Hi all,

The World Cup is starting next month, and I thought I’d carry over a tradition from the Theoretical Physics community. It’s a fun competition which involves game theory and a bit of stats but no real football knowledge. For example, I didn’t even know the host was Russia till I looked it up last night! If you want to join in I’m asking you to make a small donation of £2 to NACCOM <https://www.give.net/20203412/oneoff> (or another charity of your choosing). There will also be a prize of some description and the unending glory of being the best.

I will be posting the results… somewhere so if you miss the deadline (**14th June**), or don’t want to compete for the prize, you can calculate your own score and see how you did against everyone else.

## The rules:

* The basic idea is to buy "shares" in teams. Every time a team wins a match, it gets a certain number of points. These points are divided among the shareholders according to the number of shares they own.
* You have **16 shares**, which you use to pick teams. You can choose how you spread them between the teams, but you can take **at most only 4 shares** in any one team. The number of shares per team is not fixed; the better teams will earn more points, but those points are likely to be spread among more shares. You must decide on your shares before the kick-off of the first match, (**14th June**) and it is not possible to change them after that.
* The number of points a team gets by winning a match depends on the stage of the tournament
* 10 for a group stage match win and 5 for a draw
* 10 for getting into to the round of 16
* 20 for a win in the round of 16
* 40 for a quarter finals win
* 80 for a semi-finals win
* 40 for third place
* 120 for first place
* The number of points you get = (Points awarded to a team) x (Number of shares you own in the team) / (Total number of shares in the team)
* The winner is the player who has the most points after the tournament. In case of a draw, the player who owns a bigger share in the winning team wins (or if those are equal then the runner-up and so on.)

## How to enter:

Just follow this link and fill in the form

If you want to make changes just let me know.

## Rankings:

These are the current world rankings of the teams for those like me who have no idea if Egypt are better than Peru!

### Group A:

Russia (66)

Saudi Arabia (67)

Egypt (46)

Uruguay (17)

### Group B:

Portugal (4)

Spain (8)

Morocco (42)

IR Iran (36)

### Group C:

France (7)

Australia (40)

Peru (11)

Denmark (12)

### Group D:

Argentina (5)

Iceland (22)

Croatia (18)

Nigeria (47)

### Group E:

Brazil (2)

Switzerland (6)

Costa Rica (25)

Serbia (35)

### Group F:

Germany (1)

Mexico (15)

Sweden (23)

Korea Republic (61)

### Group G:

Belgium (3)

Panama (55)

Tunisia (14)

England (13)

### Group H:

Poland (10)  
Colombia (16)  
Senegal (28)  
Japan (60)