



Preliminary Draw 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Results

851 matches 208 teams enrolled, plus host Russia
141 teams in draw 22 teams eliminated before the draw

Allocation of slots as follows

5	AFRICAN Zone
4.5	ASIAN Zone
3.5	NORTH, CENTRAL AMERICAN and CARIBBEAN Zone
13 + 1 (host)	EUROPEAN Zone
0.5	OCEANIAN Zone
4.5	SOUTH AMERICAN Zone

Q Directly qualified for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

P Intercontinental Play-offs

- The winner of Round Four of the Preliminary Competition for the **ASIAN Zone**
- The fourth placed team of Round Five of the Preliminary Competition for the **NORTH, CENTRAL AMERICAN and CARIBBEAN Zone**
- The winner of Round Three of the Preliminary Competition for the **OCEANIAN Zone**
- The fifth placed team of Round One of the Preliminary Competition for the **SOUTH AMERICAN Zone**

- North, Central America and Caribbean - Asia
- Oceania - South America

SOUTH AMERICAN zone

Round ONE

- All ten PMAs will contest Round One.
- The ten teams will be placed into one round-robin, home-and-away group of ten teams.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period between 4 September 2015 and 10 October 2017.
- To ensure that no team has to play both Argentina and Brazil on any double matchday, these teams have been seeded and automatically positioned as Team four and Team five respectively.

Q The top four placed teams will qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

P The fifth placed team advances to the Intercontinental Play-offs

Group

1 Colombia	5 Brazil	9 Peru
2 Chile	6 Ecuador	10 Uruguay
3 Paraguay	7 Venezuela	
4 Argentina	8 Bolivia	

OCEANIAN zone

Round ONE

- Four PMAs based on ranking and sporting reasons will contest Round One.
- The four teams will be placed into one round-robin group.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 31 August – 4 September 2015.
- The group winner advances to Round Two.

Round TWO

- The winner of Round One will then join the remaining seven PMAs in Round Two.
- The eight teams will be drawn into two round-robin groups of four teams each.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 28 May 2016 to 12 June 2016.
- The group winners, runners-up and third place teams from both groups will advance to Round Three.

Group A

1 Tahiti	1 New Zealand
2 New Caledonia	2 Solomon Islands
3 Winner Round 1	3 Fiji
4 Papua New Guinea	4 Vanuatu

Round THREE

- The six PMAs advancing from Round Two will take part in Round Three.
- The six teams will be placed into two round-robin, home-and-away group of three teams each.
- The two group winners will advance to a single home-and-away series.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 20 March to 10 October 2017.

P The winner of Round Three advances to the Intercontinental Play-offs

EUROPEAN zone

Round ONE

- All 52 PMAs will contest Round One.
- The round consists of seven round-robin, home-and-away groups of six teams each as well as two round-robin, home-and-away groups of five teams each.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period between 4 September 2016 and 10 October 2017.
- The eight best group runners-up will advance to Round Two.
- England, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain must be drawn into a group containing six teams.
- Hosts Russia will be added to one of the two groups of five (H or I) as sixth team with all matches involving Russia to be considered as friendlies without any impact on the results and standings in the respective qualifying group.

Q The nine group winners will qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Group A

- Netherlands
- France
- Sweden
- Bulgaria
- Belarus
- Luxembourg

Group B

- Portugal
- Switzerland
- Hungary
- Faroe Islands
- Latvia
- Andorra

Group C

- Germany
- Czech Republic
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Azerbaijan
- San Marino

Group D

- Wales
- Austria
- Serbia
- Republic of Ireland
- Moldova
- Georgia

Group E

- Romania
- Denmark
- Poland
- Montenegro
- Armenia
- Kazakhstan

Group F

- England
- Slovakia
- Scotland
- Slovenia
- Lithuania
- Malta

Group G

- Spain
- Italy
- Albania
- Israel
- FYR Macedonia
- Liechtenstein

Group H

- Belgium
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Greece
- Estonia
- Cyprus

Group I

- Croatia
- Iceland
- Ukraine
- Turkey
- Finland

Round TWO

- The eight best group runners-up from Round One will contest Round Two.
- The eight teams will be paired into four home-and-away series.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period between 9 and 14 November 2017.

Q The four winners will qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

NORTH, CENTRAL AMERICAN and CARIBBEAN zone

Round ONE

- The 14 lowest-ranked PMAs, PMA Rank 22 through to PMA Rank 35 (based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of August 2014), contested Round One.
- The 14 teams were paired into seven home-and-away series.
- The matches were played in the period 23-31 March 2015.
- The seven series winners advanced to Round Two.

Round TWO

- The seven Round One winners joined the 13 PMAs ranked 9 to 21 in Round Two.
- The 20 teams were paired into ten home-and-away series.
- The matches were played in the period 7-16 June 2015.
- The ten series winners advanced to Round Three.

Round THREE

- The ten Round Two winners will then join the two PMAs ranked seven and eight (based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of August 2014) in Round Three.
- The 12 teams will be paired into six home-and-away series.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 31 August to 8 September 2015.
- The six series winners advance to Round Four and are automatically allocated to groups below.

1	Curaçao - El Salvador	4	Jamaica - Nicaragua
2	Canada - Belize	5	St. Vincent and the Grenadines - Aruba
3	Grenada - Haiti	6	Antigua and Barbuda - Guatemala

Round FOUR

- The six teams qualifying from Round Three will then join the six PMAs ranked one to six in Round Four.
- The 12 teams will be drawn into three round-robin, home-and-away groups of four teams each.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 7 November 2015 to 6 September 2016.
- The group winners and runners-up of each group advance to Round Five.

Group A

- Mexico
- Honduras
- Winner match 1
- Winner match 2

Group B

- Costa Rica
- Panama
- Winner match 3
- Winner match 4

Group C

- USA
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Winner match 5
- Winner match 6

Round FIVE

- The six teams qualifying from Round Four will take part in Round Five.
- The six teams will be placed into one round-robin, home-and-away group of six teams.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 7 November 2016 to 10 October 2017.

Q The top three placed teams will qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

P The fourth placed team advances to the Intercontinental Play-offs

ASIAN zone

Round ONE

- The 12 lowest-ranked PMAs, PMA Rank 35 through to PMA Rank 46 (based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of January 2015), contested Round One.
- The 12 teams were paired into six home-and-away series.
- The matches were played in the period 12-17 March 2015.
- The six series winners advanced to Round Two.

Round TWO

- The six Round One winners have joined the remaining 34 PMAs in Round Two.
- The 40 teams have been drawn into eight round-robin, home-and-away groups of 5 teams each.
- The matches are being played in the period 11 June 2015 to 29 March 2016.
- The eight group winners and four best second placed teams will advance to Round Three.

Group A

- UAE
- Saudi Arabia
- Palestine
- Timor-Leste
- Malaysia

Group B

- Australia
- Jordan
- Tajikistan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Bangladesh

Group C

- China PR
- Qatar
- Maldives
- Bhutan
- Hong Kong

Group D

- Iran
- Oman
- India
- Turkmenistan
- Guam

Group E

- Japan
- Syria
- Afghanistan
- Singapore
- Cambodia

Group F

- Iraq
- Vietnam
- Thailand
- Indonesia *
- Chinese Taipei

Group G

- Korea Republic
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Myanmar
- Laos

Group H

- Uzbekistan
- Bahrain
- Philippines
- Korea DPR
- Yemen

**NB: At the Executive Committee meeting on 30 May 2015 the Football Association of Indonesia were suspended and as a consequence the national team was disqualified from the Preliminary Competition for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. All matches of Indonesia are thus deleted in Group F.*

Round THREE

- The 12 teams qualifying from Round Two will take part in Round Three.
- The 12 teams will be drawn into two round-robin, home-and-away groups of six teams each.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 29 August 2016 to 5 September 2017.
- The third-placed teams of each group advance to Round Four.

Q The two group winners and two group runners-up will qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Round FOUR

- The two third-placed teams from the two Round Three groups will contest Round Four.
- The teams will play one home-and-away series.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 2-10 October 2017.

P The Round Four winner advances to the Intercontinental Play-offs

AFRICAN zone

Round ONE

- The 26 lowest-ranked PMAs, PMA Rank 28 through to PMA Rank 53, (based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of July 2015), will contest Round One.
- The 26 teams will be paired into 13 home-and-away series.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period from 5-13 October 2015.
- The 13 series winners advance to Round Two.
- Zimbabwe is excluded from the Preliminary Competition due to disciplinary sanctions.

Round TWO

- The 13 Round One winners will then join the remaining 27 PMAs in Round Two.
- The 40 teams will be paired into 20 home-and-away series.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period from 9-17 November 2015.
- The 20 series winners advance to Round Three.

1	Somalia - Niger	1	<i>Winner match 1 - Cameroon</i>
2	South Sudan - Mauritania	2	<i>Winner match 2 - Tunisia</i>
3	Gambia - Namibia	3	<i>Winner match 3 - Guinea</i>
4	São Tomé e Príncipe - Ethiopia	4	<i>Winner match 4 - Congo</i>
5	Chad - Sierra Leone	5	<i>Winner match 5 - Egypt</i>
6	Comoros - Lesotho	6	<i>Winner match 6 - Ghana</i>
7	Djibouti - Swaziland	7	<i>Winner match 7 - Nigeria</i>
8	Eritrea - Botswana	8	<i>Winner match 8 - Mali</i>
9	Seychelles - Burundi	9	<i>Winner match 9 - Congo DR</i>
10	Liberia - Guinea-Bissau	10	<i>Winner match 10 - Côte d'Ivoire</i>
11	Central African Republic - Madagascar	11	<i>Winner match 11 - Senegal</i>
12	Mauritius - Kenya	12	<i>Winner match 12 - Cape Verde Islands</i>
13	Tanzania - Malawi	13	<i>Winner match 13 - Algeria</i>
14		14	Sudan - Zambia
15		15	Libya - Rwanda
16		16	Morocco - Equatorial Guinea
17		17	Mozambique - Gabon
18		18	Benin - Burkina Faso
19		19	Togo - Uganda
20		20	Angola - South Africa

Round THREE

- The 20 Round Two winners will take part in Round Three.
- The 20 teams will be drawn into five round-robin, home-and-away groups of four teams each.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 3 October 2016 to 14 November 2017.

Q The five group winners will qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™