

# FIFA 2026 WORLD CUP DRAW

COVERAGE NOTES & INFORMATION



# MATCH SCHEDULE

6/13/26	<b>GROUP STAGE</b>	6/26/26	<b>GROUP STAGE</b>
6/16/26	<b>GROUP STAGE</b>	6/29/26	<b>ROUND OF 32</b>
6/19/26	<b>GROUP STAGE</b>	7/09/26	<b>QUARTERFINAL</b>
6/23/26	<b>GROUP STAGE</b>		



TEAM	QUALIFIED	RANK	APPS.	LAST TIME	BEST FINISH
United States	Co-Host	14	12	2022	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place (1930)
Canada	Co-Host	15	3	2022	Group Stage (2x, last '22)
Mexico	Co-Host	27	18	2022	Quarterfinals (2x, last '22)
New Zealand	OFC Winners	86	3	2010	Group Stage (2x, last '10)
Iran	AFC Group A Winner	20	7	2022	Group Stage (6x, last '22)
Uzbekistan	AFC Group A Runner-up	50	1	DEBUT	
South Korea	AFC Group B Winner	22	12	2022	4 <sup>th</sup> Place (2002)
Jordan	AFC Group B Runner-up	66	1	DEBUT	
Japan	AFC Group C Winner	18	8	2022	Round of 16 (4x, last '22)
Australia	AFC Group C Runner-up	26	7	2022	Round of 16 (2x, last '22)
Qatar	AFC R4 Group A Winner	51	2	2022	Group Stage (2022)
Saudi Arabia	AFC R4 Group B Winner	60	7	2022	Round of 16 (1994)
Egypt	CAF Group A Winner	34	4	2018	Group Stage (3x, last '18)
Senegal	CAF Group B Winner	19	4	2022	Quarterfinals (2002)
South Africa	CAF Group C Winner	61	4	2010	Group Stage (3x, last '10)
Cape Verde	CAF Group D Winner	68	1	DEBUT	
Morocco	CAF Group E Winner	11	7	2022	4 <sup>th</sup> Place (2022)
Cote d'Ivoire	CAF Group F Winner	42	4	2014	Group Stage (3x, last '14)
Algeria	CAF Group G Winner	35	5	2014	Round of 16 (2014)
Tunisia	CAF Group H Winner	40	7	2022	Group Stage (6x, last '22)
Ghana	CAF Group I Winner	72	5	2022	Quarterfinals (2010)
Panama	Concacaf Group A Winner	30	2	2018	Group Stage (2018)
Curacao	Concacaf Group B Winner	82	1	DEBUT	
Haiti	Concacaf Group C Winner	84	2	1974	Group Stage (1974)
Argentina	CONMEBOL Winner	2	19	2022	<b>WINNERS (3x, last '22)</b>
Ecuador	CONMEBOL 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	23	5	2022	Round of 16 (2006)
Colombia	CONMEBOL 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	13	7	2018	Quarterfinals (2014)
Uruguay	CONMEBOL 4 <sup>th</sup> Place	16	15	2022	<b>WINNERS (2x, last '50)</b>
Brazil	CONMEBOL 5 <sup>th</sup> Place	5	23	2022	<b>WINNERS (5x, last '02)</b>
Paraguay	CONMEBOL 6 <sup>th</sup> Place	39	9	2010	Quarterfinals (2010)
Germany	UEFA Group A Winner	9	21	2022	<b>WINNERS (4x, last '14)</b>
Switzerland	UEFA Group B Winner	17	13	2022	Quarterfinals (3x, last '54)
Scotland	UEFA Group C Winner	36	9	1998	Group Stage (8x, last '98)
France	UEFA Group D Winner	3	17	2022	<b>WINNERS (2x, last '18)</b>
Spain	UEFA Group E Winner	1	17	2022	<b>WINNERS (2010)</b>
Portugal	UEFA Group F Winner	6	9	2022	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place (1966)
Netherlands	UEFA Group G Winner	7	12	2022	Runner-Up (3x, last '10)
Austria	UEFA Group H Winner	24	8	1998	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place (1954)
Norway	UEFA Group I Winner	29	4	1998	Round of 16 (1998)
Belgium	UEFA Group J Winner	8	15	2022	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place (2018)
England	UEFA Group K Winner	4	17	2022	<b>WINNERS (1966)</b>
Croatia	UEFA Group L Winner	10	7	2022	Runner-Up (2022)

\*\* - Six more slots remain for the countries that qualify via Inter-Confederation Playoffs or UEFA Playoffs.



<b>QUALIFIED NATIONS BY CONFEDERATION (42)</b>					
<b>AFC (8) Asia</b>	<b>CAF (9) Africa</b>	<b>CONCACAF (6) N. America</b>	<b>CONMEBOL (6) S. America</b>	<b>OFC (1) Oceania</b>	<b>UEFA (16) Europe</b>
Australia	Egypt	Canada	Argentina	New Zealand	Germany
Iran	Senegal	Mexico	Ecuador		Switzerland
Japan	South Africa	United States	Colombia		Scotland
Jordan*	Cape Verde*	Panama	Uruguay		France
Qatar	Morocco	Curacao*	Brazil		Spain
Saudi Arabia	Cote d'Ivoire	Haiti	Paraguay		Portugal
South Korea	Algeria				Netherlands
Uzbekistan*	Tunisia				Austria
	Ghana			Norway	
				Belgium	
				England	
				Croatia	
				<i>Path A Winner</i>	
				<i>Path B Winner</i>	
				<i>Path C Winner</i>	
				<i>Path D Winner</i>	

\* - World Cup Debut

The four winners of the UEFA playoffs and the two winners of the inter-confederation playoffs will not be known at the time of the draw, as these matches are scheduled to take place in March 2026.

The play-off tournament will be held this March in Mexico and will act as a preparatory event for the World Cup. The play-offs will feature six teams, split into two brackets of three teams, with both bracket winners qualifying for the World Cup. The teams were seeded into brackets based on the FIFA Men's World Ranking. Each bracket features two unseeded teams facing each other in a semi-final, with the winner advancing to the play-off final against a seeded team.

<b>INTER-CONFEDERATION PLAYOFFS (2)</b>	
Pathway 1 (Guadalajara) Semifinal 1: New Caledonia (OFC) vs. Jamaica (Concacaf) Final: Semifinal 1 Winner vs. D.R. Congo (CAF)	Pathway 2 (Monterrey) Semifinal 2: Bolivia (CONMEBOL) vs. Suriname (Concacaf) Final: Semifinal 2 Winner vs. Iraq (AFC)

The UEFA Playoffs will be contested by the twelve group runners-up and the best four Nations League group winners, based on the Nations League interim overall ranking, who finished outside the top two of their qualifying group. The sixteen teams were split into four play-off paths, each containing four teams. Each path will feature two single-leg semi-finals and one single-leg final.

<b>UEFA PLAYOFFS (4)</b>	
Path A Semifinal 1: Italy vs. Northern Ireland (March 26) Semifinal 2: Wales vs. Bosnia & Herzegovina (March 26) Final: Semifinal 1 Winner vs. Semifinal 2 Winner (March 31)	Path C Semifinal 5: Turkey vs. Romania (March 26) Semifinal 6: Slovakia vs. Kosovo (March 26) Final: Semifinal 5 Winner vs. Semifinal 6 Winner (March 31)
Path B Semifinal 3: Ukraine vs. Sweden (March 26) Semifinal 2: Poland vs. Albania (March 26) Final: Semifinal 3 Winner vs. Semifinal 4 Winner (March 31)	Path D Semifinal 7: Denmark vs. North Macedonia (March 26) Semifinal 8: Czechia vs. Ireland (March 26) Final: Semifinal 7 Winner vs. Semifinal 8 Winner (March 31)



# DRAW PROCEDURE

The 48 teams will be divided into four pots of 12. Pot 1 will consist of the three hosts and the top nine teams in the November 2025 FIFA world rankings not including the hosts. Pots 2, 3, and 4 will consist of the remaining teams according to the rankings. The 12 groups will be randomly formed by selecting one team from each of the four pots. Except for UEFA, which can have up to two teams in the same group, two teams from the same confederation cannot be put in the same group.

The three host nations have been pre-allocated to three groups for scheduling purposes. Mexico has been placed in Group A and will play the opening match of the tournament at Estadio Azteca on June 11. Canada and the United States have been placed in Groups B and D, respectively. They will play the third and fourth matches of the tournament, respectively, both on June 12. The four winners of the UEFA playoffs and two winners of the inter-confederation playoffs will not be known at the time of the draw, as these matches are scheduled to take place in March 2026.

2026 WORLD CUP DRAW POTS			
POT 1	POT 2	POT 3	POT 4
Mexico (A)	Croatia	Norway	Jordan
United States (D)	Morocco	Panama	Cape Verde
Canada (B)	Colombia	Egypt	Ghana
Spain	Uruguay	Algeria	Curacao
Argentina	Switzerland	Scotland	Haiti
France	Japan	Paraguay	New Zealand
England	Senegal	Tunisia	<i>UEFA Path A Winner</i>
Brazil	Iran	Ivory Coast	<i>UEFA Path B Winner</i>
Portugal	South Korea	Uzbekistan	<i>UEFA Path C Winner</i>
Netherlands	Ecuador	Qatar	<i>UEFA Path D Winner</i>
Belgium	Austria	Saudi Arabia	<i>IC Playoff Path A Winner</i>
Germany	Australia	South Africa	<i>IC Playoff Path B Winner</i>

2026 WORLD CUP GROUPS			
Group A <i>MEXICO</i>	Group B <i>CANADA</i>	Group C	Group D <i>UNITED STATES</i>
Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
Group I	Group J	Group K	Group L



# TOURNAMENT FACTS & NOTES

- The FIFA 2026 World Cup has the largest field in tournament history, expanding to 48 teams for the first time.
  - With the expanded field, the Oceania Football Confederation earns an automatic bid to the World Cup for the first time, with New Zealand as the lone representative in 2026.
  - Additionally, OFC's New Caledonia will participate in the inter-confederation playoffs in March, seeking to qualify for their first World Cup.
- Four nations will be making their World Cup debut next summer – Jordan, Uzbekistan, Cape Verde, and Curacao.
  - Curacao is the smallest nation by both population (~170,000 people) and land area (444 km<sup>2</sup>) to reach the World Cup, surpassing Iceland (350,000).
  - As a point of comparison, the World Cup final next summer will be played at the MetLife stadium in New Jersey, which has a capacity of 82,500 – more than half of Curacao's population.
  - Cape Verde is the third-least populous country to reach the World Cup, with a population of roughly 525,000.
- Four nations are returning to the World Cup after a drought of over 20 years without qualifying – Scotland (1998), Austria (1998), Norway (1998), and Haiti (1974).
- This year's tournament marks the fourth time the World Cup will be held in North America, and the first time matches will be played in Canada. Mexico hosted the tournament twice previously, 1970 and 1986), while the United States hosted the 1994 edition.
  - 2026 is also the second time the tournament has been hosted by multiple nations, the first since 2002 when Japan and South Korea were joint hosts.
  - The FIFA 2030 World Cup is also set to have joint hosts, with Spain, Portugal, and Morocco all hosting tournament matches.
  - Mexico will become the first country to host the World Cup three times.
- Croatia, which today has a population of under four million people, has competed in six World Cups since gaining independence from Yugoslavia and has finished in the top three in half of them.
- South Korea has reached the past 11 World Cups (including 2026), the longest active streak of participating at the tournament of any non-European or non-South American side.
- German Miroslav Klose holds the record for the most goals scored at the World Cup (16).
- Uzbekistan is the first double-landlocked country to reach the World Cup.

Projected Top Scorers	Young Players to Watch	Projected Top Goalkeepers
Harry Kane (ENG)	Lamine Yamal (18 – ESP)	Thibaut Courtois (BEL)
Lionel Messi (ARG)	Nico Williams (23 – ESP)	Emi Martinez (ARG)
Lamine Yamal (ESP)	Desire Doue (20 – FRA)	Alisson (BRA)
Cristiano Ronaldo (POR)	Jamal Musiala (22 – GER)	Mike Maignan (FRA)
Kylian Mbappe (FRA)	Jeremy Doku (23 – BEL)	Unai Simon (ESP)
Erling Haaland (NOR)	Abde Ezzalzouli (23 – MAR)	Yassine Bounou (MAR)
Vinicius Jr. (BRA)	Gilberto Mora (17 – MEX)	Marc-Andre ter Stegen (GER)
Breel Embolo (SUI)	Nico Paz (21 – ARG)	Alireza Beiranvand (IRN)
Romelu Lukaku (BEL)	Estêvão (18 – BRA)	Jordan Pickford (ENG)
Mohammed Salah (EGY)	Abdukodir Khusanov (21 – UZB)	Dominik Livaković (CRO)



# MASSACHUSETTS & THE WORLD CUP

- Massachusetts will host FIFA World Cup matches for the second time, hosting five matches during the 1994 World Cup in the United States.
  - Three Group D matches, one Round of 16 match, and one Quarterfinal match.
  - Nigeria and Greece both made their World Cup debuts.
  - **June 21:** Argentina defeats Greece, 4-0. Diego Maradona scored the final World Cup goal of his career, and Gabriel Batistuta made history by scoring his second World Cup hat trick.
  - **June 25:** Argentina survives a scare against Nigeria, 2-1, after falling behind the debutants in the opening 10 minutes. Two goals from Claudio Caniggia reversed fortunes for Argentina.
  - **June 30:** Nigeria claimed its second win to top Group D, defeating Greece 2-0.
  - **July 5:** Nigeria lost in extra time to eventual runner-up Italy, 2-1. Robert Baggio scored a late equalizer for *Gli Azzurri*, and converted a penalty in extra time.
  - **July 9:** Italy outlasted Spain, 2-1, again receiving late heroics from Roberto Baggio who netted an 88<sup>th</sup> minute winner.
- Massachusetts has the most Moroccans, Brazilians, and Cape Verdeans of any state in the country in percentage of total population, and the second-largest Portuguese population behind California.
  - Among Massachusetts' 7.1 million residents, 4.07 percent are Portuguese, along with an additional 1.25 percent Brazilian.
  - Massachusetts' Portuguese and Cape Verdean residents, by percentage of population, ranks second to only Rhode Island for both ethnic groups.
  - Fall River and New Bedford have large populations of Portuguese, Brazilian, and Cape Verdean heritage, which are also prevalent in the Taunton and Brockton areas.
  - There is a growing Brazilian population in the Boston area, especially in Framingham and Brockton.
  - Boston's largest immigrant group comes from Haiti, while Massachusetts has the third-largest Haitian population in the country behind Florida and New York.



# TOURNAMENT HISTORY

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNER-UP	THIRD PLACE	HOST
1930	Uruguay	Argentina	<b>United States</b>	Uruguay
1934	Italy	Czechoslovakia	Germany	Italy
1938	Italy	Hungary	Brazil	France
1942	<i>Tournament Not Held due to World War II</i>			
1946				
1950	Uruguay	Brazil	Sweden	Brazil
1954	West Germany	Hungary	Austria	Switzerland
1958	Brazil	Sweden	France	Sweden
1962	Brazil	Czechoslovakia	Chile	Chile
1966	England	West Germany	Portugal	England
1970	Brazil	Italy	West Germany	Mexico
1974	West Germany	Netherlands	Poland	West Germany
1978	Argentina	Netherlands	Brazil	Argentina
1982	Italy	West Germany	Poland	Spain
1986	Argentina	West Germany	France	Mexico
1990	West Germany	Argentina	Italy	Italy
1994	Brazil	Italy	Sweden	<b>United States</b>
1998	France	Brazil	Croatia	France
2002	Brazil	Germany	Türkiye	South Korea Japan
2006	Italy	France	Germany	Germany
2010	Spain	Netherlands	Germany	South Africa
2014	Germany	Argentina	Netherlands	Brazil
2018	France	Croatia	Belgium	Russia
2022	Argentina	France	Croatia	Qatar
<b>2026</b>				<b>United States</b> <b>Mexico</b> <b>Canada</b>
2030				Morocco Spain Portugal
2034				Saudi Arabia



## TEAM INFORMATION

### ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

AUSTRALIA		
  	FIFA Code	AUS
	World Cup Appearances	7 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Round of 16 (2x, last 2022)
	How Qualified	AFC Third Round Group C Runner-Up
	FIFA Ranking	26
	Head Coach	Tony Popovic
	Captain	GK Mathew Ryan (Levante – ESP)
	Top Players	M Jackson Irvine (FC St. Pauli – GER) F Martin Boyle (Hibernian – SCO)
	MLS Connections	Aiden O'Neil (NYC); Kye Rowles (DC); Patrick Yazbek (NSH)

- *The Socceroos* qualified directly as runner-up of AFC Third Round Group G.
- **Jackson Irvine** and **Nishan Velupillay** (*nee-SHAHN vel-oo-pill-LAY*) tied for the team lead with three goals each in qualifying.
- **Tony Popovic** (*POP-oh-vitch*) was appointed Head Coach in Sept. 2024 and led Australia to a 5-0-3 record in World Cup Qualifying with wins over Japan and Saudi Arabia in June to secure qualification.
- Matched best finish in a World Cup by reaching the Round of 16 in 2022, losing to France before defeating Denmark and Tunisia to finish second in the group.
  - Lost to eventual champion Argentina in 2022 Round of 16, 2-1.
- Lost last three friendly matches, all played in the United States (1-2 vs. USA; 0-1 vs. Venezuela; 0-3 vs. Colombia).

IRAN		
  	FIFA Code	IRN
	World Cup Appearances	7 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Group Stage (6x, last 2022)
	How Qualified	AFC Third Round Group A Winner
	FIFA Ranking	20
	Head Coach	Amir Ghalenoei ( <i>gah-LEN-no-ay</i> )
	Captain	M Alireza Jahanbakhsh (Dender EH – BEL) ( <i>ah-leh-REH-zah JAH-hun-bash</i> )
	Top Players	F Medhi Taremi (Olympiacos – GRE) GK Alireza Beiranvand (Tractor – IRN) ( <i>ah-leh-REH-zah bear-ahn-VAHND</i> )
	MLS Connections	N/A

- Known as *Team Melli*, qualified directly as winner of AFC Third Round Group A.
- **Mehdi Taremi** (*meh-DEE tah-REM-mee*) scored five goals to finish as the joint-leading scorer in AFC World Cup Qualifying.
- Seventh World Cup appearance for Iran, having never advanced past the Group Stage.
- Finished last in the 2022 Group Stage, earning a 2-0 victory over Wales along with losses to England (2-6) and the United States (0-1).
- Recently finished runner-up in the 2025 Al-Ain International Cup, falling to Uzbekistan on penalties.



## TEAM INFORMATION

### ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

JAPAN		
 	FIFA Code	JPN
	World Cup Appearances	8 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Round of 16 (4x, last 2022)
	How Qualified	AFC Third Round Group C Winner
	FIFA Ranking	18
	Head Coach	Hajime Moriyasu ( <i>hah-JEE-may mor-ree-YAH-soo</i> )
	Captain	M / D Wataru Endo (Liverpool – ENG)
	Top Players	M Takumi Minamino (AS Monaco – FRA) ( <i>tah-KOO-mee min-ah-MEE-no</i> ) M Daichi Kamada (Crystal Palace – ENG)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *Samurai Blue* qualified directly as winner of AFC Third Round Group C.
- **Daichi Kamada** (*die-EE-chee kah-MAH-dah*) and **Kōki Ogawa** (*KOH-kee oh-GAH-wah*) scored four goals to tie for the team lead in World Cup Qualifying.
- Advanced to the knockout stage in four of seven prior World Cup appearances.
- Reached the Round of 16 at the FIFA 2022 World Cup, with wins over Germany (2-1) and Spain (2-1) in Group Play. Lost on penalties to Croatia in Round of 16.
  - First Asian team to finish top of the group in a World Cup held outside their home country.
  - Beat Spain with the lowest possession (18%) of the ball ever for a winning side since the 1966 FIFA World Cup.
- Recently went 3-0-1 in the 2025 Kirin Cup in Japan, including a 3-2 win over Brazil in October.

JORDAN		
 	FIFA Code	JOR
	World Cup Appearances	1 (DEBUT)
	Best Finish	N/A
	How Qualified	AFC Third Round Group B Runner-Up
	FIFA Ranking	66
	Head Coach	Jamal Sellami
	Captain	D Ihsan Haddad (Al-Hussein - JOR) ( <i>ee-SAHN hah-DAHD</i> )
	Top Players	F Musa Al-Taamari (Rennes – FRA) ( <i>MOO-sah al-tah-ah-MAR-ree</i> ) F Yazan Al-Naimat (Al-Arabi – QAT)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *The Chivalrous Ones* qualified for the World Cup for the first time in their nation's history.
  - Qualified directly as runner-up of AFC Third Round Group B.
- **Yazan Al-Naimat** (*yah-ZAHN al-NYE-maht*) and **Ali Olwan** (*ah-LEE ole-WAHN*) each scored five goals to finish as the joint-leading scorer in AFC World Cup Qualifying.
- Finished as 2023 AFC Asian Cup runner-up, falling to host nation Qatar in the tournament final.
- Currently competing in the 2025 Arab Cup in Qatar.



## TEAM INFORMATION

### ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

KOREA REPUBLIC		
    <b>KFA</b>	FIFA Code	KOR
	World Cup Appearances	12 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	4 <sup>th</sup> Place (2002)
	How Qualified	AFC Third Round Group B Winner
	FIFA Ranking	22
	Head Coach	Hong Myung-bo
	Captain	F Son Heung-min (Los Angeles FC – USA) ( <i>son HUNG-min</i> )
	Top Players	M Lee Kang-in (Paris-Saint Germain – FRA) F Son Heung-min (Los Angeles FC – USA)
	MLS Connections	Son Heung-min (LAFC); Jeong Sang-bin (STL)

- *Taegeuk Warriors* qualified directly as winner of AFC Third Round Group B.
- **Lee Jae-sung** (*lee JAY sung*) and **Oh Hyeon-gyu** (*oh hee-YON jee-YOU*) scored four goals to tie for the team lead in World Cup Qualifying.
- Reached Round of 16 at the FIFA 2022 World Cup, tying Uruguay (0-0) and beating Portugal (2-1).
  - As co-host in 2002, finished 4<sup>th</sup> place for best finish by an Asian nation at World Cup.
- Finished as 2025 EAFF E-1 Football Championship runner-up (East Asia) as host nation.
- Closed the 2025 competition schedule with three straight shutout victories in friendlies over Paraguay, Bolivia, and Ghana.

QATAR		
    <b>QFA</b>	FIFA Code	QAT
	World Cup Appearances	2 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Group Stage (2022)
	How Qualified	AFC Fourth Round Group A Winner
	FIFA Ranking	51
	Head Coach	Julen Lopetegui ( <i>JEW-len LOPP-ah-teh-gee</i> )
	Captain	F Hassan Al-Haydos (Al-Sadd – QAT) ( <i>hah-SAHN al-HAY-dose</i> )
	Top Players	F Almoez Ali (Al-Duhail – QAT) F Akram Afif (Al-Sadd – QAT) ( <i>ah-CRAHM ah-FEEF</i> )
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *The Maroons* qualified as winner of AFC Fourth Round Group A.
- **F Almoez Ali** (*al-mo-EZ AH-lee*) scored five goals to finish as the joint-leading scorer in AFC World Cup Qualifying.
- Made World Cup debut as the host nation of the FIFA 2022 World Cup.
- Two-time defending AFC Asian Cup Champions, including as host of the 2023 tournament.
- Currently competing in the 2025 Arab Cup in Qatar.



## TEAM INFORMATION

### ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

SAUDI ARABIA		
  <b>K S A</b>	FIFA Code	KSA
	World Cup Appearances	7 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Round of 16 (1994)
	How Qualified	AFC Fourth Round Group B Winner
	FIFA Ranking	60
	Head Coach	Hervé Renard ( <i>her-VAY reh-NARD</i> )
	Captain	M Salem Al-Dawsari (Al-Hilal – KSA) ( <i>sah-LEM al-daw-SAR-ree</i> )
	Top Players	F Firas Al-Buraikan (Al-Ahli – KSA) ( <i>FEAR-ass al-bur-RYE-kahn</i> ) F Saleh Al-Shehri (Al-Ittihad – KSA) ( <i>sah-LAY al-sheh-HEAR-ree</i> )
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *The Green Falcons* qualified as winner of AFC Fourth Round Group A.
- **Abdulrahman Al-Aboud** (*ab-dool-RAHK-man al-ah-BOOD*), **Musab Al-Juwayr** (*moo-SAHB al-jew-WIRE*), and **Hassan Kadesh** (*hah-SAHN kah-DESH*) finished tied for the team lead with two goals each in World Cup Qualifying.
- Defeated eventual champion Argentina in the opening match of the FIFA 2022 World Cup in Qatar.
  - Reached Round of 16 at the 1994 FIFA World Cup in the United States.
  - Named host nation of the FIFA 2034 World Cup.
- Three-time AFC Asian Cup Champion and two-time winners of the FIFA Arab Cup.
- Currently competing in the 2025 Arab Cup in Qatar.

UZBEKISTAN		
 	FIFA Code	UZB
	World Cup Appearances	1 (DEBUT)
	Best Finish	N/A
	How Qualified	AFC Third Round Group A Runner-Up
	FIFA Ranking	50
	Head Coach	Fabio Cannavaro ( <i>fah-BEE-oh can-NAH-var-roh</i> )
	Captain	F Eldor Shomurodov (Başakşehir – TUR)
	Top Players	D Abdukodir Khusanov (Manchester City – ENG) F Eldor Shomurodov (Başakşehir – TUR) ( <i>sho-mur-ROH-dov</i> )
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *The White Wolves* qualified for the World Cup for the first time in their nation's history.
  - Qualified directly as runner-up of AFC Third Round Group A.
- **Abbosbek Fayzullaev** (*abb-BOSE-beck fay-zoo-LAY-ev*) scored four goals to finish as the team leader in AFC World Cup Qualifying.
- New head coach Fabio Cannavaro played in four World Cups and earned 136 caps for Italy.
- Recently won the 2025 Al-Ain International Cup, defeating Iran on penalties.
- In 2025, owns a 7-1-5 competitive record with wins over Iran, Qatar, and Egypt.
- Outside back **Abdukodir Khusanov** (*ab-doo-KOH-deer hoo-SAH-nov*) is part of the current golden generation of Uzbek soccer, currently playing with English Premier League side Manchester City.




## TEAM INFORMATION

### OCEANIA FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

NEW ZEALAND		
  	FIFA Code	NZL
	World Cup Appearances	3 (last, 2010)
	Best Finish	Group Stage (2x, last 2010)
	How Qualified	OFC Winners
	FIFA Ranking	86
	Head Coach	Darren Bazeley
	Captain	F Chris Wood (Nottingham Forest – ENG)
	Top Players	M Elijah Just (Motherwell – SCO) F Chris Wood (Nottingham Forest – ENG)
	MLS Connections	Michael Boxall (MIN); Bill Tuiloma (CLT); Finn Surman (POR)

- *The All Whites* will compete in their 3<sup>rd</sup> World Cup, the first since 2010.
- Exited in the group stage both previous times, last in 2010 in South Africa as the only unbeaten team in tournament play (0W-0L-3D).
- **Chris Wood** – former teammate of **Matt Turner** at Nottingham Forest – was the team's leading scorer in qualifying with 9 goals.
  - Wood is enough to make New Zealand dangerous, with 38 goals in 84 games for Nottingham Forest in the last 2-and-a-half years.
- Some of the longest odds of any qualified team – around 10,000 to 1 to win it all.

### CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL



ALGERIA		
  	FIFA Code	ALG
	World Cup Appearances	5 (last, 2014)
	Best Finish	Round of 16 (2014)
	How Qualified	CAF Group G Winner
	FIFA Ranking	35
	Head Coach	Vladimir Petković ( <i>pet-KOH-vitch</i> )
	Captain	F Riyad Mahrez (Al-Ahli – KSA)
	Top Players	D Rayan Aït-Nouri (Manchester City – ENG) ( <i>rye-ANN IGH T nur-EE</i> ) F Riyad Mahrez (Al-Ahli – KSA)
	MLS Connections	Mohamed Farsi (CLB)

- *The Desert Warriors* directly CAF Group G winners, going 8-1-1 in qualifying.
  - To date in 2025, owns an 8-1-1 competitive record including unbeaten in its last six.
- Mohamed Amoura scored 10 goals to finish as the CAF scoring leader.
- Making fifth World Cup appearance, returning to World Cup for first time since 2014.
  - Reached Round of 16 at 2014 World Cup, going 1-1-1 in Group Play before falling after extra time to eventual champion Germany in the Round of 16.
- Head coach **Vladimir Petković** previously coached Switzerland at the 2014 and 2018 World Cups.
- Forward **Riyad Mahrez** (*ree-YAHD mah-REZ*) is considered one of the best African players of all time, with 194 goals and 147 assists in his professional career.



## TEAM INFORMATION

### CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL

CAPE VERDE		
  	FIFA Code	CPV
	World Cup Appearances	1 (DEBUT)
	Best Finish	N/A
	How Qualified	CAF Group D Winner
	FIFA Ranking	68
	Head Coach	Bubista ( <i>boo-BEE-stah</i> )
	Captain	GK Vozinha (Chaves – POR) ( <i>vo-ZEEN-yah</i> )
	Top Players	F Ryan Mendes (İğdir – TUR) M Jamiro Monteiro (PEC Zwolle – NED)
	MLS Connections	Steven Moreira (CLB)

- *Tubarões Azuis* qualified directly CAF Group D winners, going 7-2-1 in qualifying.
  - Qualified for the World Cup for the first time in their nation's history.
- **Dailon Livramento** (*DIE-lonn live-rah-MEN-to*) scored four goals to finish as joint-leader in Group D.
- Did not qualify for the upcoming 2025 Africa Cup of Nations.
  - Reached Quarterfinals and finished 5<sup>th</sup> at the 2023 AFCON, the best finish in their nation's history at the continental tournament.
- Unbeaten in 2025 with a 6-0-5 record.
- Recently competed in the 2025 Al-Ain International Cup, falling on penalties to Iran and Egypt.

COTE D'IVOIRE		
  	FIFA Code	CIV
	World Cup Appearances	4 (last, 2014)
	Best Finish	Group Stage (3x, last 2014)
	How Qualified	CAF Group F Winner
	FIFA Ranking	42
	Head Coach	Emerse Faé ( <i>em-AIRS fah-AY</i> )
	Captain	M Franck Kessié (Al-Ahli – KSA) ( <i>kess-see-AY</i> )
	Top Players	F Sébastien Haller (FC Utrecht – NED) ( <i>hah-LARE</i> ) M Ibrahim Sangaré (Nottingham Forest – ENG) ( <i>sang-are-AY</i> )
	MLS Connections	Emmanuel Latte Lath (ATL)

- *Les Éléphants* qualified directly CAF Group F winners, going 8-0-2 in qualifying with no goals allowed.
- **Nine different players** scored multiple goals in qualifying, led by **Seko Fofana** (*say-KOH fof-FAH-nah*) with three.
- Making fourth World Cup appearance, returning to World Cup for first time since 2014.
  - Defeated Japan (2-1) before losses to Colombia and Greece to close group play.
- Head Coach **Emerse Faé** represented Cote d'Ivoire at the 2006 World Cup, the country's first.
- Competing in the upcoming 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco.
- Reigning AFCON champions after winning third title as host in 2023.



## TEAM INFORMATION

### CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL

EGYPT		
  	FIFA Code	EGY
	World Cup Appearances	4 (last, 2018)
	Best Finish	Group Stage (3x, last 2018)
	How Qualified	CAF Group A Winner
	FIFA Ranking	34
	Head Coach	Hossam Hassan ( <i>hoh-SAHM hah-SAHN</i> )
	Captain	F Mohamed Salah (Liverpool – ENG)
	Top Players	F Omar Marmoush (Manchester City – ENG) ( <i>mar-MOOSH</i> ) F Mohamed Salah (Liverpool – ENG) M Trézéguet (Al Ahly – EGY)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *The Pharoahs* qualified as CAF Group A winners, going 8-0-2 in qualifying with two goals allowed.
- Making fourth World Cup appearance, returning to World Cup for first time since 2018 when they went winless in group play with two goals from Mohamed Salah.
- **F Mohamed Salah** led Egypt in qualifying with nine goals. The forward has made over 300 appearances in the English Premier League for Liverpool FC since 2017, with 188 goals.
- Former English Premier League midfielders **Mohamed Elneny** (*el-NEN-nee*) and **Trézéguet** (*trez-UH-gay*) are both key players with over 80 career caps. Trézéguet netted five goals in qualifying.
- Currently competing in the 2025 Arab Cup in Qatar, after which they will participate in the upcoming 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco facing Zimbabwe, Angola, and South Africa.

GHANA		
  	FIFA Code	GHA
	World Cup Appearances	5 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Quarterfinals (2010)
	How Qualified	CAF Group I Winner
	FIFA Ranking	72
	Head Coach	Otto Addo
	Captain	F Jordan Ayew (Leicester City – ENG)
	Top Players	M Mohammed Kudus (Tottenham Hotspur – ENG) M Thomas Partey (Villareal – ESP) ( <i>par-TAY</i> )
	MLS Connections	Osman Bakari (ATX); Joseph Paintsil (LA); Prince Owusu (MTL)

- *The Black Stars* qualified as CAF Group I winners, going 8-1-1 in qualifying..
- Making fourth World Cup appearance, returning to World Cup for first time since 2018 when they went winless in group play with two goals from Mohamed Salah.
- Captain and Leicester City F **Jordan Ayew** (*EYE-yoo*) scored a team-high seven goals in qualifying
- Tottenham M **Mohammed Kudus** (*KOO-dus*) will be a center point of the Ghanaian squad, with 13 goals in 46 international caps.
- Four-time Africa Cup of Nations champion did not qualify for the upcoming 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco.





## TEAM INFORMATION

### CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL

MOROCCO		
 	FIFA Code	MAR
	World Cup Appearances	7 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	4 <sup>th</sup> Place (2022)
	How Qualified	CAF Group E Winner
	FIFA Ranking	11
	Head Coach	Walid Regragui ( <i>wah-LEED reh-gra-GEE</i> )
	Captain	D Achraf Hakimi (Paris-Saint Germain – FRA)
	Top Players	F Youssef En-Nesyri (Fenerbahçe – TUR) M Sofyan Amrabat (Real Betis – ESP) ( <i>so-FEE-ahn AHM-rah-baht</i> )
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *The Atlas Lions* qualified as CAF Group E winners, going 8-0-0 in qualifying with two goals allowed.
- Making seventh World Cup appearance after a run to the semifinals in 2022 to mark the best finish by an African nation at a World Cup ever.
  - Donated their entire 2022 World Cup earnings to charities within Morocco that help with poverty that affects children and families in the country.
- Captain and PSG defender **Achraf Hakimi** (*ahch-RAHF hah-KEE-mee*) along with forward **Youssef En-Nesyri** (*YOO-suff en-ness-SEE-ree*) will once again feature after providing heroics in 2022.
- Forward **Ayoub El Kaabi** (*EYE-yoob el-KAH-bee*), who plays for Greek club Olympiacos, led the team with four goals in qualifying. The striker owns 17 goals for his country in 47 caps.
- Morocco has not lost a competitive fixture since a 2-0 defeat to South Africa in the AFCON in January 2024, currently riding an **18-match winning streak**. They host the 2025 AFCON in late December.

SENEGAL		
 	FIFA Code	SEN
	World Cup Appearances	4 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Quarterfinals (2002)
	How Qualified	CAF Group B Winner
	FIFA Ranking	19
	Head Coach	Pape Thiaw ( <i>pah-PAY thee-AWE</i> )
	Captain	D Kalidou Koulibaly (Al-Hilal – KSA) ( <i>kah-LEE-doo koo-lee-BAH-lee</i> )
	Top Players	F Sadio Mané (Al-Nassr – KSA) F Ismaïla Sarr (Crystal Palace FC – ENG)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *Lions de la Téranga* qualified as CAF Group B winners, going 7-0-3 in qualifying.
- Forward **Sadio Mané** (*sah-dee-OH mah-NAY*), who plays with Cristiano Ronaldo for Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia, scored five goals in qualifying. He owns 50 goals in 117 appearances for Senegal.
- Several English Premier League players including Everton's **Idrissa Gueye** (*ee-drees-AH gay*), Tottenham's **Pape Matar Sarr** (*pa-PAY mah-TAR SARR*), and Crystal Palace's **Ismaïla Sarr** (*is-MY-ee-lah SARR*) are all expected to play major roles.
- Striker **Nicolas Jackson**, who plays for German club Bayern Munich, could be one of the young players to watch at the World Cup.
- Competing in the upcoming 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco.





## TEAM INFORMATION

### CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL

SOUTH AFRICA		
 	FIFA Code	RSA
	World Cup Appearances	4 (last, 2010)
	Best Finish	Group Stage (3x, last 2010)
	How Qualified	CAF Group C Winner
	FIFA Ranking	61
	Head Coach	Hugo Broos ( <i>hue-GO BROSE</i> )
	Captain	GK Ronwen Williams (Mamelodi Sundowns – RSA)
	Top Players	F Lyle Foster (Burnley – ENG) M Teboho Mokoena (Mamelodi Sundowns – RSA)
	MLS Connections	Bongokuhle Hlongwane (MIN) ( <i>bon-go-KOO-lay long-WAH-nay</i> )

- *Bafana Bafana* qualified as CAF Group C winners, narrowly edging out Nigeria and Benin by one point to return to the World Cup for the first time since hosting the 2010 iteration.
- Twelve different players scored goals in qualifying for South Africa.
- Forwards **Lyle Foster** and **Oswin Appollis** both scored two goals in qualifying and could be called upon to lead the lines for South Africa again this summer.
- Midfielders **Thema Zwane** (*THEY-ma ZWA-nay*) and **Teboho Mokoena** (*tay-BO-ho mo-ko-AY-nah*), who both played in the Club World Cup last summer with South African club Mamelodi Sundowns, have been mainstays in the national team squad for several years.
- Competing in the upcoming 2025 Africa Cup of Nations, having finished third in the 2023 tournament.

TUNISIA		
 	FIFA Code	TUN
	World Cup Appearances	7 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Group Stage (6x, last 2022)
	How Qualified	CAF Group H Winner
	FIFA Ranking	40
	Head Coach	Sami Trabelsi
	Captain	M Ferjani Sassi (Al Gharafa – QAT) ( <i>fair-JAH-nee SASS-see</i> )
	Top Players	F Naïm Sliti (Al Shamal – QAT) ( <i>nye-EEM SLEE-tee</i> ) D Ali Abdi (OGC Nice – FRA)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *The Eagles of Carthage* qualified as CAF Group H winners, going 9-0-1 in qualifying and outscoring opponents 22-0 over 10 games.
- Has never advanced out of the group stage at a World Cup. In 2022, were eliminated on goal differential despite a 1-0 victory over eventual runners-up France to close group play.
- **Mohamed Ben Romdhane** (*ben ROM-dahn*) tallied four goals in qualifying. The forward featured for Egyptian club Al Ahly at last summer's Club World Cup, scoring one of the goals of the tournament against Porto.
- Veteran defender **Ali Abdi**, who plays for French club Lyon, and midfielder **Ellyes Skhiri** (*ell-YES SKEE-ree*), who plays in Germany for Eintracht Frankfurt, look to inspire a young team that prides itself on defense.
- Competing in the upcoming 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco.



# TEAM INFORMATION

## CONMEBOL

ARGENTINA		
  	FIFA Code	ARG
	World Cup Appearances	19 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	WINNERS (3x – 2022, 1986, 1978)
	How Qualified	1 <sup>st</sup> in CONMEBOL Qualifying
	FIFA Ranking	2
	Head Coach	Lionel Scaloni ( <i>lee-oh-NELL sca-LONE-nee</i> )
	Captain	F Lionel Messi (Inter Miami – USA)
	Top Players	F Lionel Messi (Inter Miami – USA) M Alexis MacAllister (Liverpool – ENG) F Julian Alvarez (Atletico Madrid – ESP) ( <i>hoo-LEE-in</i> )
	Revs / MLS Connections	Lionel Messi (MIA); Rodrigo de Paul (MIA); <b>Luca Langoni (NE)</b>

- *La Selección* is a 3-time FIFA World Cup champion, including 2022, and 3-time runner-up.
  - In 1994, Argentina played 2 group stage games in Foxboro.
  - Aiming to become the **3<sup>rd</sup> country to win back-to-back FIFA Men's World Cups** (Italy – '34 and '38; Brazil – '58 and '62).
- **Lionel Messi** captained Argentina to victory in 2022, scoring 2 goals in the final.
  - Expected to be named the back-to-back MLS Most Valuable Player with Inter Miami.
- Before Messi, **legend Diego Maradona** led Argentina to their last victory ('86). Maradona scored his last World Cup goal in Foxborough in 1994.
- GK **Emi Martinez** was the hero in the penalty shootout of the 2022 World Cup Final.



BRAZIL		
  	FIFA Code	BRA
	World Cup Appearances	23 (ALL)
	Best Finish	WINNERS (Record 5x – 2002, 1994, 1970, 1962, 1958)
	How Qualified	5 <sup>th</sup> in CONMEBOL Qualifying
	FIFA Ranking	5
	Head Coach	Carlo Ancelotti ( <i>an-chah-LOT-tee</i> )
	Captain	D Marquinhos (Paris-Saint Germain – FRA) ( <i>mar-KEEN-yose</i> )
	Top Players	F Vinicius Jr. (Real Madrid – ESP) F Raphinha (Barcelona – ESP) GK Allison (Liverpool – ENG)
	Revs Connections	Sporting Director <b>Curt Onalfo</b> born in Sao Paolo, Brazil Homegrown M <b>Cristiano Oliveira</b> is a Brazilian-American.

- *Seleção* is the **most successful team in tournament history**, Brazil has **won 5 titles**.
  - Back-to-back champions in 1958 and 1962, **one of two teams ever** to accomplish the feat and the only team in the last 85 years (Italy – 1934 and 1938).
- Brazil was dominant in the 1970s behind legendary player **Pele** (*pay-lay*), winning the 1970 World Cup and reaching the semifinals in 1974 and 1978.
- Brazil is a **top-five favorite to win in 2026**, but has not made it past the Quarter-final Round since winning their 5<sup>th</sup> title in 2002.
- Brazil's attack is led by **Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr.** (*vin-NIS-see-us*) and **Barcelona's Raphinha** (*HAA-feen-yah*), who led the team with five goals during qualifying.





# TEAM INFORMATION

## CONMEBOL

COLOMBIA		
 	FIFA Code	COL
	World Cup Appearances	7 (last, 2018)
	Best Finish	Quarterfinals (2014)
	How Qualified	3 <sup>rd</sup> in CONMEBOL Qualifying
	FIFA Ranking	13
	Head Coach	Nestor Lorenzo
	Captain	M James Rodriguez (Leon – MEX)
	Top Players	M James Rodriguez (Leon – MEX) F Luis Diaz (Bayern Munich – GER)
	Revs Connections	Colombia legend <b>Leonel Alvarez</b> (101 caps, played in '90 and '94 World Cup), also played for NE from 1999-2001. Revolution D <b>Brayan Ceballos</b> is a Cali, Colombia native.

- *Los Cafeteros*, ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the world, will make its 7<sup>th</sup> appearance at the World Cup, its first since a Round of 16 finish in 2018.
- Their best finish was the Quarterfinal Round in 2014, where they fell to host nation Brazil.
- They have talented attacking threats like **Luis Diaz** (Bayern Munich winger), who scored seven goals in qualifying, and M **James Rodriguez** (*ha-mez*).
- One of Colombia's best all-time players, Leonel Alvarez, played for the Revolution from 1999 – 2001. He earned 101 caps for Colombia, playing 7 World Cup games in 1990 and 1994.

ECUADOR		
 	FIFA Code	ECU
	World Cup Appearances	5 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Round of 16 (2006)
	How Qualified	2 <sup>nd</sup> in CONMEBOL Qualifying
	FIFA Ranking	23
	Head Coach	Sebastian Beccacece ( <i>beh-KAH-seh-say</i> )
	Captain	F Enner Valencia (Pachuca – MEX)
	Top Players	F Enner Valencia (Pachuca – MEX) M Moises Caicedo (Chelsea FC – ENG)
	Revs / MLS Connections	<b>Leo Campana (NE)</b>

- *La Tri* finished **2<sup>nd</sup> in a strong qualifying campaign**, with only 2 losses in 18 games.
  - Allowed only 5 goals in 18 qualifying games, fewest of any South American country this cycle, and but only scored 14 goals.
- 2026 will be Ecuador's 5<sup>th</sup> World Cup appearance – best result was Round of 16 in 2006.
  - Eliminated in the group stage in last two appearances (2022 and 2014).
- Revolution forward **Leonardo Campana** was a regular in Ecuador's World Cup Qualifying squad. In their last friendly, Campana scored for his country.
- 36-year-old striker **Enner Valencia** continues to produce for Ecuador. He has 48 goals in over 100 career games for his country, including a team-high six goals in qualifying.



# TEAM INFORMATION

## CONMEBOL

PARAGUAY		
 	FIFA Code	PAR
	World Cup Appearances	9 (last: 2010)
	Best Finish	Quarterfinals (2010)
	How Qualified	6 <sup>th</sup> in CONMEBOL Qualifying
	FIFA Ranking	39
	Head Coach	Gustavo Alfaro
	Captain	D Gustavo Gomez (Palmeiras - BRA)
	Top Players	F Miguel Almiron (Atlanta United – USA) D Omar Aldrete (Sunderland – ENG) ( <i>all-DRET-tay</i> )
	MLS Connections	Miguel Almiron (ATL); Carlos Coronel (RBNY); Braian Ojeda (RSL); Andres Cuba (VAN)

- *Los Guaraníes* finished 6<sup>th</sup> in qualifying, the final South American team to earn the automatic bid.
- Only conceded 10 goals, 2<sup>nd</sup>-fewest in CONMEBOL, but also scored less than 1 goal per game.
- Forward Antonio Sanabria led the team with four goals during qualifying.
- MLS fans will recognize **Atlanta United winger Miguel Almiron** (*al-MEE-rone*) – he is back in MLS after a few years in England with Newcastle United.
- Two other MLS players could have an impact on Paraguay's squad: **Real Salt Lake's Braian Ojeda** and **Vancouver Whitecaps' Andres Cubas** (*coo-BAHS*).



URUGUAY		
 	FIFA Code	URU
	World Cup Appearances	14 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Champions (2x – 1930 & 1950)
	How Qualified	4 <sup>th</sup> in CONMEBOL Qualifying
	FIFA Ranking	16
	Head Coach	Marcelo Bielsa ( <i>bee-ELL-sah</i> )
	Captain	M Federico Valverde (Real Madrid – ESP)
	Top Players	F Darwin Nunez (Al-Hilal – KSA) M Rodrigo Bentancur (Tottenham – ENG) M Manuel Ugarte (Manchester United – ENG)
	Revs / MLS Connections	Luis Suarez (MIA) Newly appointed Revs II Head Coach Pablo Moreira is a Uruguay native whose father played for the national team.

- *La Celeste* are two-time World Cup winners (last, 1950) and have qualified for 5 in a row.
  - Made the Quarterfinals in 2018 and the Semifinals in 2010.
- Recently in November 2025, Uruguay lost a friendly to the United States, 5-1.
- Their top scorer in qualifying was **Darwin Nunez** with five goals.
  - The midfield is led by **Tottenham's Rodrigo Bentancur** and **Manchester United's Manuel Ugarte** (*MAN-well oo-GAR-tay*).
- Revolution II Head Coach **Pablo Moreira's** father played for the Uruguay national team.
- Recently lost a friendly match against the United States in Tampa, 5-1.



# TEAM INFORMATION

## CONCACAF

CANADA		
  	FIFA Code	CAN
	World Cup Appearances	3 (last: 2022)
	Best Finish	Group Stage (2022 and 1986)
	How Qualified	Co-Host
	FIFA Ranking	27
	Head Coach	Jesse Marsch
	Captain	D Alphonso Davies (Bayern Munich – GER)
	Top Players	FB Alphonso Davies (Bayern Munich – GER) M Tajon Buchanan (Villarreal – ESP) F Jonathan David (Juventus – ITA) M Stephen Eustaquio (FC Porto – POR) ( <i>ay-oo-STAH-kwee-oh</i> )
	MLS Connections	<p><b>M Tajon Buchanan</b> began his pro career with the Revolution from 2019-2021. Since played in Belgium, Italy, and now Spain, and owns 57 caps for Canada.</p> <p><b>Alphonso Davies</b>, now a fixture at Bayern Munich, began his career at Vancouver Whitecaps FC.</p> <p><b>HC Jesse March</b> played 14 MLS seasons and coached both Monreal and Red Bull New York.</p> <p>Over 10 current MLS players could be in the squad:            GK Dayne St. Clair (MIN), GK Maxime Crepeau (POR), D Kamal Miller (POR), D Joel Waterman (CHI), D Zorhan Bassong (SKC), M Mathieu Choiniere (LAFC), D Richie Laryea (TOR), M Jonathan Osorio (TOR), M Ali Ahmed (VAN), F Jayden Nelson (VAN)</p>

- Canada was the star of the qualifying cycle in 2022, but had a disappointing exit in the Group Stage of the last World Cup.
- A key player for Canada is former Revolution player **Tajon Buchanan**, who now stars for Villarreal in Spain.
  - Boston fans will remember Tajon for two epic Revolution playoff goals – one in 2020 on the road against Philadelphia, and another in 2021, tying the game against NYCFC in the 118<sup>th</sup> minute to force penalties.
- Canada has a lot of experience including one of the world’s best fullbacks, Bayern Munich’s **Alphonso Davies**. Davies began his career in MLS with Vancouver Whitecaps FC and is now an every-game starter for Germany’s best team.
- Only making their 3<sup>rd</sup> appearance in the tournament, looking to make it into the knockout round for the first time.
- Head Coach **Jesse Marsch** spent most of his career coaching and playing in Major League Soccer. He was head coach of the New York Red Bulls before leaving for Leeds United, and then the Canada post.



# TEAM INFORMATION

## CONCACAF

### CURACAO

 	FIFA Code	CUW
	World Cup Appearances	1 (First in 2026)
	Best Finish	N/A
	How Qualified	Winner of Qualifying Group B
	FIFA Ranking	82
	Head Coach	Dick Advocaat
	Captain	M Leandro Bacuna (Bandırmaspor – TUR) ( <i>bah-COON-yah</i> )
	Top Players	M Leandro Bacuna (Bandırmaspor – TUR) F Gervane Kastaneer (Persis Solo – IDN) GK Eloy Room (Cercle Brugge – BEL)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- Dubbed *The Blue Wave*, Curacao is the smallest country by population and area **ever to qualify** for the FIFA World Cup.
- Undefeated 3 wins and 3 draws in qualifying – winning the group over fellow Caribbean nations Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.
- Manager, 78-year-old **Dick Advocaat**, could become the oldest manager to coach at a FIFA World Cup.

### HAITI

 	FIFA Code	HAI
	World Cup Appearances	2 (last, 1974)
	Best Finish	Group Stage (1974)
	How Qualified	Winner of Qualifying Group C
	FIFA Ranking	84
	Head Coach	Sébastien Migné ( <i>say-BASS-chee-en min-YAY</i> )
	Captain	GK Johny Placide (SC Bastia – FRA)
	Top Players	GK Johny Placide (SC Bastia – FRA) M Danley Jean Jacques (Philadelphia Union – USA) F Duckens Nazon (Esteghal – IRN) ( <i>nay-ZAHN</i> )
	MLS Connections	Danley Jean Jacques (PHI); Loucius Don Deedson (DAL)

- *Les Grenadiers* makes the World Cup for only the second time ever, their first since 1974.
- Won their qualifying group as an upset, beating out Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.
  - They'll be looking for their first World Cup win – with 3 losses their first attempt.
- Their assist leader in qualifying was an MLS player, Philadelphia's **Danley Jean-Jacques** (3).
- FC Dallas' **Loucius Don Deedson** (*loo-EE-see-us*) scored 4 goals in qualifying, second most on the team.
- One of their leaders is experienced goalkeeper and captain **Johny Placide** (*plah-SEE-day*), who plays his club soccer in France.





# TEAM INFORMATION

## CONCACAF

MEXICO		
  	FIFA Code	MEX
	World Cup Appearances	18 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Quarterfinals (2x, last 1986)
	How Qualified	Co-Host
	FIFA Ranking	15
	Head Coach	Javier Aguirre ( <i>hah-vee-AIR ah-GEAR-ay</i> )
	Captain	M Edson Alvarez (Fenerbahçe – TUR)
	Top Players	F Raul Jimenez (Fulham – ENG) F Hirving Lozano (San Diego – USA) D Johan Vasquez (Genoa – ITA) M Edson Alvarez (Fenerbahçe – TUR)
	MLS Connections	F Hirving Lozano (SD), Obed Vargas (SEA)

- A country with a rich soccer tradition, Mexico has not reached the Quarterfinal round since 1986.
  - *El Tri* exited in the Round of 16 in seven consecutive tournaments from 1994-2018.
- The MLS Young Player of the Year, Seattle's **Obed Vargas**, is a young star for Mexico.
- **Hirving “Chucky” Lozano** helped lead San Diego FC to a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish in the West in the expansion team's first season.
- **F Raul Jimenez** has played in the English Premier League since 2018 and has scored 44 goals in 121 games for Mexico.
- **Manager Javier Aguirre**, in place since July 2024, has won 11 of his first 21 matches.
- Placed into Group A, Mexico will play in the tournament's opening match on June 11 at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City.


PANAMA		
  	FIFA Code	PAN
	World Cup Appearances	2 (last, 2018)
	Best Finish	Group Stage (2018)
	How Qualified	Winner of Qualifying Group A
	FIFA Ranking	30
	Head Coach	Thomas Christiansen
	Captain	M Anibal Godoy (San Diego FC – USA)
	Top Players	M Anibal Godoy (San Diego FC – USA) M Adalberto Carrasquilla (Pumas UNAM – MEX)
	Revs / MLS Connections	Revolution II GK JD Gunn Anibal Godoy (SD); Carlos Harvey (MIN)

- *Los Canaleros* were runners-up in the 2023 Concacaf Gold Cup and 2024-25 Concacaf Nations League.
- Captained by **MLS player Anibal Godoy** (*ah-nee-BAHL go-DOY*) who was with expansion club San Diego FC (1<sup>st</sup> place in Western Conference).
- **Revolution II Goalkeeper JD Gunn** earned several call-ups to Panama during World Cup Qualifying.
- Manager **Thomas Christiansen** previously managed Leeds United (2017-18) and Belgian club Union SG (2019-2020).
- In World Cup debut in 2018, Panama failed to register a point and finished last in their group, which included Belgium, England, and Tunisia.



# TEAM INFORMATION

## CONCACAF

UNITED STATES		
	FIFA Code	USA
	World Cup Appearances	12 (last: 20220)
	Best Finish	Quarterfinals (2002)
	How Qualified	Co-Host
	FIFA Ranking	14
	Head Coach	Mauricio Pochettino ( <i>paw-chet-TEE-no</i> )
	Captain	M Tyler Adams (Bournemouth – ENG)
	Top Players	M Tyler Adams (Bournemouth – ENG) M Christian Pulisic (Inter Milan – ITA) F Folarin Balogun (Monaco – FRA) M Weston McKennie (Juventus – ITA) D Chris Richards (Crystal Palace – ENG) D Antonee Robinson (Fulham – ENG) D Sergino Dest (PSV Eindhoven – NED)
	Revs / MLS Connections	Revolution GK Matt Turner Matt Freese (NYC), Tim Ream (CLT), Walker Zimmerman (NSH), Max Arsten (CLB), Diego Luna (RSL)  D Miles Robinson (CIN) hails from Arlington, Mass.  Many former MLS players including Tyler Adams (RBNY), Mark McKenzie (PHI), Aidan Morris (CLB), Ricardo Pepi (DAL), Brenden Aaronson (PHI).

- *The Stars & Stripes* host the World Cup for the second time, first since 1994.
- Revolution GK **Matt Turner** is vying to make the roster for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive World Cup, after he started all 4 games in Qatar in 2022. He has a battle on his hands with New York City's **Matt Freese**, the current favorite for the #1 job.
- Head Coach **Mauricio Pochettino**, 53-year-old from Argentina, brings an impressive pedigree, having coached big clubs in Tottenham, Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain, and Southampton.
- **M Christian Pulisic** has been in incredible form for his club, Inter Milan, recording goals and assists at will for one of the best clubs in Italy.
- **M Tyler Adams**, the former Red Bull New York man now at Bournemouth in the English Premier League, is an established leader for this team in the midfield, alongside Juventus star **Weston McKennie**.
- Can **M Gio Reyna** get into good rhythm at his new club in Germany and help the team more than he did in 2022?
- After much uncertainty, **Folarin Balogun** (*foh-LARE-in BAL-oh-gun*) has become the clear "Number 9" striker for the U.S. Other goal-scorers include **Timothy Weah** (*WAY-ah*) and **Ricardo Pepi** (*PEP-pee*).
- The team has some talented outside backs – **Sergino Dest** (*sir-GEEN-yo*), **Antonee Robinson** being two likely starters – and a lot of experienced center backs in FA Cup winner **Chris Richards** and two players now in MLS: **Tim Ream** and **Walker Zimmerman**.
- Arlington, Mass. native **Miles Robinson** is a regular on the U.S. National Team.
- Young rising stars include Sebastian Berhalter (Vancouver Whitecaps), Diego Luna (Real Salt Lake), Aidan Morris (formerly Columbus Crew), and Alex Freeman (Orlando City).



# TEAM INFORMATION

## UEFA

### AUSTRIA

	FIFA Code	AUT
	World Cup Appearances	9 (last, 1998)
	Best Finish	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place (1954)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group H Winner
	FIFA Ranking	24
	Head Coach	Ralf Rangnick
	Captain	D David Alaba (Real Madrid – ESP)
	Top Players	D David Alaba (Real Madrid – ESP) F Marko Arnautović (Red Star Belgrade – SRB)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- The *Wunderteam* qualified as winner of UEFA Group H, returning to the tournament after 28 years.
- Owns eight World Cup appearances.
  - Finished third place in 1954; reached the semifinals in 1934, finishing fourth.
- In 2024 and 2020, reached the Round of 16 in the European Championship tournament.
- **D David Alaba** (*AL-ah-ba*) is one of the most successful Austrian players ever, with 111 senior caps, having spent most of his club career with Bayern Munich and now Real Madrid.
- **F Marko Arnautović** (*are-NOW-toh-vitch*) is Austria's most capped player, with 130 senior appearances and 47 goals on the international stage.
  - The forward currently plays for Serbia's Red Star Belgrade, where new **Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović** began his playing career.

### BELGIUM

	FIFA Code	BEL
	World Cup Appearances	15 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place (2018)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group J Winner
	FIFA Ranking	8
	Head Coach	Rudi Garcia
	Captain	M Youri Tielemans (Aston Villa – ENG) ( <i>teel-eh-mens</i> )
	Top Players	GK Thibaut Courtois (Real Madrid – ESP) M Kevin De Bruyne (Napoli – ITA) F Romelu Lukaku (Napoli – ITA)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *The Red Devils* were named the winner of UEFA Group J, going 5-0-3 in qualifying.
  - 2026 will mark Belgium's 15<sup>th</sup> World Cup appearance.
- Winners of the UEFA Nations League title in 2021.
- **M Kevin De Bruyne** (*duh BROY-nuh*) is widely regarded as one of the all-time Premier League greats, with 119 assists and 72 goals over 288 appearances with Manchester City.
- **F Romelu Lukaku** (*rom-EH-loo loo-KAH-koo*) leads the Belgian attack, tallying the most goals (89) in the national team's history.
- **GK Thibaut Courtois** (*tee-BOW core-TWAH*) is one of the world's best at the position, and has suited up 107 times for Belgium including as the starter at the last three World Cups.



# TEAM INFORMATION

## UEFA

### CROATIA

 	FIFA Code	CRO
	World Cup Appearances	7 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Runners-up (2018)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group L Winner
	FIFA Ranking	10
	Head Coach	Zlatko Dalić ( <i>ZLAHT-koh DAH-litch</i> )
	Captain	M Luka Modrić (AC Milan – ITA)
	Top Players	F Ivan Perišić (PSV Eindhoven – NED) D Joško Gvardiol (Manchester City – ENG) ( <i>YOSS-koh gvahr-DEE-ohl</i> )
	MLS Connections	Petar Musa (DAL), Marco Pasalic (ORL)

- *The Vatreni* or “The Blazers” clinched first place in UEFA Group L, with a 7-0-1 qualifying record.
- Finished as runners-up at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.
  - Secured third place in the 2022 and 1998 World Cups.
- Most recently, Croatia claimed second place in the UEFA Nations League in 2023.
- **M Luka Modrić** (*moh-DRITCH*) (194) and **F Ivan Perišić** (*peh-riss-SITCH*) (150) are the two most capped players in Croatia’s history.
  - Modrić owns 28 goals and 31 assists at the international level.

### FRANCE

 	FIFA Code	FRA
	World Cup Appearances	17 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	WINNERS (2x – 2018, 1998)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group D Winner
	FIFA Ranking	3
	Head Coach	Didier Deschamps ( <i>did-dee-AY day-SHAHMPS</i> )
	Captain	F Kylian Mbappé (Real Madrid – ESP)
	Top Players	F Kylian Mbappé (Real Madrid – ESP) F Ousmane Dembele (Paris Saint-Germain – FRA) M Michael Olise (Bayern Munich – GER)
	MLS Connections	GK Hugo Lloris (LAFC) ( <i>hoo-GO lore-REES</i> ) retired from international duty in 2022, but was France’s long-time captain and remains the record cap holder (145)

- Captained by **Kylian Mbappé** (*KILL-lee-in em-BAH-pay*), *Les Blues* qualified as the winner of UEFA Group D.
- A two-time World Cup Champion (2018, 1998) and two-time runners-up, France has also won two UEFA European Championships, and one UEFA Nations League title.
  - In 2022, France reached a second consecutive World Cup final but fell 4-2 in penalties to Lionel Messi’s Argentina.
- After winning the 2021 Nations League, France became the first and only European national team to have won every senior FIFA and UEFA competition.
- Current Ballon d’Or holder and PSG winger **Ousmane Dembele** (*oos-MAHN dem-BAY-lay*) has played in 11 career World Cup matches and partners with Mbappé in the attack.





# TEAM INFORMATION

## UEFA

ENGLAND		
 	FIFA Code	ENG
	World Cup Appearances	17 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	WINNERS (1966)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group K Winner
	FIFA Ranking	4
	Head Coach	Thomas Tuchel ( <i>TOO-kull</i> )
	Captain	F Harry Kane (Bayern Munich – GER)
	Top Players	F Harry Kane (Bayern Munich – GER) M Jude Bellingham (Real Madrid – ESP)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *The Three Lions* qualified as winner of UEFA Group K, securing an undefeated 8-0-0 record in qualifying.
- **F Harry Kane** finished with a team-leading eight goals in qualifying.
- England owns 17 FIFA World Cup appearances, including 2026.
  - Won the 1966 FIFA World Cup on home soil; Finished fourth place in 1990 and 2018.
- Two-time runners-up at the UEFA European Championship in 2020 and 2024.
- England is the joint oldest national football team, alongside Scotland.
- Midfielders **Jude Bellingham** (Real Madrid) and **Declan Rice** (Arsenal) are key players in England's possession-heavy approach.

GERMANY		
 	FIFA Code	GER
	World Cup Appearances	22 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	WINNERS 4x – (2014, 1990, 1974, 1954)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group A Winner
	FIFA Ranking	9
	Head Coach	Julian Nagelsmann ( <i>you-LEE-in NAY-gulls-mahn</i> )
	Captain	D Joshua Kimmich (Bayern Munich – GER)
	Top Players	D Joshua Kimmich (Bayern Munich – GER) F Florian Wirtz (Liverpool – ENG) F Jamal Musiala (Bayern Munich – GER)
	MLS Connections	Thomas Müller (VAN) retired from international football in 2024, after playing in the 2014 World Cup and winning the 2010 World Cup Golden Boot and Best Young Player award.

- *Die Mannschaft* qualified as winner of UEFA Group A.
- Four-time FIFA World Cup champion (2014, 1990, 1974, 1954).
  - Tied with Italy for the second-most World Cup titles (4), one behind Brazil (5).
- Germany was the first nation, and remains only one of two along with Spain, to have won both the FIFA World Cup and the FIFA Women's World Cup.
- Germany is a strong defensive side, anchored by center back **Antonio Rudiger** (*roo-DIG-err*) and right back **Joshua Kimmich** (*yo-SHOO-ah kim-MICK*).
- Midfielders **Jamal Musiala** (*moo-see-AH-lah*) and **Florian Wirtz** (*verts*) will play a big role in Germany's attack.



# TEAM INFORMATION

## UEFA

NETHERLANDS		
 	FIFA Code	NED
	World Cup Appearances	12 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Runners-up (2010, 1978, 1974)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group G Winner
	FIFA Ranking	7
	Head Coach	Ronald Koeman ( <i>koo-MAHN</i> )
	Captain	D Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool – ENG)
	Top Players	D Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool – ENG) F Memphis Depay (Corinthians – BRA) F Cody Gakpo (Liverpool – ENG)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- *Oranje* qualified as winner of UEFA Group G.
- The Netherlands has competed in 11 World Cups before 2026, finishing as runners-up three times (2010, 1978, 1974).
- **F Memphis Depay** (*duh-PIE*) is the all-time leading scorer for the national team with 55 goals, while Liverpool **F Cody Gakpo** has emerged as a top striker option.
- **D Virgil Van Dijk** (*van DIKE*) will captain the squad at his third straight World Cup. He is considered one of the world's best center backs.

NORWAY		
 	FIFA Code	NOR
	World Cup Appearances	5 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Round of 16 (2x – 1998, 1938)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group I Winner
	FIFA Ranking	29
	Head Coach	Ståle Solbakken ( <i>STAW-luh sole-BAH-ken</i> )
	Captain	M Martin Ødegaard (Arsenal – ENG)
	Top Players	M Martin Ødegaard (Arsenal – ENG) F Erling Haaland (Manchester City – ENG)
	MLS Connections	Stian Gregersen (ATL), Kristoffer Velde (POR), Edvard Tagseth (NSH), Amahl Pellegrino (SD)

- *Landslaget* qualified as winner of UEFA Group I.
  - Has appeared in the World Cup four times before 2026, with two appearances in the Round of 16 (1998, 1938).
- MLS fans will recognize **Atlanta United D Stian Gregersen** and **Nashville SC M Edvard Tagseth**.
- **F Erling Haaland** (*HAH-lund*), considered one of the best players worldwide, is the leading scorer for Norway with 55 goals.
  - Joined in the attack by Atletico Madrid striker **Alexander Sørloth** (*sur-LOTH*).
- **M Martin Ødegaard** (*oo-duh-GARD*) has been in the spotlight since signing with Real Madrid as a 15-year-old in 2015 and is currently Arsenal's captain.



# TEAM INFORMATION

## UEFA

PORTUGAL		
 	FIFA Code	POR
	World Cup Appearances	10 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place (1966)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group F Winner
	FIFA Ranking	6
	Head Coach	Roberto Martínez
	Captain	F Cristiano Ronaldo (Al-Nassr – KSA)
	Top Players	F Cristiano Ronaldo (Al-Nassr – KSA) M Bruno Fernandes (Manchester United – ENG)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- Referred to as *Seleção das Quinas*, Portugal qualified as the winner of UEFA Group F.
- A complete squad with many experienced players, Portugal holds the fifth-best odds (+1600) to win the World Cup, likely the last for Cristiano Ronaldo.
  - Portugal has made 10 FIFA World Cup appearances including 2026, with a best finish of third place in 1966, led by the legendary **Eusebio** (*ay-oo-SAY-bee-oh*) and fourth place in 2006.
- One-time UEFA European Champion (2016), defeating France, 1-0, in the final, and winner of the inaugural UEFA Nations League in 2019.
- Superstar **F Cristiano Ronaldo** is Portugal's all-time leader in both caps (226) and goals (143).
- Midfielders **Bruno Fernandes** (*fehr-NANJ*) and **Bernardo Silva** add experience and dynamism to the Portuguese attack.

SCOTLAND		
 	FIFA Code	SCO
	World Cup Appearances	10 (last, 1998)
	Best Finish	Group Stage (8x – last, 1998)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group C Winner
	FIFA Ranking	36
	Head Coach	Steve Clarke
	Captain	D Andy Robertson (Liverpool – ENG)
	Top Players	D Andy Robertson (Liverpool – ENG) M Scott McTominay (Napoli – ITA)
	MLS Connections	Lewis Morgan (RBNY), Ryan Gauld (VAN), Ryan Porteous (LAFC)

- The *Tartan Army* qualified by finishing first in UEFA Group C.
- **Ché Adams**, **Ryan Christie**, and **Scott McTominay** finished tied for the team lead with two goals each in World Cup Qualifying.
- Scotland makes its 10<sup>th</sup> World Cup appearance, its first since 1998.
- One of the oldest national soccer teams in the world, Scotland has a long-standing rivalry with England dating back to the world's first international match in 1872.
- Alongside **Scott McTominay**, Aston Villa's **John McGinn** and Bournemouth's **Ryan Christie** will comprise the Scottish midfield.
- Up top, forward **Ché Adams** will be the target man, and currently owns three goals and two assists for Italian club Torino this season.



## TEAM INFORMATION

### UEFA

#### SPAIN

 	FIFA Code	ESP
	World Cup Appearances	17 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	WINNERS (2010)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group E Winner
	FIFA Ranking	1
	Head Coach	Luis de la Fuente
	Captain	F Álvaro Morata (Como – ITA)
	Top Players	M Pedri (Barcelona – ESP) F Lamine Yamal (Barcelona – ESP) F Nico Williams (Athletic Bilbao – ESP)
	Revs Connections	Midfielder and captain Carles Gil hails from Valencia, Spain and featured at the U-21 level in 2013.

- Known as *La Roja*, Spain qualified as the winner of UEFA Group E.
- One-time FIFA World Cup champion (2010), defeating the Netherlands, 1–0, in the final.
- Reigning UEFA European Champion, having won a record fourth title in 2024.
  - The first three-time UEFA European Champion (1964, 2008, 2012).
- Spain was the first nation to win both the Men's and Women's World Cup.
- **F Lamine Yamal** (*la-MEAN yah-MAHL*), 18, is the world's top young star, already surpassing 100 appearances for Barcelona. He finished second in the 2025 Ballon d'Or voting and owns 23 senior caps for Spain.
- Fellow Barcelona forwards **Ferran Torres** (*FEH-ran*) and **Dani Olmo** (*ALL-mo*) complete a dangerous Spanish attack.
- 2024 Ballon d'Or winner and Manchester City midfielder **Rodri** (*ROD-ree*) is the midfield anchor and has made a career of winning possession and completing passes at over 90 percent.

#### SWITZERLAND

 	FIFA Code	SUI
	World Cup Appearances	13 (last, 2022)
	Best Finish	Quarterfinals (3x, - 1954, 1938, 1934)
	How Qualified	UEFA Group B Winner
	FIFA Ranking	17
	Head Coach	Murat Yakin ( <i>mur-RAHT YAH-kin</i> )
	Captain	M Granit Xhaka (Sunderland – ENG)
	Top Players	M Granit Xhaka (Sunderland – ENG) F Breel Embolo (Stade Rennais FC – FRA)
	MLS Connections	N/A

- Known as the *A-Team* or the *Red Crosses*, Switzerland won UEFA Group B.
- Advanced out of the Group Stage in each of the last three World Cups.
  - As the host nation in 1954, Switzerland fell to Austria, 7-5, in the quarterfinals, which remains the highest-scoring match in World Cup history.
- **M Granit Xhaka** (*GRAN-it ZHA-ka*) is the most capped player in Swiss history with 143 appearances.
- **F Breel Embolo** (*BREEL EM-bo-lo*) is one of the top scorers in Swiss national team history with 22 international goals,

