

Rally del Paraguay: Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew compete as WRC2 overall leaders

- › Toksport WRT crew Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (EST/EST) arrive at the 11th round of the FIA World Rally Championship in Paraguay as WRC2 overall leaders
- › For the first time, Toksport WRT is running another Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 for Taylor Gill (AUS)
- › Fabrizio Zaldívar (PAR) and Marco Bulacia (BOL) are among the top seeds across a strong South American group of Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 drivers

Mladá Boleslav, 26 August 2026 – Having secured four WRC2 victories this season, Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo arrive at Rally del Paraguay (27–30 August 2026) as the leaders of the driver's and the co-driver's standings. The Estonian Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew is targeting another top result on the 22 red-earth-road stages around Encarnación that could prove deciding in the championship chase.

Having won WRC2 on the four occasions they've been nominated to score points this season, Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo are in the ascendancy. With victories in Kenya, Greece, Estonia and Finland competing in a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 from the Toksport WRT team, the Estonians could significantly extend their points lead in South America. As only the six best results out of seven nominated rallies count towards the final WRC2 standings at the end of the season, Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo are among the favourites for the drivers' and co-drivers' titles.

"The past four rallies, where we won WRC2, were like a dream come true. My Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 performs very well on all types of gravel, it doesn't matter whether the roads are rough and twisty or smooth and fast," says Robert Virves. Last year, a puncture on the penultimate stage cost the pair a WRC2 podium finish in Paraguay, dropping them to fifth place.

More than two thirds of the entry list come from South America. Among them are Paraguayans Fabrizio 'Fau' Zaldívar, his brother Miguel and their father Miguel Ángel, all competing in Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 cars. Last year, Fabrizio Zaldívar and Italian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian finished fourth in WRC2 when Rally del Paraguay became a part of the FIA World Rally Championship for the first time.

Marco Bulacia won the event two year ago, when it counted towards the national championship. This time, he returns with Spanish co-driver José Murado in a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2. In total, eleven WRC2 crews rely on a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2. Among them are Taylor

Gill and co-driver Daniel Brkic from Australia, who are new to Toksport WRT. The Škoda Motorsport customer is currently leading the WRC2 Teams' classification.

The "ueno Rally del Paraguay", as the event is officially known, begins on Thursday 27 August with a ceremonial start in Encarnación's Sambódromo. This spectacular venue will also house the service park. On Friday, the crews have to cover 153.38 kilometres over eight special stages. Saturday features nine stages totalling 137.34 kilometres. After a short finale on Sunday with just 68.16 stage kilometres, the winners will be celebrated at the historic Molino San José in Encarnación.

Did you know, that...

...since 2025, Paraguay is – after Brazil, Argentina and Chile – the fourth South American country to host a round of the FIA World Rally Championship?

...Rally del Paraguay has been a part of the South American Championship CODASUR for years and has a strong fanbase among the country's roughly seven million inhabitants?

...the host city Encarnación is separated from Argentina only by the river Paraná?

...therefore, a large number of Argentinian fans are expected to cross the bridge from Posadas to attend the event? Until 2019, Rally Argentina was part of the WRC and boasted one of the biggest audiences on the calendar.

...the special stages feature a combination of fast and technical passages on a surface made of iron-rich red soil?

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 10 of 14 events)

- 1 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 100 points (from 4 rallies)**
- 2 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 79 points (from 6 rallies)
- 3 Teemu Suninen (FIN), Toyota, 76 points (from 4 rallies)

Standings WRC2/Co-drivers (after 10 of 14 events)

- 1 Jakko Viilo (EST), Škoda, 100 points (from 4 rallies)**
- 2 Anssi Viinikka (FIN), Toyota, 79 points (from 6 rallies)
- 3 Janni Hussi (FIN), Toyota, 76 points (from 4 rallies)

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 10 of 14 events)

1 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 235 points

2 Lancia Corse HF, Lancia, 195 points

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

4 2C Junior Team, Lancia, 37 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

Contact

Jan Hrbek

Communications Motorsport

P +420 730 867 534

jan.hrbek@skoda-auto.cz

<https://www.skoda-motorsport.com/>

Škoda Motorsport:



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Škoda crews on Rally del Paraguay

So far, Toksport WRT crew Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) achieved a 100 per cent success rate during this year's WRC2 campaign.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally del Paraguay

Fabrizio Zaldívar is Paraguay's best bet for a top result. He shares the RaceSeven Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 with Italian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally del Paraguay

The red soil is a distinctive feature of the stages in Paraguay (photo: local Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew Miguel Zaldívar/Luis Allende during the 2025 event).

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally del Paraguay
Mexican Miguel Granados and Spanish co-driver Marc Martí (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) compete as reigning WRC Masters Cup champions.

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 14 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Epik, 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 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.