

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



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## #beatSKODAACES – ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge proceeds to round 3 with virtual Rally Catalunya

- › Online competition ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge writes ongoing young success story; third round at Rally Catalunya (10/06–14/06/2020) offers special challenge on tarmac
- › More than 4,200 club members from all over the world are registered for the eGaming competition organized by ŠKODA Motorsport
- › Gamers and international ŠKODA rally aces can compete behind the virtual wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo against each other
- › Online video game DiRT Rally 2.0™ from Codemasters® will be again used as platform

Mladá Boleslav, 9 June 2020 – After successful virtual rallies in Argentina and Australia, the new ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge proceeds to the third round with Rally Catalunya (10/06–14/06/2020) in Spain. Under the hashtag #beatSKODAACES, real life ŠKODA rally aces will again face the competition from eGaming specialists from all around the world behind the wheel of a virtual ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. In the recent history of the FIA World Rally Championship, RACC Rally Catalunya Costa Daurada-Rally de España (so the official name of the event) was the only event offering tarmac as well as gravel stages. The gaming event takes place only on asphalt stages, the right car set up for the first tarmac event of the ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge is crucial as well.

The second round of the ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge, virtual Rally Australia, saw a tense competition right from the start. The performance of the ŠKODA rally aces is getting better and better: Mikołaj Marczyk (POL), Polish Rally Champion in 2019 with a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, initially took second position which he defended until day 3. After five challenging days, he finished sixth. Youngster Oliver Solberg (SWE), supported by ŠKODA Motorsport in the FIA Rally World Championship (WRC3), finally showed his speed. While he did not finish the opening round due to an internet failure, this time he proved that he is nearly as quick on the virtual rally tracks as in the real rally world – he finished a fine fifth. Sébastien Bedoret, who in 2019 conquered third place in the Belgium Rally Championship, finished in 20<sup>th</sup> position. Both Solberg and Marczyk will continue their fight for best placed rally specialist during ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge's next round, Rally Catalunya (10/06–14/06/2020) in Spain. Local hero José Antonio Suárez will join them. In 2019, he won Rally Princesa de Asturias, seventh round of the Spanish Championship, with a ŠKODA FABIA R5.

Spain, location of the third round of the ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge, in the past offered glorious moments for ŠKODA. For example, in 2018, the Czech Manufacturer celebrated the WRC2 titles for the team as well as driver Jan Kopecký in the Catalanian town of Salou. One year later, ŠKODA secured the WRC2 Pro manufacturers' title and achieved the drivers' title by Kalle Rovanperä. For years, the RACC Rally Catalunya Costa Daurada-Rally de España (so the official name of the event) was the only WRC event offering tarmac as well as gravel stages. The gaming event takes place only on asphalt stages, the right car set up for the first tarmac event of the ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge is crucial as well. To better prepare their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, competitors in the virtual Rally Catalunya can get advice from ŠKODA Motorsport engineers. The recommended setup can be found under the following link: <https://bit.ly/3dLjFyl>.



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The ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge's third event will be open for five days (10/06–14/06/2020) to all registered gamers around the world (link: <https://dirtrally2.com/clubs/club/295041>, club name: SKODA ECHALLENGE). The virtual platform for the competition is DiRT Rally 2.0, a video game developed and published by Codemasters for all major gaming consoles like PlayStation®4 and Xbox One®. DiRT Rally 2.0 also runs with Microsoft Windows® on a personal computer.

The ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge will be covered regularly under the communication hashtag #beatSKODAAACES by ŠKODA Motorsport's social network channels. Also, a video covering the course of the virtual rally will be published after the event.

## The calendar of the 2020 FIA World Rally Championship

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte-Carlo	23/01–26/01/2020
Sweden	13/02–16/02/2020
Mexico	12/03–15/03/2020
(Argentina	23/04–26/04/2020*)
Portugal	21/05–24/05/2020 cancelled*
(Italy	04/06–07/06/2020*)
Kenya	16/07–19/07/2020 cancelled*
Finland	06/08–09/08/2020 cancelled*
New Zealand	03/09–06/09/2020 cancelled*
Turkey	24/09–27/09/2020
Germany	15/10–18/10/2020
Great Britain	29/10–01/11/2020 cancelled*
Japan	19/11–22/11/2020

*\*Events postponed due to the fight against the spread of the coronavirus*

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### ŠKODA Motorsport:

 Facebook  YouTube  Twitter



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## Media images:



### ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge

During the ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge, based on the online video game DiRT Rally 2.0, real life rally aces compete with eGaming specialists from all over the world, all driving virtual ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge

With advice from ŠKODA Motorsport engineers, the setup of the virtual ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo can be adapted for the third round of the ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge, the Rally Catalunya (10/06–14/06/2020).

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

## ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2019 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. In 2019, the Czech brand introduced the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo. Factory crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen won both WRC2 Pro drivers' and co-drivers' championship of the FIA World Rally Championship while ŠKODA Motorsport took the WRC2 Pro manufacturers' title. ŠKODA customer crew Pierre-Louis Loubet/Vincent Landais won the WRC2 championship for private teams.

The success story of the Czech brand took place worldwide. The FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) was won by Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock (GBR/GBR), Filip Mareš/Jan Hloušek (CZE/CZE) conquered the FIA European Rally Championship/ERC1 Junior title. Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) became FIA African Rally Champions (ARC), Ricardo Triviño/Marc Martí (MEX/ESP) won the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM). On top of that, ŠKODA crews won numerous national championships.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation (FIA) on 1 April 2019. The Czech rally car is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport.

ŠKODA has been successful on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC2) for the first time in 2016, numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

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## ŠKODA AUTO

- › is this year celebrating 125 years since the company was founded during the pioneering era of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established car manufacturers in the world.
- › currently offers its customers nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.24 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2019.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India mainly through group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 42,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.