

June 11-July 19, 2026

# World Cup returns to America



Lionel Messi plays for Argentina, the defending World Cup champions.



United States star forward Christian Pulisic is from Hershey, Pa.

## 2026 WORLD CUP BY THE NUMBERS

**13** Argentina's Lionel Messi is the 2026 player with the most World Cup goals scored with 13. He is followed by France's Kylian Mbappe (12), England's Harry Kane (8), Brazil's Neymar (8) and Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (8). Germany's Miroslav Klose scored a record 16 World Cup goals.

Forty-eight nations will be represented by a record **1,248** players, according to the final squad lists submitted to FIFA.

**22** This year's event will feature 22 former winners, including Manuel Neuer, who won with Germany at Brazil in 2014, and Ousmane Dembele, Lucas Hernandez, N'Golo Kante, Kylian Mbappe, who helped France to glory at Russia in 2018.

Of this year's players, 200 play for clubs based in England. England is followed by Germany (109), France (86), Spain (86), Italy (71), Saudi Arabia (49), Türkiye (45), USA (42), Netherlands (46), Brazil (36) and Portugal (36).

**19** Manchester City, with 19 players, is the best-represented club. The Citizens have men on the Algeria, Belgium, Croatia, Egypt, England, France, Ghana, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Uzbekistan teams. Man City is followed by Bayern Munich (18 players), Arsenal (16), Paris Saint-Germain (16) and Barcelona (15).

Mexico's Gilberto Mora will be the youngest player invited. His Mexico teammate Guillermo Ochoa went to the World Cup before Mora was even born. If he sees action, Mora, from Tijuana, would become the youngest Concacaf player to appear in a World Cup game. The record was set in 1930 in Uruguay by another player from Mexico, 18-year-old Manuel Rosas. If Mora gets called to play in Mexico's first game against South Africa he'll join another short list, becoming the sixth-youngest to appear in the competition. The five 17-year-olds ahead of him would be Pele, Salomon Olembe, Femi Opanunmi, Samuel Eto'o and record-holder Norman Whiteside.

## MOST ALL-TIME WORLD CUP WINS

Brazil (22 participations, 6 finals)



Germany (20 participations, 8 finals)



Italy (18 participations, 6 finals)



Argentina (18 participations, 6 finals)



France (16 participations, 4 finals)



## DID YOU KNOW? THE TRIONDA

The 2026 FIFA World Cup Trionda ball is a new design featuring four triangles curved into three puzzle-piece looking shapes then wrapped around the ball. The design uses fewer pieces than ever which is intended to improve flight stability and grip in wet conditions. Trionda translates in Spanish to three waves, standing for the three host countries — Canada, Mexico and the United States, also represented, respectively, in the red, green and blue color scheme.



## 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP STORYLINES



### Argentina looks to join back-to-back elite

Argentina seeks to join only Italy and Brazil as back-to-back FIFA World Cup Champions.

Manager Lionel Scaloni has retained 17 of the players from the team that won in Qatar in 2022, according to FIFA.com.

Italy was the first team to win consec-

utive titles in 1934 in Italy and in 1938 in France.

Brazil followed about 20 years later, winning in 1958 in Sweden and in 1962 in Chile.

In 2022, France nearly became the third team. The French beat Croatia in Russia in 2018 before falling to Argentina, 4-2 on penalty kicks after playing to a 3-3 tie.

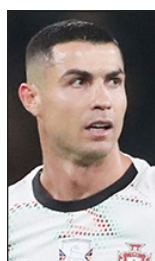
### Ronaldo, Messi, Ochoa going to record sixth cup

Three players in this year's field — Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, Argentina's Lionel Messi and Mexico's Guillermo Ochoa will go to a record sixth World Cup.

Once they take the field, Ronaldo and Messi will become the first men's players to ever appear in six World Cups.

Ochoa was on Mexico's roster but failed to make an appearance in Germany in 2006 or South Africa in 2010.

Croatia's Luka Modric, Japan's Yuto Nagatomo and Germany's Manuel Neuer will be at their fifth World Cups.



Ronaldo



Messi



Ochoa



### 16 venues, 104 matches, all of North America

Records are broken every time a major sporting event happens.

At FIFA World Cup 2026, even the venues are setting new marks.

For the first time in cup history, games will be played in three countries — Canada, Mexico and the United States.

The 48 teams will play 104 matches at 16 stadiums across North America, the most stadiums used since Korea/Japan in 2002.

Dallas Stadium, or AT&T Stadium, in Arlington, Texas, has the largest seating capacity at 94,000, but some stadiums were expanded or reconfigured by FIFA. The published tournament capacity for Dallas is 70,122. FIFA said the number could change.

The retractable-roof stadium, home to the Dallas Cowboys, will host nine matches, most among 2026 venues.

Three other stadiums will host eight matches, all in the U.S.: Atlanta, Los Angeles and New York New Jersey.

New York New Jersey (MetLife Stadium) at 78,576, has the largest published tournament-configured capacity. MetLife will be the site of the 2026 final.

Mexico City Stadium, Estadio Azteca, is next largest at 72,766 capacity.

The smallest stadium is Toronto Stadium, or BMO Field, Canada, at 44,315 capacity. Six matches will be played there.

## BACK IN THE U.S.A.

Only four nations have hosted more than one FIFA World Cup final.

In 2026, the United States of America will become the fifth. The U.S. is co-hosting the tournament with Mexico — another five-time final host — and Canada.

The World Cup final was first played in the U.S. in 1994.

That year, Brazil won its first title since 1970, defeating Italy 3-2 in a penalty shootout after a scoreless regulation play at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

The U.S.'s first tournament boasted a record 3,587,538 total attendance, according to FIFA.

Major League Soccer, the U.S.'s domestic club was created and played its first game two years later, on April 6, 1996.

## TEAM U.S.A. ROSTER

### GOALKEEPERS (3)

- Chris Brady (Naperville, Ill.)
- Matt Freese (Wayne, Pa.)
- Matt Turner (Park Ridge, N.J.)

### DEFENDERS (10)

- Max Arfsten (Fresno, Calif.)
- Sergiño Dest (Almere, Netherlands)
- Alex Freeman (Plantation, Fla.)
- Mark McKenzie (Bear, Del.)
- Tim Ream (St. Louis, Mo.)
- Chris Richards (Birmingham, Ala.)
- Antonee Robinson (Liverpool, England)
- Miles Robinson (Arlington, Mass.)
- Joe Scally (Lake Grove, N.Y.)
- Auston Trusty (Media, Pa.)

### MIDFIELDERS (6)

- Tyler Adams (Wappingers Falls, N.Y.)
- Sebastian Berhalter (Columbus, Ohio)
- Weston McKennie (Little Elm, Texas)
- Gio Reyna (Bedford, N.Y.)
- Cristian Roldan (Pico Rivera, Calif.)
- Malik Tillman (Fürth, Germany)

### FORWARDS (7)

- Brenden Aaronson (Medford, N.J.)
- Folarin Balogun (London, England)
- Ricardo Pepi (El Paso, Texas)
- Christian Pulisic (Hershey, Pa.)
- Tim Weah (Rosedale, N.Y.)
- Haji Wright (Los Angeles, Calif.)
- Alejandro Zendejas (El Paso, Texas)

## TEAM U.S.A. GAMES

The men's U.S. National Team's first game of Group D play will be at 9 p.m. EDT/8 p.m. CDT Friday against Paraguay in Inglewood, Calif.

The U.S. will then play Australia at 3 p.m. EDT/2 p.m. CDT June 19 in Seattle.

The final Group D game will be against Turkey at 10 p.m. EDT/9 p.m. CDT June 25 in Inglewood.

The Round of 32 starts June 28.