

World Cup '94 – FIFA's ball of contention

The official ball of the 1994 World Cup – the Adidas 'Questa' – has caused certain problems as players try to adjust to its response. The ball is the result of extensive research and development and is designed to travel further and faster, generating more excitement and higher goal-scoring

Air-pressure in the Questa is 6.9kg – footballs are normally 6.6kg. Air pressure increases still further in the heat of the U.S.

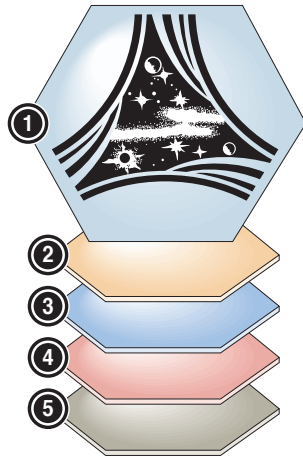


The Questa has five layers, each coated with adhesive

Layer 1 –

Elastomeric polyurethane

Extremely strong and durable, good flexibility / shape retention



Layer 2
Expanded multilayer polyurethane
Bonds with top layer, strengthens structure of ball

Layer 3
Interlocking ultralight textile
Allows bonding between layers 1 and 4

Layer 4
High compression polyethylene foam
Soft response to slow touch, high energy return when struck sharply increases speed

Layer 5
Complex mixed fibre textile
Ensures maximum shape stability