finnish for determination). With a string of fast stage times, they fought their way back up the leaderboard. They overtook Yuki Yamamoto/Topi Luhtinen during the very last stage, finally securing fourth position in WRC2.

Fresh from winning WRC2 at their home event, Estonians Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo quickly established themselves as fastest non-Finns in WRC2. When Latvala/Hussi were held up by heavy rain on Friday, the Škoda crew moved up to second place in the category. The Saturday leg didn't go as well. The Toksport WRT duo dropped to fourth place in the WRC2 category due to a slow puncture. But they regained one place quickly, eventually finishing third in WRC2. Robert Virves climbed to fifth position in the overall standings. "I am pleased and at the same time just a little disappointed, because we were very close to the top after Friday. Since Saturday, the feeling has not been the best. But that's the second podium in a row, and this is something we can be proud of," the 25-year old Estonian said.

Czech Škoda pairing Martin Prokop/Michal Ernst came home seventh in WRC2 followed by local crew Lauri Joona/Samu Vaaleri, sharing a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team MS Munaretto. 18-year old Italian Giovanni Trentin and co-driver Alessandro Franco (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of MT Racing SRL) scored a fine tenth place at their Rally Finland debut.

Two Škoda crews not competing for WRC2 points made it into the top 10 of the RC2 classification. Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov (Delta Rally Team) finished fourth. Englishman Gus Greensmith and Swedish co-driver Jonas Andersson (RaceSeven) came home in eighth position. Victory in the WRC Masters Cup went to Uğur Soylu/Sener Güray (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of GP Garage My Team) from Turkey. Another Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 turned heads on the Harju city stage only: Two-times former FIA World Rally Champion and seven-time Rally Finland winner Marcus Grönholm entertained the spectators with demo runs at the wheel of the car from Mladá Boleslav.

The FIA World Rally Championship now heads to South America for the next two events. Rally del Paraguay, based in Encarnación, is a new addition to the calendar and will take place from 28 to 31 August 2025.

**Number of the rally: 5**

Five Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews finished inside the top 10 of the WRC2 as well as of the RC2 classification, making the Czech brand the most strongly represented in both categories in terms of numbers.

**Rally Finland (FIN), 31 July – 3 August 2025, Result WRC2**

- 1 Roope Korhonen/Anssi Viinikka (FIN/FIN), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, 2:29.47.8 hours
- 2 Jari-Matti Latvala/Janni Hussi (FIN/FIN), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +1.1 seconds
- 3 Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (EST/EST), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +43.1 seconds**
- 4 Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen (FIN/FIN), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +1:35.3 minutes**
- 5 Yuki Yamamoto/Topi Luhtinen (JPN/FIN), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +1:36.8 minutes
- 6 Romet Jürgenson/Siim Oja (EST/EST), Ford Fiesta Rally2, +1:43.4 minutes

**Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 9 of 14 rallies)**

- 1 Oliver Solberg (SWE), Toyota, 85 points
- 2 Yohan Rossel (FRA), Citroën, 82 points
- 3 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 69 points
- 4 Gus Greensmith (GBR), Škoda, 57 points**
- 5 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 50 points**

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#### Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT) mastered the countless jumps of central Finland and finished third in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



#### Škoda crews at Rally Finland

After winning the category at Rally Estonia, Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT) scored their second WRC2 podium in a row.

Source: Škoda Auto



### Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Slowed by a puncture during the Friday leg, Emil Lindholm and co-driver Reeta Hämäläinen (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT) fought their way back to a final fourth position in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



### Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Navigated by Michal Ernst, Martin Prokop (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) finished his 15<sup>th</sup> appearance at Rally Finland seventh in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



### Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Lauri Joona/Samu Vaaleri from Finland (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team MS Munaretto) collected WRC2 points for eighth position.

Source: Škoda Auto



### Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Competing outside WRC2, Nikolay Gryazin and co-driver Konstantin Aleksandrov (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Delta Rally Team) finished fourth in RC2 class.

Source: Škoda Auto





### Škoda crews at Rally Finland

Englishman Gus Greensmith and Swedish co-driver Jonas Andersson (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team RaceSeven) didn't compete for WRC2 points and finished eighth in the RC2 classification.

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 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.
- › effectively leverages existing potential in important growth markets such as India, North Africa, Vietnam and the ASEAN region.
- › currently offers its customers twelve passenger-car series: the Fabia, Scala, Octavia and Superb as well as the Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq.
- › delivered over 926,000 vehicles to customers around the world in 2024.
- › 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.
- › is part of the Brand Group CORE – the organisational merger of the Volkswagen Group's volume brands – to achieve joint growth and to significantly increase the overall efficiency of the five volume brands
- › independently manufactures and develops components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions as part of the Volkswagen Group; these components are also used in vehicles of other Group brands.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; has additional production capacity in China, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs approximately 40,000 people globally and is active in around 100 markets.