

Rali Ceredigion: Škoda drivers Mikołaj Marczyk and Andrea Mabellini maintain their title chances

- › Škoda crews Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk and Andrea Mabellini/Virginia Lenzi finish penultimate FIA European Rally Championship event inside the top six.
- › At the wheel of a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, Mikołaj Marczyk collects 24 points and defends his championship lead.
- › With only the Rally Croatia left, Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver Andrea Mabellini holds second place overall and also has good chances of winning the title.

Aberystwyth (GBR), 8 September 2025 – After the penultimate round of the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the JDS Machinery Rali Ceredigion, two Škoda drivers are well placed to win the title. Overall leader Mikołaj Marczyk and co-driver Szymon Gospodarczyk finished third. The Italian Škoda crew of Andrea Mabellini and Virginia Lenzi came home in sixth place. Heading into the finale at Rally Croatia, Andrea Mabellini trails Mikołaj Marczyk by 15 points. However, this does not take into account the mandatory drop result.

Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk posted two fastest stage times across Friday and Saturday. The Polish Škoda crew reached the halftime break in third place overall behind fan favourites Jon Armstrong/Byrne Shane from Ireland and Romet Jürgenson/Siim Oja from Estonia. "It was a long day, but we need to do the same again tomorrow," Mikołaj Marczyk commented.

Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew Andrea Mabellini/Virginia Lenzi were handed a two-minute penalty before the start. The Italians responded by setting the fastest time in first stage on the streets of Aberystwyth. With three stage wins across the first leg's eight tests, they moved up from 104th position after the first stage to sixth place already after the first leg.

With the positions basically settled and only four stages remaining on Sunday, the focus of most of the drivers was on the rally-ending power stage. The 15.48-kilometre second running of "Mynnydd Bach" would earn the fastest five drivers valuable extra points (5-4-3-2-1). The pouring rain made the challenge for the crews even greater.

Despite the difficult conditions, Andrea Mabellini and Virginia Lenzi were flying in their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2. The Italians took maximum risks and won the stage by a huge margin of 7.5 seconds. Having collected a total of 20 championship points, Andrea Mabellini commented: "The weekend started badly when we received a two-minute time penalty. But we showed everyone that we're really fast — we gave it our all! The fight continues at Rally Croatia."

Meanwhile, Mikołaj Marczyk and Szymon Gospodarczyk finished the power stage as third fastest and climbed onto the podium in third place overall. "The season finale in Croatia will be a really tight fight for the championship," said Mikołaj Marczyk, looking at the overall standings.

At first glance, Mikołaj Marczyk, the overall leader, has a 15-point advantage over Andrea Mabellini, the runner-up. However, according to the regulations of the FIA European Rally Championship, only seven best results of the season count. Therefore, every driver competing in all eight events must take one drop result into account. Marczyk has scored in each of the seven rounds already run; his worst result (13 points) comes from the Royal Rally of Scandinavia. Andrea Mabellini's drop result is already clear: a zero from Rally Hungary. Taking a "net score" into account, Mikołaj Marczyk leads Andrea Mabellini by only two points (133 vs. 131) going into the season's finale at Rally Croatia (3-5 October 2025). Because Andrea Mabellini's individual results are better, Mikołaj Marczyk can lose only one single point in Croatia in relation to Andrea Mabellini to stay ahead of him in the final standings. With a maximum of 35 points available at the finale in Croatia, third-placed overall Jon Armstrong is the only other driver with a mathematical chance of winning the title.

Number of the rally: 8,000

The ERC round Rali Ceredigion also counted towards the Škoda Motorsport Bonus Programme. Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver Mikołaj Marczyk, who came third overall, collected another spare parts voucher worth €8,000 for his team.

Rali Ceredigion (GBR), 5-7 September 2025, Result ERC

- 1 Jon Armstrong/Shane Byrne (IRL/IRL), Ford Fiesta Mk II Rally2, 1:34:52.0 hours
- 2 Romet Jürgenson/Oja Siim (EST/EST), Ford Fiesta Mk II Rally2, +29.2 seconds
- 3 Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk (POL/POL), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +43.7 seconds**
- 4 William Creighton/Liam Regan (IRL/IRL), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +1:15.2 minutes
- 5 Osian Pryce/Andy Hayes (GBR/IRL), Hyundai i20 N Rally2, +2:31.8 minutes
- 6 Andrea Mabellini/Virginia Lenzi (ITA/ITA), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +2:59.5 minutes**

Standings ERC/Drivers (after 7 of 8 events)

- 1 Mikołaj Marczyk (POL), Škoda, 146 points (133 after one drop result)**
- 2 Andrea Mabellini (ITA), Škoda, 131 points**
- 3 Jon Armstrong (GBR), Ford, 113 points
- 4 Mads Østberg (NOR), Citroën, 76 points
- 5 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 60 points
- 6 Isak Reiersen (SWE), Škoda, 60 points**

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Škoda crews at Rali Ceredigion

Mikołaj Marczyk and co-driver Szymon Gospodarczyk (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) finished the 2025 FIA European Rally Championship's penultimate round third overall.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rali Ceredigion

Polish Škoda driver Mikołaj Marczyk travels to the season's finale, Rally Croatia, with a slim overall lead.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rali Ceredigion

After being handed a two-minute penalty before the start, Italians Andrea Mabellini/Virginia Lenzi (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) fought their way back to sixth position at the finish.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rali Ceredigion

Italian Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver Andrea Mabellini holds second position overall in the FIA European Rally Championship Drivers' standings.

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) and 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 2030
- › 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