

FIFA set to crown world's best player

After ending their six-year association with France Football's Ballon d'Or award, FIFA have relaunched their own prestigious ceremony, with Cristiano Ronaldo, Antoine Griezmann and Lionel Messi all nominated for the top prize at the inaugural *Best FIFA Football Awards* on January 9



Cristiano Ronaldo POR

Age: **31** Debut: **2002**

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

Nominated every year since 2007, winning three titles – ahead of **Messi** – in 2008, 2013 and 2014

2016: Twice conquered Europe – won second **Champions League** title with Real before captaining Portugal to **Euro 2016** glory



Antoine Griezmann FRA

Age: **25** Debut: **2009**

Club: **Atletico Madrid**
Position: **Forward**

Would be only second French player to triumph after **Zinedine Zidane** won hat-trick of titles

2016: Scored over 40 goals in 2015/16 season, claiming 'Best Player' in **La Liga** and winning Golden Boot at **Euro 2016**, scoring six goals



Lionel Messi ARG

Age: **29** Debut: **2004**

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

Hoping to win sixth World Player award. Reclaimed prize in 2015 with 41% of vote

2016: Eighth **La Liga** title with Barcelona. Reached **Copa America** final, becoming all-time top scorer for Argentina during tournament