

Rally del Paraguay: Australian crew finishes fourth in WRC2 at their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 debut

- › **New to team Toksport WRT, Taylor Gill and co-driver Daniel Brkic impress at the eleventh round of the FIA World Rally Championship.**
- › **Team-mates Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo maintain their overall lead in the WRC2 Drivers' and Co-Drivers' Championship despite finishing outside the points positions.**
- › **Miguel Ángel Zaldívar/Juan José Sánchez drive team MZR Paraguay's Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 to victory in the WRC Masters Cup classification.**

Encarnación (PAR), 30 August 2026 – Rally del Paraguay turned out to be a difficult FIA World Rally Championship event for the fastest Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews. WRC2 overall leaders Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo lost all chances of achieving a top result already during the first stage. Fabrizio Zaldívar/Marcelo Der Ohannesian were on course to a podium position. However, a late off threw a spanner in the works. In the end, it was left to two Australian newcomers to the Škoda camp to pull the chestnuts out of the fire.

After finishing last year's FIA Junior World Rally Championship as runner-up, Taylor Gill has advanced to WRC2 for the 2026 season. Rally del Paraguay was already the fourth event of the season for the 22-year-old from New South Wales. However, he and fellow Australian co-driver Daniel Brkic competed for the first time with a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

"Toksport WRT has proven their world-class level time and time again over many years. When you look at the championships they have won, the pedigree speaks for itself," Taylor Gill said before the start. And already the first leg confirmed his decision to switch teams. The Australians reached Friday's finish sixth in WRC2 and second-best Škoda crew. With a faultless drive on Saturday – except for a slow puncture – they advanced to fifth place in the category.

Until that point, Paraguayan fan favourite Fabrizio "Fau" Zaldívar and Italian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian were the best-placed Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew in third position. However, an off during the second stage on Sunday morning resulted in a time loss of more than nine minutes. The MZR Paraguay car survived the longitudinal flip with surprisingly little damage. "Quite a disaster. But we continue for the fans," the local hero said. Fabrizio Zaldívar/Marcelo Der Ohannesian were classified ninth in WRC2.

Thanks to their brand colleagues' mishap, Taylor Gill and Daniel Brkic climbed one more position in the WRC2 overall classification. "Our goal was to be in the WRC2 top five. Fourth

place feels well deserved. We kept our nose clean for most of the rally. Our pace improved slightly, and it's good to have this foundation to build on for Rally Chile. I'd like to say a big thank you to Toksport WRT and everyone who made this opportunity possible. It's been a real pleasure to drive the car this weekend," commented Taylor Gill.

Fau Zaldívar was not the only family member to compete in the second Rally del Paraguay. Older brother Miguel and co-driver Luis Allende brought another MZR Paraguay Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 home a fine seventh in WRC2. Father Miguel Ángel and navigator Juan José Sánchez won the WRC Masters Cup reserved for drivers over the age of 50. Second position in this category went to another Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 pairing, defending champions Miguel Granados from Mexico and Spanish co-driver Marc Martí.

For championship leaders Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo, bad luck struck already in the very first stage. The Estonians' hopes of achieving one of the top positions were dashed when they crashed into some bushes on Friday's opening stage "Cambyreta". Although they managed to keep their Toksport WRT-entered Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 running with some extensive stage-side repairs, they lost nearly one hour. Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo eventually reached the finish far off the points positions. Nevertheless, they maintain their overall lead in the WRC2 Drivers' and Co-Drivers' classifications.

Next on the schedule is the FIA World Rally Championship's second South American round: Rally Chile Bio Bío takes place in two weeks' time (10-13 September 2026).

Number of the rally: 9

Following the unfortunate first stage, Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo gave it their all. The Toksport WRT-run Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 was listed at the top of the WRC2 time sheets nine times across the 21 stages actually run. No other WRC2 crew won more stages.

Result Rally del Paraguay (PAR), 27-30 August 2026, 11th round of the FIA World Rally Championship

- 1 Diego Domínguez/Rogelio Peñate (PAR/ESP), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, 3:21:09.0 hours
- 2 Gus Greensmith/Jonas Andersson (GBR/SWE), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +22.7 seconds
- 3 Alejandro Galanti/Marcelo Toyotoshi (PAR/PAR), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +2:42.5 minutes
- 4 Taylor Gill/Daniel Brkic (AUS/AUS), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +2:56.4 minutes**
- 5 Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov (BUL/KGZ), Lancia Ypsilon Rally2 HF Integrale, +4:16.3 minutes
- 6 Yohan Rossel/Arnaud Dunand (FRA/FRA), Lancia Ypsilon Rally2 HF Integrale, +4:26.4 minutes

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 11 of 14 events)

- 1 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 100 points (from 5 rallies)**
- 2 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 79 points (from 6 rallies)
- 3 Teemu Suninen (FIN), Toyota, 76 points (from 4 rallies)

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 11 of 14 events)

- 1 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 235 points**
- 2 Lancia Corse HF, Lancia, 227 points
- 3 M-Sport Ford World Rally Team, Ford, 45 points
- 4 Toksport WRT 2, Škoda, 37 points**
- 5 2C Junior Team, Lancia, 37 points

Contact

Jan Hrbek

Communications Motorsport

P +420 730 867 534

jan.hrbek@skoda-auto.cz

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

Škoda Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



X

Media images:



Škoda crews on Rally del Paraguay

Their first outing for team Toksport WRT was a success: Australians Taylor Gill/Daniel Brkic flew the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 to fourth position in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally del Paraguay

Following an off during the final leg, Fabrizio Zaldívar from Paraguay and Italian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian had to settle for ninth position in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally del Paraguay

Three Zaldívar family members took to the start of their home event, all with Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team MZR Paraguay: Miguel Ángel (middle, 10th in WRC2) traded times with his sons Miguel (left, 7th) and Fabrizio (right, 9th).

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally del Paraguay

Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo (Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) left Paraguay with their WRC2 overall lead still intact.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally del Paraguay

Paraguayan pairing Miguel Ángel Zaldívar and co-driver Juan José Sánchez (MZR Paraguay Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) won the WRC Masters Cup classification and finished 10th in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally del Paraguay

Thousands of spectators cheered on the crews at the ceremonial start (photo: Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo, Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) and alongside the stages.

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, 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.