

Rally Estonia: Škoda driver Robert Virves goes for back-to-back victories on home WRC2 event

- › With two WRC2 wins already achieved, Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) are aiming high on the ninth round of the FIA World Rally Championship
- › Also sharing a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 and chasing a top result are their Toksport WRT team mates, Emil Lindholm and Gabriel Morales
- › Other Škoda crews hoping for a WRC2 podium include Jan Solans/Rodrigo Sanjuán, Lauri Joona/Antti Linnaketo, Mikko Heikkilä/Kristian Temonen, Mille Johansson/Johan Grönvall.

Mladá Boleslav, 15 July 2026 – Local heroes Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo will be among the favourites for the WRC2 victory on the fast gravel roads of Rally Estonia (16-19 July 2026). But the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew will face strong opposition during the ninth round of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) with 24 competitors entering WRC2, ten of whom will rely on a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

With more than half of the 2026 season complete, tactics are coming into play in the WRC2 category. Each driver and co-driver can nominate up to seven scoring events with only the six best results counting. Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo are currently sixth in the overall standings. However, the Estonians, who are competing in a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 run by Toksport WRT, have only nominated two events so far: Safari Rally Kenya and Acropolis Rally Greece – and they won them both. With a 100 per cent victory rate, they are much better placed than the current standings suggest. Given all the drivers and co-drivers in the top five of the overall rankings have already banked at least four results, Robert Virves has every reason to be optimistic ahead of his home event. “After winning the WRC2 category on Rally Estonia last year, I can't wait to hit these fantastic gravel roads again with my Škoda Fabia RS Rally2,” said the 26-year-old.

Emil Lindholm from Finland, teammate to Robert Virves at Toksport WRT, finished third in WRC2 on Rally Estonia in both 2022 and 2023. This year, the 2022 WRC2 champion is aiming for a top result together with Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales. Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews Jan Solans/Rodrigo Sanjuán from Spain (PH.Ph), Lauri Joona/Antti Linnaketo from Finland (TGS Worldwide) and the 2025 Junior WRC champions, Mille Johansson/Johan Grönvall from Sweden (MS Munaretto), are also among the contenders for a WRC2 podium. Also competing with a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 are the TGS Worldwide-run pairing of Mikko Heikkilä and co-driver Kristian Temonen, who won the recent FIA European Rally Championship-counting Royal Rally of Scandinavia on similar stages. The Finnish crew also proved their speed with a fourth-place finish in the WRC2 category on last year's Rally

Estonia. Meanwhile, one of the biggest local hopes is 20-year-old Estonian Patrick Enok. He is supported by the experienced co-driver Silver Simm in a Printsport Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

Delfi Rally Estonia, as the ninth round of the WRC is officially called, features 18 stages on mostly smooth gravel, covering a total distance of 301.80 kilometres. On Friday (17 July), the crews will face 103.42 kilometres over seven special stages. Saturday (18 July) is the longest day, with nine stages covering 149.60 competitive kilometres. After two runs over the 24.39-kilometre Kääriku stage on Sunday (19 July), the winners are expected on the podium at approximately 2:20 pm local time.

Did you know, that...

...Rally Estonia features wide, flat-out forest roads, which are sometimes mastered with an average speed exceeding 120 kph?

...Rally Estonia joined the FIA World Rally Championship calendar in 2020 in the midst of the global health pandemic?

...the event has been a regular fixture in the WRC calendar since then, with the exception of 2024 when it counted as a round of the FIA European Rally Championship?

...on all but one occasion, a Škoda crew has won the WRC2/WRC2 Open category?

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 8 of 14 events)

- 1 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 64 points *(from 4 events)*
- 2 Alejandro Cachón (ESP), Toyota, 61 points *(from 5 events)*
- 3 Léo Rossel (FRA), Lancia, 60 points *(from 4 events)*
- 4 Nikolay Gryazin (BUL), Lancia, 56 points *(from 4 events)*
- 5 Yohan Rossel (FRA), Lancia, 52 points *(from 5 events)*
- 6 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 50 points *(from 2 events)***

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 8 of 14 events)

- 1 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 168 points**
- 2 Lancia Corse HF, Lancia, 163 Points
- 3 M-Sport Ford World Rally Team, Ford, 45 Points
- 4 2C Junior Team, Citroën, 15 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 (ESP)	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 on Rally Estonia

Estonian crew Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) are targeting their third WRC2 victory of the season.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Estonia

After three WRC rounds on tarmac, Emil Lindholm from Finland and Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales (Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) are competing on gravel for the first time this season

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Estonia

Spaniards Jan Solans/Rodrigo Sanjuán (PH.Ph Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) start Rally Estonia with the hope of a WRC2 top result.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Estonia

Defending Junior WRC champions Mille Johansson/Johan Grönvall (MS Munarettto Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) travel from Sweden to Tartu, the host city of Rally Estonia.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Estonia

Following their victory on the FIA European Rally Championship-counting Royal Rally of Scandinavia, Finns Mikko Heikkilä and co-driver Kristian Temonen (TGS Worldwide Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) are chasing WRC2 points.

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) 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 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 14 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Epq, Elroq, Enyaq, Peaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kuchaq;
- › 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 Spain, 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.