



## Fact Sheet

# One Year to Go Until the FIFA World Cup 26™

11 June 2025 marks One Year to Go until the largest and most inclusive FIFA World Cup™ in history, with 48 teams competing for the first time. The 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the tournament will also be the first to be hosted across three countries in 16 vibrant Host Cities, uniting an entire continent through football.

The FIFA World Cup 26™ will be the largest single-sport event in the world, with 6.5 million people expected to attend the tournament's matches in-stadium, truly bringing the world to North America.

## Qualifiers

While 206 national teams began the qualification process to take part in the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the FIFA World Cup, only 45 will join the three host countries – Canada, Mexico and the United States – in 2026, where they will take part in the largest edition of the tournament to date.

As of One Year to Go, 68 teams have been eliminated and 128 continue their qualification journey. Ten teams have currently qualified, in addition to the three host countries. In March, Japan (AFC) took the first slot, followed by New Zealand (OFC), IR Iran (AFC) and current champions Argentina (CONMEBOL). In June, Uzbekistan (AFC) and Jordan (AFC) both qualified for the tournament for the first time in history, and Australia (AFC), Brazil (CONMEBOL), Ecuador (CONMEBOL) and Korea Republic (AFC) also punched their ticket to North America.

With 13 teams now set, the remaining 35 will be named over the next ten months. Group stage matchups will be determined by the Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup 26™, which is set to be held in December 2025.

The latest information on qualifiers can be found on [FIFAWorldCup.com](https://FIFAWorldCup.com).

## One tournament, three nations, 16 Host Cities – and beyond

As the world comes to Canada, Mexico and the United States, the tournament will provide a platform for each of the 16 Host Cities to showcase their unique local identity to the world. This year, each city has released its Official FIFA World Cup 26™ Host City Posters and Host City Sonic IDs, representing the unique cultural and artistic spirit of the 16 Host Cities while celebrating the unity, diversity and passion of the world's most beloved sport.

Regions beyond the 16 Host Cities will also be able to stage a slice of FIFA World Cup 26 history. More than 60 locations have been identified as potential Team Base Camps, offering participating



teams a “home away from home” for the tournament. A Team Base Camp is a training site and accommodation pairing that will serve as the primary base for the squads during the group stage, where they will train, rest and prepare for their matches. These options expand the possible geographic footprint of the tournament throughout North America. Qualified teams will submit their final selections to FIFA following the final draw.

### **Economic impact**

According to OpenEconomics, the tournament could help drive up to USD 40.9 billion in gross domestic product, deliver USD 8.28 billion in social benefits and underpin the creation of nearly 824,000 full-time equivalent jobs globally. More information on the expected economic impact of the tournament can be found on the Inside FIFA [website](#).

### **Volunteer program**

Behind every ticket, every fan, every whistle and every match is another team: the volunteers. Fans looking to volunteer for this once-in-a-generation event can register their interest now at [FIFA.com/Volunteers](https://FIFA.com/Volunteers).

Applications will open in August, but fans can join the one million members of the FIFA Volunteer Community now to be the first to receive important updates about becoming a volunteer at the FIFA World Cup 26, the biggest single-sport event in history.

### **FIFA World Cup ticket sales**

Ticket sales for the general public are expected to begin in the third quarter of 2025. Fans can register their interest at [FIFA.com/Tickets](https://FIFA.com/Tickets), the official and preferred source of tickets for the tournament.

### **FIFA World Cup hospitality sales**

A collection of game-changing hospitality packages for matches held in the United States and “Follow My Team” packages involving non-host countries are currently available for purchase at [FIFA.com/Hospitality](https://FIFA.com/Hospitality), marking the first opportunity for the public to secure a seat at the world’s biggest single-sport competition. The full launch of hospitality packages, including for matches to be held in Canada and Mexico, will be available in July.

### **FIFA Fan Festival™**

Aligned with FIFA’s vision to unite the world through the greatest sporting event of all time is the FIFA Fan Festival™ – public events that will be available to fans in all three host countries and in each Host City.

Each FIFA Fan Festival reflects the organisation’s dedication to creating broad and inclusive access to the game, offering a welcoming space for local communities and regional and international visitors. These vibrant events will feature live broadcasts of matches, food and beverage offerings and a mix of local and global entertainment. More than a celebration of football, FIFA Fan Festivals are designed to inspire new fans and help grow the beautiful game across North America by increasing visibility, accessibility and engagement.

Several FIFA Fan Festival locations and dates have been announced by Host Cities, with more locations and information to be announced in the build-up to the tournament.

## Visas

Whether travelling by air, sea or land, each visitor will need both an acceptable identity document (e.g. passport) and a valid visa or travel authorisation to enter Canada, Mexico and/or the United States for the FIFA World Cup 26. A match ticket does not guarantee a visa or admission to a host country. Fans may apply for a visa at any time. They do not need a ticket to apply for a visa, and visas do not guarantee fans a ticket. Given the processing times involved, FIFA recommends submitting the visa application as early as possible. FIFA also recommends ensuring that a visitor's passport will not expire until well after the planned travel – best practice is to ensure that a passport is valid for at least six months after a trip. Fans should visit the host country's government websites for more information.

## Commercial Partners and media rights

FIFA is continuing to advance its media rights sales process for the FIFA World Cup 26, partnering with a strong mix of long-standing and newly onboarded broadcasters. These media partnerships reflect FIFA's commitment to innovation, audience engagement and expanded access to the tournament. See the [latest list](#) of official broadcasters for more information.

International support for FIFA through its Commercial Partners is crucial as the organisation continues to serve the game of football for the benefit of the entire world. More than 90% of FIFA's revenue is reinvested into global football in line with its strategic objectives, including a focus on social responsibilities, youth and women's tournaments, and football development.

The FIFA World Cup is an effective international marketing platform, reaching billions of people in over 200 countries throughout the world. In order to be able to stage an event of such scale, the support of Commercial Partners, who provide vital services and product support for the entire event's operations, is essential.

