

Rally de Portugal: Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew from Norway achieves WRC2 podium position

- › **Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Jørn Listerud (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) finish the sixth round of the FIA World Rally Championship third in WRC2.**
- › **A late off-road excursion ends three-day long fight for victory in the WRC2 classification for Spanish Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew Jan Solans/Rodrigo Sanjuán.**
- › **Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viiilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) win one stage overall.**
- › **Armindo Araújo and co-driver Luís Ramalho (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) finish as best-placed competitor from Portugal.**

Matosinhos (POR), 10 May 2026 – Rally de Portugal is usually characterised by soft gravel, deep ruts, the occasional rock on the racing line and bright sunshine. This time, however, the competitors faced an additional challenge: Monsoon-like rain turned some of the stages of the sixth round of the FIA World Rally Championship into mud baths. As expected, the difficult road conditions influenced the competition in WRC2. Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew Jan Solans/Rodrigo Sanjuán fought for WRC2 victory until the penultimate stage.

WRC2 winners of Rally de Portugal in the past, Jan Solans and co-driver Rodrigo Sanjuán took the category lead after the last of the three Thursday stages. “This is my first time with the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 on gravel,” Jan Solans said, who is competing for team PH.Ph this season. During the Friday leg, the WRC2 lead changed hands three times. However, when the cars returned to the Matosinhos service park, Jan Solans/Rodrigo Sanjuán were back in first place. A similar story unfolded on Saturday: The Spanish duo and eventual winners Teemu Suninen/Janni Hussi took turns at top of the WRC2 standings. At the end of the Saturday leg, after more than 250 competitive kilometres, the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew trailed their Finnish opponents by 0.9 seconds only.

Just when everyone expected this duel to continue on Sunday's rain-soaked stages, Jan Solans and Rodrigo Sanjuán were caught out by the extremely difficult road conditions. During the penultimate stage, their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 veered off into the bushes. “We went completely off the road, but luckily we found a way back onto the stage. It was crazy, but we had to try,” said Jan Solans. The incident cost them more than two minutes. They also had to complete the final stage with a puncture to the front right tyre. Nevertheless, the Spaniards still finished fourth in WRC2. “We can be very happy with how the weekend went. The car worked fantastically. Today just wasn't our day, but we can be proud of our performance,” Jan Solans summarised.

Following the mishap of their brand colleagues, Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Jørn Listerud inherited the final spot on the WRC2 podium. The Norwegians onboard the Škoda

Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT held contact to the WRC2 leaders throughout the first leg. However, a puncture on Saturday morning cost them 30 seconds. "A puncture without any mistake from our side," Andreas Mikkelsen shrugged, frustration evident on the face of the former WRC2 champion.

A master of challenging road conditions, Fabrizio Zaldivar from Paraguay brought the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team RaceSeven home in fifth position in WRC2. "Fau" Zaldivar and Italian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian never put a foot wrong, collecting ten championship points for their respective classifications. Two French Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews also made it into the top 10 of WRC2. Eurosol Racing Team Hungary's Eric Camilli/Thibault De La Haye finished seventh of the category. Mattéo Chatillon/Maxence Cornuau of team ARL Sport followed one position behind their compatriots.

Roberto Daprà and co-driver Luca Guglielmetti were running as high as fifth in WRC2 but retired after stage 18. The Delta Rally Team mechanics repaired the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, enabling the Italian pair to restart on Sunday. However, championship points were out of reach.

A similar fate befell Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo. The Estonians had to retire after ripping off a wheel of their Toksport WRT-run Škoda Fabia RS Rally2. After the restart, and partly due to the changeable weather, they achieved the extremely rare feat of completing one stage fastest overall, even quicker than all competitors with more powerful Rally1 cars. However, the time penalty for the restart meant they finished well down the order. Fortunately, neither had selected Rally de Portugal as one of their seven points-scoring events.

The honour of best-placed Portuguese team went to a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew as well. Armindo Araújo and co-driver Luís Ramalho took the twelfth place in WRC2 for team The Racing Factory. Victory in the WRC Masters Cup classification went to Paulo Neto/Carlos Magalhães, another Portuguese duo competing with a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

After just one gravel event, the FIA World Rally Championship switches back to tarmac. Seventh round of the season is Rally Japan, running from 28th to 31st May.

Number of the rally: 7

The competition in WRC2 was so fierce, that the category lead changed an impressive seven times over the 23 stages. Jan Solans and co-driver Rodrigo Sanjuán (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team PH.Ph) occupied the top spot for three stretches with a total of nine stages.

Rally de Portugal (POR), 7-10 May 2026,

6th round of the FIA World Rally Championship, Result WRC2

1 Teemu Suninen/Janni Hussi (FIN/FIN), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, 4:04.15.5 hours

2 Roope Korhonen/Anssi Viinikka (FIN/FIN), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +45.6 seconds

3 Andreas Mikkelsen/Jørn Listerud (NOR/NOR), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +1.14.2 minutes

4 Jan Solans/Rodrigo Sanjuán (ESP/ESP), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +2.47.0 minutes

5 Fabrizio Zaldívar/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (PAR/ITA), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +5.04.7 minutes

6 Mille Johansson/Johan Grönvall (SWE/SWE), Ford Fiesta MkII Rally2, +5.17.8 minutes

7 Eric Camilli/Thibault De La Haye (FRA/FRA), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +6.13.8 minutes

8 Mattéo Chatillon/Maxence Cornuau (FRA/FRA), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +12.51.3 minutes

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Škoda crews at Rally de Portugal

Despite an early puncture, 2021 and 2023 WRC2 Champion Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Jørn Listerud from Norway (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT) finished third in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally de Portugal

Jan Solans and co-driver Rodrigo Sanjuán (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team PH.Ph.) led for a couple of stages. A short off-road excursion on Sunday relegated the Spaniards to fourth position at the finish.

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) used their experience with challenging road conditions to secure fifth place in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally de Portugal

Deep ruts especially during the second pass through the stages made life difficult for the WRC2 competitors. French duo Eric Camilli/Thibault De La Haye (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Eurosol Racing Team Hungary) mastered the challenge to finish seventh.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally de Portugal

Mattéo Chatillon/Maxence Cornuau from France were the fifth Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew to finish inside the top 10 of WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally de Portugal

Armindo Araújo and co-driver Luís Ramalho (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team The Racing Factory) were highest-placed Portuguese competitors not only in WRC2, but also in the overall classification.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally de Portugal

Estonian Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo of team Toksport WRT didn't compete for WRC2 drivers' and co-drivers' points. However, they showed their speed by winning stage 21 overall.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally de Portugal

Tens of thousands of fans came to stages to support the competitors like Roberto Daprà and Luca Guglielmetti (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Delta Rally Team).

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.