

The **2022 FIFA World Cup** was the 22nd [FIFA World Cup](#), the world championship for national football teams organized by [FIFA](#). It took place in [Qatar](#) from 20 November to 18 December 2022, after the country was awarded the hosting rights in 2010. It was the first World Cup to be held in the [Arab world](#) and [Muslim world](#), and the second held entirely in Asia after the [2002 tournament](#) in South Korea and Japan.^[A]

This tournament was the last with 32 participating teams, with the number of teams being increased to 48 for the [2026 edition](#). To avoid the extremes of [Qatar's hot climate](#),^[B] the event was held during November and December instead of in the traditional months of May, June, or July.^[C] It was held over a reduced time frame of 29 days with 64 matches played in [eight venues](#) across [five cities](#). [Qatar](#) entered the event—their first World Cup—automatically as the host's national team, alongside 31 teams determined by the [qualification process](#).

[Argentina](#) were crowned the champions after winning [the final](#) against the [title holder France](#) 4–2 on penalties following a 3–3 draw after extra time. It was Argentina's third title and their first since [1986](#), as well as being the first nation from outside of Europe to win the tournament since [2002](#). French player [Kylian Mbappé](#) became the first player to score a [hat-trick](#) in a World Cup final since [Geoff Hurst](#) in the [1966 final](#) and won the [Golden Boot](#) as he scored the most goals (eight) during the tournament. Argentine captain [Lionel Messi](#) was voted the tournament's best player, winning the [Golden Ball](#). The tournament has been considered exceptionally poetic as the [capstone](#) of his career, for some commentators fulfilling a previously unmet criterion to be regarded the greatest player of all time.^[4] Teammates [Emiliano Martínez](#) and [Enzo Fernández](#) won the [Golden Glove](#), awarded to the tournament's best [goalkeeper](#); and the [Young Player Award](#), awarded to the tournament's best young player, respectively. With 172 goals, the tournament set a record for the highest number of goals scored in the 32-team format, with every participating team scoring at least one goal.

The choice to host the World Cup in Qatar [attracted significant criticism](#), with concerns raised over the country's [treatment of migrant workers](#), [women](#) and [members of the LGBT community](#), as well as Qatar's climate, [lack of a strong football culture](#), scheduling changes, and allegations of bribery for hosting rights and [wider FIFA corruption](#).^[D]

Format

The [FIFA World Cup](#) is a professional football tournament held between national football teams, organised by [FIFA](#).^{[13][14]} The tournament, held every four years, was [first played in 1930](#) in Uruguay,^[15] and has been contested by 32 teams since the [1998 event](#).^[15] The tournament was contested with eight [round-robin](#) groups followed by a [knockout round](#) for 16 teams.^[16] The defending champions were [France](#), who defeated [Croatia](#) 4–2 in the [2018 FIFA World Cup Final](#).^{[17][18]} The event was scheduled to take place under a reduced length,^[19] from 20 November to 18 December in Qatar.^{[20][21][22]} Being held in Qatar, it was the first World Cup tournament to be held in the [Arab world](#).^[23] Spectators were not required to follow most [COVID-19 pandemic](#) restrictions such as social distancing, wearing masks, and negative tests.^[24]

Schedule

Unlike previous FIFA World Cups, which are typically played in June and July, because of [Qatar's intense summer heat and often fairly high humidity](#),^{[2][21][25]} the 2022 World Cup was played in November and December.^{[5][26]} As a result, the World Cup was unusually staged in the middle of the seasons of many domestic association football leagues, which started in late July or August, including all of the major European leagues, which had been obliged to incorporate extended breaks into their domestic schedules to accommodate the World Cup. Major European competitions had scheduled their respective competitions group matches to be played before the World Cup, to avoid playing group matches the following year.^[27]

The match schedule was confirmed by FIFA in July 2020.^[28] The group stage was set to begin on 21 November, with four matches every day. Later, the schedule was tweaked by moving the

Qatar vs Ecuador game to 20 November, after Qatar lobbied FIFA to allow their team to open the tournament.^{[29][30][31]} The final was played on 18 December 2022, [National Day](#), at [Lusail Stadium](#).^{[28][32]}

The matches for each group were allocated to the following stadiums:^[32]

- Groups A, B, E, F: [Al Bayt Stadium](#), [Khalifa International Stadium](#), [Al Thumama Stadium](#), [Ahmad bin Ali Stadium](#)
- Groups C, D, G, H: [Lusail Stadium](#), [Stadium 974](#), [Education City Stadium](#), [Al Janoub Stadium](#)

FIFA confirmed the group stage venue and kick-off times on 1 April 2022, following the draw.^{[33][34]}

Prize money

In April 2022, FIFA announced the prizes for all participating nations. Each qualified team received \$1.5 million before the competition to cover preparation costs with each team receiving at least \$9 million in prize money. This edition's total prize pool was \$440 million, \$40 million greater than the prize pool of the [previous tournament](#).^[35]

Place	Teams	Amount (in millions)	
		Per team	Total
Champions	1	\$42	\$42
Runners-up	1	\$30	\$30
Third place	1	\$27	\$27
Fourth place	1	\$25	\$25
5th–8th place (quarter-finals)	4	\$17	\$68
9th–16th place (round of 16)	8	\$13	\$104
17th–32nd place (group stage)	16	\$9	\$144
Total	32	\$440	

Rule changes

The tournament featured new [substitution](#) rules whereby teams could make up to five substitutions in normal time, and an additional substitution in [extra time](#).^{[36][37][38]} In addition, it was the first World Cup to feature [concussion substitutions](#), whereby each team was permitted to use a maximum of one concussion substitute during a match. A concussion substitution did not count towards a team's quota of regular substitutions.^[39] Iranian goalkeeper [Alireza Beiranvand](#) suffered a concussion in [his country's opening match against England](#) and was replaced by [Hossein Hosseini](#). This was the first use of a dedicated concussion substitute during a World Cup.^[40]

Host selection

Main articles: [2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cup bids](#) and [Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup bid](#)

The [bidding procedure to host the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups](#) began in January 2009. National associations had until 2 February 2009 to register interest.^[41] Initially, 11 bids were made for the [2018 FIFA World Cup](#), but Mexico withdrew from proceedings,^{[42][43]} and [Indonesia's bid](#) was rejected by FIFA in February 2010 after the Indonesian Football Association failed to submit a letter of [Indonesian government](#) guarantee to support the bid.^[44]

After [UEFA](#) were guaranteed to host the 2018 event, members of UEFA were no longer in contention to host in 2022.^[45] There were five bids remaining for the 2022 FIFA World Cup: Australia, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, and the United States. The 22-member [FIFA Executive Committee](#) convened in [Zürich](#), Switzerland, on 2 December 2010 to vote to select the hosts of both tournaments.^[46] Two FIFA executive committee members were suspended before the vote in relation to allegations of corruption regarding their votes.^[47] The decision to host the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, which was graded as having "high operational risk",^[48] generated criticism from media commentators.^[49] It was criticised by many as being part of the FIFA corruption scandals,^[50] which led to the [2015 FIFA corruption case](#).

The voting patterns were as follows:^[51]

2022 FIFA bidding (majority 12 votes)				
Bidders	Votes			
	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
Qatar	11	10	11	14
United States	3	5	6	8
South Korea	4	5	5	Eliminated
Japan	3	2	Eliminated	
Australia	1	Eliminated		

Cost of hosting the tournament

At an estimated cost of over \$220 billion,^[52] it is the most expensive World Cup ever held to date; this figure is disputed by Qatari officials, including organising [CEO](#) Nasser Al Khater, who said the true cost was \$8 billion, and other figures related to overall infrastructure development since the World Cup was awarded to Qatar in 2010.^[53]

Venues

Further information: [List of football stadiums in Qatar](#)



Six of the eight venues, such as the venue for the final, [Lusail Stadium](#), were new stadiums built specifically for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The first five proposed venues for the World Cup were unveiled at the beginning of March 2010. Qatar intended that the stadiums should reflect its history and culture, and for the designs to meet the following terms of reference: legacy, comfort, accessibility, and sustainability.^[54] The stadiums were equipped with cooling systems that aim to reduce temperatures within the stadium by up to 20 °C (36 °F).^{[55][56]}

Their marketing included statements describing the stadiums as [zero waste](#), and the upper tiers of the stadiums will be disassembled after the World Cup and donated to countries with less developed sports infrastructure.^{[55][56]} Qatar aspired to be compliant and certified by the [Global Sustainability Assessment System](#) (GSAS) for all the World Cup stadiums. All of the five stadium projects launched were designed by German architect [Albert Speer & Partners](#).^[57] The Al Bayt and Al Wakrah stadiums were the only indoor stadiums of the eight used.^[58]



Some venues, such as the 68,000-seat [Al Bayt Stadium](#), had its upper tier of seating removed to reduce capacity after the tournament.

In an April 2013 report by [Merrill Lynch](#), the organisers in Qatar requested that FIFA approve a smaller number of stadiums due to the growing costs.^[59] [Bloomberg](#) said that Qatar wished to cut the number of venues to eight or nine from the twelve originally planned.^[60] By April 2017, FIFA had yet to finalise the number of stadiums Qatar must have readied in five years' time. Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) said it expected there would be eight in and near [Doha](#), with the exception of Al Khor.^{[61][62]}

Of these eight stadiums, all but one have since been either dismantled, or have been moderately or heavily modified. The [Stadium 974](#) is no longer in use and is slated for dismantled after the tournament—this stadium was the first temporary stadium ever used for a FIFA World Cup.^[63] [Lusail Stadium](#), [Al Bayt Stadium](#), [Ahmad bin Ali Stadium](#), [Education City Stadium](#), [Al](#)

[Thumama Stadium](#) and [Al Janoub Stadium](#) will be moderately or heavily modified as reduce their capacity by half.^[64] The [Khalifa International Stadium](#) is the only largely unmodified stadium that was used for this tournament.

Stadiums



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Venues of the 2022 FIFA World Cup

Al Bayt Stadium	1
Lusail Stadium	2
Ahmad bin Ali Stadium	3
Education City Stadium	4
Khalifa International Stadium	5
Al Thumama Stadium	6
Stadium 974	7
Al Janoub Stadium	8

Qatar		
City	Stadium	Capacity
Al Khor	Al Bayt Stadium	68,895 ^{[65][66][E]}

<u>Qatar</u>		
City	Stadium	Capacity
<u>Lusail</u>	<u>Lusail Stadium</u>	88,966 ^{[67][68][F]}
<u>Al Rayyan</u>	<u>Ahmad bin Ali Stadium</u>	45,032 ^{[69][70][G]}
	<u>Education City Stadium</u>	44,667 ^{[71][72][H]}
	<u>Khalifa International Stadium</u>	45,857 ^{[73][74][I]}
<u>Doha</u>	<u>Al Thumama Stadium</u>	44,400 ^{[75][76][J]}
	<u>Stadium 974</u>	44,089 ^{[77][78][K]}
<u>Al Wakrah</u>	<u>Al Janoub Stadium</u>	44,325 ^{[79][80][L]}

Team base camps

Base camps were used by the 32 national squads to stay and train before and during the World Cup tournament. In July 2022, FIFA announced the hotels and training sites for each participating team.^{[81][82]} This World Cup was the most compact since the inaugural edition [in 1930](#), with 24 of the 32 teams being within a 10 km radius of each other, and are concentrated within the [Doha](#) area. It was the first Cup since 1930 in which players did not need to take flights to matches and could remain at the same training base throughout the entire tournament.^{[83][84]}

Team base camps^{[83][84]} [show](#)

Security

The Qatari government employed about 50,000 security personnel including police departments and military forces from at least thirteen countries, including Poland, Germany, France, Kuwait, Jordan, Italy, Palestine, Spain, Pakistan, Turkey, USA, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom.^[85] The Turkish government provided about 3,000 riot police personnel,^[85] whilst Pakistan provided about 4,500 Army troops to Qatar for the event.^[86]

Teams

Qualification

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup qualification](#)

FIFA's [six continental confederations](#) organised their own [qualifying competitions](#). All 211 [FIFA member associations](#) were eligible to enter qualification. The [Qatari national team](#), as hosts, qualified automatically for the tournament. However, the [Asian Football Confederation](#) (AFC) obliged Qatar to participate in the Asian qualifying stage as the first two rounds also act as [qualification](#) for the [2023 AFC Asian Cup](#).^[87] Since Qatar reached the final stage as winners in their group, [Lebanon](#), the fifth-best second place team, advanced instead.^[88] [France](#), the reigning [World Cup champions](#), qualified for the event through European qualification.^[89]

[Saint Lucia](#) initially entered [CONCACAF qualification](#) but withdrew from it before their first match. [North Korea](#) withdrew from the [AFC qualifying round](#) due to safety concerns related to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). Both [American Samoa](#) and [Samoa](#) withdrew before the [OFC qualification](#) draw due to travel restrictions following the pandemic.^[90] [Tonga](#) withdrew after the [2022 Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai eruption and tsunami](#).^[91] Due to [COVID-19](#) outbreaks in their squads, [Vanuatu](#) and [Cook Islands](#) also withdrew because of the [travel restrictions](#).^{[92][93]}

Of the 32 nations qualified to play at the 2022 FIFA World Cup, 24 countries competed at the previous tournament in 2018.^[94] Qatar were the only team making their debut in the FIFA World Cup, becoming the first hosts to make their tournament debut since [Italy](#) in [1934](#). The [Netherlands](#), [Ecuador](#), [Ghana](#), [Cameroon](#), and the [United States](#) returned to the tournament after missing the 2018 tournament. [Canada](#) returned after 36 years, their only prior appearance being in [1986](#).^[95] [Wales](#) made their first appearance in 64 years—the longest-ever gap for any team, their only previous participation having been in [1958](#).^[96]

[Italy](#), four-time winners and [reigning European champions](#), failed to qualify for a second successive World Cup for the first time in their history, losing in the [qualification play-off semi-finals](#).^[97] The Italians were the only former champions and the highest ranked team in the [FIFA Men's World Rankings](#) that failed to qualify. Italy were also the fourth team to have failed to qualify for the upcoming World Cup after having won the previous [UEFA European Championship](#), following [Czechoslovakia](#) in [1978](#), [Denmark](#) in [1994](#), and [Greece](#) in [2006](#).^[98] The previous World Cup hosts, [Russia](#), were disqualified from competing due to the [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#).^[99]

[Chile](#), the [2015](#) and [2016 Copa América](#) winners, failed to qualify for the second consecutive time. [Nigeria](#) were defeated by Ghana on away goals in [Confederation of African Football](#) (CAF) final playoff round, having qualified for the previous three World Cups and six out of the last seven. [Egypt](#), [Panama](#), [Colombia](#), [Peru](#), [Iceland](#), and [Sweden](#), all of whom qualified for the 2018 World Cup, did not qualify for the 2022 tournament.^[100] [Ghana](#) were the lowest ranked team to qualify, ranked 61st.^[101]

The qualified teams, listed by region, with numbers in parentheses indicating final positions in the [FIFA Men's World Ranking](#) before the tournament were:^[102]

[AFC](#) (6)

-  [Australia](#) (38)
-  [Iran](#) (20)
-  [Japan](#) (24)
-  [Qatar](#) (50)
(hosts)
-  [Saudi Arabia](#) (51)
-  [South Korea](#) (28)

[CAF](#) (5)

[CONCACAF](#) (4)

-  [Canada](#) (41)
-  [Costa Rica](#) (31)
-  [Mexico](#) (13)
-  [United States](#) (16)

[CONMEBOL](#) (4)

-  [Argentina](#) (3)
-  [Brazil](#) (1)
-  [Ecuador](#) (44)
-  [Uruguay](#) (14)

[UEFA](#) (13)

-  [Belgium](#) (2)
-  [Croatia](#) (12)
-  [Denmark](#) (10)
-  [England](#) (5)
-  [France](#) (4)
-  [Germany](#) (11)
-  [Netherlands](#) (8)
-  [Poland](#) (26)
-  [Portugal](#) (9)
-  [Serbia](#) (21)

-  [Cameroon](#) (43) [OFC](#) (0)
-  [Ghana](#) (61)
-  [Morocco](#) (22)
-  [Senegal](#) (18)
-  [Tunisia](#) (30)
- *None qualified*
-  [Spain](#) (7)
-  [Switzerland](#) (15)
-  [Wales](#) (19)

Squads

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup squads](#)

Before submitting their final squad for the tournament, teams named a provisional squad of up to 55 players. Teams were required to have their 55-player roster submitted to FIFA by 21 October.^[103] Teams were required to name their final squads by 13 November.^[104] In August 2022, FIFA increased the final squad size to 26 players from a total of 23 players at the [2018 edition](#).^[105] All teams had a total of 26 players in their final squads except for [France](#) and [Iran](#), who chose 25 players.^{[106][107]}

Draw

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup seeding](#)

The final draw was held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center in [Doha](#), Qatar,^[108] on 1 April 2022,^[109] 19:00 [AST](#), prior to the completion of [qualification](#). The two winners of the [inter-confederation play-offs](#) and the winner of the [Path A of the UEFA play-offs](#) were not known at the time of the draw.^[110] The draw was attended by 2,000 guests and was led by [Carli Lloyd](#), [Jermaine Jenas](#) and sports broadcaster Samantha Johnson, assisted by the likes of [Cafu](#) (Brazil), [Lothar Matthäus](#) (Germany), [Adel Ahmed Malalla](#) (Qatar), [Ali Daei](#) (Iran), [Bora Milutinović](#) (Serbia/Mexico), [Jay-Jay Okocha](#) (Nigeria), [Rabah Madjer](#) (Algeria), and [Tim Cahill](#) (Australia).^{[111][112]}

For the draw, 32 teams were allocated into four pots based on the [FIFA Men's World Rankings](#) of 31 March 2022.^[113] Pot 1 contained host Qatar (who were automatically assigned to position A1) and the best seven teams. Pot 2 contained the next best eight teams, with the next best eight teams into pot 3. Pot 4 contained the five lowest-ranked teams, along with the placeholders for the two inter-confederation play-off winners and the UEFA Path A play-off winner. Teams from the same confederation could not be drawn into the same group except for UEFA teams, for which there was at least one and no more than two per group.^[114]

This principle also applied to the placeholder teams, with constraints applying based on the confederation of both potential winners of each play-off tie. The draw started with pot 1 and ended with pot 4, with each team selected then allocated into the first available group alphabetically. The position for the team within the group would then be drawn (for the purpose of the [match schedule](#)), with the pot 1 teams automatically drawn into position 1 of each group.^[114] The pots for the draw are shown below.^[115]

Draw ^[116]			
Pot 1	Pot 2	Pot 3	Pot 4
 Qatar (51) (<i>hosts</i>)  Brazil (1)  Belgium (2)  France (3)  Argentina (4)	 Mexico (9)  Netherlands (10)  Denmark (11)  Germany (12)  Uruguay (13)	 Senegal (20)  Iran (21)  Japan (23)  Morocco (24)  Serbia (25)	 Cameroon (37)  Canada (38)  Ecuador (46)  Saudi Arabia (49)  Ghana (61)

Draw ^[116]			
Pot 1	Pot 2	Pot 3	Pot 4
 England (5)  Spain (7)  Portugal (8)	 Switzerland (14)  United States (15)  Croatia (16)	 Poland (26)  South Korea (29)  Tunisia (35)	 Wales (18) ^[MI]  Costa Rica (31) ^[NI]  Australia (42) ^[OI]

Officiating

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup officials](#)

In May 2022, FIFA announced the list of 36 referees, 69 assistant referees, and 24 [video assistant referees](#) for the tournament. Of the 36 referees, FIFA included two each from Argentina, Brazil, England, and France.^{[117][118]}

For the first time women referees officiated games at a major men's tournament.^[119] France's [Stéphanie Frappart](#), [Salima Mukansanga](#) from Rwanda, and [Yoshimi Yamashita](#) from Japan became the first female referees to be appointed to a men's World Cup.^[120] Frappart previously oversaw the [2019 FIFA Women's World Cup Final](#).^[121] They were joined by three female assistant referees, Neuza Back, Kathryn Nesbitt, and Karen Díaz Medina. Frappart then officially became the first-ever female referee to officiate a World Cup match when she worked the [Costa Rica vs Germany](#) match in [Group E](#) on 1 December.^[122]

Gambian referee [Bakary Gassama](#) and Argentine assistant referee Juan Pablo Belatti were among the officials to serve at their third World Cup. Belatti was an assistant referee in the [2018 final](#).^{[123][124][125]} Other returning officials included referees [César Arturo Ramos](#) of Mexico and [Janny Sikazwe](#) of Zambia, and Iranian assistant referee [Mohammadreza Mansouri](#).^{[126][127][128]}

On 15 December 2022, FIFA announced that [Polish](#) referee [Szymon Marciniak](#) would adjudicate the final.^[129]

Opening ceremony

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup opening ceremony](#)

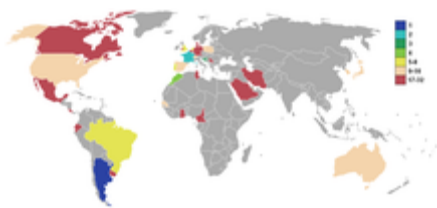
The [opening ceremony](#) took place on Sunday, 20 November 2022 at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, prior to the [opening match of the tournament](#) between hosts Qatar and Ecuador.^[130] It included appearances by [Morgan Freeman](#) and [Ghanim Al-Muftah](#), along with performances by South Korean singer and [BTS](#) member [Jungkook](#) and Qatari singer [Fahad Al Kubaisi](#).^{[131][132]} It was the first time that the [Qur'an](#) had been recited as part of the opening ceremony.^[133]

Group stage

All times are local, [AST](#) ([UTC+3](#)).

The group stage was played from 20 November to 2 December.^[134] Competing countries were divided into eight groups of four teams (groups A to H). Teams in each group played one another in a [round-robin](#), where the top two teams advanced to the [knockout stage](#).

[show](#)Tie-breaking criteria for group play



Result of countries participating in the 2022 FIFA World

Cup

Group A

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup Group A](#)

The first match of the tournament was held between Qatar and Ecuador in Group A. Ecuador had a disallowed goal in the opening minutes,^[136] but eventually won 2–0 with two goals from [Enner Valencia](#).^[137] Qatar became the first host nation to lose their opening match at a World Cup.^{[138][139][140]} Many Qatar natives were seen leaving the game before the end, with [ESPN](#) reporting that two-thirds of the attendance had left.^{[141][142]} The other starting match in group A was won by the Netherlands 2–0 over Senegal. [Cody Gakpo](#) scored the opening goal in the 84th minute and [Davy Klaassen](#) added a second in stoppage time.^[143] Senegal faced Qatar in the third match of the group; [Boulaye Dia](#) capitalised on a slip by [Boualem Khoukhi](#) to put Senegal 1–0 ahead. [Famara Diédhiou](#) scored a second with a header, before [Mohammed Muntari](#) scored Qatar's first-ever goal at a World Cup to reduce the deficit back to one. Senegal eventually won the match 3–1 after an 84th-minute goal by [Bamba Dieng](#). With this result, Qatar became the first team to be eliminated from the tournament, as well as becoming the first host nation to ever be knocked out of the tournament after two games.^[144] Gakpo scored his second goal of the tournament as the Netherlands led Ecuador; however, Valencia scored an equaliser in the 49th minute.^[145] The Netherlands won 2–0 against Qatar following goals by Gakpo and [Frenkie de Jong](#) to win the group, while Qatar attained the distinction of being the first home nation to lose all three group matches.^[146] Senegal faced Ecuador to determine the second knockout round qualifier. At the end of the first half, [Ismaila Sarr](#) scored a penalty kick to put Senegal ahead. In the 67th minute, [Moisés Caicedo](#) scored an equaliser, but shortly after, [Kalidou Koulibaly](#) gave Senegal the victory. The win was enough to qualify Senegal as the runners-up of Group A.^[147]

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v t e 									
1	 Netherlands	3	2	1	0	5	1	+4	7	Advanced to knockout stage
2	 Senegal	3	2	0	1	5	4	+1	6	
3	 Ecuador	3	1	1	1	4	3	+1	4	
4	 Qatar (H)	3	0	0	3	1	7	−6	0	

Source: [FIFA](#)

(H) Hosts

20 November 2022

19:00

[Qatar](#)



0–2

[Report](#)



[Ecuador](#)

- [Valencia](#) 16' (pen.), 31'

[Al Bayt Stadium](#), [Al Khor](#)

Attendance: 67,372

Referee: [Daniele Orsato](#) ([Italy](#))

21 November 2022

19:00

[Senegal](#) 

[0–2](#)

[Report](#)

 [Netherlands](#)

- [Gakpo](#)  84'
- [Klaassen](#)  90+9'

[Al Thumama Stadium, Doha](#)

Attendance: 41,721

Referee: [Wilton Sampaio](#) ([Brazil](#))

25 November 2022

16:00

[Qatar](#) 

[1–3](#)

[Report](#)

 [Senegal](#)

- [Muntari](#)  78'

- [Dia](#)  41'
- [Diédhiou](#)  48'
- [B. Dieng](#)  84'

[Al Thumama Stadium, Doha](#)

Attendance: 41,797

Referee: [Antonio Mateu Lahoz](#) ([Spain](#))

25 November 2022

19:00

[Netherlands](#) 

[1–1](#)

[Report](#)

 [Ecuador](#)

- [Gakpo](#)  6'

- [Valencia](#)  49'

[Khalifa International Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 44,833

Referee: [Mustapha Ghorbal](#) ([Algeria](#))

29 November 2022

18:00



[Ecuador](#) 

[1–2](#)

[Report](#)

 [Senegal](#)

- [Caicedo](#)  67'

- [I. Sarr](#)  44' (pen.)
- [Koulibaly](#)  70'

[Khalifa International Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 44,569

Referee: [Clément Turpin](#) ([France](#))

29 November 2022

18:00

[Netherlands](#) 

[2–0](#)

[Report](#)

 [Qatar](#)

- [Gakpo](#)  26'
- [F. de Jong](#)  49'

[Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor](#)

Attendance: 66,784

Referee: [Bakary Gassama](#) ([Gambia](#))

Group B

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup Group B](#)

England completed a 6–2 victory over Iran. Iranian keeper [Alireza Beiranvand](#) was removed from the game for a suspected [concussion](#) before England scored three first-half goals.^[148] [Mehdi Taremi](#) scored in the second half after which England defender [Harry Maguire](#) was also removed for a concussion.^[149] [Timothy Weah](#), of the United States, scored a first-half goal against Wales; however, the match finished as a draw after a penalty kick was won and scored by [Gareth Bale](#).^[149] Iran defeated Wales 2–0 following a red card to Welsh goalkeeper [Wayne Hennessey](#) after he committed a foul outside of his [penalty area](#). Substitute [Rouzbah](#)

[Cheshmi](#) scored the first goal eight minutes into stoppage time, followed by [Ramin Rezaeian](#) scoring three minutes later.^[150] England and the United States played to a 0–0 draw, with only four shots on target between them, and one shot from Christian Pulisic hit the crossbar.^[151] England won the group following a 3–0 win over Wales with a goal by [Phil Foden](#) and two by [Marcus Rashford](#).^[152] [Christian Pulisic](#) scored the winning goal as the United States defeated Iran 1–0 to qualify for the round of 16.^[153]

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v t e 									
1	 England	3	2	1	0	9	2	+7	7	Advanced to knockout stage
2	 United States	3	1	2	0	2	1	+1	5	
3	 Iran	3	1	0	2	4	7	−3	3	
4	 Wales	3	0	1	2	1	6	−5	1	

Source: [FIFA](#)

21 November 2022
16:00

England  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bellingham  35' • Saka  43', 62' • Sterling  45+1' • Rashford  71' • Grealish  90' 	6–2 Report	Iran  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taremi  65', 90+13' (pen.)
--	--------------------------------------	---

[Khalifa International Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 45,334

Referee: [Raphael Claus](#) ([Brazil](#))

21 November 2022
22:00





United States  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weah  36' 	1–1 Report	Wales  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bale  82' (pen.)
--	--------------------------------------	---

[Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 43,418

Referee: [Abdulrahman Al-Jassim](#) ([Qatar](#))

25 November 2022
13:00

Wales 	0–2 Report	Iran  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheshmi  90+8' • Rezaeian  90+11'
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[Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 40,875

Referee: [Mario Escobar](#) ([Guatemala](#))

25 November 2022
22:00

England 	0–0 Report	United States 
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[Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor](#)

Attendance: 68,463

Referee: [Jesús Valenzuela](#) ([Venezuela](#))

29 November 2022
22:00

[Wales](#) 

[0–3](#)
[Report](#)

 [England](#)

- [Rashford](#)  50', 68'
- [Foden](#)  51'

[Ahmad bin Ali Stadium](#), [Al Rayyan](#)
Attendance: 44,297
Referee: [Slavko Vinčić](#) ([Slovenia](#))

29 November 2022
22:00

[Iran](#) 

[0–1](#)
[Report](#)

 [United States](#)

- [Pulisic](#)  38'

[Al Thumama Stadium](#), [Doha](#)
Attendance: 42,127
Referee: [Antonio Mateu Lahoz](#) ([Spain](#))

Group C

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup Group C](#)

Argentina took an early lead against Saudi Arabia after [Lionel Messi](#) scored a penalty kick after ten minutes; however, second-half goals by [Saleh Al-Shehri](#) and [Salem Al-Dawsari](#) won the match 2–1 for Saudi Arabia,^[154] a result the media considered one of the biggest upsets in the history of the event.^{[155][156]} The match between Mexico and Poland ended as a goalless 0–0 draw after [Guillermo Ochoa](#) saved [Robert Lewandowski](#)'s penalty kick attempt.^[157] Lewandowski scored his first career World Cup goal in a 2–0 win over Saudi Arabia four days later.^{[158][159]} Argentina defeated Mexico 2–0, with Messi scoring the opener and later assisting teammate [Enzo Fernández](#) who scored his first international goal.^{[160][161]} Argentina won their last game against Poland with goals from [Alexis Mac Allister](#) and [Julián Álvarez](#), which was enough to win the group;^[162] Poland qualified for the knockout stage on goal difference, thanks to Saudi Arabia scoring an injury-time consolation goal against Mexico in a match already lost.^[163]

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">vte</div>									
1	 Argentina	3	2	0	1	5	2	+3	6	Advanced to knockout stage
2	 Poland	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4	
3	 Mexico	3	1	1	1	2	3	−1	4	
4	 Saudi Arabia	3	1	0	2	3	5	−2	3	

Source: [FIFA](#)

22 November 2022
13:00

[Argentina](#) 

- [Messi](#)  10' (pen.)

[1–2](#)
[Report](#)

 [Saudi Arabia](#)

- [Al-Shehri](#)  48'
- [S. Al-Dawsari](#)  53'

[Lusail Stadium](#), [Lusail](#)
Attendance: 88,012

Referee: [Slavko Vinčić](#) (Slovenia)

22 November 2022
19:00

[Mexico](#) 

[0–0](#)

 [Poland](#)

[Report](#)

[Stadium 974, Doha](#)

Attendance: 39,369

Referee: [Chris Beath](#) (Australia)

26 November 2022
16:00

[Poland](#) 

[2–0](#)

 [Saudi Arabia](#)

[Report](#)

- [Zieliński](#)  39'
- [Lewandowski](#)  82'

[Education City Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 44,259

Referee: [Wilton Sampaio](#) (Brazil)

26 November 2022
22:00

[Argentina](#) 

[2–0](#)

 [Mexico](#)

[Report](#)

- [Messi](#)  64'
- [Fernández](#)  87'

[Lusail Stadium, Lusail](#)

Attendance: 88,966

Referee: [Daniele Orsato](#) (Italy)



30 November 2022
22:00

[Poland](#) 

[0–2](#)

 [Argentina](#)

[Report](#)

- [Mac Allister](#)  46'
- [Álvarez](#)  67'

[Stadium 974, Doha](#)

Attendance: 44,089

Referee: [Danny Makkellie](#) (Netherlands)

30 November 2022
22:00

[Saudi Arabia](#) 

[1–2](#)

 [Mexico](#)

[Report](#)

- [S. Al-Dawsari](#)  90+5'

- [Martín](#)  47'
- [Chávez](#)  52'

[Lusail Stadium, Lusail](#)

Attendance: 84,985

Referee: [Michael Oliver](#) (England)

Group D

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup Group D](#)

The match between Denmark and Tunisia ended as a goalless draw; both teams had goals disallowed by offside calls.^[164] Danish midfielder [Christian Eriksen](#) made his first major international appearance since suffering a cardiac arrest at the [UEFA Euro 2020](#).^[164] Defending champions France went a goal behind to Australia, after a [Craig Goodwin](#) goal within ten minutes. France, however, scored four goals, by [Adrien Rabiot](#), [Kylian Mbappé](#) and two by [Olivier Giroud](#) to win 4–1.^[165] The goals tied Giroud with [Thierry Henry](#) as France's all-time top

goalscorer.^[165] [Mitchell Duke](#) scored the only goal as Australia won against Tunisia. This was their first World Cup win since 2010.^{[166][167]} Mbappé scored a brace as France defeated Denmark 2–1. This was enough for France to qualify for the knockout round—the first time since Brazil in 2006 that the defending champions progressed through the opening round.^{[166][168]} [Mathew Leckie](#) scored the only goal as Australia defeated Denmark 1–0, qualifying for the knockout round as runners-up with the win.^[169] [Wahbi Khazri](#) scored for Tunisia against France in the 58th minute. Although [Antoine Griezmann](#) equalised in stoppage time it was overturned for offside. Tunisia finished third in the group, as they required a draw in the Denmark and Australia game.^[170]

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	 France	3	2	0	1	6	3	+3	6	Advanced to knockout stage
2	 Australia	3	2	0	1	3	4	−1	6	
3	 Tunisia	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	4	
4	 Denmark	3	0	1	2	1	3	−2	1	

Source: [FIFA](#)

22 November 2022
16:00

[Denmark](#) 

0–0

 [Tunisia](#)

[Report](#)

[Education City Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 42,925

Referee: [César Arturo Ramos](#) ([Mexico](#))

22 November 2022
22:00

[France](#) 

4–1

 [Australia](#)

- [Rabiot](#)  27'
- [Giroud](#)  32', 71'
- [Mbappé](#)  68'

[Report](#)

- [Goodwin](#)  9'

[Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah](#)

Attendance: 40,875

Referee: [Victor Gomes](#) ([South Africa](#))

26 November 2022
13:00

[Tunisia](#) 

0–1

 [Australia](#)

[Report](#)

- [Duke](#)  23'

[Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah](#)

Attendance: 41,823

Referee: [Daniel Siebert](#) ([Germany](#))

26 November 2022
19:00

[France](#) 

2–1

 [Denmark](#)

- [Mbappé](#)  61', 86'

[Report](#)

- [A. Christensen](#)  68'

[Stadium 974, Doha](#)

Attendance: 42,860

Referee: [Szymon Marciniak](#) (Poland)

30 November 2022
18:00

[Australia](#) 

[1–0](#)

 [Denmark](#)

- [Leckie](#)  60'

[Report](#)

[Al Janoub Stadium](#), [Al Wakrah](#)

Attendance: 41,232

Referee: [Mustapha Ghorbal](#) (Algeria)

30 November 2022
18:00

[Tunisia](#) 

[1–0](#)

 [France](#)

- [Khazri](#)  58'

[Report](#)

[Education City Stadium](#), [Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 43,627

Referee: [Matthew Conger](#) (New Zealand)

Group E

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup Group E](#)

Group E began with Japan facing [2014 champions](#) Germany. After an early penalty kick was converted by Germany's [İlkay Gündoğan](#), Japan scored two second-half goals by [Ritsu Dōan](#) and [Takuma Asano](#) in a 2–1 win.^[171] In the second group match, Spain defeated Costa Rica 7–0. First-half goals by [Dani Olmo](#), [Marco Asensio](#), and [Ferran Torres](#) were followed by goals by [Gavi](#), [Carlos Soler](#), [Alvaro Morata](#), and a second by Torres.^{[172][173]} This was the largest defeat in a World Cup since Portugal's victory over North Korea in the [2010 event](#) by the same scoreline.^[174] Costa Rica defeated Japan 1–0, with [Keysher Fuller](#) scoring with Costa Rica's first shot on target of the tournament.^[175] Germany and Spain drew 1–1, with [Alvaro Morata](#) scoring for Spain and [Niclas Füllkrug](#) scoring for Germany.^{[176][177][178]} Morata scored the opening goal for Spain against Japan as they controlled the first half of the match.^[179] Japan equalised on [Ritsu Dōan](#) before a second goal by [Ao Tanaka](#) was heavily investigated by VAR for the ball potentially being out of play. The goal was awarded, and Japan won the group following a 2–1 win.^[179] [Serge Gnabry](#) scored on ten minutes for Germany against Costa Rica and they led until half-time. Germany required a win, and for Japan to not win their match, or for both teams to win their matches by a combined goal difference of at least 9 goals, to qualify. In the second half, goals by [Yeltsin Tejeda](#) and [Juan Vargas](#) gave Costa Rica a 2–1 lead, which would have qualified them into the knockout stages ahead of Spain. Germany scored three further goals—two by [Kai Havertz](#) and a goal by [Niclas Fullkrug](#), ending in a 4–2 win for Germany—which was not enough to qualify them for the final stages. This was the second time in a row that the four-time champions failed to progress past the group stages.^[180] Japan won the group ahead of Spain.^[181]

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">vte</div>									
1	 Japan	3	2	0	1	4	3	+1	6	Advanced to knockout stage
2	 Spain	3	1	1	1	9	3	+6	4	
3	 Germany	3	1	1	1	6	5	+1	4	
4	 Costa Rica	3	1	0	2	3	11	−8	3	

Source: [FIFA](#)

23 November 2022
16:00

- [Germany](#) 
- [Gündoğan](#)  33' (pen.)

[1–2](#)
[Report](#)

-  [Japan](#)
- [Dōan](#)  75'
 - [Asano](#)  83'

[Khalifa International Stadium](#), [Al Rayyan](#)
Attendance: 42,608
Referee: [Iván Barton](#) ([El Salvador](#))

23 November 2022
19:00

- [Spain](#) 
- [Olmo](#)  11'
 - [Asensio](#)  21'
 - [F. Torres](#)  31' (pen.), 54'
 - [Gavi](#)  74'
 - [Soler](#)  90'
 - [Morata](#)  90+2'

[7–0](#)
[Report](#)

 [Costa Rica](#)

[Al Thumama Stadium](#), [Doha](#)
Attendance: 40,013
Referee: [Mohammed Abdulla Hassan Mohamed](#) ([United Arab Emirates](#))

27 November 2022
13:00

[Japan](#) 

[0–1](#)
[Report](#)

 [Costa Rica](#)

- [Fuller](#)  81'

[Ahmad bin Ali Stadium](#), [Al Rayyan](#)
Attendance: 41,479
Referee: [Michael Oliver](#) ([England](#))

27 November 2022
22:00

- [Spain](#) 
- [Morata](#)  62'

[1–1](#)
[Report](#)

 [Germany](#)

- [Füllkrug](#)  83'

[Al Bayt Stadium](#), [Al Khor](#)
Attendance: 68,895
Referee: [Danny Makkellie](#) ([Netherlands](#))

1 December 2022
22:00

- [Japan](#) 
- [Dōan](#)  48'
 - [Tanaka](#)  51'


[2–1](#)
[Report](#)

 [Spain](#)

- [Morata](#)  11'

[Khalifa International Stadium](#), [Al Rayyan](#)
Attendance: 44,851
Referee: [Victor Gomes](#) ([South Africa](#))

1 December 2022
22:00

- [Costa Rica](#) 
- [Tejeda](#)  58'
 - [Vargas](#)  70'

[2–4](#)
[Report](#)

 [Germany](#)

- [Gnabry](#)  10'
- [Havertz](#)  73', 85'
- [Füllkrug](#)  89'

Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor
Attendance: 67,054
Referee: [Stéphanie Frappart](#) ([France](#))

Group F

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup Group F](#)

Group F's first match was a goalless draw between Morocco and Croatia.^[182] Canada had a penalty kick in the first half of their match against Belgium which was saved by [Thibaut Courtois](#). Belgium won the match by a single goal by [Michy Batshuayi](#).^{[183][184]} Belgium lost 2–0 to Morocco, despite Morocco having a long-range [direct free kick goal](#) by [Hakim Ziyech](#) overturned for an offside on another player in the lead up to the goal. Two second-half goals from [Zakaria Aboukhlal](#) and [Romain Saïss](#) helped the Morocco win their first World Cup match since 1998.^{[185][186]} The match sparked riots in Belgium, with fires and fireworks being set off by residents.^[187] [Alphonso Davies](#) scored Canada's first World Cup goal to give Canada the lead over Croatia. Goals by [Marko Livaja](#), [Lovro Majer](#), and two by [Andrej Kramarić](#) for Croatia completed a 4–1 victory.^[188] Morocco scored two early goals through [Hakim Ziyech](#) and [Youssef En-Nesyri](#) in their game against Canada and qualified following a 2–1 victory. Canada's only goal was an [own goal](#) by [Nayef Aguerd](#).^[189] Croatia and Belgium played a goalless draw which eliminated Belgium, whose team was ranked second in the world, from the tournament.^[190]

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
	<div><div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div>v</div><div>t</div><div>e</div></div></div>									
1	 Morocco	3	2	1	0	4	1	+3	7	Advanced to knockout stage
2	 Croatia	3	1	2	0	4	1	+3	5	
3	 Belgium	3	1	1	1	1	2	−1	4	
4	 Canada	3	0	0	3	2	7	−5	0	

Source: [FIFA](#)

23 November 2022
13:00

[Morocco](#)

0–0

 [Croatia](#)

[Report](#)

[Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor](#)
Attendance: 59,407
Referee: [Fernando Rapallini](#) ([Argentina](#))

23 November 2022
22:00

[Belgium](#)

1–0

 [Canada](#)

Batshuayi



44'

[Report](#)

[Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)
Attendance: 40,432
Referee: [Janny Sikazwe](#) ([Zambia](#))

27 November 2022
16:00

[Belgium](#)

0–2

 [Morocco](#)

Saïss



73'

Aboukhlal



90+2'

[Report](#)

[Al Thumama Stadium, Doha](#)

Attendance: 43,738

Referee: [César Arturo Ramos](#) (Mexico)

27 November 2022

19:00

- [Croatia](#) 

- [Kramarić](#)  36', 70'
 - [Livaja](#)  44'
 - [Majer](#)  90+4'
- [4–1](#)

[Report](#)
-  [Canada](#)

- [Davies](#)  2'

[Khalifa International Stadium](#), [Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 44,374

Referee: [Andrés Matonte](#) (Uruguay)

1 December 2022

18:00

- [Croatia](#) 

[0–0](#)

[Report](#)
-  [Belgium](#)
- [Canada](#) 

[1–2](#)

[Report](#)
-  [Morocco](#)

- [Ziyech](#)  4'
 - [En-Nesyri](#)  23'

[Al Thumama Stadium](#), [Doha](#)

Attendance: 43,102

Referee: [Raphael Claus](#) (Brazil)



1 December 2022



18:00

Group G

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup Group G](#)

[Breel Embolo](#) scored the only goal in Switzerland's 1–0 defeat of Cameroon.^[191] [Richarlison](#) scored two goals as Brazil won against Serbia, with star player [Neymar](#) receiving an ankle injury.^[192] Cameroon's [Jean-Charles Castelletto](#) scored the opening goal against Serbia, but they were quickly behind as Serbia scored three goals by [Strahinja Pavlović](#), [Sergej Milinković-Savić](#), and [Aleksandar Mitrović](#) either side of half time. Cameroon, however, scored goals through [Vincent Aboubakar](#) and [Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting](#), completing a 3–3 draw.^[193] An 83rd-minute winner by [Casemiro](#) for Brazil over Switzerland was enough for them to qualify for the knockout stage.^[194] Having already qualified, Brazil were unable to win their final group game, as they were defeated by Cameroon 1–0 following a goal by [Vincent Aboubakar](#). Already having a [yellow card](#), he was later sent off for removing his shirt in celebrating the goal.^[195] Cameroon, however, did not qualify, as Switzerland defeated Serbia 3–2.^[196]

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• v• t• e</div>									
1	 Brazil	3	2	0	1	3	1	+2	6	Advanced to knockout stage
2	 Switzerland	3	2	0	1	4	3	+1	6	

3	 Cameroon	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4	
4	 Serbia	3	0	1	2	5	8	-3	1	

Source: [FIFA](#)

24 November 2022
13:00

[Switzerland](#) 
• [Embolo](#)  48'

[1-0](#)
[Report](#)

 [Cameroon](#)

[Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah](#)

Attendance: 39,089

Referee: [Facundo Tello](#) (Argentina)

24 November 2022
22:00

[Brazil](#) 
• [Richarlison](#)  62', 73'

[2-0](#)
[Report](#)



 [Serbia](#)

[Lusail Stadium, Lusail](#)

Attendance: 88,103

Referee: [Alireza Faghani](#) (Iran)

28 November 2022
13:00

[Cameroon](#) 
• [Castelletto](#)  29'
• [Aboubakar](#)  63'
• [Choupo-Moting](#)  66'

[3-3](#)
[Report](#)

 [Serbia](#)
• [Pavlović](#)  45+1'
• [S. Milinković-Savić](#)  45+3'
• [A. Mitrović](#)  53'

[Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah](#)

Attendance: 39,789

Referee: [Mohammed Abdulla Hassan Mohamed](#) (United Arab Emirates)

28 November 2022
19:00

[Brazil](#) 
• [Casemiro](#)  83'

[1-0](#)
[Report](#)




 [Switzerland](#)

[Stadium 974, Doha](#)

Attendance: 43,649

Referee: [Iván Barton](#) (El Salvador)

2 December 2022
22:00

[Serbia](#) 
• [A. Mitrović](#)  26'
• [Vlahović](#)  35'

[2-3](#)
[Report](#)



 [Switzerland](#)
• [Shaqiri](#)  20'
• [Embolo](#)  44'
• [Freuler](#)  48'

[Stadium 974, Doha](#)

Attendance: 41,378

Referee: [Fernando Rapallini](#) (Argentina)

2 December 2022
22:00

[Cameroon](#) 
• [Aboubakar](#)  90+2'

[1-0](#)
[Report](#)

 [Brazil](#)

[Lusail Stadium](#), [Lusail](#)

Attendance: 85,986

Referee: [Ismail Elfath](#) ([United States](#))

Group H

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup Group H](#)

Uruguay and South Korea played to a goalless draw.^[197] A goalless first half between Portugal and Ghana preceded a penalty converted by [Cristiano Ronaldo](#) to give Portugal the lead. In scoring the goal, Ronaldo became the first man to score in five World Cups. Ghana responded with a goal by [André Ayew](#) before goals by [João Félix](#), and [Rafael Leão](#) by Portugal put them 3–1 ahead. [Osman Bukari](#) scored in the 89th minute to trail by a single goal, while [Iñaki Williams](#) had a chance to equalise for Ghana ten minutes into stoppage time, but slipped before shooting. The match finished 3–2 to Portugal.^[198] Ghanaian [Mohammed Salisu](#) opened the scoring against South Korea, with [Mohammed Kudus](#) following it up. In the second half, [Cho Gue-sung](#) scored a brace for South Korea, levelling the score. Mohammed Kudus scored again in the 68th minute, winning the match 3–2 for Ghana.^[199] Portugal defeated Uruguay 2–0 with two goals from [Bruno Fernandes](#), advancing them to the knockout stage.^[200] A controversial penalty decision was called late in the game, with a suspected handball from [José María Giménez](#).^{[201][202]} Portugal led South Korea through [Ricardo Horta](#) after 10 minutes. However, goals by [Kim Young-gwon](#) and [Hwang Hee-chan](#) won the match 2–1 for South Korea.^[203] [Giorgian de Arrascaeta](#) scored two goals as Uruguay defeated Ghana 2–0.^[204] However, with South Korea winning, Uruguay required another goal to progress as they finished third on goals scored.^[205] Several Uruguay players left the pitch after the game surrounding the referees and followed them off the pitch.^{[206][207][208]}

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">vte</div>									
1	 Portugal	3	2	0	1	6	4	+2	6	Advanced to knockout stage
2	 South Korea	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4	
3	 Uruguay	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4	
4	 Ghana	3	1	0	2	5	7	−2	3	

Source: [FIFA](#)

24 November 2022
16:00

[Uruguay](#) 

0–0

 [South Korea](#)

[Report](#)

[Education City Stadium](#), [Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 41,663




Referee: [Clément Turpin](#) ([France](#))

24 November 2022
19:00



[Portugal](#) 

3–2

 [Ghana](#)

- [Ronaldo](#)  65' (pen.)
- [Félix](#)  78'
- [Leão](#)  80'

[Report](#)

- [A. Ayew](#)  73'
- [Bukari](#)  89'

[Stadium 974](#), [Doha](#)

Attendance: 42,662

Referee: [Ismail Elfath](#) ([United States](#))

28 November 2022

16:00

[South Korea](#) 

- [Cho Gue-sung](#)  58', 61'

[2–3](#)

[Report](#)

 [Ghana](#)

- [Salisu](#)  24'
- [Kudus](#)  34', 68'

[Education City Stadium](#), [Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 43,983

Referee: [Anthony Taylor](#) ([England](#))

28 November 2022

22:00

[Portugal](#) 

- [Fernandes](#)  54', 90+3' ([pen.](#))

[2–0](#)

[Report](#)

 [Uruguay](#)

[Lusail Stadium](#), [Lusail](#)

Attendance: 88,668

Referee: [Alireza Faghani](#) ([Iran](#))

2 December 2022

18:00

[Ghana](#) 

[0–2](#)

[Report](#)

 [Uruguay](#)

- [De Arrascaeta](#)  26', 32'

[Al Janoub Stadium](#), [Al Wakrah](#)

Attendance: 43,443

Referee: [Daniel Siebert](#) ([Germany](#))

2 December 2022

18:00

[South Korea](#) 

- [Kim Young-gwon](#)  27'
- [Hwang Hee-chan](#)  90+1'

[2–1](#)

[Report](#)

 [Portugal](#)

- [Horta](#)  5'

[Education City Stadium](#), [Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 44,097

Referee: [Facundo Tello](#) ([Argentina](#))

Knockout stage

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup knockout stage](#)

In the knockout stage, if the scores were equal when normal playing time expired, [extra time](#) was played for two periods of 15 minutes each. This was followed, if required, by a [penalty shoot-out](#) to determine the winners.^[135]

All times are local, [AST](#) ([UTC+3](#)).

Bracket

[Round of 16](#)

[Quarter-finals](#)


[Semi-finals](#)

[Final](#)

3 December – [Al Rayyan](#)
[\(Khalifa\)](#)


 Netherlands	3
---	---

9 December – [Lusail](#)

 United States	1
---	---

 Netherlands	2 (3)
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3 December – [Al Rayyan](#)
[\(Ahmad bin Ali\)](#)

 Argentina	2
--	---


 Argentina (p)	2 (4)
---	----------

13 December
– [Lusail](#)

 Australia	1
---	---

 Argentina	3
---	---


5 December – [Al Wakrah](#)

 Japan	1 (1)
---	----------


 Croatia	0
---	---


9 December – [Al Rayyan](#)
[\(Education\)](#)

 Croatia (p)	1 (3)
---	----------

 Croatia (p)	1 (4)
---	----------


5 December – [Doha](#)
(974)


 Brazil	4
--	---

 South Korea	1
---	---


 Brazil	1 (2)
--	----------

4 December – [Al Khor](#)


 England	3
---	---


 Senegal	0
---	---

10 December – [Al Khor](#)

 England	1
---	---


4 December – [Doha \(Al Thumama\)](#)


 France	3
--	---

 Poland	1
--	---

 France	2
--	---










18 December – [Lusail](#)

 Argentina (p)	3 (4)
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 France	3 (2)
--	----------

14 December – [Al Khor](#)

 France	2
--	---

6 December – Al Rayyan (Education)				
<div> <div> Morocco (p)</div> <div>0 (3)</div> </div>			<div> <div> Morocco</div> <div>0</div> </div>	<div> <div>Third place play-off</div> </div>
<div> <div> Spain</div> <div>0 (0)</div> </div>	10 December – Doha (Al Thumama)			17 December – Al Rayyan (Khalifa)
	<div> <div> Morocco</div> <div>1</div> </div>			<div> <div> Croatia</div> <div>2</div> </div>
6 December – Lusail				
<div> <div> Portugal</div> <div>6</div> </div>	<div> <div> Portugal</div> <div>0</div> </div>		<div> <div> Morocco</div> <div>1</div> </div>	
<div> <div> Switzerland</div> <div>1</div> </div>				

Round of 16

The round of 16 was played from 3 to 7 December,^[32] which for the first time ever included teams from [the Americas and four other continents](#).^[209] Group A winners Netherlands scored goals through [Memphis Depay](#), [Daley Blind](#), and [Denzel Dumfries](#) as they defeated the United States 3–1, with [Haji Wright](#) scoring for the United States.^[210] Messi scored his third of the tournament alongside [Julián Álvarez](#) to give Argentina a two-goal lead over Australia, and despite an Enzo Fernández own goal from a [Craig Goodwin](#) shot, Argentina won 2–1.^[211] [Olivier Giroud](#)'s goal and Mbappé's brace enabled France to have a 3–1 victory over Poland, with [Robert Lewandowski](#) scoring the lone goal for Poland from a penalty.^[212] England beat Senegal 3–0, with goals coming from [Jordan Henderson](#), [Harry Kane](#), and [Bukayo Saka](#).^[213] [Daizen Maeda](#) scored for Japan against Croatia in the first half before a leveller from [Ivan Perišić](#) in the second. Neither team could find the winner, with Croatia defeating Japan 3–1 in a [penalty shoot-out](#).^[214] [Vinícius Júnior](#), [Neymar](#), [Richarlison](#), and [Lucas Paquetá](#) all scored for Brazil, but a volley from South Korean [Paik Seung-ho](#) reduced the deficit to 4–1.^[215] [Pablo Sarabia](#) had the best chance for Spain to break the deadlock against Morocco in stoppage time after two goalless hours, but he hit the goalie's right-hand post after a shot from the left; Morocco won the match 3–0 on penalties.^[216] A [hat-trick](#) by [Gonçalo Ramos](#) led Portugal to defeat Switzerland 6–1, with goals from Portugal's [Pepe](#), [Raphaël Guerreiro](#), and [Rafael Leão](#) and from Switzerland's [Manuel Akanji](#).^[217]

18:00

Netherlands 
• [Depay](#)  10'
• [Blind](#)  45+1'
• [Dumfries](#)  81'

3–1
[Report](#)

 **United States**
• [Wright](#)  76'

[Khalifa International Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 44,846

Referee: [Wilton Sampaio](#) (Brazil)

3 December 2022

22:00

Argentina 
• [Messi](#)  35'
• [Álvarez](#)  57'

2–1
[Report](#)

 **Australia**
• [Fernández](#)  77' (o.g.)

[Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 45,032

Referee: [Szymon Marciniak](#) (Poland)

4 December 2022

18:00

France 
• [Giroud](#)  44'
• [Mbappé](#)  74', 90+1'

3–1
[Report](#)

 **Poland**
• [Lewandowski](#)  90+9' (pen.)

[Al Thumama Stadium, Doha](#)

Attendance: 40,989

Referee: [Jesús Valenzuela](#) (Venezuela)

4 December 2022

22:00

England 
• [Henderson](#)  38'
• [Kane](#)  45+3'
• [Saka](#)  57'

3–0
[Report](#)

 **Senegal**

[Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor](#)

Attendance: 65,985

Referee: [Iván Barton](#) (El Salvador)

5 December 2022

18:00

Japan 
• [Maeda](#)  43'
• [Minamino](#) 
• [Mitoma](#) 
• [Asano](#) 
• [Yoshida](#) 

1–1 (a.e.t.)
[Report](#)
Penalties

1–3

 **Croatia**
• [Perišić](#)  55'
•  [Vlašić](#)
•  [Brozović](#)
•  [Livaja](#)
•  [Pašalić](#)

[Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah](#)

Attendance: 42,523

Referee: [Ismail Elfath](#) (United States)

5 December 2022
22:00

<u>Brazil</u> 	<u>4–1</u> Report	 <u>South Korea</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vinícius Júnior  7'• Neymar  13' (pen.)• Richarlison  29'• Paquetá  36'		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paik Seung-ho  76'

[Stadium 974, Doha](#)
Attendance: 43,847
Referee: [Clément Turpin](#) ([France](#))

6 December 2022
18:00

<u>Morocco</u> 	<u>0–0 (a.e.t.)</u> Report Penalties 3–0	 <u>Spain</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sabiri • Ziyech • Benoun • Hakimi 		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•  Sarabia•  Soler•  Busquets

[Education City Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)
Attendance: 44,667
Referee: [Fernando Rapallini](#) ([Argentina](#))

6 December 2022
22:00

<u>Portugal</u> 	<u>6–1</u> Report	 <u>Switzerland</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ramos  17', 51', 67'<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pepe  33'• Guerreiro  55'• Leão  90+2'		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Akanji  58'












[Lusail Stadium, Lusail](#)
Attendance: 83,720
Referee: [César Arturo Ramos](#) ([Mexico](#))

Quarter-finals

The quarter-finals were played on 9 and 10 December.^[32] Croatia and Brazil ended 0–0 after 90 minutes and went to extra time. Neymar scored for Brazil in the 15th minute of extra time. Croatia, however, equalised through [Bruno Petković](#) in the second period of extra time. With the match tied, a penalty shootout decided the contest, with Croatia winning the shootout 4–2.^{[218][219]} In the second quarter-final match, [Nahuel Molina](#) and Messi scored for Argentina before [Wout Weghorst](#) equalised with two goals shortly before the end of the game. The match went to extra time and then penalties, where Argentina would go on to win 4–3.^[220] Morocco defeated Portugal 1–0, with [Youssef En-Nesyri](#) scoring at the end of the first half. Morocco became the first African and the first Arab nation to advance as far as the semi-finals of the competition.^[221] Despite [Harry Kane](#) scoring a penalty for England, it was not enough to beat France, who won 2–1 by virtue of goals from [Aurélien Tchouaméni](#) and [Olivier Giroud](#) and a late missed penalty by Kane, sending them to their second consecutive World Cup semi-final and becoming the first defending champions to reach this stage since Brazil in 1998.^{[222][223]}

9 December 2022

18:00

<u>Croatia</u> 	<u>1–1 (a.e.t.)</u>	 <u>Brazil</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Petković</u>  117'	<u>Report</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Neymar</u>  105+1'
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Vlašić</u> • <u>Majer</u> • <u>Modrić</u> • <u>Oršić</u> 	<u>Penalties</u> 4–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•  <u>Rodrygo</u>•  <u>Casemiro</u>•  <u>Pedro</u>•  <u>Marquinhos</u>

[Education City Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)
Attendance: 43,893
Referee: [Michael Oliver](#) ([England](#))

Main article: [Battle of Lusail](#)

9 December 2022
22:00

<u>Netherlands</u> 	<u>2–2 (a.e.t.)</u>	 <u>Argentina</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Weghorst</u>  83', 90+11'	<u>Report</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Molina</u>  35'• <u>Messi</u>  73' (pen.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Van Dijk</u> • <u>Berghuis</u> • <u>Koopmeiners</u> • <u>Weghorst</u> • <u>L. de Jong</u> 	<u>Penalties</u> 3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•  <u>Messi</u>•  <u>Paredes</u>•  <u>Montiel</u>•  <u>Fernández</u>•  <u>La. Martínez</u>

[Lusail Stadium, Lusail](#)
Attendance: 88,235
Referee: [Antonio Mateu Lahoz](#) ([Spain](#))

10 December 2022
18:00

<u>Morocco</u> 	<u>1–0</u>	 <u>Portugal</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>En-Nesyri</u>  42'	<u>Report</u>	

[Al Thumama Stadium, Doha](#)
Attendance: 44,198
Referee: [Facundo Tello](#) ([Argentina](#))

10 December 2022
22:00

<u>England</u> 	<u>1–2</u>	 <u>France</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Kane</u>  54' (pen.)	<u>Report</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Tchouaméni</u>  17'• <u>Giroud</u>  78'

[Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor](#)
Attendance: 68,895
Referee: [Wilton Sampaio](#) ([Brazil](#))

Semi-finals

The semi-finals were played on 13 and 14 December.^[32] Messi scored a penalty kick before [Julián Álvarez](#) scored twice to give Argentina a 3–0 victory over Croatia.^[224] [Théo Hernandez](#) scored after five minutes as France led Morocco for most of the game. [Randal Kolo Muani](#) scored in the

78th minute to complete a 2–0 victory for France over Morocco as they reached their second consecutive final.^[225]

13 December 2022
22:00

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <u>Argentina</u>  | <u>3–0</u> |  <u>Croatia</u> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Messi</u>  34' (pen.)• <u>Álvarez</u>  39', 69' | <u>Report</u> | |

[Lusail Stadium, Lusail](#)

Attendance: 88,966

Referee: [Daniele Orsato](#) (Italy)

14 December 2022
22:00

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| <u>France</u>  | <u>2–0</u> |  <u>Morocco</u> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>T. Hernandez</u>  5'• <u>Kolo Muani</u>  79' | <u>Report</u> | |

[Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor](#)

Attendance: 68,294

Referee: [César Arturo Ramos](#) (Mexico)

Third place play-off

The third place play-off was played on 17 December. The two teams had played against each other in their [opening game in Group F](#) which finished 0–0. [Joško Gvardiol](#) promptly scored for Croatia, with [Achraf Dari](#) equalising just 2 minutes later. [Mislav Oršić](#) scored the winner for Croatia as the match finished 2–1.^[226] Morocco earned 4th place, a record for the team and the best World Cup finish of any African or Arab nation.^[227]

17 December 2022
18:00

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <u>Croatia</u>  | <u>2–1</u> |  <u>Morocco</u> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Gvardiol</u>  7'• <u>Oršić</u>  42' | <u>Report</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Dari</u>  9' |

[Khalifa International Stadium, Al Rayyan](#)

Attendance: 44,137

Referee: [Abdulrahman Al-Jassim](#) (Qatar)














Final

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup final](#)

The final was played on 18 December between Argentina and France. Both teams had won the event twice previously.^[228] Early goals from Lionel Messi and [Ángel Di María](#) gave Argentina, leading 2–0, a head start against the French.^{[228][229]} Despite substitutions in the first half, France did not record a shot until after the 70th minute but were energised by additional substitutions in the 71st. A few minutes later, France were awarded a penalty as [Randal Kolo Muani](#) was brought down in the penalty area by [Nicolás Otamendi](#). Mbappé scored the penalty and added a second goal less than two minutes later to equalise the scores.^[229] With the score tied at two goals apiece, the match went to extra time. Messi scored his second goal in the 108th minute, once again giving Argentina the lead. However, Mbappé was awarded a second penalty in the 115th minute after his shot hit the arm of [Gonzalo Montiel](#). Mbappé scored his third goal, becoming the second player ever to complete a [hat-trick](#) in the final of a World Cup after [Geoff Hurst](#) for England in [1966](#).^[229] With the score tied at 3–3, the match was determined via a penalty shootout. Argentina won the final after scoring all of their penalties, winning 4–2.^[229] This marked their third World Cup win and their first since [1986](#).^[229]

18 December 2022

18:00

Argentina 		3–3 (a.e.t.)	 France
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Messi  23' (pen.), 108'<ul style="list-style-type: none">Di María  36'		Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mbappé  80' (pen.), 81', 118' (pen.)
Penalties		4–2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Messi Dybala Paredes Montiel 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mbappé Coman Tchouaméni Kolo Muani

[Lusail Stadium, Lusail](#)

Attendance: 88,966

Referee: [Szymon Marciniak](#) (Poland)

Statistics

See also: [FIFA World Cup records and statistics](#)

Goalscorers

Note: Goals scored in penalty shoot-outs are not counted towards players' goal counts or to match goal counts.

There were 172 goals scored in 64 matches, for an average of 2.69 goals per match.

This was the most goals scored at a World Cup. ^[230]

8 goals

-  [Kylian Mbappé](#)

7 goals

-  [Lionel Messi](#)

4 goals

-  [Julián Álvarez](#)
-  [Olivier Giroud](#)

3 goals

-  [Richarlison](#)
-  [Enner Valencia](#)
-  [Marcus Rashford](#)
-  [Bukayo Saka](#)
-  [Cody Gakpo](#)
-  [Gonçalo Ramos](#)
-  [Álvaro Morata](#)

2 goals











-  [Neymar](#)
-  [Vincent Aboubakar](#)
-  [Andrej Kramarić](#)
-  [Harry Kane](#)
-  [Niclas Füllkrug](#)

-  [Kai Havertz](#)
-  [Mohammed Kudus](#)
-  [Mehdi Taremi](#)
-  [Ritsu Dōan](#)
-  [Youssef En-Nesyri](#)
-  [Wout Weghorst](#)
-  [Robert Lewandowski](#)
-  [Bruno Fernandes](#)
-  [Rafael Leão](#)
-  [Salem Al-Dawsari](#)
-  [Aleksandar Mitrović](#)
-  [Cho Gue-sung](#)
-  [Ferran Torres](#)
-  [Breel Embolo](#)
-  [Giorgian de Arrascaeta](#)



1 goal

-  [Ángel Di María](#)
-  [Enzo Fernández](#)
-  [Alexis Mac Allister](#)
-  [Nahuel Molina](#)
-  [Mitchell Duke](#)
-  [Craig Goodwin](#)
-  [Mathew Leckie](#)
-  [Michy Batshuayi](#)
-  [Casemiro](#)
-  [Lucas Paquetá](#)
-  [Vinícius Júnior](#)
-  [Jean-Charles Castelletto](#)
-  [Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting](#)
-  [Alphonso Davies](#)
-  [Keysher Fuller](#)
-  [Yeltsin Tejeda](#)
-  [Juan Pablo Vargas](#)
-  [Joško Gvardiol](#)
-  [Marko Livaja](#)
-  [Lovro Majer](#)
-  [Mislav Oršić](#)
-  [Ivan Perišić](#)
-  [Bruno Petković](#)
-  [Andreas Christensen](#)
-  [Moisés Caicedo](#)
-  [Jude Bellingham](#)
-  [Phil Foden](#)
-  [Jack Grealish](#)
-  [Jordan Henderson](#)
-  [Raheem Sterling](#)

-  [Théo Hernandez](#)
-  [Randal Kolo Muani](#)
-  [Adrien Rabiot](#)
-  [Aurélien Tchouaméni](#)
-  [Serge Gnabry](#)
-  [İlkay Gündoğan](#)
-  [André Ayew](#)
-  [Osman Bukari](#)
-  [Mohammed Salisu](#)
-  [Rouzbeh Cheshmi](#)
-  [Ramin Rezaeian](#)
-  [Takuma Asano](#)
-  [Daizen Maeda](#)
-  [Ao Tanaka](#)
-  [Luis Chávez](#)
-  [Henry Martín](#)
-  [Zakaria Aboukhlal](#)
-  [Achraf Dari](#)
-  [Romain Saïss](#)
-  [Hakim Ziyech](#)
-  [Daley Blind](#)
-  [Memphis Depay](#)
-  [Denzel Dumfries](#)
-  [Frenkie de Jong](#)
-  [Davy Klaassen](#)
-  [Piotr Zieliński](#)
-  [João Félix](#)
-  [Raphaël Guerreiro](#)
-  [Ricardo Horta](#)
-  [Pepe](#)
-  [Cristiano Ronaldo](#)
-  [Mohammed Muntari](#)
-  [Saleh Al-Shehri](#)
-  [Boulaye Dia](#)
-  [Famara Diédhiou](#)
-  [Bamba Dieng](#)
-  [Kalidou Koulibaly](#)
-  [Ismaïla Sarr](#)
-  [Sergej Milinković-Savić](#)
-  [Strahinja Pavlović](#)
-  [Dušan Vlahović](#)
-  [Hwang Hee-chan](#)
-  [Kim Young-gwon](#)
-  [Paik Seung-ho](#)
-  [Marco Asensio](#)
-  [Gavi](#)

-  [Dani Olmo](#)
-  [Carlos Soler](#)
-  [Manuel Akanji](#)
-  [Remo Freuler](#)
-  [Xherdan Shaqiri](#)
-  [Wahbi Khazri](#)
-  [Christian Pulisic](#)
-  [Timothy Weah](#)
-  [Haji Wright](#)
-  [Gareth Bale](#)

1 own goal

-  [Enzo Fernández](#) (against Australia)
-  [Nayef Aguerd](#) (against Canada)

Discipline

A player or team official is automatically suspended for the next match for the following offences:^[135]

- Receiving a red card (red card suspensions may be extended for serious offences)
- Receiving two yellow cards in two matches; yellow cards expire after the completion of the quarter-finals (yellow card suspensions are not carried forward to any other future international matches)

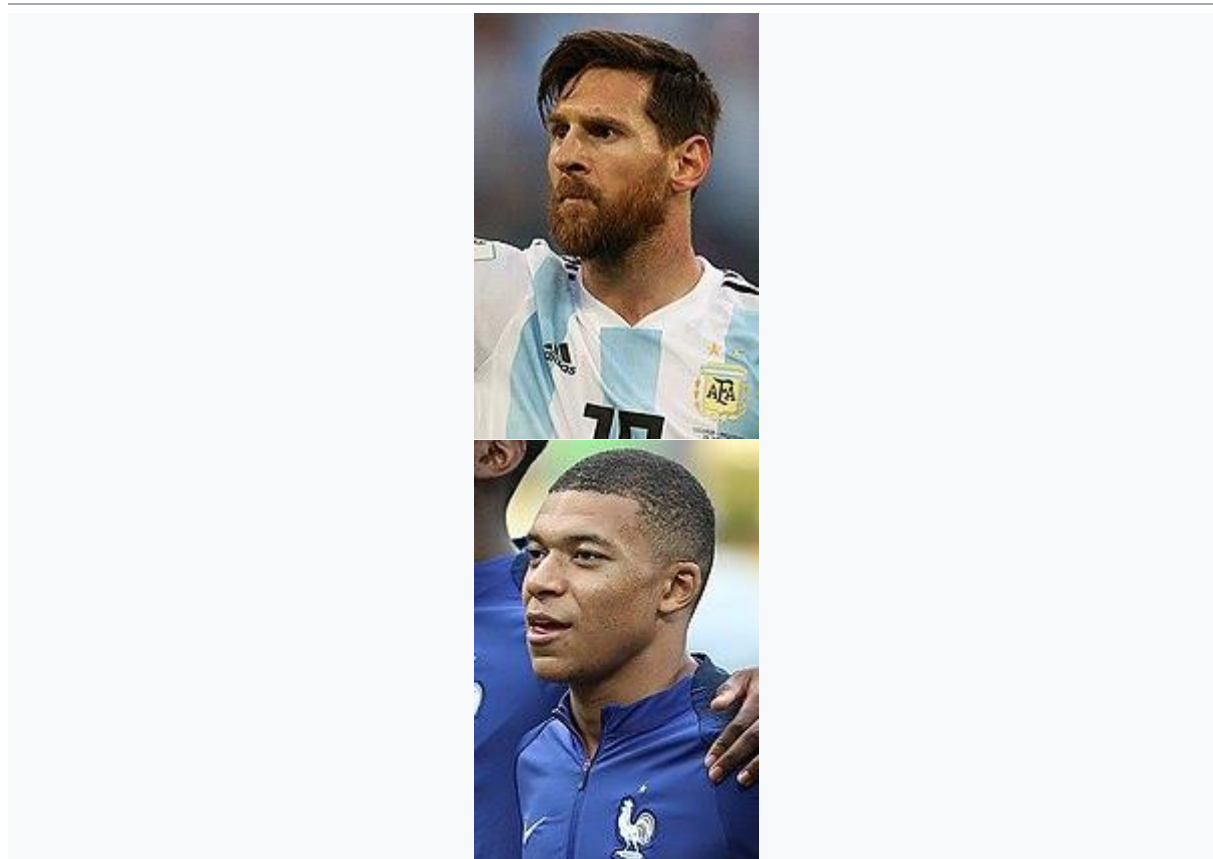
The following suspensions were served during the tournament:

Player/Official	Offence(s)	Suspension(s)
 Wayne Hennessey	 in Group B vs Iran (matchday 2; 25 November)	Group B vs England (matchday 3; 29 November)
 Alireza Jahanbakhsh	 in Group B vs England (matchday 1; 21 November)  in Group B vs Wales (matchday 2; 25 November)	Group B vs United States (matchday 3; 29 November)
 Sebas Méndez	 in Group A vs Qatar (matchday 1; 20 November)  in Group A vs Netherlands (matchday 2; 25 November)	Group A vs Senegal (matchday 3; 29 November)
 Abdullellah Al-Malki	 in Group C vs Argentina (matchday 1; 22 November)	Group C vs Mexico (matchday 3; 30 November)

Player/Official	Offence(s)	Suspension(s)
	 in Group C vs Poland (matchday 2; 26 November)	
 Francisco Calvo	 in Group E vs Spain (matchday 1; 23 November)  in Group E vs Japan (matchday 2; 27 November)	Group E vs Germany (matchday 3; 1 December)
 Amadou Onana	 in Group F vs Canada (matchday 1; 23 November)  in Group F vs Morocco (matchday 2; 27 November)	Group F vs Croatia (matchday 3; 1 December)
 Paulo Bento (manager)	 in Group H vs Ghana (matchday 2; 28 November)	Group H vs Portugal (matchday 3; 2 December)
 Idrissa Gueye	 in Group A vs Netherlands (matchday 1; 21 November)  in Group A vs Ecuador (matchday 3; 29 November)	Round of 16 vs England (4 December)
 Ko Itakura	 in Group E vs Costa Rica (matchday 2; 27 November)  in Group E vs Spain (matchday 3; 1 December)	Round of 16 vs Croatia (5 December)
 Vincent Aboubakar	  in Group G vs Brazil (matchday 3; 2 December)	<i>Suspension served outside tournament</i>
 Marcos Acuña	 in Group C vs Poland (matchday 3; 30 November)  in Quarter-finals vs Netherlands (9 December)	Semi-finals vs Croatia (13 December)

Player/Official	Offence(s)	Suspension(s)
 Gonzalo Montiel	 in Group C vs Mexico (matchday 2; 26 November)  in Quarter-finals vs Netherlands (9 December)	Semi-finals vs Croatia (13 December)
 Denzel Dumfries	  in Quarter-finals vs Argentina (9 December)	<i>Suspension served outside tournament</i>
 Walid Cheddira	  in Quarter-finals vs Portugal (10 December)	Semi-finals vs France (14 December)
 Mario Mandžukić (assistant manager)	 in Semi-finals vs Argentina (13 December)	Third place play-off vs Morocco (17 December)

Awards



Argentina captain [Lionel Messi](#) (left) won the [Golden Ball award](#), becoming the first player to win it twice. France's [Kylian Mbappé](#) (right) won the [Golden Boot award](#) after scoring eight goals in the tournament, the most since [Ronaldo](#) in [2002](#).

The following [World Cup awards](#) were given at the conclusion of the tournament: the [Golden Boot](#) (top scorer), [Golden Ball](#) (best overall player) and [Golden Glove](#) (best goalkeeper).^[236]

Golden Ball	Silver Ball	Bronze Ball
 Lionel Messi	 Kylian Mbappé	 Luka Modrić
Golden Boot	Silver Boot	Bronze Boot
 Kylian Mbappé	 Lionel Messi	 Olivier Giroud
8 goals, 2 assists	7 goals, 3 assists	4 goals, 0 assists
Golden Glove		
 Emiliano Martínez		
FIFA Young Player Award		
 Enzo Fernández		
FIFA Fair Play Trophy		
 England		

Additionally, FIFA.com shortlisted 10 goals for users to vote on as the tournament's best. The award was won by Brazil's [Richarlison](#) for his second goal in the [group stage match against Serbia](#).^[237]

Marketing

Branding

The official emblem was designed by Unlock Brands^[238] and unveiled in September 2019, during simultaneous events at the [Doha Tower](#), [Katara Cultural Village](#) amphitheatre, [Msheireb Downtown Doha](#), and [Zubarah](#). It is based on a [shawl](#) (reflecting upon the tournament's late-

Autumn scheduling) and desert [dunes](#), and was shaped to resemble the [tournament trophy](#), the [infinity symbol](#), and the number "8"—reflecting upon the "interconnected" event and the eight host stadiums. The typography of the emblem's [wordmark](#) incorporated [kashida](#)—the practice of elongating certain parts of characters in [Arabic script](#) to provide typographical emphasis.^{[239][240][241]}

H.E Ambassador Dr. Hend Al-Muftah, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office at Geneva, explained to [WIPO Magazine](#) that the tournament provided an opportunity to "promote our culture and showcase our signature hospitality in a multicultural environment", and highlighted that the country has [used sports to](#) demonstrate its "commitment to sustainable development, social inclusion and the values of community and mutual respect among peoples from different cultures and nations."^[242]

Merchandise

See also: [FIFA World Cup video games](#)

[Electronic Arts'](#) licensed video games [FIFA Mobile](#) and [FIFA 23](#) (except on [Nintendo Switch](#)) received free updates with tie-in content for the 2022 World Cup on 8 and 9 November 2022, respectively. The update for *FIFA 23* added World Cup-themed tournament modes with all teams and two of the stadiums from the event, campaigns and World Cup-themed unlockable content for Ultimate Team mode, and real-time squad and fixture updates during the tournament.^[243]

On 24 August 2022, the [Panini Group](#) produced themed stickers and a [sticker album](#) for a 14th consecutive World Cup. This year, rare cards with coloured borders were included and could be collected, [traded](#), or sold.^[244]

On 12 April 2022, [FIFA](#) released an [over-the-top media service](#) and app revolving around the World Cup called FIFA+, where fans could play games, predict matches, and compete with others.^[245]

Broadcasting rights

Main article: [2022 FIFA World Cup broadcasting rights](#)

In May 2022, Infantino projected that the 2022 FIFA World Cup could be the most-watched in its history, with a global audience of at least 5 billion. The 2018 tournament was seen by 3.57 billion across the tournament.^[246] The various controversies surrounding the World Cup in Qatar led to questions over how the tournament would be covered in the media, and whether they would be discussed or addressed during coverage.^{[247][248]} The match between England and the United States in the group stage was seen by approximately 20 million viewers across both Fox and [Telemundo](#), ranking among the highest-rated associated football broadcasts in the United States (behind a 2014 World Cup match that drew 24.7 million).^{[249][250]}

Sponsorship

FIFA partners	FIFA World Cup sponsors	African and Middle Eastern supporters	Asian supporters	European supporters	North American supporters	South American supporters
<div><div></div><div>• Adidas^[2]</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>• Anheuser</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>• Al Jazeera</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>• Al Jazeera</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>• Al Jazeera</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>• Al Jazeera</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>• Al Jazeera</div></div>

FIFA partners	FIFA World Cup sponsors	African and Middle Eastern supporters	Asian supporters	European supporters	North American supporters	South American supporters
<div><div>Coca-Cola</div><div>Hyundai</div><div>Qatar Airways</div><div>Qatar Energy</div></div>	<div><div>Bibula</div><div>BYD</div><div>Cryptocurrency</div><div>Hisense</div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div>Intercontinental Rapid Simoza</div><div>NZC</div></div>

The tournament's [official mascot](#) was unveiled on 1 April 2022, during the group stage draw. Its name is La'eeb ([Arabic](#): لعيب, [romanized](#): *La'īb*), which is an Arabic word meaning "super-skilled player". The official website of FIFA says: "La'eeb will be known for his youthful spirit; spreading joy and confidence everywhere he goes", and the official backstory of the character, published there, claims that it comes from a parallel world where tournament mascots live, "a world where ideas and creativity form the basis of characters that live in the minds of everyone".^[282]

Match ball

Main article: [Adidas Al Rihla](#)



The adidas Al Rihla

The official match ball, "Al Rihla", was unveiled on 30 March 2022. It was mainly inspired by the culture, architecture, iconic boats and flag of Qatar. In Arabic, the word *Al-Rihla* (الرَّحْلَة *ar-riḥla*) means "the journey". The ball was designed with sustainability as a priority, making it the first-ever official match ball created with water-based glues and inks. As "the game is getting faster" and "speeds up", the [Adidas](#) ball has internal electronic sensors, allowing detection of its speed and position, updated 500 times per second^[283] and it has to be charged before each game.^[284] Two of the match balls were sent and returned from space by FIFA and [Qatar Airways](#) on a [SpaceX falcon 9 suborbital mission](#) for promoting the World Cup.^[285]

The match ball for the [2022 FIFA World Cup Final](#) was announced on 11 December 2022. It is a variation of the Al Rihla named the *Adidas Al Hilm* ([Arabic](#): الحلم, [romanized](#): *al-ḥilm*, [lit.](#) 'the dream', a reference to "every nation's dream of lifting the FIFA World Cup").^[286] Whilst the technical aspects of the ball are the same, the colour is different from the Al-Rihla balls used in the group stages and preceding knockout games, with a *Gold Metallic*, maroon, *Collegiate Burgundy*, and red design,^[287] a reference to the [national colors](#) of host nation [Qatar](#) and the golden colors shared by the [Final's venue](#) and the [FIFA World Cup Trophy](#).^[288]

Music

See also: [FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Official Soundtrack](#) and [List of FIFA World Cup songs and anthems](#)

For the first time, a multi-song FIFA World Cup official soundtrack has been released, instead of one official song.^[289] The first song of the album is "[Hayya Hayya \(Better Together\)](#)", performed by [Trinidad Cardona](#), [Davido](#), and AISHA, released on 1 April 2022 along with the music video.^[290] The second song is "Arhbo", performed by [Gims](#) and [Ozuna](#), released on 19 August 2022 along with the music video.^[291] The third song is "The World Is Yours to Take" performed by American rapper [Lil Baby](#), released on 23 September 2022 along with a music video.^[292] The fourth song is "Light The Sky" performed by [Nora Fatehi](#), [Manal](#), [Rahma Riad](#), and [Balqees](#), composed by [RedOne](#) and released on 7 October 2022 along with the music video.^[293] A fifth song, "[Tukoh Taka](#)", performed by [Nicki Minaj](#), [Maluma](#) and [Myriam Fares](#), was released on 17 November 2022 along with the music video, serving as the official song of the [FIFA Fan Festival](#).^[294] The final song is "[Dreamers](#)" by [Jungkook](#) of [BTS](#) released on 20 November 2022. It was performed with [Fahad Al-Kubaisi](#) during the tournament's opening ceremony.^{[295][296]}

Controversies

Main article: [List of 2022 FIFA World Cup controversies](#)

Criticism of the 2022 FIFA World Cup focused on Qatar's [human-rights](#) record,^[297] namely their [treatment of migrant workers](#),^[297] [women](#), and [position on LGBT rights](#),^[298] leading to allegations of [sportswashing](#).^[P] Others cited Qatar's climate, [lack of a strong football culture](#), and allegations of bribery for hosting rights and [wider FIFA corruption](#).^{[6][302]} [Boycotts of the event](#) were declared by several countries, clubs, and individual players,^{[300][301]} with former FIFA president [Sepp Blatter](#) twice stating that giving Qatar hosting rights was a "mistake".^{[303][304]} The FIFA World Cup delivered record-breaking numbers of TV audiences across multiple markets.^[305] In June 2023, [Le Point](#) revealed that FIFA World Cup has raised great interest in the country despite "calls for a [boycott](#)". According to the study by *Arcom*, six out of ten French people followed at least one match.^[306]

Host selection criticism



Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) handing over the symbolic relay baton for the hosting rights of the 2022 FIFA World Cup to Qatar's Emir [Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani](#) in June 2018

There have been allegations of bribery and corruption in the selection process involving FIFA's executive committee members.^[307] These allegations are being investigated by FIFA (see [§ Bidding corruption allegations, 2014](#), below). In May 2011, allegations of corruption within the FIFA senior officials raised questions over the legitimacy of the World Cup 2022 being held in Qatar. The accusations of corruption were made relating to how Qatar won the right to host the event. A FIFA internal investigation and report cleared Qatar of any violation, but chief investigator [Michael J. Garcia](#) described FIFA's report on his enquiry as containing "numerous materially incomplete and erroneous representations."^[308]

In May 2015, Swiss federal prosecutors [opened an investigation into corruption and money laundering](#) related to the [2018 and 2022 World Cup bids](#).^{[309][310]} In August 2018, former FIFA president [Sepp Blatter](#) claimed that Qatar had used "black ops", suggesting that the bid committee had cheated to win the hosting rights.^[311] Some investigations found that Qatar sought an edge in securing hosting by hiring a former [CIA officer](#) turned private contractor, Kevin Chalker, to spy on rival bid teams and key football officials who picked the winner in 2010.^[312]

In September 2018, a delegation from al-Ghufran tribe lodged a complaint to FIFA's president to reject the establishment of the World Cup in Qatar unless its government restored the Qatari nationality to all those affected from the tribe and returned land allegedly stolen from them to build the sport facilities.^[313]

Qatar faced strong criticism for the treatment of foreign workers involved in preparation for the World Cup, with [Amnesty International](#) referring to "forced labour" and poor working conditions,^{[314][315]} while many migrant workers reported having to pay large "recruitment fees" to obtain employment.^[316] [The Guardian](#) newspaper reported that many workers were denied food and water, had their identity papers taken away from them, and that they were not paid on time or at all, making some of them in effect slaves. *The Guardian* estimated that up to 4,000 workers could die from lax safety and other causes by the time the competition was held. Between 2015 and 2021, the [Qatari government](#) adopted new labour reforms to improve working conditions, including a minimum wage for all workers and the removal of the [kafala system](#). Furthermore, in

November 2017, the [International Labour Organization](#) concluded that no rights were violated and made the decision to close the complaint against Qatar regarding the alleged violation of migrant workers' rights.^[317] According to Amnesty International, however, living and working conditions of the foreign workers did not improve in the last years.^[318]

Qatar was the smallest nation by area ever to have been awarded a FIFA World Cup – the next smallest by area was Switzerland, host of the [1954 World Cup](#), which was more than three times as large as Qatar and only needed to host 16 teams instead of 32. Qatar also became only the second country (not including Uruguay and Italy, hosts of the first two World Cups) to be awarded a FIFA World Cup despite having never qualified for a previous edition: Japan was awarded co-hosting rights of the [2002 World Cup](#) in 1996 without ever having qualified for the finals, although they qualified for the [1998 edition](#). Of the eight stadiums used in the tournament, six were located in the [Doha](#) metropolitan area, making it the first World Cup [since 1930](#) in which most of the stadiums were in one city. While this decreased the distance that fans and players needed to commute, Qatar itself struggled to accommodate the numbers of arriving fans with its diminutive amount of space.^[319]

Due to Qatar's [laws on alcohol consumption](#), World Cup organisers announced the creation of designated "sobering-up" zones as an alternative to wide-scale arrests of intoxicated fans during the World Cup.^[320] Qatar's World Cup chief executive of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, Nasser Al Khater, stated that the purpose of the designated sobering-up areas was to ensure the fans' safety.^[321] If a fan was sent to the "sobering up" zone, they were permitted to leave when they could display clearheaded behaviour.^[322] Multiple news agencies described the controversy as a "cultural clash" between [social conservatism](#) and [Islamic morality](#) against the "norms" of [secular](#) Western [liberal democracies](#).^{[11][323]}

A number of groups and media outlets expressed concern over the suitability of Qatar to host the event.^{[324][325]} Issues regarding [human rights](#),^{[8][298]} worker conditions, the rights of [LGBT fans](#),^[298] and the [illegality of homosexuality in Qatar](#).^{[326][327][328]} In December 2020, Qatar said [rainbow flags](#) would be allowed at the 2022 FIFA World Cup.^[329] Qatari officials initially stated that they would not prohibit the display of [pride flags](#) at tournament venues, although the country still advised LGBT attendees to comply with the country's [modesty](#) and avoid [public displays of affection](#).^{[330][331]} Hassan Abdulla al-Thawadi, chief executive of the country's World Cup bid, said that Qatar would permit [alcohol consumption](#) during the event,^{[332][333]} even though [drinking in public](#) was not permitted.^[334] There were plans to allow the sale of alcohol inside stadiums and at fan villages.^[335] Normally, the sale of alcohol is restricted to non-Muslim guests at selected luxury hotels only.^[336] However, in the months preceding the tournament, the display of LGBT material and the sale of alcohol were banned.^{[335][337][338][339][340]}

The climate conditions caused some to call hosting the tournament in Qatar infeasible, with initial plans for air-conditioned stadiums giving way to a potential date switch from summer to November and December.^[5] In May 2014, [Sepp Blatter](#), who was FIFA president at the time of the selection, remarked that awarding the World Cup to Qatar was a "mistake" because of the extreme heat.^{[5][341][342]} While addressing delegates from African and Asian confederations, Blatter said allegations of corruption and some of the criticism, including those from sponsors, were "very much linked to racism and discrimination".^[343] The attendance figures at the matches also came under scrutiny as the reported crowd attendance was more than the stadium capacities despite games having visible empty seats.^[344]

Prior to the tournament, a reporter for Denmark's [TV 2](#) was threatened by security during a live report from the [Katara Cultural Village](#); the organising committee apologised, stating that they were "mistakenly interrupted".^[345] [Tony O'Donoghue](#) of Ireland's [RTÉ](#) also accused Qatari police of interrupting him while filming.^[346]

On 5 November 2022, [The Sunday Times](#) and the [Bureau of Investigative Journalism](#) published an investigation reporting that a group from an Indian hacking company had compromised the email accounts of various politicians, reporters, and other prominent individuals that had been critical of Qatar's hosting of the World Cup. It was also reported that the group had been hired by

Jonas Rey, private investigators based in Switzerland, which were in turn hired by Qatari officials.^[347]

Migrant workers

Main article: [Human rights issues involving the 2022 FIFA World Cup § Migrant workers](#)

There was criticism regarding the state of [human rights in Qatar](#) and of the conditions of migrant workers brought in to build the required infrastructure, including indentured servitude and working conditions leading to deaths.^[351] On 23 October 2022, an article published by [The Guardian](#) included statements from migrants working on the event infrastructure. Surveying 1,000 workers, 86% of participants said that the labour changes had improved their lives and that better working conditions are negotiable.^[352] Legislation has also been proposed on the minimum wage, summertime worker safety, and the election of migrant worker representatives in businesses. Labour mobility is a result of changes to the [Kafala system](#).^[353]

According to [Sharan Burrow](#), general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, prior to the tournament, "the new Kafala system tranche of law will put an end to Kafala and establish a contemporary industrial relations system."^[354]

FIFA President [Gianni Infantino](#) has defended Qatar's decision to host the tournament.^[355] Others have asserted that Qatar has a better human rights record than [Russia](#) and [China](#), which were subjected to less harsh criticism for the same problems when hosting important athletic events in the years before the tournament.^[356]

Move to November and December

Owing to the [climate in Qatar](#), concerns were expressed over holding the World Cup in its traditional time frame of June and July.^[6] In October 2013, a task force was commissioned to consider alternative dates and report after the [2014 FIFA World Cup](#) in Brazil.^[357] On 24 February 2015, the FIFA Task Force proposed that the tournament be played from late November to late December 2022,^[358] to avoid the summer heat and also avoid clashing with the [2022 Winter Olympics](#) in February, the [2022 Winter Paralympics](#) in March and [Ramadan](#) in April.^{[359][360]}

The notion of staging the tournament in November was controversial because it would interfere with the regular season schedules of some domestic leagues around the world. Commentators noted the clash with the Christian Christmas season was likely to cause disruption, whilst there was concern about how short the tournament was intended to be.^[361] FIFA executive committee member [Theo Zwanziger](#) said that awarding the event to Qatar was a "blatant mistake".^[362]

[Frank Lowy](#), chairman of [Football Federation Australia](#), said that if the 2022 World Cup were moved to November and thus upset the schedule of the [A-League](#), they would seek compensation from FIFA.^[363] [Richard Scudamore](#), chief executive of the [Premier League](#), stated that they would consider legal action against FIFA because a move would interfere with the Premier League's popular Christmas and New Year fixture programme.^[364] In 2015, FIFA confirmed that the final would be played in December.^[365] Critics condemned the Euro-centrism of these allegations, and questioned why global sporting events must be held within the traditional European summer season.^[366]

Bidding corruption allegations, 2014

See also: [Garcia Report](#)

Some allegations were made over the role of former football official [Mohammed bin Hammam](#) played in securing the bid.^[367] A former employee of the Qatar bid team alleged that several African officials were paid \$1.5 million by Qatar.^[368] She retracted her claims, but later said that she was coerced to do so by Qatari bid officials.^{[369][370]} In March 2014, it was discovered that former [CONCACAF](#) president [Jack Warner](#) and his family were paid almost \$2 million from a firm linked to Qatar's successful campaign.^[371]

[The Sunday Times](#) published bribery allegations based on a leak of millions of secret documents.^[372] Five of FIFA's six primary sponsors, [Sony](#), [Adidas](#), [Visa](#), [Hyundai](#), and [Coca-Cola](#), called upon FIFA to investigate the claims.^{[373][374]} [Jim Boyce](#), vice-president of FIFA, stated he would support a re-vote to find a new host if the corruption allegations are proven.^{[375][376]} FIFA completed a lengthy investigation into these allegations and a report cleared Qatar of any wrongdoing. Despite the claims, the Qataris insisted that the corruption allegations were being driven by envy and mistrust while Blatter said it was fueled by racism in the British media.^{[377][378]}

In the [2015 FIFA corruption case](#), Swiss officials, operating under information from the [United States Department of Justice](#), arrested many senior FIFA officials in Zürich and seized physical and electronic records from FIFA's main headquarters. The arrests continued in the United States, where several FIFA officers were arrested, and FIFA buildings were raided. The arrests were made on the information of at least a \$150 million corruption and bribery scandal.^[379] From those arrested, \$40 million was forfeited under guilty pleas.^[380] In 2022, the president of the El Salvador soccer association, Reynaldo Vasquez, was sentenced to 16 months in prison in connection to over \$350,000 in bribes.^[381]

Following the corruption case, Phaedra Almajid, the former media officer for the Qatar bid team, claimed that the allegations would result in Qatar not hosting the World Cup.^[382] In an interview published on the same day, [Domenico Scala](#), the head of FIFA's Audit and Compliance Committee, stated that "should there be evidence that the awards to Qatar and Russia came only because of bought votes, then the awards could be cancelled."^{[383][384]}

In 2014, FIFA appointed Michael Garcia as its independent ethics investigator to look into bribery allegations against Russia and Qatar. Garcia investigated all nine bids and eleven countries involved in the 2018 and 2022 bids.^[385] At the end of the investigation, Garcia submitted a 430-page report. The FIFA governing body then appointed a German judge, Hans Joachim Eckert, who reviewed and presented a 42-page summary of the report two months later. The report cleared Qatar and Russia of bribery allegations, stating that Qatar "pulled Aspire into the orbit of the bid in significant ways" but did not "compromise the integrity" of the overall bid process.^[386] Michael Garcia reacted almost immediately, stating that the report is "materially incomplete" and contains "erroneous representations of the facts and conclusions".^[386]

In 2017, a German journalist Peter Rossberg claimed to have obtained the report and wrote that it "does not provide proof that the 2018 or 2022 World Cup was bought" and stated that he would publish the full report. This forced FIFA to release the original report. The full report did not provide any evidence of corruption against the host of the 2022 World Cup but stated that bidders tested the rules of conduct to the limit.^[387]

Russian participation

On 9 December 2019, the [World Anti-Doping Agency](#) (WADA) handed Russia a four-year ban from all major sporting events, after [RUSADA](#) was found non-compliant for handing over manipulated lab data to investigators.^[388] The [Russian national team](#) were still permitted to enter qualification, as the ban only applied to the final tournament to decide the world champions. A team representing Russia, which used the [Russian flag](#) and [anthem](#), could not participate under the WADA decision whilst the ban was active.^[389] The decision was appealed to the [Court of Arbitration for Sport](#),^[390] and on 17 December 2020, Russian teams were banned from competing at world championships organized or sanctioned by a WADA signatory until 16 December 2022, the day before the third place play-off.^[391]

After the [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#), Russia's participation was further thrown into doubt. On 24 February 2022, the three teams in Russia's [qualifying path](#)—[Czech Republic](#), [Poland](#), and [Sweden](#)—announced their unwillingness to play any matches in Russian territory.^[392] Poland and Sweden extended the boycott on 26 February to any qualifying games, and the Czech Republic made the same decision one day later.^{[393][394][395]}

On 27 February 2022, FIFA announced a number of sanctions impacting Russia's participation in international football. Russia was prohibited from hosting international competitions, and the national team was ordered to play all home matches [behind closed doors](#) in neutral countries. Under these sanctions, Russia would not be allowed to compete under the country's name, flag, or national anthem; similarly to the Russian athletes' participation in events such as the Olympics,^[396] the team would compete under the abbreviation of their national federation, the [Russian Football Union](#) ("RFU"), rather than "Russia".^[397] The next day, FIFA decided to suspend Russia from international competitions "until further notice", including its participation in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.^[398]

LGBT and women's rights

Main article: [LGBT issues at the 2022 FIFA World Cup](#)

There are no [LGBT rights in Qatar](#), with homosexuality as well as campaigning for [LGBTQ+](#) rights criminalized. As such, when Qatar was selected to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the choice to do so in a restrictive nation saw much criticism, with the security of fans,^[399] as well as the homophobic football chants of certain nations, were points of discussion.^[400] The main controversy came from a last-minute FIFA decision to hand out player punishments to European captains who had months earlier announced their intention to continue wearing rainbow-colored armbands (which began in 2020) in support of anti-discrimination. Typically, kit violations incur a fine, which the teams had said they would pay; on the day of the first match involving one of the teams, FIFA reportedly told the teams that they would receive a yellow card at a minimum for wearing the armbands.^[401] Qatari officials stated that all people are welcome as long as they follow the public display of affection laws which apply to everyone.^{[402][403]}

Security officials at stadiums also confiscated items of rainbow clothing and flags featuring rainbows.^{[404][405][406]} American journalist [Grant Wahl](#) was briefly detained for wearing a t-shirt with a rainbow on it.^[407] Wahl reportedly received death threats for wearing the shirt, later dying at the stadium.^{[408][409]} Other journalists with Wahl at the time of his death have reported that he began fitting or experiencing a seizure, and called for help himself. They criticized the Qatar Supreme Committee for not providing [defibrillators](#) in the stadium, as they had looked for one to try to help Wahl.^[410] In response, FIFA said that according to the ambulance service, a defibrillator was made available when paramedics later arrived on scene.^[411] An autopsy done on Wahl in [New York City](#) later revealed that Wahl died from an [aortic aneurysm](#) rupture.^[412]

Discrimination against women in Qatar was also criticized.^{[413][414]} [Women in Qatar](#) have few freedoms,^{[413][415]} as they must obtain permission from their male guardians to marry, study abroad on government scholarships, work in many government jobs, travel abroad, receive certain forms of reproductive health care, and act as the primary guardian of children, even if they are divorced.^[416]

Qatar attracted particular criticism for an incident where a Mexican employee of the World Cup Organizing Committee was accused of allegedly having [sex outside of marriage](#). The woman had previously reported rape, while the male claimed to have been in a relationship with her, after which the woman was investigated for extramarital sex. Women in Qatar face the possible penalty of [flagellation](#) and a seven-year prison sentence if convicted for having sex outside of marriage. The criminal case was eventually dropped months after she was allowed to leave Qatar.^[417]

Influence of Iran



An Iranian fan showing a banner with "[Woman, Life, Freedom](#)" slogan

In November 2022, there were reports suggesting that the government of [Iran](#) were working with Qatari officials to suppress anti-government protests at the 2022 FIFA World Cup,^[418] in light of the [Mahsa Amini protests](#). Leaked documents and audio clips suggested that Iranian government officials were in correspondence with Qatari authorities in order to handle possible protesters.^[419]

In November 2022, the Qatari government revoked the visas of journalists from a London-based Iranian news channel, [Iran International](#), known for being critical of the regime, who were seeking to cover the World Cup.^[420] On 21 November 2022, during the first group stage match from Group B, between Iran and England, attempts were reportedly made by the stadium's security forces to block Iranian fans who wore clothing or carried items bearing slogans that were deemed unsympathetic to the Islamic government of Iran.^[421] These included t-shirts and signs with "[Woman, Life, Freedom](#)" embedded onto them, Iran's previous flags, or any slogans containing the name of [Mahsa Amini](#).^[422] This crackdown continued throughout all of Iran's matches at the World Cup.^[418] In addition to removing fans from stadiums, reports showed that officials tried to suppress any filming or photography of possible protests. In one case, Qatari police detained Danish TV presenter, Rasmus Tantholdt, for filming fans with "Woman, Life, Freedom" slogans, some of whom who had been earlier abused by a group of pro-government supporters.^[423]

Treatment of Jewish and Israeli visitors

Qatar had previously promised to provide Jewish tourists with cooked [kosher food](#) and public [Jewish prayer services](#) at the tournament. However, shortly before the World Cup began, both were banned by Qatar, who claimed it could not secure the safety of Jews.^{[424][425]} Qatar alleged that they could not "secure" the safety of publicly praying Jewish tourists, whilst many foreign Jews complained that they subsequently had no food available to eat. It was estimated that 10,000 [religious Jews from Israel](#) and around the world arrived to watch the World Cup in Qatar.^[426]

Whilst Jewish organisations complained of being unable to find cooked kosher food,^[426] the [Israeli government](#) said it was happy with the efforts made by Qatar to meet its requests, including kosher food, direct flights from Israel to Qatar, and temporary diplomatic representation in the country. A kosher kitchen under the supervision of Rabbi [Mendy Chitrik](#) was open in time for the first match. Rabbi [Marc Schneier](#), president of [The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding](#), said he had never asked the Qatari government for cooked food, and he had been the only person in communication with the Qataris regarding making the World Cup experience inclusive for Jews.^[427]

Multiple Israeli reporters at the tournament reported fans from [Arab nations](#) waving [Palestinian flags](#) and chanting [anti-Israeli](#) slogans while harassing them.^{[298][428][429]} Some Israelis reported that they had been escorted out of restaurants when their nationality was revealed.^[430] The Israeli government warned its citizens traveling to the tournament to hide their Israeli identity out of safety concerns.^[431]

Accommodation

The [Rawdat Al Jahhaniya](#) fan village was criticised for its overpriced "night cabins" (£185 per night) made out of shipping containers. Tourists complained that the air conditioners in the cabins did not function well, facilities were falling apart, and the sleeping experience did not match their expectations.^[432] The BBC reported that the tent accommodation at the Qetaifan Island fan village got criticism for having brown-colored tap water and no air conditioning other than a standing fan.^{[433][434]} The tent village in [Al Khor](#) was criticized for having inconvenient transportation, a lack of alcohol, long waits to check in, and no locks on the tents.^{[435][436]} The lack of suitable and affordable accommodation raised demand for daily shuttle flights from neighboring areas, such as Dubai, that had adequate numbers of hotel rooms.^[437]