



EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS



FIFA World Cup 2022
Qualifying draw procedure

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FIFA World Cup 2022 Qualifying Draw Procedure

Date and time:	<i>To be confirmed</i>
Place:	<i>To be confirmed</i>
Duration:	approx. 40 minutes for technical part
Regulations:	FIFA World Cup 2022™ Preliminary Competition regulations (Art. 18)
Participants:	55 UEFA member associations
Objective:	The draw will decide on the composition of the 10 qualifying groups
Seeding:	The teams are divided into 6 pots on the basis of the FIFA Rankings issued after the conclusion of the UEFA Nations League group stage on 18 November 2020

Starting points

- The 55 UEFA member associations have all entered the competition via the official FIFA entry form submitted to the FIFA administration (Art. 18 of the FIFA regulations).
- None of the European teams qualify automatically for the final tournament.
- The qualifying competition (European Qualifiers) is split into two stages: the group stage from March to November 2021 and the play-offs in March 2022. At the end of the qualifying competition the 13 teams participating in the FIFA World Cup 2022 will be known.
- The final tournament with the 32 qualified teams will start on November 21st and end on December 18th in Qatar.

Qualifying competition: group stage

- 10 groups; 5 groups of 5 teams (Groups A-E) and 5 groups of 6 teams (Groups F-J);
- League system on home and away basis;
- Group matches to be played according to the European Qualifiers match calendar from March to November 2021 based on the international match windows, and each window may contain two or three match days;
- The UEFA administration will publish the European Qualifiers Fixture List following the qualifying draw;
- The 10 group winners qualify directly for the final tournament;
- The 10 runners-up progress to the play-offs to be played in March 2022.



Team rankings and pot allocations

- The 55 teams involved in the draw are classified on the basis of the FIFA Rankings.
- Based on these rankings, the 55 teams are divided into 6 pots.
- Pots 1 to 5 contain each 10 teams and Pot 6 contains the last 5 remaining teams.

Pot 1	Pot 2	Pot 3

Pot 4	Pot 5	Pot 6

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Draw conditions

When UEFA is deciding on the fixtures, the aim is to issue a schedule that is fair for the participating teams, fulfils the expectations of our commercial partners and ensures with a high degree of probability that the fixture can take place as scheduled.

In order to be able to reach this goal, draw conditions apply for “competition-related reasons”, “prohibited team clashes”, “winter venue restrictions” and “excessive travel restrictions”.

When a draw restriction occurs or is anticipated to occur, the computer used to assist with the draw will indicate the group available for the drawn team.

It must be noted that the number of options available to a team depends not only on the team’s own attributes (for example, “winter venue”) and those of the teams already drawn, but also on the attributes of the other teams still to be drawn. Therefore, the computer calculations need to anticipate all possible scenarios and prevent any deadlock situation.

Competition-related reasons

The four UEFA Nations League finalist teams will play the two final matches of this competition in September or October 2021.

As a consequence, these four teams have only eight match days available for European Qualifiers group stage matches and must each be allocated to one group of five teams.

The following draw conditions apply:

1. The 4 teams participating in the UEFA Nations League Finals 2021 are drawn into a group with 5 teams (Groups A-E).
2. In addition, a group of 5 teams (Groups A-E) can contain a maximum of one UEFA Nations League finalist team.

The UEFA Nations League finalist teams are the four League A group winners and they will be known at the conclusion of the league phase on 18 November 2020.

Prohibited team clashes

Based on the UEFA Executive Committee decisions valid at the time of the draw, the following teams cannot be drawn into the same group:

- Armenia / Azerbaijan
- Gibraltar / Spain
- Kosovo / Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Kosovo / Serbia
- Kosovo / Russia
- Ukraine / Russia

The following draw condition applies:

- **If a prohibited clash occurs or could occur, the team drawn is placed in the first available group in alphabetical order as indicated by the computer.**



Winter venue restrictions

Ten countries have been identified as venues with risk of severe winter conditions. In order to minimise the risks of matches being negatively affected or even not being completed or played, a maximum of two such countries can be drawn into the same group:

Belarus
Estonia
Faroe Islands*
Finland
Iceland*
Latvia
Lithuania
Norway
Russia
Ukraine

The following draw condition applies:

- **If a team is or could be drawn into a group which already contains two such teams, that team is placed in the first available group in alphabetical order as indicated by the computer.**

*Iceland and Faroe Islands have been identified as venues with the highest risk of severe winter conditions. Given that the March (or November) window may include three match days and to limit the disruption to the group match scheduling, these two teams shall not be drawn into the same group.

The following additional draw condition applies:

- **If Iceland or Faroe Islands are or could be drawn into a group which already contains the other team in question, that team is placed in the first available group in alphabetical order as indicated by the computer.**

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Excessive travel restrictions

Twenty country pairs have been identified with excessive travel relations. In order to minimise the teams' travel burden, a maximum of one such pair can be drawn into the same group. The following table shows the restrictions, applicable both ways:

From/To	To/From
Andorra (Barcelona, ESP)	Kazakhstan (Astana)
England (London)	
France (Paris)	
Faroe Islands (Tórshavn)	
Gibraltar (Gibraltar)	
Iceland (Reykjavik)	
Malta (Valletta)	
Northern Ireland (Belfast)	
Portugal (Lisbon)	
Republic of Ireland (Dublin)	
Scotland (Edinburgh)	
Spain (Madrid)	
Wales (Cardiff)	

From/To	To/From
Iceland (Reykjavik)	Azerbaijan (Baku)
Gibraltar (Gibraltar)	
Portugal (Lisbon)	
Armenia (Yerevan)	Iceland (Reykjavik)
Cyprus (Larnaca)	
Georgia (Tbilisi)	
Israel (Tel Aviv)	

The following draw condition applies:

- **If a team is or could be drawn into a group which already contains two such teams, that team is placed in the first available group in alphabetical order as indicated by the computer.**

Draw procedure

- The draw starts with Pot 1 and then continues with Pot 2 until Pot 6. Each pot is emptied entirely before proceeding to the next pot.
- As a rule and for each pot, the teams drawn are allocated in alphabetical order from group A to group J. When a draw condition applies or is anticipated to apply, the team drawn is allocated to the first available group in alphabetical order as indicated by the computer.
- Since Pot 6 only contains 5 teams, these teams are drawn into the sixth positions in groups F to J.



Group A
Pot 1 team
Pot 2 team
Pot 3 team
Pot 4 team
Pot 5 team

Group B
Pot 1 team
Pot 2 team
Pot 3 team
Pot 4 team
Pot 5 team

Group C
Pot 1 team
Pot 2 team
Pot 3 team
Pot 4 team
Pot 5 team

Group D
Pot 1 team
Pot 2 team
Pot 3 team
Pot 4 team
Pot 5 team

Group E
Pot 1 team
Pot 2 team
Pot 3 team
Pot 4 team
Pot 5 team

Group F
Pot 1 team
Pot 2 team
Pot 3 team
Pot 4 team
Pot 5 team
Pot 6 team

Group G
Pot 1 team
Pot 2 team
Pot 3 team
Pot 4 team
Pot 5 team
Pot 6 team

Group H
Pot 1 team
Pot 2 team
Pot 3 team
Pot 4 team
Pot 5 team
Pot 6 team

Group I
Pot 1 team
Pot 2 team
Pot 3 team
Pot 4 team
Pot 5 team
Pot 6 team

Group J
Pot 1 team
Pot 2 team
Pot 3 team
Pot 4 team
Pot 5 team
Pot 6 team



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