

Rally Finland: Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews target strong WRC2 results at the “Gravel Grand Prix”

- › **Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) aim to continue their WRC2 winning streak at the 10th round of the FIA World Rally Championship**
- › **With another top result, the Estonians from team Toksport WRT could take the overall lead in the WRC2 drivers' and co-drivers' standings respectively**
- › **Other Škoda drivers with high ambitions include locals Emil Lindholm, Lauri Joona and Mikko Heikkilä as well as Estonian Patrick Enok**

Mladá Boleslav, 30 July 2026 – Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo will start Rally Finland (30 July–2 August 2026) sitting second overall in their respective WRC2 rankings. Collecting more points at the 10th round of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) would bring the Estonians a big step closer to achieving their dream of winning the championship. However, they will face stiff competition, including 10 more Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews.

Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo could not have done it any better: Until now, they had nominated the Kenyan and the Greek WRC rounds as well as their home event, Rally Estonia, to score WRC2 points. And they won the category on all three occasions. Competing with a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo currently trail the leaders of the WRC2 drivers' and co-drivers' overall standings by just four points. However, their competitors have two additional starts to their names, what makes the title fight still wide open.

Following his hard-fought victory in the WRC2 category on the fast gravel stages in Estonia, Robert Virves is feeling confident ahead of Rally Finland. Dubbed the “Finnish Grand Prix on Gravel” by fans and competitors alike, the event usually features an average speed of more than 120 kph. “I love the high-speed stages in the Jyväskylä area,” Robert Virves says. “Last year, we finished third in WRC2. Given how well the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 performs in these conditions, I'm confident that I can achieve an even better result this time.”

Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo are not the only Škoda crew with high ambitions. Emil Lindholm, their team-mate at Toksport WRT, won the category at Rally Finland in 2022 on his way to becoming WRC2 champion. Now partnering co-driver Gabriel Morales from Brazil, the Finn is again targeting a top position. Other Finnish crews with high hopes include Mikko Heikkilä/Kristian Temonen as well as Lauri Joona/Antti Linnaketo. Both compete in Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 run by the Finnish team TGS Worldwide.

Another Škoda driver to watch is Patrick Enok. The 20-year-old and his experienced co-driver Silver Simm made a strong impression during their WRC2 debut at the recent Rally Estonia.

Of the 29 WRC2 competitors at Rally Finland, 11 rely on the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, among them Fabrizio Zaldívar from Paraguay and Italian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian, French pairing Mattéo Chatillon/Maxence Cornuau, Giovanni Trentin/Pietro Elia Ometto from Italy and Czech duo Martin Prokop/Michal Ernst.

In keeping with tradition, Rally Finland will begin with a superspecial stage on Thursday evening, close to the service park in Jyväskylä. The Friday leg features nine stages totalling 127.72 kilometres. On Saturday, eight stages covering 125.70 kilometres will follow. The Sunday leg consists of two runs over the 30.02-kilometre "Himos-Jämsä" stage. The winners are expected on the podium at around 1:45 pm.

Did you know, that...

...on eight of the last 10 editions of Rally Finland, Škoda crews have won the WRC2/WRC2 Pro category?

...the rally first took place in 1951 under the name of "Jyväskylän Suurajot", which translates as "The Great Race of Jyväskylä"?

...the event was called the "Rally of the 1000 Lakes" from 1959 to 1996, before being re-named Rally Finland?

...the rally was part of the inaugural world championship season in 1973?

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 9 of 14 events)

1 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 79 points (*from 5 rallies*)

2 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 75 points (*from 3 rallies*)

3 Alejandro Cachón (ESP), Toyota, 61 points (*from 5 rallies*)

Standings WRC2/Co-drivers (after 9 of 14 events)

1 Anssi Viinikka (FIN), Toyota, 79 points (*from 5 rallies*)

2 Jakko Viilo (EST), Škoda, 75 points (*from 3 rallies*)

3 Borja Rozada (ESP), Toyota, 61 points (*from 5 rallies*)

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 9 of 14 events)

1 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 210 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 Finland

Following their WRC2 victory at their home round, Estonian pairing Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) are more than ready to face the fastest event of the season.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Finland

Patrick Enok and co-driver Silver Simm (Printsport Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) are heading into their only second WRC2 event.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Finland

Emil Lindholm from Finland, who shares the Toksport WRT-run Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 with Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales, aims to repeat his WRC2 victory from 2022.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Finland

Lauri Joona/Antti Linnaketo (TGS Worldwide Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) want to better their seventh WRC2 position from Rally Estonia.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Finland

Fabrizio Zaldivar of Paraguay and Italian navigator Marcelo Der Ohannesian (RaceSeven Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) challenge the fast crews from the Nordic countries.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Finland

Considering their home advantage, Finnish duo Mikko Heikkilä/Kristian Temonen (TGS Worldwide Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) are a force to reckon with.

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, Epiq, Elroq, Enyaq, Peaq, 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 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.