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## **Rallycross: EKS Audi Sport before “Magic Weekend”**

- **Season highlight with 40,000 fans in the forests of central Sweden**
- **Level pegging: Audi drivers Ekström and Bakkerud both with two victories so far in Höljes**

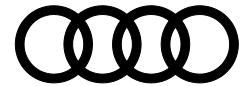
**Neuburg a. d. Donau/Höljes, June 26, 2018 – Season highlight in the FIA World Rallycross Championship (World RX): the event in Swedish Höljes is held from June 29 to July 1. It is regarded as the craziest world championship round of the year and is simultaneously the home race for EKS Audi Sport and Mattias Ekström.**

“What Monaco is for Formula 1, is for rallycross Höljes,” says the Swedish Audi factory driver. “The atmosphere is unique and the circuit one of the best on the world championship calendar. The coolest thing is the extremely fast right-hand corner taken at around 170 km/h just before the jump. Immediately after comes the most spectacular jump of the entire season.”

Höljes with just 150 inhabitants lies deep in the forests of central Sweden, around 200 kilometers from the next large town (Karlstad). Some 40,000 fans make the pilgrimage here for the world championship round in summer. Every year they hold a huge party with music, BBQ and spectacular motorsport. “Höljes is the ‘magic weekend’ for every rallycross driver that everybody would love to win,” says Ekström’ teammate Andreas Bakkerud. “It is not just a big thing for the many Swedish teams and drivers. I also eagerly look forward to the race every year.”

Ekström and Bakkerud both know how it feels to triumph in the pandemonium of Höljes. In 2014, Ekström collected the first victory in his home race for his rallycross team. In 2015, he won again. Bakkerud won in 2013 and 2016 and in his five previous Supercar outings in Sweden he stood on the podium every time. “Of course I want to continue this series with the Audi S1 EKS RX quattro,” says the Norwegian, who will be accompanied to the season highlight by around 250 of his loyal fans. Because there are no hotels in Höljes, they live in a dedicated ‘Bakkerud Blue’ camp directly at the race track.

EKS Audi Sport reports from its home race on Sunday (July 1) from 14:15 (CEST) with its own live show on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/EKSRX](http://www.facebook.com/EKSRX)). From 15:00 the finals are broadcast live as usual on livestream at [www.fiaworldrallycross.com](http://www.fiaworldrallycross.com). ProSieben Fun broadcasts live in Germany.



## About Höljes RX

<b>Circuit</b>	Höljes Motorstadion, 200 km north of Karlstad (S)
<b>Circuit length</b>	1.210 km (Joker lap: 1.250 km)
<b>Surface</b>	60 per cent tarmac, 40 per cent gravel
<b>Corners</b>	6 left, 5 right
<b>Top speed</b>	approx. 167 km/h
<b>Average</b>	approx. 105 km/h
<b>Longest jump</b>	approx. 38 m
<b>Race length</b>	4 laps (qualifying), 6 laps (semi-final and final)
<b>Event-Hashtag</b>	#HöljesRX

## Schedule (local time, CEST)

### Friday, June 29

17:00 Free practice 1

### Saturday, June 30

09:30 Free practice 2

11:00 Qualifying 1 (Q1)

14:30 Qualifying 2 (Q2)

### Sunday, July 1

08:30 Warm-up

09:45 Qualifying 3 (Q3)

11:20 Qualifying 4 (Q4)

15:00 Semi-final and final

15:50 Winners' ceremony

– End –

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