

FIFA's dataset exploration report

The list of teams represented in FIFA over the past 30 years intriguingly surpasses the tally of countries recognized by the United Nations (193 member states and 2 observer states as of 2023). With 211 teams featured in FIFA's roster, a delve into this discrepancy reveals a broader representation in the world of football. This report sheds light on the distinctive inclusivity in FIFA and highlights some fun facts surrounding the teams and tournaments.

Broader Representation:

FIFA embraces regions and territories beyond conventional nation-state boundaries. Teams like Greenland (Denmark), Puerto Rico (USA), and Tahiti (France) exemplify how FIFA's framework provides a platform for territories to showcase their football prowess independently.

Goals Scored:

Since 1993, a whopping total of 64,048 goals have been netted, averaging 2,134 goals annually. This statistic underscores the vigor and competitive spirit resonating across different geographical and political landscapes in the football realm.

A Glimpse into Gaming:

The first FIFA game by EA Sports released on December 15, 1993, shortly after the earliest entry dated August 8, 1993, featured 48 national teams. The evolution from 48 to 211 teams in FIFA's real-world list accentuates the inclusivity and global appreciation of the sport.

Tournament Diversity:

The array of tournaments listed showcases a rich diversity in football competitions. From regional tournaments like the 'AFC Asian Cup' and 'Copa América' to more localized competitions like the 'Windward Islands Tournament', the scope of football's appeal is vividly broad.

Countries' Rendezvous:

A glance at the list of countries reveals a vibrant mix, including nations from every continent. Notably, regions with lesser global political weight, like Faroe Islands, Liechtenstein, and San Marino, share the stage with football powerhouses like Brazil, Germany, and Argentina in FIFA's realm.

Unusual Entries:

Among the list of countries, some non-sovereign territories and regions like French Polynesia, Martinique, and Guadeloupe also find a place. Moreover, FIFA's acceptance of Palestine and Kosovo, often subjects of geopolitical discourse, reflects a more inclusive stance.

The expanded representation in FIFA, transcending the conventional nation-state paradigm, enriches the global football landscape. By encompassing a broad spectrum of territories and hosting a myriad of tournaments, FIFA not only champions the universal spirit of football but

also fosters a unique confluence of cultures and communities. Through its extensive list of teams and diversified tournaments, FIFA underscores football's unifying essence, transcending geopolitical boundaries and narrating a story of inclusivity and makes it the most popular sport on the planet.

As a bonus, here is a screenshot of what the EA Sports FIFA Game looked like in 1993:

