

Rally de Portugal: Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews from all over the world chase WRC2 top positions

- › Sixth round of the FIA World Rally Championship features 345 kilometres of gravel stages for the Škoda crews and their competitors in the WRC2 category
- › Jan Solans of Spain, Fabrizio Zaldívar from Paraguay and Norway's Andreas Mikkelsen are among the gravel experts at the wheel of a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2
- › Škoda drivers Roberto Daprà from Italy, Eric Camilli from France and local hero Armindo Araújo are also targeting strong points in the WRC2 classification
- › 20 of the 36 crews entered into WRC2 compete with the Škoda Fabia

Mladá Boleslav, 6 May 2026 – Following two consecutive rounds on tarmac, the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) returns to gravel stages. Rally de Portugal (7–10 May 2026) is based in Matosinhos, near Porto. With no fewer than 36 crews entered, the WRC2 field is significantly stronger than in any of the previous five championship rounds. Among those aiming to score WRC2 points are 17 crews competing in a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

Rally de Portugal brings out the gravel specialists. The sixth round of the FIA World Rally Championship features 345.14 competitive kilometres, with only a few short tarmac sections and one street stage; the remainder is run on sandy and rocky roads. The 23 stages include two passes over the legendary "Fafe" stage, famous for its spectacular jump near the finish.

A WRC2 winner on Portuguese gravel in 2024, Jan Solans has switched to a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 run by team PH.Ph. for the current season. Together with co-driver Rodrigo Sanjuán, he finished Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain, his WRC debut with the car from Mladá Boleslav, in seventh position in WRC2. "I really enjoy driving the Škoda on asphalt," says Jan Solans. "Now I am keen to discover its potential on gravel. The Fabia's robustness gives me a lot of confidence to attack."

Safari Rally Kenya, the only gravel event so far this season, ended with third place in WRC2 for Fabrizio Zaldívar and Marcelo Der Ohannesian of team RaceSeven and fourth position for Toksport WRT's Andreas Mikkelsen and Jørn Listerud. Both crews are targeting another WRC2 top result in Portugal. "I cannot wait to drive the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 on gravel again," says Zaldívar. So far, his best WRC2 result in Portugal is a fourth place, achieved in 2024. Mikkelsen finished third in WRC2 at Rally de Portugal just one year earlier. The WRC2 champion of 2021 and 2023 currently sits only 15th in the overall standings and is keen to make up ground.

After the first five events of the 2026 season, the highest-placed Škoda driver and co-driver are Roberto Daprà and Luca Guglielmetti of Delta Rally Team. The Italians are lying third overall in their respective classifications. Last year, Roberto Daprà finished sixth in WRC2 at Rally de Portugal. A few weeks later, he secured victory in WRC2 at Rally Italia Sardegna, once again underlining his pace on gravel.

Meanwhile, Eric Camilli and co-driver Thibault De La Haye head to Matosinhos following their third-place finish in WRC2 at Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain. The French crew competes in a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 entered by Eurosol Racing Team Hungary. Local favourites Armindo Araújo and Luís Ramalho are aiming for more than just WRC2 points. With their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, run by The Racing Factory, they are also strong contenders for victory in the Portuguese Championship classification.

In total, 20 Škoda crews are entered in WRC2 at Rally de Portugal. One of them is competing for team points only: Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo. The Estonian pairing, representing Toksport WRT, won WRC2 at Safari Rally Kenya but have opted not to nominate Rally de Portugal as one of their seven points-scoring events.

Rally de Portugal begins on Thursday (7 May 2026) in Coimbra. The opening day concludes with a short super special stage in the streets of Figueira da Foz. Seven stages will be contested on Friday, followed by nine on Saturday. The final leg on Sunday brings the total to 23 stages, covering 345.14 kilometres. The WRC2 winners will be celebrated on the podium immediately after the “Fafe Power Stage” on Sunday at approximately 1:35 local time.

Did you know, that...

...the first version of the Rally2 spec Škoda Fabia made its debut in the FIA World Rally Championship during the 2015 Rally de Portugal?

...Rally de Portugal back in 1973 was one of the founding members of the FIA World Rally Championship?

...after decades headquartered in Estoril close to Lisbon and eight years held in the Algarve region, the rally in 2015 moved to Matosinhos north of Porto?

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 5 of 14 events)

- 1 Yohan Rossel (FRA), Lancia, 52 points
- 2 Léo Rossel (FRA), Citroën, 52 points
- 3 Roberto Daprà (ITA), Škoda, 37 points**
- 4 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 35 points
- 5 Nikolay Gryazin (BUL), Lancia, 31 points

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 5 of 14 events)

1 Lancia Corse HF, Lancia, 126 Points

2 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 94 points

3 M-Sport Ford World Rally Team, Ford, 45 Points

2026 FIA World Rally Championship

Rallye Monte-Carlo	22-25 January
Rally Sweden	12-15 February
Safari Rally Kenya	12-15 March
Croatia Rally	9-12 April
Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain	23-26 April
Rally de Portugal	7-10 May
Rally Japan	28-31 May
Acropolis Rally Greece	25-28 June
Rally Estonia	16-19 July
Rally Finland	30 July-2 August
Rally del Paraguay	27-30 August
Rally Chile Bio Bío	10-13 September
Rally Italia Sardegna	1-4 October
Rally Saudi Arabia	11-14 November

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Škoda crews at Rally de Portugal

Following their impressive debut on tarmac in the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team PH.Ph. at the Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain (pictured), Jan Solans and co-driver Rodrigo Sanjuán are eager to excel on gravel as well.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally de Portugal

Fabrizio Zaldívar from Paraguay and Italian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team RaceSeven) started into the 2026 season with third place in WRC2 at Safari Rally Kenya (pictured).

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally de Portugal

2021 and 2023 WRC2 Champion Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Jørn Listerud (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT) chase their first WRC2 victory of the season.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally de Portugal

Italians Roberto Daprà and Luca Guglielmetti (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Delta Rally Team) are currently holding third position in the WRC2 Drivers' and Co-drivers' overall standings respectively.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at de Portugal

French duo Eric Camilli/Thibault De La Haye (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Eurosol Racing Team Hungary) are fast on tarmac and as well on gravel stages.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at de Portugal

Estonian Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo are nominated to score WRC2 points for their team Toksport WRT only.

Source: Škoda Auto

Škoda Motorsport

- › Škoda celebrates 125 years of Motorsport since the first efforts in 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 three times in 2020, 2022 and 2023. In 2025 Toksport WRT took another WRC2 Teams' title and Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov of Toksport WRT become WRC2 Challenger drivers' and co-drivers' champions respectively.
- › 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 by offering its customers the best of both worlds through a range of attractive BEV, hybrid & ICE products;
- › effectively exploits the potential in important growth markets such as India, Vietnam and the ASEAN region;
- › currently offers customers 12 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq;
- › delivered more than 1,040,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2025;
- › 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;
- › independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions for other Volkswagen Group brands;
- › operates three production plants in the Czech Republic; has production capacities in Slovakia, Kazakhstan and India, mostly through group partnerships, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine in cooperation with a local partner;
- › employs around 40,000 people worldwide and is active in almost 100 markets.