

Rally Saudi Arabia: Škoda drivers and co-drivers chase WRC2 Challenger titles

- › Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver Nikolay Gryazin and co-driver Konstantin Aleksandrov travel to Rally Saudi Arabia as leaders of their respective WRC2 Challenger standings
- › Their Toksport WRT teammates Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo have an outsider chance for both WRC2 Challenger titles
- › Even before the start, Toksport WRT has secured the WRC2 teams' championship*
- › The all-new WRC event in Saudi Arabia is centred around the Jeddah Corniche Circuit, also known from Formula One races.

Mladá Boleslav, 26 November 2025 – It is a journey into the unknown: For the first time ever, Rally Saudi Arabia (25–29 November 2025) counts towards the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). At the finish of the last event of the 2025 season, not only the new overall world champion will be crowned. The desert roads will also determine the outcome of the fight for the WRC Challenger drivers' and co-drivers' titles.

While the season for raincoats and winter tyres has started in most of Europe, the competitors of the FIA World Rally Championship are about to experience blue skies, sunshine and temperatures of around 35 degrees Celsius. Saudi Arabia is hosting the season finale for the very first time. However, the journey to Jeddah, a bustling port town on the Red Sea with roughly three million inhabitants, will be far from a relaxing holiday trip for the teams, drivers and co-drivers. Nearly 320 kilometres of stages will challenge the crews with a demanding mix of wide, soft, sandy desert tracks and winding, rough gravel paths.

With 13 of 14 WRC events completed, most of the title decisions are still open. In the WRC2 Challenger drivers' standings, just 19 points separate leader Nikolay Gryazin from fifth-placed Robert Virves (both Škoda Fabia RS Rally2). Of the top 5, only Italian Roberto Daprà (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) will not compete in the season finale. With 25 points still at stake, mathematically all four remaining drivers can still win the title. "I reckon, it will all come down to clever tyre management," says Nikolay Gryazin. "It will be crucial, to avoid punctures and find the right balance between speed and safety. But I feel perfectly prepared. My Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 has proven its robustness and speed on gravel roads many times before."

While Gryazin can win the WRC2 Challenger title on his own merit, his Toksport WRT teammate, Robert Virves, not only needs nothing less than a category win to seize his slim chance for overall victory. At the same time, all his three competitors must not score any or at least very little points. "It's not over until the finish line," the Estonian emphasises. "I have nothing to lose and I'm at least going to enjoy the gravel roads. My goal is to gain as much experience as possible."

The co-drivers' standings show a similar picture. Konstantin Aleksandrov, Nikolay Gryazin's navigator, leads the standings. Jakko Viilo, who shares the Toksport WRT run Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 with Robert Virves, is 19 points down in fifth position.

One title will be decided already before the start: Because currently overall second-placed PH Sport has not entered Rally Saudi Arabia, Toksport WRT cannot lose the lead in the WRC2 teams' standings anymore. After 2020, 2022 and 2023, the Škoda Motorsport customer will win the title for a fourth time*.

Next to Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov and Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo, five more Škoda crews have entered into the WRC2 category. Among the favourites for category victory are Englishman Gus Greensmith and Swedish co-driver Jonas Andersson. After winning WRC2 at Safari Rally Kenya for team RaceSeven in March, they lately experienced a string of bad luck. "I think, everything is possible in Saudi Arabia," says Gus Greensmith, who wants to finish off the 2025 season in style and possibly with another win.

Other Škoda crews to watch are Daniel Chwist/Kamil Heller from Poland, Alejandro Mauro/Adrián Pérez from Mexico and Spain respectively as well as Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari from Qatar with Italian co-driver Giovanni Bernacchini. Miguel Granados from Mexico has all but won the WRC Masters Cup*, a title his Spanish co-driver Marc Martí has already in the bag. Three times FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Champion Gaurav Gill from India will compete in a Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo together with French co-driver Florian Barral.

The Rally Saudi Arabia consists of 17 special stages covering 319.44 kilometres. The event uses the infrastructure of Jeddah's Formula One circuit. Due to local customs, the schedule will be slightly different than usual. The ceremonial start at the Jeddah Corniche and a short street stage take place already on Wednesday evening (26 November). After 16 stages across Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the winners will be celebrated on Saturday (29 November) at 2:20 pm local time (12:20 pm CET) on the podium in Jeddah.

** Subject to the official confirmation of the results by the FIA.*

Did you know, that...

...for the first time Rally Saudi Arabia has been included in the calendar of the FIA World Rally Championship?

...the event offers extremely different types of stages, ranging from wide open sandy tracks in the desert to rough and winding gravel roads in the mountains?

...Saudi Arabia also hosts other automobile world championships and top racing series like Formula One, Formula E and the Rally Dakar?

Standings WRC2 Challenger/Drivers (after 13 of 14 rallies)

- 1 Nikolay Gryazin (BUL), Škoda, 94 points**
- 2 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 90 points
- 3 Jan Solans (ESP), Toyota, 87 points
- 4 Roberto Dapra (ITA), Škoda, 86 points**
- 5 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 75 points**

Standings WRC2 Challenger/Co-drivers (after 13 of 14 rallies)

- 1 Konstantin Aleksandrov (KGZ), Škoda, 94 points**
- 2 Anssi Viinikka (FIN), Toyota, 90 points
- 3 Rodrigo Sanjuan (ESP), Toyota, 87 points
- 4 Borja Rozada (ESP), Toyota, 79 points
- 5 Jakko Viilo (EST), Škoda, 75 points**

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 13 of 14 rallies)

- 1 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 198 points**
- 2 PH Sport, Citroën, 178 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	13-16 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 Saudi Arabia

Toksport WRT's Nikolay

Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) lead the WRC2 Challenger drivers' and co-drivers' standings.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Saudi Arabia

Trailing the leaders by 19 points, Estonians Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT) have an outsider chance for the WRC2 Challenger titles.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Saudi Arabia

Englishman Gus Greensmith and co-driver Jonas Andersson from Sweden (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team RaceSeven) want to finish the 2025 season with a strong result.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Saudi Arabia

Mexican Miguel Granados (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) chases the WRC Masters Cup victory. His Spanish co-driver Marc Martí already was crowned co-drivers' champion of this category.

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 three 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.