

Rally Chile Bio Bío: Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver Robert Virves wins WRC2 Challenger title*

- › Estonians Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) finish the twelfth round of the FIA World Rally Championship second in WRC2.
- › Their new Toksport WRT team mates, Taylor Gill and navigator Daniel Brkic from Australia, reach fourth position on their second event only with the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.
- › Home hero Jorge Martínez Fontena and Argentinian co-driver Rubén García drive CBTech Rally Team's Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 to fifth in WRC2.

Concepción (CHI), 14 September 2026 – With second place on Rally Chile Bio Bío, Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo on one side extended their lead in the WRC2 overall classification. The result also helped them to finish the twelfth round of the FIA World Rally Championship as new champions of the WRC2 Challenger classification*.

With Chile just switching from South American winter to spring, the weather threw additional challenges to the WRC2 crews. During the opening leg on Friday, the stages around Concepción changed from rain-soaked mud in the morning to increasingly dry and abrasive gravel during the afternoon.

WRC2 overall leaders Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo experienced a difficult start into their Rally Chile Bio Bío debut. "Something is not working, I don't know what. I tried to drive. But somehow I have no chance to carry any speed," Robert Virves wondered. At the end of the second leg, the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 was holding second position in WRC2. But the gap to eventual winners Yohan Rossel/Arnaud Dunand stood at nearly one minute. "I'm really struggling this weekend with the driving. Somehow I'm not able to get any feeling," Robert Virves admitted. The 26-year-old Estonian decided for a clever approach and did not take any unnecessary risks. "Our goal is slightly different to the crews around us. We need to collect points."

Through Friday and most of Saturday, their new Toksport WRT teammates Taylor Gill and co-driver Daniel Brkic had been locked in a close fight with Gus Greensmith/Jonas Andersson. "Great. These stages are similar to what we are used to in Australia," Taylor Gill said. When the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew suffered a tyre delamination during the penultimate stage of the second leg, the duel with their British-Swedish opponents was settled. "We drove 10 kilometres managing that. It is part of the learning," Taylor Gill explained the time loss of more than 30 seconds.

After finishing Rally del Paraguay two weeks ago fourth in WRC2, the Australians celebrated exactly the same position again. "It is unreal," Taylor Gill beamed after three days of

competition. "The Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 is a pleasure to drive on these roads. We are having so much fun. It is great to be mixing times with guys that have been in WRC2 for years."

All smiles as well in the CBTech Rally Team camp. Home hero Jorge Martínez Fontena and Argentinian navigator Rubén García brought their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 home fifth in WRC2. Victory in the WRC Masters Cup went to Miguel Granados from Mexico and Spanish co-driver Marc Martí. With this result, the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew kept their chances alive to defend their title in the championship reserved for drivers over the age of 50.

Unfortunately, Paraguayan Fabrizio 'Fau' Zaldivar and Italian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian didn't reach the finish. They rolled their team MZR Paraguay-run Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 into retirement during the first leg.

In the end, Robert Virves' sensible approach paid off. He and co-driver Jakko Viilo reached the finish second in WRC2. "At least it is something. Our focus is on the WRC2 title. Points-wise it is not too bad. Thank you Toksport WRT for the hard work," Robert Virves commented. However, the Estonian Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew not only extended their lead in the WRC2 Drivers' and Co-Drivers' classification. They also won both WRC2 Challenger titles with two more rallies on the calendar*.

After two rounds in South America, the FIA World Rally Championship returns to Europe. The next event is Rally Italia Sardegna from 1st to 4th October 2026.

Number of the rally: 41

Heading to Rally Italia Sardegna next month, only Teemu Suninen can deny Robert Virves the WRC2 title. The Estonian holds a 41-point advantage over his Finnish competitor, who changed co-driver over the season. Even if Teemu Suninen wins WRC2 in Italy, Robert Virves could become WRC2 Champion already after the upcoming round. In this scenario, Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo need at least nine points to secure the WRC2 Drivers' and Co-Drivers' title. In other words: The Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew must finish Rally Italia Sardegna fifth or higher in WRC2. If Teemu Suninen comes second, a single point would be enough for Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo to become champions.

Result Rally Chile (CHI), 10-13 September 2026, 12th round of the FIA World Rally Championship

- 1 Yohan Rossel/Arnaud Dunand (FRA/FRA), Lancia Ypsilon Rally2 HF Integrale, 3:06:39.2 hours
- 2 Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (EST/EST), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +53.0 seconds**
- 3 Gus Greensmith/Jonas Andersson (GBR/SWE), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +1:27.2 minutes
- 4 Taylor Gill/Daniel Brkic (AUS/AUS), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +1:50.2 minutes**
- 5 Jorge Martínez Fontena/Rubén García (CHI/ARG), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +4:17.1 minutes**

6 Diego Domínguez/Rogelio Peñate (PAR/ESP), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +4:24.2 minutes

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 12 of 14 events)

- 1 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 117 points (from 6 rallies)**
- 2 Yohan Rossel (FRA), Lancia, 85 points (from 7 rallies)
- 3 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 79 points (from 6 rallies)
- 4 Teemu Suninen (FIN), Toyota, 76 points (from 4 rallies)

Standings WRC2 Challenger/Drivers (after 12 of 14 events)

- 1 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 125 points (from 6 rallies)**
- 2 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 94 points (from 6 rallies)
- 3 Léo Rossel (FRA), Lancia, 81 points (from 5 rallies)

** Subject to confirmation of the results by the FIA*

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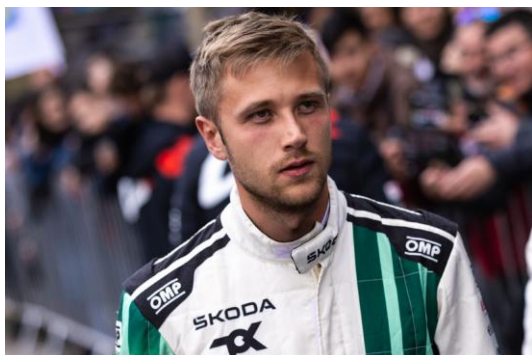
Media images:



Škoda crews at Rally Chile Bio Bío

Estonians Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) extended their lead in the WRC2 Drivers' and Co-Drivers' overall standings.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Chile Bio Bío

With victory in the WRC2 Challenger classification, Robert Virves (photo) and co-driver Jakko Viilo (Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) secured the title of the category.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Chile Bio Bío

Another fourth WRC2 position: Australians Taylor Gill and Daniel Brkic (Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) confirmed their success from Rally del Paraguay.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Chile Bio Bío

Multiple Chilean rally champion Jorge Martínez Fontena from Chile and co-driver Rubén García from Argentina (CBTech Rally Team Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) impress with fifth position in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rally Chile Bio Bío

Season victory number 3 in the WRC Masters Cup classification: Mexican Miguel Granados and Spanish co-driver Marc Martí (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2).

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 and 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 became 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.