

Rally del Paraguay: WRC2 title fight heats up as Škoda crews travel to South America

- › Škoda drivers Gus Greensmith and Robert Virves meet WRC2 leading duo Oliver Solberg and Yohan Rossel in a direct competition for championship points.
- › Nikolay Gryazin and Fabrizio Zaldivar, both driving Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, also aim for a WRC2 top position at the FIA World Rally Championship's tenth round.
- › With 14 entries, nearly half of the WRC2 field relies on Škoda rally cars.

Mladá Boleslav (CZE), 27 August 2025 – No more tactics in the fight for the WRC2 title: At the upcoming Rally del Paraguay (28-31 August 2025), four of the top five in the category overall standings compete for championship points. Škoda drivers Gus Greensmith and Robert Virves will face current leader Oliver Solberg and runner-up Yohan Rossel. Other Škoda drivers aiming for a top result are Nikolay Gryazin and local hero Fabrizio Zaldivar.

Drivers competing for the WRC2 title can score points at not more than seven events. With the calendar featuring 14 rallies, tactics come into play: Top drivers usually chose their points scoring events tactically. As the season enters its final phase with the tenth round, Rally del Paraguay, these tactical games are mostly over. Alone four of the WRC2 top 5 have entered the first of two consecutive South American events.

For WRC2 leader Oliver Solberg and runner-up Yohan Rossel, Rally del Paraguay is already their sixth points-scoring event. This puts Gus Greensmith's 28-point deficit to Oliver Solberg into a different perspective. Having scored WRC2 points in three events only, Gus Greensmith is currently in fourth position. The Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver from England and his Swedish co-driver, Jonas Andersson, are chasing their second category victory of the season, which would earn them another 25 championship points.

With less pressure, but equally big ambitions, Robert Virves also aims for a top result. The 25-year-old is sharing a Toksport WRT-run Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 with his fellow Estonian, Jakko Viilo. Robert Virves is currently in fifth position in the WRC2 overall standings. He can score WRC2 points on only two more events. "I know, that I cannot win the title anymore. But after a difficult first half of the season, it was not only victory in Estonia and third place in Finland that strengthened my confidence. The great support from Toksport WRT and its cooperation with Škoda Motorsport and the speed and reliability of my Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 have also helped a lot," Robert Virves emphasises.

Nikolay Gryazin is a kind of dark horse in the fight for the WRC2 title. The Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver from Bulgaria currently is ranked 22th in the category standings. However, he can still score at five events – more than any other of the title contenders. In Paraguay, Nikolay Gryazin and co-driver Konstantin Aleksandrov are entered by team Toksport WRT.

Rally del Paraguay for the very first time is a part of the WRC calendar, providing level playing field for all WRC2 title contenders at the start: None of them has ever competed in the South American country before. Conversely, more than a dozen local drivers want to use their knowledge of Paraguayan roads to their advantage. Three of them even have a special bond: Miguel Zaldivar Sr. and his sons, Fabrizio and Miguel Jr., will all be driving Škoda Fabia RS Rally2. Like their fellow countrymen, they want to impress at their home event in front of hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic fans.

The ueno Rally del Paraguay, as the event is called officially, is based in Encarnación in the very south of the country. The event kicks off on Thursday (28 August 2025) with the ceremonial start at 7 pm local time (Friday, 12 am CEST). Friday is the longest day of the rally and will cover 140.90 kilometres across eight stages. The Saturday leg features seven stages over 113.60 kilometres. Sunday will bring the decision with four more stages and 80.72 competitive kilometres. The winners are expected on the podium at Misión Jesuítica Trinidad around 1:35 pm (6:35 pm CEST).

Did you know, that...

...Paraguay is – after Brazil, Argentina and Chile – the fourth South American country to host a round of the FIA World Rally Championship?

...Paraguay has been a part of the South American Championship CODASUR since 2010 and has a strong rally community and fanbase?

...the host city of the rally, Encarnación, is separated from Argentina only by the River Paraná?

...therefor a large number of Argentinian fans are expected to cross the bridge from Posadas to attend the event? Until 2019, Rally Argentina was part of the WRC and boasted one of the biggest audiences on the calendar.

...that the Misión Jesuítica de la Santísima Trinidad del Paraná, which provides the backdrop for the podium, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 9 of 14 events)

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

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 9 of 14 events)

1 PH Sport, Citroën, 178 points

2 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 131 points

3 Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT NG, Toyota, 89 points

4 Sarrazin Motorsport-Iron Lynx, Citroën, 64 points

2025 FIA World Rally Championship

Rallye 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	26-29 November

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Škoda crews at Rally del Paraguay

Englishman Gus Greensmith and Swedish co-driver Jonas Andersson (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) are aiming for their second WRC2 victory of the season to keep Greensmith's championship hopes alive.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally del Paraguay

Robert Virves, who shares a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT with fellow Estonian Jakko Viilo, travels to Paraguay as fifth in the WRC2 overall standings.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally del Paraguay

For Nikolay Gryazin and co-driver Konstantin Aleksandrov (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2), Rally del Paraguay is only their third points scoring event of the season.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally del Paraguay

Navigated by Italian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian aboard a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, Fabrizio Zaldivar from Paraguay wants to use his knowledge of local roads to his advantage.

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 pursuing its Next Level – Škoda Strategy
- › aims to be among the three best-selling brands in Europe by 2030, with attractive offers in entry-level segments and additional electric vehicles
- › is unlocking growth potential in key markets such as India, North Africa, Vietnam and the wider ASEAN region
- › currently offers 12 passenger-car series: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq
- › delivered more than 926,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2024
- › has been part of the Volkswagen Group – one of the world's most successful car manufacturers – for over 30 years
- › belongs to the Brand Group CORE, the Volkswagen Group's alliance of volume brands established to drive joint growth and boost overall efficiency
- › independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions, including for other Group brands
- › operates three production plants in the Czech Republic and, largely through Group partnerships, has manufacturing capacities in China, Slovakia and India, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine with local partners
- › employs around 40,000 people worldwide and operates in almost 100 markets