



## Robert Kubica

is a Polish current rally and former Formula 1 racing driver. He became the first Polish driver to compete in Formula One.

From 2013 Kubica starts in WRC. In the years 2006-2010 he competed in Formula 1 in BMW Sauber (2006-2009) and Renault F1 Team (2010). He made his debut in 2006 in the Hungarian Grand Prix. Kubica wins his first (and last) race in 2008 (Canadian Grand Prix).

In **2006**, Kubica became the official reserve driver for the BMW Sauber Formula 1 team. Kubica was chosen by the team management to replace Jacques Villeneuve at the Hungarian Grand Prix. He did it as Poland's first ever Formula One racing driver. Kubica qualified ninth, beating his more experienced teammate Nick Heidfeld.

In his third race, the Italian Grand Prix, Kubica finished in third position, and became the first Polish driver to appear on a Formula One podium, as well as the first Polish driver to lead a Grand Prix. He was the first driver since Alexander Wurz in 1997 to finish on the podium within his first three Formula One starts.

Kubica's contract as a race driver for 2008 was confirmed on 21 August 2007. Over the first half of the season, Kubica qualified and finished strongly, including his and BMW Sauber's first pole position at the Bahrain Grand Prix and second-place finishes at the Malaysian and Monaco Grand Prix. On **8 June 2008** at the Canadian Grand Prix, Kubica achieved his first Formula 1 victory. The win gave Kubica the lead in the drivers' championship. Kubica finished the year fourth in the drivers' championship.

Kubica moved to the Renault team in 2010. At the opening race of the 2010 season in Bahrain Kubica finished 11th. At the next race in Australia, he finished second after starting in ninth position. Fourth in Malaysia and fifth in China left him in seventh place in the drivers' championship, 20 points behind championship leader Jenson Button.

Formula One journalist Mark Hughes remarked that Kubica was currently "arguably the best driver", considering the season so far.

On **6 February 2011**, Kubica was seriously injured in a crash on the first stage of the Ronde di Andora rally.

He remained out of competitive racing for most of 2012, but returned to compete in the Ronde Gomitolo Di Lana in a WRC car on 9 September. He won the rally, finishing one minute ahead of the second placed driver. In 2013, Kubica continued his return, focusing on rallying. He is driving for Citroen in the European and World Rally-2 Championships. In 2014, Kubica started in the first round of the ERC season. He won the Internationale Jänner Rallye to claim his first victory in that championship.

After speculation following the 2014 WRC season, Kubica announced he would be racing in 2015, still running Ford Fiesta RS WRC.

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