

FIFA Ballon d'Or nominees

Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Manuel Neuer have made the final shortlist for the prestigious FIFA Ballon d'Or award – Real Madrid star, Ronaldo, is favourite to claim his third title in Zurich on January 12



Lionel Messi ARG

Age: 27 Debut: 2004

Club: **Barcelona**
Position: **Forward**

Nominated for World Player each year since 2007 – wins in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012

2014: Broke historic records to become all-time leading scorer in both **La Liga** and **Champions League**



Cristiano Ronaldo POR

Age: 29 Debut: 2002

Club: **Real Madrid**
Position: **Forward**

Won second Ballon d'Or in 2013 after breaking four years of domination by **Lionel Messi**

2014: Won Champions League with Real. On course to break **La Liga** goals per season record with 20 strikes to date



Manuel Neuer GER

Age: 28 Debut: 2006

Club: **Bayern Munich**
Position: **Goalkeeper**

First goalkeeper to receive nomination since compatriot **Oliver Khan** in 2002

2014: Claimed second **Bundesliga** title with Bayern before playing crucial role as Germany won **World Cup** in Brazil