FIFA World Cup 2026

JUNE 11 - JULY 19

The United States, Mexico and Canada host the 23rd FIFA World Cup – the first tournament to be jointly staged by three nations and expanded to 48 teams – amid rising global tensions

SPORTING ECONOMY: *Total prize fund for global showpiece is poised to rise substantially from* ***Qatar 2022,*** *despite fierce criticism of ticket prices across North America*

2014	2018	2022	2026
$358m	$400m	$440m	$871m
Champions share:			
$35m	*$38m*	*$42m*	*$50m*

2026 breakdown:
Each qualified team will receive baseline of $2.5m to cover preparation costs

Champions	**$50m**	5th-8th	**$19m**
Final	**$33m**	9th-16th	**$15m**
3rd place	**$29m**	17th-32nd	**$11m**
4th place	**$27m**	33rd-48th	**$10m**

COMPETITIVE EDGE: *Expansion to 48-team format poses intriguing challenge to traditional powerhouses*

Performances of confederations:

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Top 8	Top 16
Europe	12	17	18	15	105	99
South America	10	5	3	5	36	37
North America			1		5	15
Africa				1	4	11
Asia				1	2	9
Oceania						1

Tournament expanded to 24 teams in 1982, increasing to 32 in 1998

Vinícius Júnior
Brazil

Aiming to inspire ***Seleção*** *to first title since 2002, under supremo* ***Carlo Ancelotti*** *(inset)*



adidas Trionda 2026 *Official World Cup match ball*



Venues

Return of the Vikings: ***Erling Haaland*** *(right) topped scoring charts in qualifying, striking 16 goals as Norway reached first World Cup since 1998*

Lamine Yamal
Spain

Barcelona star set for World Cup debut

Competition schedule

Top two from each group plus eight best third-placed teams advance

0 *FIFA rank (Apr 2026)*

All dates Eastern Time (GMT-4)

A

Jun			
11	Mexico	South Africa	*Mexico City*
	South Korea	Czechia	*Guadalajara*
18	Czechia	South Africa	*Atlanta*
24	Czechia	Mexico	*Mexico City*
	South Africa	S. Korea	*Monterrey*

Qualified

B

Jun			
12	Canada	Bosnia-Herz.	*Toronto*
13	Qatar	Switz.	*San Francisco*
18	Switzerland	Bosnia-H.	*Los Angeles*
	Canada	Qatar	*Vancouver*
24	Switzerland	Canada	*Vancouver*
	Bosnia-Herz.	Qatar	*Seattle*

Q

C

Jun			
13	Brazil	Morocco	*NY / NJ*
	Haiti	Scotland	*Boston*
19	Scotland	Morocco	*Boston*
	Brazil	Haiti	*Philadelphia*
24	Scotland	Brazil	*Miami*
	Morocco	Haiti	*Atlanta*

Q

D

Jun			
12	USA	Paraguay	*Los Angeles*
14	Australia	Türkiye	*Vancouver*
19	USA	Australia	*Seattle*
	Türkiye	Paraguay	*San Francisco*
25	Türkiye	USA	*Los Angeles*
	Paraguay	Australia	*San Francisco*

Q

E

14	Germany	Curaçao	*Houston*
	Côte d'Ivoire	Ecuador	*Philadelphia*
20	Germany	Côte d'Ivoire	*Toronto*
	Ecuador	Curaçao	*Kansas City*
25	Curaçao	Côte d'Ivoire	*Philadelphia*
	Ecuador	Germany	*NY / NJ*

Qualified

F

14	Netherlands	Japan	*Dallas*
	Sweden	Tunisia	*Monterrey*
20	Netherlands	Sweden	*Houston*
21	Tunisia	Japan	*Monterrey*
25	Japan	Sweden	*Dallas*
	Tunisia	Netherlands	*Kansas City*

Q

G

15	Belgium	Egypt	*Seattle*
	Iran	N. Zealand	*Los Angeles*
21	Belgium	Iran	*Los Angeles*
	New Zealand	Egypt	*Vancouver*
26	Egypt	Iran	*Seattle*
	New Zealand	Belgium	*Vancouver*

Q

H

15	Spain	Cabo Verde	*Atlanta*
	Saudi Arabia	Uruguay	*Miami*
21	Spain	Saudi Arabia	*Atlanta*
	Uruguay	Cabo Verde	*Miami*
28	Cabo Verde	S. Arabia	*Houston*
	Uruguay	Spain	*Guadalajara*

Q

I

16	France	Senegal	*NY / NJ*
	Iraq	Norway	*Boston*
22	France	Iraq	*Philadelphia*
	Norway	Senegal	*NY / NJ*
26	Norway	France	*Boston*
	Senegal	Iraq	*Toronto*

Qualified

J

16	Argentina	Algeria	*Kansas City*
17	Austria	Jordan	*San Francisco*
22	Argentina	Austria	*Dallas*
	Jordan	Algeria	*San Francisco*
27	Algeria	Austria	*Kansas City*
	Jordan	Argentina	*Dallas*

Q

K

17	Portugal	DR Congo	*Houston*
	Uzbekistan	Colombia	*Mexico City*
23	Portugal	Uzbekistan	*Houston*
	Colombia	DR Congo	*Guadalajara*
27	Colombia	Portugal	*Miami*
	DR Congo	Uzbekistan	*Atlanta*

Q

L

17	England	Croatia	*Dallas*
	Ghana	Panama	*Toronto*
23	England	Ghana	*Boston*
	Panama	Croatia	*Toronto*
27	Panama	England	*NY / NJ*
	Croatia	Ghana	*Philadelphia*

Q

Round of 32

Pairings for third-placed teams dependent on which group they qualify from

If scores level after 90 minutes, knockout stage matches go into extra-time. Matches remaining level decided on penalties

	Jun				
1	28	A2	B2	*Los Angeles*
2	29	E1	A-B-C-D-F3	*Boston*
3	29	F1	C2	*Monterrey*
4	29	C1	F2	*Houston*

	Jun / Jul				
5	30	I1	C-D-F-G-H3	*NY / NJ*
6	30	E2	I2	*Dallas*
7	30	A1	C-E-F-H-I3	*Mexico City*
8	1	L1	E-H-I-J-K3	*Atlanta*

	Jul				
9	1	D1	B-E-F-I-J3	*S. Francisco*
10	1	G1	A-E-H-I-J3	*Seattle*
11	2	K2	L2	*Toronto*
12	2	H1	J2	*Los Angeles*

	Jul				
13	2	B1	E-F-G-I-J3	*Vancouver*
14	3	J1	H2	*Miami*
15	3	K1	D-E-I-J-L3	*Kansas City*
16	3	D2	G2	*Dallas*

Round of 16

Jul	*Philadelphia*
4	W2
	W5
	Houston
4	W1
	W3
	Dallas
6	W11
	W12
	Seattle
6	W9
	W10

Quarter-finals

Jul 9	*Boston*
Jul 10	*Los Angeles*

Semi-final

Jul 14	*Dallas*

Third-place play-off

Jul 18	*Miami*

FINAL

Jul 19	*New York / New Jersey*

MetLife Stadium *hosts final showpiece. Opened in 2010 at cost of $1.6bn – staged 2025 FIFA Club World Cup final*



Semi-final

Jul 15	*Atlanta*

Tournament spans four time zones, with 3,900km between ***Vancouver*** *and* ***Mexico City*** *– first venue to host three editions*

Quarter-finals

Jul 11	*Miami*
Jul 11	*Kansas City*

Round of 16

Jul	*New York / New Jersey*
5	W4
	W6
	Mexico City
5	W7
	W8
	Atlanta
7	W14
	W16
	Vancouver
7	W13
	W15

Source: FIFA

Pictures: Getty Images

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