WIKIPEDIA

2018 FIFA World Cup

The **2018 FIFA World Cup** is the 21st FIFA World Cup, a quadrennial international football tournament contested by the men's national teams of the member associations of FIFA. It is currently ongoing in Russia starting from 14 June and will end with the final match on 15 July 2018.[1] The country was awarded the hosting rights on 2 December 2010.

This is the first World Cup held to be held in Eastern Europe, and the eleventh time that it has been held in Europe. For the first time the tournament took place on the territory of two continents - Europe and Asia.[2] All of the stadium venues are in or just outside European Russia to keep travel time manageable. It is expected to be the most expensive football championship in history, budgeted at US$11.8-14 billion surpassing the cost of the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.[3][4]

The final tournament will involve 32 national teams, which include 31 teams determined through qualifying competitions and the automatically qualified host team. Of the 32 teams, 20 will be making back-to-back appearances following the last tournament in 2014, including defending champions Germany, while Iceland and Panama will both be making their first appearances at a FIFA World Cup. A total of 64 matches will be played in 12 venues located in 11 cities. The final will take place on 15 July at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.[5][6][7]

The winners of the World Cup will qualify for the 2021 FIFA Confederations Cup.

2018 FIFA World Cup

Чемпионат мира по футболу FIFA 2018
Chempionat mira po futbolu FIFA 2018[a]

FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018
2018 FIFA World Cup official logo

Tournament details	
Host country	Russia
Dates	14 June – 15 July
Teams	32 (from 5 confederations)
Venue(s)	12 (in 11 host cities)
Tournament statistics	
Matches played	4
Goals scored	13 (3.25 per match)
Attendance	211,440 (52,860 per match)
Top scorer(s)	Cristiano Ronaldo (3 goals)

Contents

Host selection
Teams
- Qualification
- Draw
- Squads

Referees
Venues
- Stadia
- Team base camps

Preparation and costs
- Infrastructure
- Volunteers
- Transport

Schedule
Opening ceremony
Group stage
- Tiebreakers
- Group A
- Group B
- Group C
- Group D
- Group E
- Group F
- Group G
- Group H

Knockout stage
- Bracket
- Round of 16
- Quarter-finals
- Semi-finals
- Third place play-off
- Final

Statistics
- Goalscorers
- Assists

Prize money
Marketing
- Branding
- Mascot
- Ticketing
- Match ball
- Merchandise
- Official song

Controversies
- Response to Skripal poisoning
- Terrorist threats

Broadcasting rights
Sponsorship
See also
Notes
References
External links

Host selection

The bidding procedure to host the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cup tournaments began in January 2009, and national associations had until 2 February 2009 to register their interest.[8] Initially, nine countries placed bids for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, but Mexico later withdrew from proceedings,[9] and Indonesia's bid was rejected by FIFA in February 2010 after the Indonesian government failed to submit a letter to support the bid.[10] During the bidding process, the three remaining non-UEFA nations (Australia, Japan, and the United States) gradually withdrew from the 2018 bids, and the UEFA nations were thus ruled out of the 2022 bid. As such, there were eventually four bids for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, two of which were joint bids: England, Russia, Netherlands/Belgium, and Portugal/Spain.

Russian bid personnel celebrate the awarding of the 2018 World Cup to Russia, December 2010.

The 22-member FIFA Executive Committee convened in Zürich on 2 December 2010 to vote to select the hosts of both tournaments.[11] Russia won the right to be the 2018 host in the second round of voting. The Portugal/Spain bid came second, and that from Belgium/Netherlands third. England, which was bidding to host its second tournament, was eliminated in the first round.[12]

The voting results were as follows:[13]

2018 FIFA bidding (majority 12 votes)

Bidders	Votes	
	Round 1	Round 2
Russia	9	13
Portugal / Spain	7	7
Belgium / Netherlands	4	2
England	2	Eliminated

Russian president Vladimir Putin holding the FIFA World Cup Trophy at a pre-tournament ceremony in Moscow, September 2017

The process was not without criticism. Allegations of bribery on the part of the Russian team and corruption from FIFA members were made particularly by the English Football Association. It was alleged that four members of the executive committee had requested bribes to vote for England, and Sepp Blatter said that it had already been arranged before the vote that Russia would win.[14] The 2014 Garcia Report, an internal investigation led by Michael J. Garcia, was withheld from public release by Hans-Joachim Eckert, FIFA's head of adjudication on ethical matters. Eckert instead released a shorter revised summary, and his (and therefore FIFA's) reluctance to publish the full report caused Garcia to resign in protest.[15] Due to such controversy, the FA refused to accept Eckert's absolving of Russia from blame, with Greg Dyke calling for a re-examination of the affair and David Bernstein calling for a boycott of the World Cup.[16][17]

Teams

The 100-ruble commemorative banknote, which celebrates the 2018 FIFA World Cup. It features an image of Russian goalkeeping legend Lev Yashin.

Qualification

For the first time in the history of the FIFA World Cup, all eligible nations – the 209 FIFA member associations minus automatically qualified hosts Russia – entered the qualifying process.[18] Zimbabwe and Indonesia were later disqualified before playing their first matches,[19][20] while Gibraltar and Kosovo, who joined FIFA on 13 May 2016 after the qualifying draw but before European qualifying had begun, also entered the competition.[21] Places in the tournament were allocated to continental confederations, with the allocation unchanged from the 2014 World Cup.[22][23] The first qualification game began in Dili, Timor Leste, on 12 March 2015 as part of the AFC's qualification,[24] and the main qualifying draw took place at the Konstantinovsky Palace in Strelna, Saint Petersburg on 25 July 2015 at 18:00 local time (UTC+3).[25][26][27][1]

Of the 32 nations qualified to play at the 2018 FIFA World Cup, 20 countries competed at the previous edition of the tournament in 2014. Both Iceland and Panama qualified for the first time, with the former becoming the smallest country in terms of population to reach the World Cup.[28] Other teams returning after absences of at least three tournaments include: Egypt, returning to the finals after a 28-year absence from their last appearance in 1990; Morocco, who last competed in 1998; Peru, returning after a 36-year absence (since 1982); and Senegal, competing for the second time after reaching the quarter-finals in 2002. It is the first time three Nordic countries (Denmark, Iceland and Sweden) and four Arab nations (Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia) have qualified for the World Cup.[29]

Notable countries that failed to qualify include four-time champions Italy (for the first time since 1958) and three-time runners-up the Netherlands (for the first time since 2002), and four reigning continental champions: 2017 Africa Cup of Nations winners Cameroon, two-time Copa América champions and 2017 Confederations Cup runners-up Chile, 2016 OFC Nations Cup winners New Zealand, and 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup champions United States (for the first time since 1986). The other notable qualifying streaks broken were for Ghana and Ivory Coast, who had both made the previous three tournaments.

Note: Numbers in parentheses indicate positions in the FIFA World Rankings at the time of the tournament[30]

AFC (5)

- Australia (36)
- Iran (37)
- Japan (61)
- Saudi Arabia (67)
- South Korea (57)

CAF (5)

- Egypt (45)
- Morocco (41)
- Nigeria (48)
- Senegal (27)
- Tunisia (21)

CONCACAF (3)

- Costa Rica (23)
- Mexico (15)
- Panama (55)

CONMEBOL (5)

- Argentina (5)
- Brazil (2)
- Colombia (16)
- Peru (11)
- Uruguay (14)

OFC (0)

- *None qualified*

UEFA (14)

- Belgium (3)
- Croatia (20)
- Denmark (=12)
- England (=12)
- France (7)
- Germany (1)
- Iceland (22)
- Poland (8)
- Portugal (4)
- Russia (70) (hosts)
- Serbia (34)
- Spain (10)
- Sweden (24)
- Switzerland (6)

Draw

The draw was held on 1 December 2017 at 18:00 MSK at the State Kremlin Palace in Moscow.[31][32] The 32 teams were drawn into 8 groups of 4.

For the draw, the teams were allocated to four pots based on the FIFA World Rankings of October 2017. Pot 1 contained the hosts Russia (who were automatically assigned to position A1) and the best seven teams, pot 2 contained the next best eight teams, and so on for pots 3 and 4.[33] This was different from previous draws, when only pot 1 was based on FIFA rankings while the remaining pots were based on geographical considerations. However, teams from the same confederation still were not drawn against each other for the group stage, except that two UEFA teams could be in each group.

Pot 1	Pot 2	Pot 3	Pot 4
Russia (65) *(hosts)*	Spain (8)	Denmark (19)	Serbia (38)
Germany (1)	Peru (10)	Iceland (21)	Nigeria (41)
Brazil (2)	Switzerland (11)	Costa Rica (22)	Australia (43)
Portugal (3)	England (12)	Sweden (25)	Japan (44)
Argentina (4)	Colombia (13)	Tunisia (28)	Morocco (48)
Belgium (5)	Mexico (16)	Egypt (30)	Panama (49)
Poland (6)	Uruguay (17)	Senegal (32)	South Korea (62)
France (7)	Croatia (18)	Iran (34)	Saudi Arabia (63)

Squads

Each team had to name a preliminary squad of 35 players. From the preliminary squad, the team had to name a final squad of 23 players (three of whom must be goalkeepers) by 4 June. Players in the final squad may be replaced due to serious injury up to 24 hours prior to kickoff of the team's first match and such replacements do not need to have been named in the preliminary squad.[34]

For players named in the 35-player preliminary squad, there was a mandatory rest period between 21 and 27 May 2018, except for those involved in the 2018 UEFA Champions League Final played on 26 May.[35]

Initially the preliminary squads were to have 30 players but, in February 2018, it was announced that the number of players to be named in the provisional squads would be increased to 35.[36]

Referees

On 16 March 2018, the FIFA Council approved the use of video assistant referees (VAR) for the first time in a FIFA World Cup tournament.[37]

On 29 March 2018, FIFA released the list of 36 referees and 63 assistant referees selected to oversee matches.[38] On 30 April 2018, FIFA released the list of 13 video assistant referees, who will solely act as VARs in the tournament.[39] On 30 May 2018, Saudi referee Fahad Al-Mirdasi was banned for life over a match fixing attempt,[40] and he and his two assistant referees, Mohammed Al Abakry and Abdulah Al Shalwai, were removed. A new referee was not appointed, but two assistant referees, Hasan Al Mahri of United Arab Emirates and Hiroshi Yamauchi of Japan, were added to the list.[41][42]

List of officials			
Confederation	**Referee**	**Assistant Referees**	**Video Assistant Referees**
AFC	Alireza Faghani (Iran)	Reza Sokhandan (Iran) Mohammadreza Mansouri (Iran)	Abdulrahman Al-Jassim (Qatar)
	Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)	Abdukhamidullo Rasulov (Uzbekistan) Jakhongir Saidov (Uzbekistan)	
	Mohammed Abdulla Hassan Mohamed (United Arab Emirates)	Mohamed Al Hammadi (United Arab Emirates) Hasan Al Mahri (United Arab Emirates)	
	Ryuji Sato (Japan)	Toru Sagara (Japan) Hiroshi Yamauchi (Japan)	
	Nawaf Shukralla (Bahrain)	Yaser Tulefat (Bahrain) Taleb Al Maari (Qatar)	
CAF	Malang Diedhiou (Senegal)	Djibril Camara (Senegal) El Hadji Samba (Senegal)	
	Bakary Gassama (Gambia)	Jean Claude Birumushahu (Burundi) Abdelhak Etchiali (Algeria)	
	Gehad Grisha (Egypt)	Redouane Achik (Morocco) Waleed Ahmed (Sudan)	
	Janny Sikazwe (Zambia)	Jerson Dos Santos (Angola) Zakhele Siwela (South Africa)	
	Mehdi Abid Charef (Algeria)	Anouar Hmila (Tunisia)	
	Bamlak Tessema Weyesa (Ethiopia)		
CONCACAF	Joel Aguilar (El Salvador)	Juan Zumba (El Salvador) Corey Rockwell (United States)	
	Mark Geiger (United States)	Frank Anderson (United States) Joe Fletcher (Canada)	
	César Arturo Ramos (Mexico)	Marvin Torrentera (Mexico) Miguel Hernández (Mexico)	
	John Pitti (Panama)	Gabriel Victoria (Panama)	
	Ricardo Montero (Costa Rica)	Juan Carlos Mora Araya (Costa Rica)	
	Jair Marrufo (United States)		
CONMEBOL	Julio Bascuñán (Chile)	Carlos Astroza (Chile) Christian Schiemann (Chile)	Wilton Sampaio (Brazil) Gery Vargas (Bolivia) Mauro Vigliano (Argentina)
	Enrique Cáceres (Paraguay)	Eduardo Cardozo (Paraguay) Juan Zorrilla (Paraguay)	
	Andrés Cunha (Uruguay)	Nicolás Tarán (Uruguay) Mauricio Espinosa (Uruguay)	
	Néstor Pitana (Argentina)	Hernán Maidana (Argentina) Juan Pablo Bellati (Argentina)	
	Sandro Ricci (Brazil)	Emerson de Carvalho (Brazil) Marcelo Van Gasse (Brazil)	
	Wilmar Roldán (Colombia)	Alexander Guzmán (Colombia) Cristian de la Cruz (Colombia)	
OFC	Matthew Conger (New Zealand)	Simon Lount (New Zealand) Tevita Makasini (Tonga)	
	Norbert Hauata (Tahiti)	Bertrand Brial (New Caledonia)	
UEFA	Felix Brych (Germany)	Mark Borsch (Germany) Stefan Lupp (Germany)	Bastian Dankert (Germany) Paweł Gil (Poland) Massimiliano Irrati (Italy) Tiago Martins (Portugal) Danny Makkelie (Netherlands) Daniele Orsato (Italy) Artur Soares Dias (Portugal) Paolo Valeri (Italy) Felix Zwayer (Germany)
	Cüneyt Çakır (Turkey)	Bahattin Duran (Turkey) Tarik Ongun (Turkey)	
	Sergei Karasev (Russia)	Anton Averianov (Russia) Tikhon Kalugin (Russia)	
	Björn Kuipers (Netherlands)	Sander van Roekel (Netherlands) Erwin Zeinstra (Netherlands)	
	Szymon Marciniak (Poland)	Pawel Sokolnicki (Poland) Tomasz Listkiewicz (Poland)	
	Antonio Mateu Lahoz (Spain)	Pau Cebrián Devís (Spain) Roberto Díaz Pérez (Spain)	
	Milorad Mažić (Serbia)	Milovan Ristić (Serbia) Dalibor Djurdjević (Serbia)	
	Gianluca Rocchi (Italy)	Elenito Di Liberatore (Italy) Mauro Tonolini (Italy)	
	Damir Skomina (Slovenia)	Jure Praprotnik (Slovenia) Robert Vukan (Slovenia)	
	Clément Turpin (France)	Cyril Gringore (France) Nicolas Danos (France)	

Venues

Russia proposed the following host cities: Kaliningrad, Kazan, Krasnodar, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Rostov-on-Don, Saint Petersburg, Samara, Saransk, Sochi, Volgograd, Yaroslavl, and Yekaterinburg.[43] All the cities are in or just outside European Russia to reduce travel time for the teams in the huge country. The bid evaluation report stated: "The Russian bid proposes 13 host cities and 16 stadiums, thus exceeding FIFA's minimum requirement. Three of the 16 stadiums would be renovated, and 13 would be newly constructed."[44]

In October 2011, Russia decreased the number of stadiums from 16 to 14. Construction of the proposed Podolsk stadium in the Moscow region was cancelled by the regional government, and also in the capital, Otkrytiye Arena was competing with Dynamo Stadium over which would be constructed first.[45]

The final choice of host cities was announced on 29 September 2012. The number of cities was further reduced to 11 and number of stadia to 12 as Krasnodar and Yaroslavl were dropped from the final list. Of the 12 stadia used for the tournament, 3 (Luzhniki, Yekaterinburg and Sochi) have been extensively renovated and the other 9 stadia to be used are newly constructed; $11.8 billion has been spent on hosting the tournament.[46]

Sepp Blatter stated in July 2014 that due to concerns over the completion of venues in Russia, the number of venues for the tournament may be reduced from 12 to 10. He also said, "We are not going to be in a situation, as is the case of one, two or even three stadiums in South Africa, where it is a problem of what you do with these stadiums".[47]

In October 2014, on their first official visit to Russia, FIFA's inspection committee and its head Chris Unger visited St Petersburg, Sochi, Kazan and both Moscow venues. They were satisfied with the progress.[48]

On 8 October 2015, FIFA and the Local Organising Committee agreed on the official names of the stadia used during the tournament.[49]

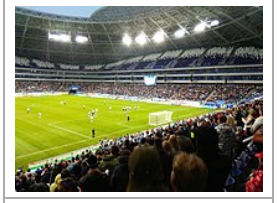
Of the 12 venues used, the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow and the Saint Petersburg Stadium (the two largest stadiums in Russia) will be used most, with seven matches being played at each of these stadiums. Sochi, Kazan, Nizhny Novgorod and Samara will host six matches including one quarter-final match apiece, and the Otkrytiye Stadium in Moscow and Rostov-on-Don will host five matches apiece including one round of 16 match each. Volgograd, Kaliningrad, Yekaterinburg, and Saransk will host four matches each and none of these cities will host any knockout stage games.

Stadia

A total of 12 stadia in 11 Russian cities have been built and renovated for the FIFA World Cup.[50]

- **Samara: Samara Arena**. The construction officially started on 21 July 2014. The project was completed on 21 April 2018.
- **Nizhny Novgorod: Nizhny Novgorod Stadium**. The construction of the Nizhny Novgorod Stadium commenced in 2015. The project was completed in December 2017.[51]
- **Volgograd: Volgograd Arena**. The main arena of Volgograd was built on the demolished Central Stadium site, at the foot of the Mamayev Kurgan memorial complex. The stadium was commissioned on 3 April 2018.[52]
- **Ekaterinburg: Ekaterinburg Arena**. The Central Stadium of Ekaterinburg has been renovated for the FIFA World Cup. The arena's stands will have a capacity of 35,000 spectators. The renovation project was completed in December 2017.
- **Saransk: Mordovia Arena**. The stadium in Saransk was scheduled to be commissioned in 2012 in time for the opening of the all-Russian Spartakiad, but the plan was revised. The opening was rescheduled to 2017. The arena hosted its first match on 21 April 2018.
- **Rostov-on-Don: Rostov Arena**. The stadium is located on the left bank of the Don River. The stadium construction was completed on 22 December 2017.
- **Kaliningrad: Kaliningrad Stadium**. The first piles were driven into the ground in September 2015. On 11 April 2018 the new stadium hosted its first match.
- **Kazan: Kazan Arena**. The stadium was built for the 2013 Summer Universiade. It has since hosted the 2015 World Aquatics Championship and the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. The stadium serves as a home arena to FC Rubin Kazan.
- **Moscow: Spartak Stadium**. The stadium is a home arena to its namesake FC Spartak Moscow. In accordance with the FIFA requirements, during the 2018 World Cup it is called Spartak Stadium instead of its usual name Otkritie Arena. The stadium hosted its first match on 5 September 2014.
- **Sochi: Fisht Stadium**. The stadium hosted the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2014 Winter Olympics. Afterwards, it was renovated in preparation for the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup and 2018 World Cup.
- **Saint Petersburg: Saint Petersburg Stadium**. The construction of the stadium commenced in 2007. The project was officially completed on 29 December 2016.[53] The stadium has hosted games of the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup and will serve as a venue for the 2018 FIFA World Cup and the 2020 UEFA European Football Championship.
- **Moscow: Luzhniki Stadium**. The largest stadium in the country was closed for renovation in 2013. The stadium was commissioned in November 2017.

Moscow		**Saint Petersburg**	**Sochi**
Luzhniki Stadium	Otkritie Arena **(Spartak Stadium)**	Krestovsky Stadium **(Saint Petersburg Stadium)**	Fisht Olympic Stadium **(Fisht Stadium)**
Capacity: **78,011**[54]	Capacity: **44,190**[55]	Capacity: **64,468**[56]	Capacity: **44,287**[57]

Samara		**Kazan**
Cosmos Arena **(Samara Arena)**		Kazan Arena
Capacity: **41,970**[58]		Capacity: **42,873**[59]
		
Rostov-on-Don		**Volgograd**
Rostov Arena		Volgograd Arena
Capacity: **43,472**[60]		Capacity: **43,713**[61]

Nizhny Novgorod	**Saransk**	**Yekaterinburg**	**Kaliningrad**
Nizhny Novgorod Stadium	Mordovia Arena	Central Stadium **(Ekaterinburg Arena)**	Kaliningrad Stadium
Capacity: **43,319**[62]	Capacity: **41,685**[63]	Capacity: **33,061**[64]	Capacity: **33,973**[65]

Team base camps

Base camps will be used by the 32 national squads to stay and train before and during the World Cup tournament. On 9 February 2018, FIFA announced the base camps for each participating team.[66]

- Argentina: Bronnitsy, Moscow Oblast
- Australia: Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan
- Belgium: Krasnogorsky, Moscow Oblast
- Brazil: Sochi, Krasnodar Krai
- Colombia: Verkhneuslonsky, Republic of Tatarstan
- Costa Rica: Saint Petersburg
- Croatia: Roshchino, Leningrad Oblast[67]
- Denmark: Anapa, Krasnodar Krai
- Egypt: Grozny, Chechen Republic
- England: Repino, Saint Petersburg[68]
- France: Istra, Moscow Oblast
- Germany: Moscow
- Iceland: Gelendzhik, Krasnodar Krai
- Iran: Bakovka, Moscow Oblast
- Japan: Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan
- Mexico: Khimki, Moscow Oblast
- Morocco: Voronezh, Voronezh Oblast
- Nigeria: Yessentuki, Stavropol Krai
- Panama: Saransk, Republic of Mordovia
- Peru: Moscow
- Poland: Sochi, Krasnodar Krai
- Portugal: Ramenskoye, Moscow Oblast
- Russia: Khimki, Moscow Oblast
- Saudi Arabia: Saint Petersburg
- Senegal: Kaluga, Kaluga Oblast
- Serbia: Svetlogorsk, Kaliningrad Oblast
- South Korea: Saint Petersburg
- Spain: Krasnodar, Krasnodar Krai
- Switzerland: Togliatti, Samara Oblast
- Sweden: Gelendzhik, Krasnodar Krai
- Tunisia: Pervomayskoye, Moscow Oblast
- Uruguay: Bor, Nizhny Novgorod Oblast

Preparation and costs

Infrastructure

The Russian government earmarked a budget of around $20 billion[69] which was later slashed to $10 billion for the preparations of the World Cup, of which half is spent on transport infrastructure.[70] As part of the program for preparation to the 2018 FIFA World Cup, a federal sub-program "Construction and Renovation of Transport Infrastructure" was implemented with a total budget of 352.5 billion rubles, with 170.3 billion coming from the federal budget, 35.1 billion from regional budgets, and 147.1 billion from investors.[71] The biggest item of federal spending was the aviation infrastructure (117.8 billion rubles).[72] Construction of new hotels was a crucial area of infrastructure development in the World Cup host cities.

Platov International Airport in Rostov-on-Don was upgraded with automated air traffic control systems, modern surveillance, navigation, communication, control, and meteorological support systems.[73] Koltsovo Airport in Yekaterinburg was upgraded with radio-engineering tools for flight operation and received its second runway strip. Saransk Airport received a new navigation system; the city also got two new hotels, Mercure Saransk Centre and Four Points by Sheraton Saransk as well as few other smaller accommodation facilities.[74] In Samara, new tram lines were laid.[75] Khrabrovo Airport in Kaliningrad was upgraded with radio navigation and weather equipment.[76] Renovation and upgrade of radio-engineering tools for flight operation was completed in the airports of Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Volgograd, Samara, Yekaterinburg, Kazan and Sochi.[73] On 27 March, the Ministry of Construction Industry, Housing and Utilities Sector of Russia reported that all communications within its area of responsibility have been commissioned. The last facility commissioned was a waste treatment station in Volgograd.

Volunteers

Volunteer applications to the Russia 2018 Local Organising Committee opened on 1 June 2016. The 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia Volunteer Program has set a new record: by 30 December when application period was over, the organisers received about 177,000 applications.[77] The 2018 FIFA World Cup will engage a total of 17,040 volunteers and more than 18,000 city volunteers in the 11 host cities.[78] They received training at 15 Volunteer Centres of the Local Organising Committee based in 15 universities, and in Volunteer Centres in the host cities. Preference, especially in the key areas, is given to those with knowledge of foreign languages and volunteering experience. Volunteers can be nationals of Russia or any other countries.[79]

Transport

Free public transport services are being offered for ticketholders during the World Cup, including additional trains linking between host cities, as well as services such as bus service within them.[80][81][82]

Schedule

The full schedule was announced by FIFA on 24 July 2015 (without kick-off times, which were confirmed later).[83][84] On 1 December 2017, following the final draw, six kick-off times were adjusted by FIFA.[85] Russia was placed in position A1 in the group stage and will play in the opening match at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow on 14 June against Saudi Arabia, the two lowest ranked teams of the tournament at the time of the final draw.[86] The Luzhniki Stadium will also host the second semi-final on 11 July and the final on 15 July. The Krestovsky Stadium in Saint Petersburg will host the first semi-final on 10 July and the third place play-off on 14 July.[87][22]

A ceremony in Moscow launching the countdown from 1,000 days until the 2018 FIFA Football World Cup begins in Russia.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on Thursday, 14 June 2018, at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia[88] preceding the opening match of the tournament between hosts Russia and Saudi Arabia.[89][90]

Group stage

The top two teams of each group advance to the round of 16. Matches are played on a round-robin basis. All times listed below are local time.[85]

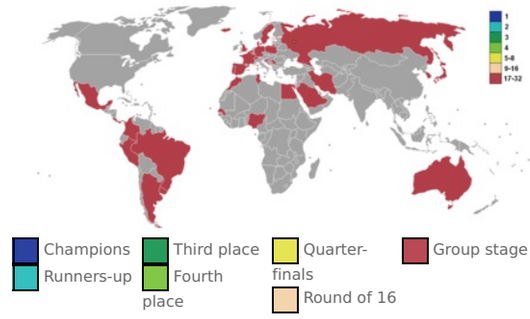
Tiebreakers

The rankings of teams in each group are determined as follows (regulations Article 32.5):[34]

1. points obtained in all group matches;
2. goal difference in all group matches;
3. number of goals scored in all group matches;

If two or more teams are equal on the basis of the above three criteria, their rankings are determined as follows:

4. points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned;
5. goal difference in the group matches between the teams concerned;
6. number of goals scored in the group matches between the teams concerned;
7. fair play points
   - first yellow card: minus 1 point;
   - indirect red card (second yellow card): minus 3 points;
   - direct red card: minus 4 points;



- yellow card and direct red card: minus 5 points;

8. drawing of lots by the FIFA Organising Committee.

Group A

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	Russia **(H)**	1	1	0	0	5	0	+5	**3**	Advance to knockout stage
2	Uruguay	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	**3**	
3	Egypt	1	0	0	1	0	1	−1	**0**	
4	Saudi Arabia	1	0	0	1	0	5	−5	**0**	

Updated to match(es) played on 15 June 2018. Source: FIFA (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/groups/index.html)
Rules for classification: Group stage tiebreakers
(H) Host.

14 June 2018 18:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Russia** Gazinsky 12' Cheryshev 43', 90+1' Dzyuba 71' Golovin 90+4'	**5–0** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331503/)	**Saudi Arabia**	Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow Attendance: 78,011[91] Referee: Néstor Pitana (Argentina)
15 June 2018 17:00 YEKT (UTC+5)	**Egypt**	**0–1** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300353632/)	**Uruguay** Giménez 89'	Yekaterinburg Arena, Yekaterinburg Attendance: 27,015[92] Referee: Björn Kuipers (Netherlands)
19 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Russia**	**Match 17** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331495/)	**Egypt**	Krestovsky Stadium, Saint Petersburg
20 June 2018 18:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Uruguay**	**Match 18** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331530/)	**Saudi Arabia**	Rostov Arena, Rostov-on-Don
25 June 2018 18:00 SAMT (UTC+4)	**Uruguay**	**Match 33** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331516/)	**Russia**	Cosmos Arena, Samara
25 June 2018 17:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Saudi Arabia**	**Match 34** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331509/)	**Egypt**	Volgograd Arena, Volgograd

Group B

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	Iran	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	**3**	Advance to knockout stage
2	Portugal	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	**1**	
2	Spain	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	**1**	
4	Morocco	1	0	0	1	0	1	−1	**0**	

Updated to match(es) played on 15 June 2018. Source: FIFA (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/groups/index.html)
Rules for classification: Group stage tiebreakers

15 June 2018 18:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Morocco**	**0–1** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331526/)	**Iran** Bouhaddouz 90+5' (o.g.)	Krestovsky Stadium, Saint Petersburg Attendance: 62,548[93] Referee: Cüneyt Çakır (Turkey)
15 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Portugal** Ronaldo 4' (pen.), 44', 88'	**3–3** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331524/)	**Spain** Costa 24', 55' Nacho 58'	Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi Attendance: 43,866[94] Referee: Gianluca Rocchi (Italy)
20 June 2018 15:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Portugal**	**Match 19** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331511/)	**Morocco**	Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow
20 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Iran**	**Match 20** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331496/)	**Spain**	Kazan Arena, Kazan
25 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Iran**	**Match 35** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331500/)	**Portugal**	Mordovia Arena, Saransk
25 June 2018 20:00 KALT (UTC+2)	**Spain**	**Match 36** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300340184/)	**Morocco**	Kaliningrad Stadium, Kaliningrad

Group C

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	Advance to knockout stage
1	Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	Peru	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	

First match(es) will be played on 16 June 2018. Source: FIFA (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/groups/index.html)
Rules for classification: Group stage tiebreakers

16 June 2018 13:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**France**	**Match 5** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331533/)	**Australia**	Kazan Arena, Kazan Referee: Andrés Cunha (Uruguay)
16 June 2018 19:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Peru**	**Match 6** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331528/)	**Denmark**	Mordovia Arena, Saransk Referee: Bakary Gassama (Gambia)
21 June 2018 16:00 SAMT (UTC+4)	**Denmark**	**Match 22** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331518/)	**Australia**	Cosmos Arena, Samara
21 June 2018 20:00 YEKT (UTC+5)	**France**	**Match 21** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331527/)	**Peru**	Yekaterinburg Arena, Yekaterinburg
26 June 2018 17:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Denmark**	**Match 37** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331512/)	**France**	Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow
26 June 2018 17:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Australia**	**Match 38** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331506/)	**Peru**	Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi

Group D

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	Advance to knockout stage
1	Iceland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	

First match(es) will be played on 16 June 2018. Source: FIFA (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/groups/index.html)
Rules for classification: Group stage tiebreakers

16 June 2018 16:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Argentina**	**Match 7** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331515/)	**Iceland**	Otkritie Arena, Moscow Referee: Szymon Marciniak (Poland)
16 June 2018 21:00 KALT (UTC+2)	**Croatia**	**Match 8** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331523/)	**Nigeria**	Kaliningrad Stadium, Kaliningrad Referee: Sandro Ricci (Brazil)
21 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Argentina**	**Match 23** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331513/)	**Croatia**	Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, Nizhny Novgorod
22 June 2018 18:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Nigeria**	**Match 24** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331497/)	**Iceland**	Volgograd Arena, Volgograd
26 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Nigeria**	**Match 39** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331519/)	**Argentina**	Krestovsky Stadium, Saint Petersburg
26 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Iceland**	**Match 40** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331510/)	**Croatia**	Rostov Arena, Rostov-on-Don

Group E

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	Advance to knockout stage
1	Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	

First match(es) will be played on 17 June 2018. Source: FIFA (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/groups/index.html)
Rules for classification: Group stage tiebreakers

17 June 2018 16:00 SAMT (UTC+4)	**Costa Rica**	**Match 10** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331529/)	**Serbia**	Cosmos Arena, Samara Referee: Malang Diedhiou (Senegal)
17 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Brazil**	**Match 9** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331525/)	**Switzerland**	Rostov Arena, Rostov-on-Don Referee: César Arturo Ramos (Mexico)

22 June 2018 15:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Brazil**	**Match 25** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331540/)	**Costa Rica**	Krestovsky Stadium, Saint Petersburg
22 June 2018 20:00 KALT (UTC+2)	**Serbia**	**Match 26** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300340183/)	**Switzerland**	Kaliningrad Stadium, Kaliningrad
27 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Serbia**	**Match 41** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331521/)	**Brazil**	Otkritie Arena, Moscow
27 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Switzerland**	**Match 42** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331534/)	**Costa Rica**	Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, Nizhny Novgorod

Group F

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	Advance to knockout stage
1	Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	South Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	

First match(es) will be played on 17 June 2018. Source: FIFA (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/groups/index.html)
Rules for classification: Group stage tiebreakers

17 June 2018 18:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Germany**	**Match 11** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331502/)	**Mexico**	Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow Referee: Alireza Faghani (Iran)
18 June 2018 15:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Sweden**	**Match 12** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331499/)	**South Korea**	Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, Nizhny Novgorod
23 June 2018 18:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**South Korea**	**Match 28** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331549/)	**Mexico**	Rostov Arena, Rostov-on-Don
23 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Germany**	**Match 27** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331501/)	**Sweden**	Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi
27 June 2018 17:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**South Korea**	**Match 43** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331532/)	**Germany**	Kazan Arena, Kazan
27 June 2018 19:00 YEKT (UTC+5)	**Mexico**	**Match 44** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331548/)	**Sweden**	Yekaterinburg Arena, Yekaterinburg

Group G

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	Advance to knockout stage
1	Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	Tunisia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	

First match(es) will be played on 18 June 2018. Source: FIFA (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/groups/index.html)
Rules for classification: Group stage tiebreakers

18 June 2018 18:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Belgium**	**Match 13** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331539/)	**Panama**	Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi
18 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Tunisia**	**Match 14** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331554/)	**England**	Volgograd Arena, Volgograd
23 June 2018 15:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Belgium**	**Match 29** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331547/)	**Tunisia**	Otkritie Arena, Moscow
24 June 2018 15:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**England**	**Match 30** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331546/)	**Panama**	Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, Nizhny Novgorod

28 June 2018 20:00 KALT (UTC+2)	**England**	**Match 45** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300340182/)	**Belgium**	Kaliningrad Stadium, Kaliningrad
28 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Panama**	**Match 46** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331520/)	**Tunisia**	Mordovia Arena, Saransk

Group H

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	Advance to knockout stage
1	Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	Colombia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	
1	Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	

First match(es) will be played on 19 June 2018. Source: FIFA (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/groups/index.html)
Rules for classification: Group stage tiebreakers

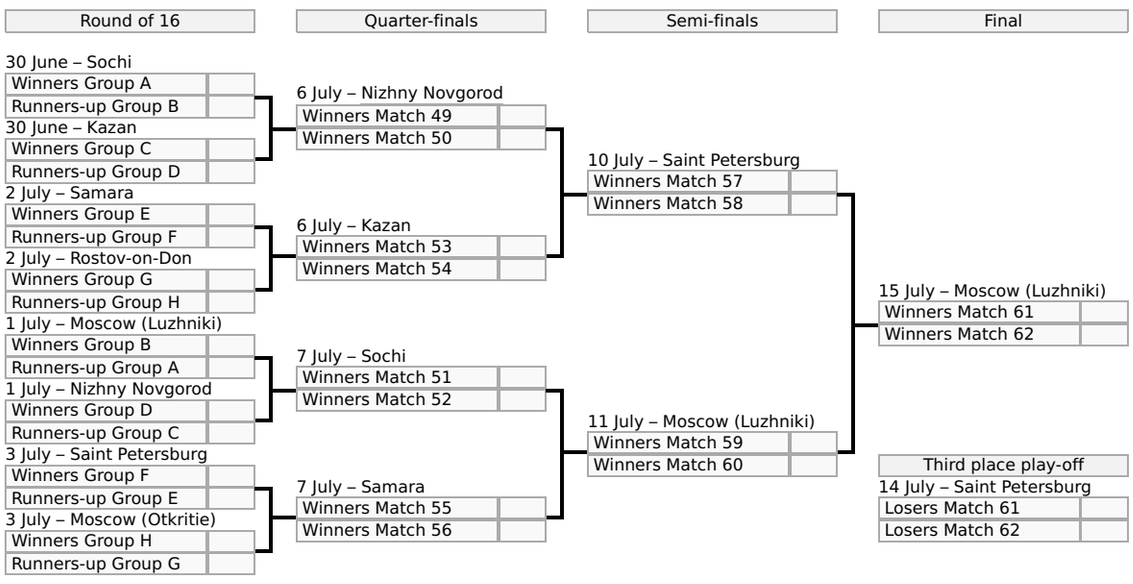
19 June 2018 15:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Colombia**	**Match 16** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331550/)	**Japan**	Mordovia Arena, Saransk
19 June 2018 18:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Poland**	**Match 15** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331545/)	**Senegal**	Otkritie Arena, Moscow
24 June 2018 20:00 YEKT (UTC+5)	**Japan**	**Match 32** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331505/)	**Senegal**	Yekaterinburg Arena, Yekaterinburg
24 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Poland**	**Match 31** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331508/)	**Colombia**	Kazan Arena, Kazan
28 June 2018 17:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Japan**	**Match 47** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331507/)	**Poland**	Volgograd Arena, Volgograd
28 June 2018 18:00 SAMT (UTC+4)	**Senegal**	**Match 48** Report (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/match/300331553/)	**Colombia**	Cosmos Arena, Samara

Knockout stage

In the knockout stages, if a match is level at the end of normal playing time, extra time is played (two periods of 15 minutes each) and followed, if necessary, by a penalty shoot-out to determine the winners.[34]

If a match goes into extra time, each team will be allowed to make a fourth substitution, the first time this has been allowed in a FIFA World Cup tournament.[37]

Bracket



Round of 16

30 June 2018 17:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Group C**	**Match 50**	**Runners-up Group D**	Kazan Arena, Kazan
30 June 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Group A**	**Match 49**	**Runners-up Group B**	Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi
1 July 2018 17:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Group B**	**Match 51**	**Runners-up Group A**	Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow
1 July 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Group D**	**Match 52**	**Runners-up Group C**	Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, Nizhny Novgorod

2 July 2018 18:00 SAMT (UTC+4)	**Winners Group E**	**Match 53**	**Runners-up Group F**	Cosmos Arena, Samara
2 July 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Group G**	**Match 54**	**Runners-up Group H**	Rostov Arena, Rostov-on-Don
3 July 2018 17:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Group F**	**Match 55**	**Runners-up Group E**	Krestovsky Stadium, Saint Petersburg
3 July 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Group H**	**Match 56**	**Runners-up Group G**	Otkritie Arena, Moscow
Quarter-finals				
6 July 2018 17:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Match 49**	**Match 57**	**Winners Match 50**	Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, Nizhny Novgorod
6 July 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Match 53**	**Match 58**	**Winners Match 54**	Kazan Arena, Kazan
7 July 2018 18:00 SAMT (UTC+4)	**Winners Match 55**	**Match 60**	**Winners Match 56**	Cosmos Arena, Samara
7 July 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Match 51**	**Match 59**	**Winners Match 52**	Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi
Semi-finals				
10 July 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Match 57**	**Match 61**	**Winners Match 58**	Krestovsky Stadium, Saint Petersburg
11 July 2018 21:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Match 59**	**Match 62**	**Winners Match 60**	Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow
Third place play-off				
14 July 2018 17:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Losers Match 61**	**Match 63**	**Losers Match 62**	Krestovsky Stadium, Saint Petersburg
Final				
15 July 2018 18:00 MSK (UTC+3)	**Winners Match 61**	**Match 64**	**Winners Match 62**	Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow

Statistics

Goalscorers

There have been 13 goals scored in 4 matches, for an average of 3.25 goals per match.

3 goals

- Cristiano Ronaldo

2 goals

- Denis Cheryshev
- Diego Costa

1 goal

- Artem Dzyuba
- Yury Gazinsky
- Aleksandr Golovin
- Nacho
- José Giménez

1 own goal

- Aziz Bouhaddouz (against Iran)

Source: FIFA

Assists

2 assists

- Aleksandr Golovin

1 assist

- Gonçalo Guedes
- Artem Dzyuba
- Roman Zobnin
- Sergio Busquets
- Carlos Sánchez

Source: FIFA

Prize money

Prize money amounts were announced in October 2017.[95]

Position	Amount (USD million)	
	Per team	Total
Champions	38	38
Runners-up	28	28
Third place	24	24
Fourth place	22	22
5th–8th place	16	64
9th–16th place	12	96
17th–32nd place	8	128
Total		**400**

Marketing

Branding

The tournament logo was unveiled on 28 October 2014 by cosmonauts at the International Space Station and then projected onto Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre during an evening television programme. Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said that the logo was inspired by "Russia's rich artistic tradition and its history of bold achievement and innovation", and FIFA President Sepp Blatter stated that it reflected the "heart and soul" of the country.[96] For the branding, a typeface called *Dusha* (from Душа, Russian for *soul*) was created by Portuguese design agency Brandia Central in 2014.

The typeface used for branding

Mascot

The official mascot for the tournament was unveiled 21 October 2016, and selected through a design competition among university students. A public vote was used to select from three finalists—a cat, a tiger, and a wolf. The winner, with 53% of approximately 1 million votes, was Zabivaka—an anthropomorphic wolf dressed in the colors of the Russian national team. Zabivaka's name is derived from the Russian word *забива́ть*, "to strike", and his official backstory states that he is an aspiring football player who is "charming, confident and social".[97]

Ticketing

The first phase of ticket sales started on 14 September 2017, 12:00 Moscow Time, and lasted until 12 October 2017.[98]

The general visa policy of Russia will not apply to participants and spectators, who will be able to visit Russia without a visa right before and during the competition regardless of their citizenship.[99] Spectators are nonetheless required to register for a "Fan-ID"—a special photo identification pass by visiting the website https://www.fan-id.ru and for an enquiry write to support@fan-id.ru. A Fan-ID is required to enter the country visa-free, while a ticket, Fan-ID and a valid passport are required to enter stadiums for matches. Fan-IDs also grant World Cup attendees free access to public transport services, including buses, and train service between host cities. Fan-ID is administered by the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media, who may revoke these accreditations at any time to "ensure the defence capability or security of the state or public order".[80][81][82]

Tournament mascot, wolf Zabivaka

Match ball

The official match ball of the 2018 World Cup is called "Telstar 18" and is based on the name and design of the first Adidas World Cup ball from 1970. It was introduced on 9 November 2017.[100]

Merchandise

On 30 April 2018, EA announced a free expansion for *FIFA 18* based on the 2018 FIFA World Cup, featuring all 32 participating teams and all 12 stadiums used at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.[101]

Match ball "Telstar 18"

Official song

The official song of the tournament is "Live It Up", with vocals from Will Smith, Nicky Jam and Era Istrefi, released on 25 May. The FIFA World Cup Official Music Video was released on 8 June.[102]

Controversies

The choice of Russia as host has been challenged. Controversial issues have included the level of racism in Russian football,[103][104][105] and discrimination against LGBT people in wider Russian society.[106][107] Russia's involvement in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has also caused calls for the tournament to be moved, particularly following the annexation of Crimea.[108][109] In 2014, FIFA President Sepp Blatter stated that "The World Cup has been given and voted to Russia and we are going forward with our work".[110]

Allegations of corruption in the bidding processes for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups caused threats from England's FA to boycott the tournament.[111] FIFA appointed Michael J. Garcia, a US attorney, to investigate and produce a report on the corruption allegations. Although the report was never published, FIFA released a 42-page summary of its findings as determined by German judge Hans-Joachim Eckert. Eckert's summary cleared Russia and Qatar of any wrongdoing, but was denounced by critics as a whitewash.[112] Garcia criticised the summary as being "materially incomplete" with "erroneous representations of the facts and conclusions", and appealed to FIFA's Appeal Committee.[113][114] The committee declined to hear his appeal, so Garcia resigned in protest of FIFA's conduct, citing a "lack of leadership" and lack of confidence in the independence of Eckert.[115]

On 3 June 2015, the FBI confirmed that the federal authorities were investigating the bidding and awarding processes for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.[116][117] In an interview published on 7 June 2015, 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".[118][119] Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and former British Prime Minister David Cameron attended a meeting with FIFA vice-president Chung Mong-joon in which a vote-trading deal for the right to host the 2018 World Cup was discussed.[120][121]

Due to the financial crisis in the Russian economy, in June 2015 a government decree cut the budget by $560 million, to a total of $11.8 billion.[122] The budget for the preparations was cut a few times, but in 2017 were again risen by $600 million to $11.8 billion.[4]

After Morocco qualified for the tournament with a 2–0 victory over Ivory Coast, the celebrations by the Moroccan community in Brussels turned into a riot with cars burnt, shops looted by some 300 rioters and 20 police officers injured.[123][124] Firefighters sent to put out the fires were also attacked by the rioters.[124]

33 footballers who are alleged to be part of the steroid program are listed in the McLaren Report.[125] On 22 December 2017, it was reported that FIFA fired a doctor who had been investigating doping in Russian football.[126] On 22 May 2018 FIFA confirmed that the investigations concerning all Russian players named for the provisional squad of the FIFA World Cup in Russia had been completed, with the result that insufficient evidence was found to assert an anti-doping rule violation.[127] FIFA also decided to exclude Russians from drug testing procedures at the tournament, to make sure that samples would not be tampered with.[128]

Response to Skripal poisoning

In response to the March 2018 poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal, British Prime Minister Theresa May announced that no British ministers or members of the royal family would attend the World Cup, and issued a warning to any travelling England fans.[129] Furthermore, Iceland has decided to diplomatically boycott the Russia-held World Cup.[130] Russia responded to the comments from the UK Parliament claiming that "the west are trying to deny Russia the World Cup".[131]

Terrorist threats

Prior to the tournament, ISIS made a threat that they would bomb fans via drones. Information came to light after ISIS members posted video clips and photos on an encrypted app, Telegram.[132] The first threats started in October 2017, when a pro-ISIS page posted a picture of Argentina star Lionel Messi seemingly in a jail cell with blood on his face and a mock up of Nike's tagline "Just Do It" replaced with "Just Terrorism".[133]

Broadcasting rights

FIFA, through several companies, sold the broadcasting rights for the 2018 FIFA World Cup to various local broadcasters.

In the United States, the 2018 World Cup will be the first men's World Cup whose English rights will be held by Fox Sports, and Spanish rights held by Telemundo. The elimination of the U.S. national team in qualifying led to concerns that U.S. interest and viewership of this World Cup would be reduced (especially among "casual" viewers interested in the U.S. team), especially noting how much Fox paid for the rights, and that U.S. games at the 2014 World Cup peaked at 16.5 million viewers. During a launch event prior to the elimination, Fox stated that it had planned to place a secondary focus on the Mexican team in its coverage to take advantage of their popularity among U.S. viewers (factoring Hispanic and Latino Americans). Fox stated that it was still committed to broadcasting a significant amount of coverage for the tournament.[134][135][136]

In February 2018, Ukrainian rightsholder UA:PBC stated that it would not broadcast the World Cup. This came in the wake of growing boycotts of the tournament among the Football Federation of Ukraine and sports minister Ihor Zhdanov.[137][138]

Sponsorship

FIFA partners	FIFA World Cup sponsors	African supporters	Asian supporters	European supporters
▪ Adidas[139] ▪ Coca-Cola[140] ▪ Gazprom[141] ▪ Hyundai–Kia[142] ▪ Qatar Airways[143] ▪ VISA[144] ▪ Wanda Group[145]	▪ Anheuser-Busch InBev[146] ▪ Hisense[147] ▪ McDonald's[148] ▪ Mengniu Dairy[149] ▪ Vivo[150]	▪ Egypt – Experience & Invest[151]	▪ Diking[152] ▪ Luci[152] ▪ Yadea[153]	▪ Alfa-Bank[154] ▪ Alrosa[155] ▪ Rostelecom[156] ▪ Russian Railways[157]

See also

- 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup
- 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification
  - CONMEBOL
  - CONCACAF
  - AFC
  - UEFA
  - CAF
  - OFC
- 2022 FIFA World Cup
- FIFA World Cup hosts

Notes

a. Standard Russian pronunciation is [tɕɪmʲpʲɪˈnat ˈmʲirə pə fʊdˈbołʊ ˈfiːfə dvʲɪˈtʲisʲɪtɕɪ vəsʲɪmˈnatsətʲ]

References

1. "Ethics: Executive Committee unanimously supports recommendation to publish report on 2018/2022 FIFA World Cup™ bidding process" (https://www.fifa.com/aboutfifa/organisation/news/newsid=2494723/index.html) (Press release). FIFA.com. 19 December 2014. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150329105006/http://www.fifa.com/aboutfifa/organisation/news/newsid=2494723/index.html) from the original on 29 March 2015.
2. Vyatchanin, Nikita (14 June 2018). "В России стартовал чемпионат мира по футболу" (https://www.pnp.ru/social/v-rossii-startoval-chempionat-mira-po-futbolu.html). *pnp.ru*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
3. "The estimate of the most expensive Football Championship in history increased several times" (https://rusletter.com/articles/the_estimate_of_the_most_expensive_football_championship_in_history_increased_several_times). *Rusletter.com*. 8 June 2018.
4. "Russia's 2018 World Cup costs grow by $600 million" (https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/soccer/2017/10/24/russias-2018-world-cup-costs-grow-by-600m/106953076/). *USA TODAY*. 24 October 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180501232927/https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/soccer/2017/10/24/russias-2018-world-cup-costs-grow-by-600m/106953076/) from the original on 1 May 2018.
5. "Russia united for 2018 FIFA World Cup Host Cities announcement" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/news/newsid=1711839/index.html). FIFA.com. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20131113044933/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/news/newsid=1711839/index.html) from the original on 13 November 2013. Retrieved 13 November 2013.
6. "FIFA Picks Cities for World Cup 2018" (https://web.archive.org/web/20131113042832/http://en.rsport.ru/football/20120929/620078064.html). En.rsport.ru. 29 September 2012. Archived from the original (http://en.rsport.ru/football/20120929/620078064.html) on 13 November 2013. Retrieved 13 November 2013.
7. "Russia budget for 2018 Fifa World Cup nearly doubles" (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-19777735). BBC News. 30 September 2012. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20140217000459/http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-19777735) from the original on 17 February 2014. Retrieved 13 November 2013.
8. Goff, Steve (16 January 2009). "Future World Cups" (http://voices.washingtonpost.com/soccerinsider/2009/01/future_world_cups.html). *The Washington Post*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20110430153000/http://voices.washingtonpost.com/soccerinsider/2009/01/future_world_cups.html) from the original on 30 April 2011. Retrieved 16 January 2009.
9. "Mexico withdraws FIFA World Cup bid" (https://www.fifa.com/newscentre/news/newsid=1109321.html). FIFA. 29 September 2009. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20110430035641/http://www.fifa.com/newscentre/news/newsid=1109321.html) from the original on 30 April 2011. Retrieved 10 February 2011.
10. "Indonesia's bid to host the 2022 World Cup bid ends" (http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/football/8577452.stm). *BBC Sport*. 19 March 2010. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20100320054013/http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/football/8577452.stm) from the original on 20 March 2010. Retrieved 19 March 2010.
11. "Combined bidding confirmed" (https://web.archive.org/web/20090122070321/http://www.fifa.com/aboutfifa/federation/bodies/media/newsid%3D983481.html). FIFA. 20 December 2008. Archived from the original (https://www.fifa.com/aboutfifa/federation/bodies/media/newsid=983481.html) on 22 January 2009. Retrieved 20 December 2008.
12. "England miss out to Russia in 2018 World Cup Vote" (http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/football/9250585.stm). *BBC News*. 2 December 2010. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20101203045541/http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/football/9250585.stm) from the original on 3 December 2010. Retrieved 2 December 2010.
13. Doyle, Paul; Busfield, Steve (2 December 2010). "World Cup 2018 and 2022 decision day – live!" (https://www.theguardian.com/football/blog/2010/dec/01/world-cup-2018-2022-zurich). *The Guardian*. London. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20161226062244/https://www.theguardian.com/football/blog/2010/dec/01/world-cup-2018-2022-zurich) from the original on 26 December 2016.
14. "What We Know About Corruption in the 2018 And 2022 World Cup Bids" (https://web.archive.org/web/20180115001654/https://sports.vice.com/en_ca/article/3kzxzv/what-we-know-about-corruption-in-the-2018-and-2022-world-cup-bids). VICE Sports. Archived from the original (https://sports.vice.com/en_ca/article/3kzxzv/what-we-know-about-corruption-in-the-2018-and-2022-world-cup-bids) on 15 January 2018. Retrieved 31 May 2018.
15. "Michael Garcia: FIFA investigator resigns in World Cup report row" (https://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/30522170). *BBC Sport*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160115222149/http://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/30522170) from the original on 15 January 2016. Retrieved 17 December 2014.
16. "Former FA chairman David Bernstein calls for 2018 World Cup boycott" (https://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/nov/17/david-bernstein-fa-world-cup-2018-2022-fifa-uefa-boycott). *the Guardian*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180426011958/https://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/nov/17/david-bernstein-fa-world-cup-2018-2022-fifa-uefa-boycott) from the original on 26 April 2018. Retrieved 31 May 2018.
17. Editorial, Reuters. "Qatar World Cup organizers ready to fight for 2022" (https://www.reuters.com/article/us-soccer-fifa-qatar/qatar-world-cup-organizers-ready-to-fight-for-2022-idUSKBN0OJ06C20150603). *U.S.* Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180426013532/https://www.reuters.com/article/us-soccer-fifa-qatar/qatar-world-cup-organizers-ready-to-fight-for-2022-idUSKBN0OJ06C20150603) from the original on 26 April 2018. Retrieved 31 May 2018.

18. "Road to Russia with new milestone" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/news/newsid=2507253/index.html). FIFA.com. 15 January 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150321054553/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/news/newsid=2507253/index.html) from the original on 21 March 2015.
19. "Zimbabwe expelled from the preliminary competition of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/zimbabwe-expelled-from-the-preliminary-competition-of-the-2018-fifa-wo-2557911). FIFA.com. 12 March 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171116134259/https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=3/news=zimbabwe-expelled-from-the-preliminary-competition-of-the-2018-fifa-wo-2557911.html/index.html) from the original on 16 November 2017.
20. "Indonesia excluded from 2018 World Cup qualifiers" (https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-soccer-world-indonesia/indonesia-excluded-from-2018-world-cup-qualifiers-idUKKBN0OJ11420150603). AFC. 3 June 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160301142102/http://www.the-afc.com/media-releases/impact-of-football-association-of-indonesia-suspension) from the original on 1 March 2016.
21. "Kosovo & Gibraltar become eligible for 2018 World Cup Qualifying" (https://www.rt.com/sport/343028-kosovo-gibraltar-fifa-members/). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160609225943/https://www.rt.com/sport/343028-kosovo-gibraltar-fifa-members/) from the original on 9 June 2016. Retrieved 10 January 2017.
22. "2022 FIFA World Cup to be played in November/December" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/qatar2022/news/y=2015/m=3/news=2022-fifa-world-cup-to-be-played-in-november-december-2568172.html). FIFA.com. 20 March 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171112185227/https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/qatar2022/news/y=2015/m=3/news=2022-fifa-world-cup-to-be-played-in-november-december-2568172.html) from the original on 12 November 2017.
23. "Current allocation of FIFA World Cup™ confederation slots maintained" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=5/news=current-allocation-of-fifa-world-cuptm-confederation-slots-maintained-2610611.html). FIFA.com. 30 May 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171116131907/https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=5/news=current-allocation-of-fifa-world-cuptm-confederation-slots-maintained-2610611.html) from the original on 16 November 2017.
24. "Long road to Russia begins in Dili" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=3/news=long-road-to-russia-begins-in-dili-2557346.html). FIFA.com. 11 March 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171116134405/https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=3/news=long-road-to-russia-begins-in-dili-2557346.html) from the original on 16 November 2017.
25. "FIFA World Cup™ Preliminary Draw: 1 week to go" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=7/news=fifa-world-cuptm-preliminary-draw-1-week-to-go-2665858.html). FIFA.com. 18 July 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171116133826/https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=7/news=fifa-world-cuptm-preliminary-draw-1-week-to-go-2665858.html) from the original on 16 November 2017.
26. "Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup extends its responsibilities to cover 2018 and 2022" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/organisation/media/newsid=2035763/index.html). FIFA.com. 19 March 2013. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20141018005611/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/organisation/media/newsid=2035763/index.html) from the original on 18 October 2014.
27. "Konstantinovsky Palace to stage Preliminary Draw of the 2018 FIFA World Cup" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/news/newsid=2455314/index.html). FIFA.com. 10 October 2014. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20141231062541/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/news/newsid=2455314/index.html) from the original on 31 December 2014.
28. T.A.W. (12 November 2017). "How Iceland (population: 330,000) qualified for the World Cup" (https://www.economist.com/blogs/gametheory/2017/11/dark-norses). *The Economist*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171113051656/https://www.economist.com/blogs/gametheory/2017/11/dark-norses) from the original on 13 November 2017. Retrieved 13 November 2017.
29. "In first, 4 Arab countries qualify for FIFA World Cup Finals" (https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-first-4-arab-countries-qualify-for-fifa-world-cup-finals/). *The Times of Israel*. 12 November 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171113165925/https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-first-4-arab-countries-qualify-for-fifa-world-cup-finals/) from the original on 13 November 2017. Retrieved 13 November 2017.
30. "FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking" (http://www.fifa.com/fifa-world-ranking/ranking-table/men/index.html). FIFA.com. 7 June 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180608084924/http://www.fifa.com/fifa-world-ranking/ranking-table/men/index.html) from the original on 8 June 2018.
31. "Final Draw to take place in State Kremlin Palace" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2017/m=1/news=final-draw-to-take-place-in-state-kremlin-palace-2864946.html). FIFA.com. 24 January 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171116185925/https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2017/m=1/news=final-draw-to-take-place-in-state-kremlin-palace-2864946.html) from the original on 16 November 2017.
32. "Final Draw to take place at 18:00" (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/0/world-cup-draw-2018-date-time-does-start-could-england-get/). telegraph.co.uk. 24 November 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171125212925/http://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/0/world-cup-draw-2018-date-time-does-start-could-england-get/) from the original on 25 November 2017.
33. "OC for FIFA Competitions approves procedures for the Final Draw of the 2018 FIFA World Cup" (https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2017/m=9/news=oc-for-fifa-competitions-approves-procedures-for-the-final-draw-of-the-2907924.html). FIFA.com. 14 September 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171110171903/https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2017/m=9/news=oc-for-fifa-competitions-approves-procedures-for-the-final-draw-of-the-2907924.html) from the original on 10 November 2017.
34. "Regulations – 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia" (https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/2018-fifa-world-cup-russiatm-regulations-2843519.pdf?cloudid=ejmfg94ac7hypl9zmsys) (PDF). FIFA.com. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170712134322/http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/tournament/competition/02/84/35/19/regulationsfwc2018en_neutral.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 12 July 2017.
35. "Rest periods for the players on the provisional list for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia" (http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/administration/02/87/91/00/circularno.1578-restperiodsfortheplayersontheprovisionallist_neutral.pdf) (PDF). FIFA.com. 30 March 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170418165115/http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/administration/02/87/91/00/circularno.1578-restperiodsfortheplayersontheprovisionallist_neutral.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 18 April 2017.
36. "Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions: Updates on the FIFA World Cup™ and women's tournaments" (https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2018/m=2/news=organising-committee-for-fifa-competitions-updates-on-the-fifa-world-cuptm-and-w.html?_branch_match_id=448017612148252632). *FIFA.com*. 8 February 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180209063851/http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2018/m=2/news=organising-committee-for-fifa-competitions-updates-on-the-fifa-world-cuptm-and-w.html?_branch_match_id=448017612148252632) from the original on 9 February 2018. Retrieved 9 February 2018.
37. "FIFA Council decides on key steps for the future of international competitions" (https://fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2018/m=3/news=fifa-council-decides-on-key-steps-for-the-future-of-international-competitions.html). FIFA.com. 16 March 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180331053615/http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2018/m=3/news=fifa-council-decides-on-key-steps-for-the-future-of-international-competitions.html) from the original on 31 March 2018.
38. "World Cup 2018 referees" (http://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/list-of-match-officials-for-the-2018-fifa-world-cuptm.pdf?cloudid=ygppy1zdhjaxituykarn) (PDF). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180330012652/http://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/list-of-match-officials-for-the-2018-fifa-world-cuptm.pdf?cloudid=ygppy1zdhjaxituykarn) (PDF) from the original on 30 March 2018.
39. "World Cup 2018 List of video match officials" (http://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/russia-2018-list-of-video-match-officials.pdf?cloudid=dlf1vsqmmpucihtftsu0) (PDF). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180430181949/http://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/russia-2018-list-of-video-match-officials.pdf?cloudid=dlf1vsqmmpucihtftsu0) (PDF) from the original on 30 April 2018.
40. "World Cup 2018: Referee Fahad Al Mirdasi 'banned over match-fixing attempt in Saudi Arabia' " (https://bbc.com/sport/football/44136512). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180525140820/https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/44136512) from the original on 25 May 2018.
41. "FIFA statement on the situation of the Saudi Arabian referee Fahad AL MIRDASI" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/fifa-statement-on-the-situation-of-the-saudi-arabian-referee-fahad-al-mirdasi). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180601111503/https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/fifa-statement-on-the-situation-of-the-saudi-arabian-referee-fahad-al-mirdasi) from the original on 1 June 2018.
42. "Updated: List of FIFA match officials for the 2018 FIFA World Cup" (https://img.fifa.com/image/upload/a51h8gler97tck1jfsul.pdf) (PDF). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180601111503/https://img.fifa.com/image/upload/a51h8gler97tck1jfsul.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 1 June 2018.
43. "2018 FIFA World Cup Bid Evaluation Report: Russia" (https://www.fifa.com/mm/document/tournament/competition/01/33/74/52/b5ruse.pdf) (PDF). FIFA. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20101214044951/http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/tournament/competition/01/33/74/52/b5ruse.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 14 December 2010. Retrieved 10 December 2002.
44. Marikar, Hafiz. "Russia to host next FIFA World Cup" (https://web.archive.org/web/20140809164003/http://www.dailynews.lk/?q=sports%2Frussia-host-next-fifa-world-cup). *Dailynews.lk*. The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. Archived from the original (http://www.dailynews.lk/?q=sports/russia-host-next-fifa-world-cup) on 9 August 2014. Retrieved 23 July 2014.
45. "Почему у России осталось только 14 стадионов к ЧМ-2018 – Известия (Why are there only 14 stadiums for the Russia 2018 World Cup)" (http://www.izvestia.ru/news/503276) (in Russian). Izvestia.ru. 7 October 2011. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20111008034435/http://www.izvestia.ru/news/503276) from the original on 8 October 2011. Retrieved 8 October 2011.
46. "2018 FIFA World Cup™ to be played in 11 Host Cities" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/organisation/media/newsid=1711717/index.html?intcmp=fifacom_hp_module_media_statements). fifa.com. 29 September 2012. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20140708201259/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/organisation/media/newsid=1711717/index.html?intcmp=fifacom_hp_module_media_statements) from the original on 8 July 2014. Retrieved 29 September 2012.
47. Saakov, Rafael (22 July 2014). "Russia 2018: Major challenges for next World Cup hosts" (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-28409784). *BBC News*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20140728161154/http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-28409784) from the original on 28 July 2014. Retrieved 29 July 2014.
48. Rogovitskiy, Dmitriy (21 October 2014). "Russia on track for World Cup 2018, say FIFA inspectors" (http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/10/21/uk-soccer-world-russia-inspection-idUKKCN0IA23420141021). Reuters. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20141029132143/http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/10/21/uk-soccer-world-russia-inspection-idUKKCN0IA23420141021) from the original on 29 October 2014. Retrieved 29 October 2014.
49. "Stadium names for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ confirmed" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=10/news=stadium-names-for-the-2018-fifa-world-cup-russiatm-confirmed-2709881.html). FIFA.com. 8 October 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171111152009/https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=10/news=stadium-names-for-the-2018-fifa-world-cup-russiatm-confirmed-2709881.html) from the original on 11 November 2017.
50. Sport, Telegraph (2018-05-30). "World Cup 2018 stadiums: A guide to the venues of this summer's tournament" (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-cup/0/world-cup-2018-stadium-guide-summers-tournament/). *The Telegraph*. ISSN 0307-1235 (https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0307-1235). Retrieved 2018-06-14.
51. "Стадион на 45000 зрительских мест к Чемпионату мира по футболу в Нижнем Новгороде" (http://www.stroytransgaz.ru/projects/sport_ifrastructure/3102/?sphrase_id=38432) [Stadium for 45,000 spectators for the World Cup in Nizhny Novgorod]. *stroytransgaz.ru* (in Russian). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170930214338/http://www.stroytransgaz.ru/projects/sport_ifrastructure/3102/?sphrase_id=38432) from the original on 30 September 2017. Retrieved 31 May 2018.
52. "Стадион ЧМ-2018 по футболу в Волгограде введен в эксплуатацию" (https://rsport.ria.ru/football/20180403/1134968398.html) [The 2018 World Cup in Volgograd was put into operation]. *rsport.ria.ru* (in Russian). 3 April 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180403234738/https://rsport.ria.ru/football/20180403/1134968398.html) from the original on 3 April 2018. Retrieved 31 May 2018.

53. "Стадион на Крестовском ввели в эксплуатацию" (http://www.fontanka.ru/2016/12/29/126/). *fontanka.ru* (in Russian). 29 December 2016. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170220102428/http://www.fontanka.ru/2016/12/29/126/) from the original on 20 February 2017. Retrieved 31 May 2018.
54. "Luzhniki Stadium" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=810/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
55. "Spartak Stadium" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=5030706/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
56. "Saint Petersburg Stadium" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=5031303/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
57. "Fisht Stadium" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=5031302/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
58. "Samara Arena" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=5001246/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
59. "Kazan Arena" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=5028773/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
60. "Rostov Arena" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=5000547/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
61. "Volgograd Arena" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=5000569/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
62. "Nizhny Novgorod Stadium" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=5001165/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
63. "Mordovia Arena" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=5031301/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
64. "Ekaterinburg Arena" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=5031304/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
65. "Kaliningrad Stadium" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/destination/stadiums/stadium=5000437/index.html). *FIFA*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
66. "Team Base Camps for 2018 FIFA World Cup™ confirmed" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2018/m=2/news=team-base-camps-for-2018-fifa-world-cuptm-confirmed.html). FIFA.com (Fédération Internationale de Football Association). 9 February 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180210181446/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2018/m=2/news=team-base-camps-for-2018-fifa-world-cuptm-confirmed.html) from the original on 10 February 2018.
67. "Croatia defender Pivaric says he has 'excellent' 1st impression of training base" (https://www.fourfourtwo.com.au/feature/croatia-defender-pivaric-says-he-has-excellent-1st-impression-of-training-base-493455). *fourfourtwo.com.au*. 12 June 2018. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
68. McNulty, Phil (12 June 2018). "World Cup 2018: Life inside the England bubble - what they can expect in Repino" (https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/44455055). *BBC*. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
69. "Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev says 2018 FIFA World Cup to cost 20 billion dollars" (https://sports.ndtv.com/football/russian-prime-minister-dmitry-medvedev-says-2018-fifa-world-cup-to-cost-20-billion-dollars-1535213). NDTV. 13 June 2013. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180302163901/https://sports.ndtv.com/football/russian-prime-minister-dmitry-medvedev-says-2018-fifa-world-cup-to-cost-20-billion-dollars-1535213) from the original on 2 March 2018.
70. "2018 World Cup: Russia to spend $5 billion on transport, despite cuts" (https://www.rbth.com/sport/2016/01/07/2018-world-cup-russia-to-spend-5-billion-on-transport-despite-cuts_555759). Russia Beyond. 7 January 2016. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180302103954/https://www.rbth.com/sport/2016/01/07/2018-world-cup-russia-to-spend-5-billion-on-transport-despite-cuts_555759) from the original on 2 March 2018.
71. "Бюджет чемпионата мира 2018 года — около € 1 млрд" (https://www.championat.com/business/news-2249017-bjudzhet-chempionata-mira-2018-v-rajone-1-mlrd.html) [The budget for the 2018 World Cup is about € 1 billion]. *Чемпионат* (in Russian). 18 September 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160105025159/http://www.championat.com/business/news-2249017-bjudzhet-chempionata-mira-2018-v-rajone-1-mlrd.html) from the original on 5 January 2016. Retrieved 31 May 2018.
72. "На подготовку транспортной инфраструктуры ЧМ-2018 в России потрачено 228 млрд" (https://sport24.ru/news/football/2018-05-03-na-podgotovku-transportnoy-infrastruktury-chm-2018-v-rossii-potracheno-228-mlrd) [228 billion spent on preparation of the transport infrastructure of the World Cup 2018]. *sport24.ru* (in Russian). 3 May 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180601111503/https://sport24.ru/news/football/2018-05-03-na-podgotovku-transportnoy-infrastruktury-chm-2018-v-rossii-potracheno-228-mlrd) from the original on 1 June 2018. Retrieved 31 May 2018.
73. "Алмазная радиосвязь" (https://www.gazeta.ru/army/2018/03/30/11701340.shtml). *Газета.Ru* (in Russian). 30 March 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180601111504/https://www.gazeta.ru/army/2018/03/30/11701340.shtml) from the original on 1 June 2018. Retrieved 31 May 2018.
74. "В Мордовии к ЧМ-2018 прошли классификацию два хостела и мотель" (http://info-rm.com/2018/01/16/v_nordovii_k_chn2018_proshli_klassifikaciyu_dva_hostela_i_motel.html/). *info-rm.com*. 16 January 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180314192928/http://info-rm.com/2018/01/16/v_nordovii_k_chn2018_proshli_klassifikaciyu_dva_hostela_i_motel.html/) from the original on 14 March 2018.
75. "Трамвайная линия до стадиона для ЧМ в Самаре готова на 89%" (http://www.samru.ru/society/novosti_samara/104707.html). *samru.ru*. 22 February 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180302103956/http://www.samru.ru/society/novosti_samara/104707.html) from the original on 2 March 2018.

76. "Kaliningrad airport's new terminal put in operation" (http://www.rusaviainsider.com/kaliningrad-airports-new-terminal-put-operation/). Russian Aviation Insider. 26 July 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180522214606/http://www.rusaviainsider.com/kaliningrad-airports-new-terminal-put-operation/) from the original on 22 May 2018. Retrieved 4 June 2018.
77. "Новый рекорд волонтерской программы ЧМ-2018" (http://welcome2018.com/journal/materials/volonterskaya-programma-chm-2018-ustanovila-novyy-rekord/) [New record of the Volunteer program of the World Cup 2018]. *welcome2018.com* (in Russian). 17 January 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170822033741/http://welcome2018.com/journal/materials/volonterskaya-programma-chm-2018-ustanovila-novyy-rekord/) from the original on 22 August 2017. Retrieved 31 May 2018.
78. "Набор волонтеров на ЧМ-2018 установил новый рекорд Чемпионатов мира" (https://ru.fifa.com/worldcup/news/набор-волонтеров-на-чм-2018-установил-новыи-рекорд-чемпионатов-мира-2863622) [A set of volunteers at the World Cup 2018 set a new World Cup record] (in Russian). FIFA. 17 January 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180601111503/https://ru.fifa.com/worldcup/news/набор-волонтеров-на-чм-2018-установил-новыи-рекорд-чемпионатов-мира-2863622) from the original on 1 June 2018. Retrieved 31 May 2018.
79. "Чемпионат мира по футболу FIFA 2018 в России™ - Волонтерская программа: F.A.Q. - FIFA.com" (http://ru.fifa.com/worldcup/organisation/volunteers/faq/) [FIFA 2018 World Cup in Russia™ - Volunteer program: F.A.Q.] (in Russian). FIFA.com. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20161010214935/http://ru.fifa.com/worldcup/organisation/volunteers/faq/) from the original on 10 October 2016. Retrieved 31 May 2018.
80. Ames, Nick (27 March 2018). "World Cup 2018: what is a Fan ID and do I need one to watch games in Russia?" (http://www.theguardian.com/football/2018/mar/27/world-cup-2018-russia-tickets-travel). *The Guardian*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180331062047/https://www.theguardian.com/football/2018/mar/27/world-cup-2018-russia-tickets-travel) from the original on 31 March 2018. Retrieved 10 June 2018.
81. "Aussie soccer fan's World Cup dream crushed by new Russian visa rejection" (http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-08/fans-russia-world-cup-dream-crushed-by-visa-rejection/9850796). *ABC News*. 8 June 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180609224845/http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-08/fans-russia-world-cup-dream-crushed-by-visa-rejection/9850796) from the original on 9 June 2018. Retrieved 10 June 2018.
82. "What World Cup fans going to Russia should know" (https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-44332038). *BBC News*. 6 June 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180610061428/https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-44332038) from the original on 10 June 2018. Retrieved 10 June 2018.
83. "Match schedules for FIFA Confederations Cup 2017 and 2018 FIFA World Cup™ unveiled" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=7/news=match-schedules-for-fifa-confederations-cup-2017-and-2018-fifa-world-c-2667193.html). FIFA.com. 24 July 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171005000543/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=7/news=match-schedules-for-fifa-confederations-cup-2017-and-2018-fifa-world-c-2667193.html) from the original on 5 October 2017.
84. "FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 – Match Schedule" (http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/tournament/competition/02/66/71/62/2018fwc_matchschedule_30052017_en_neutral.pdf) (PDF). FIFA.com. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170911162106/http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/tournament/competition/02/66/71/62/2018fwc_matchschedule_30052017_en_neutral.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 11 September 2017.
85. "FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 – Match Schedule" (https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/2018-fifa-world-cup-russiatm-match-schedule-2667164.pdf?cloudid=wzuz9z88012mh7hykadr) (PDF). FIFA.com. 20 December 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171228234846/http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/tournament/competition/02/66/71/62/2018fwc_matchschedule_20122017_en_neutral.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 28 December 2017. Retrieved 20 December 2017.
86. "The FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking – October 2017" (https://www.fifa.com/fifa-world-ranking/ranking-table/men/rank=279/index.html). *FIFA.com*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171016225735/http://www.fifa.com/fifa-world-ranking/ranking-table/men/rank=279/index.html) from the original on 16 October 2017. Retrieved 16 October 2017.
87. Sport, Telegraph (2018-06-14). "World Cup 2018 fixtures: full schedule, results and match dates" (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-cup/2018/06/14/world-cup-2018-fixtures-full-schedule-results-match-dates/). *The Telegraph*. ISSN 0307-1235 (https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0307-1235). Retrieved 2018-06-14.
88. Tirkey, Joy (13 June 2018). "FIFA World Cup, Opening Ceremony: When And Where To Watch, Live Coverage On TV, Live Streaming Online" (https://sports.ndtv.com/2018-fifa-world-cup/fifa-world-cup-opening-ceremony-when-and-where-to-watch-live-coverage-on-tv-live-streaming-online-1866987). NDTV Sports. Retrieved 14 June 2018.
89. "World Cup 2018 Opening Ceremony: What time will it start and when will Robbie Williams feature?" (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-cup/2018/06/13/world-cup-2018-opening-ceremony-time-will-start-will-robbie/). *The Telegraph*. 13 June 2018. Retrieved 14 June 2018.
90. "Robbie Williams show at World Cup opening ceremony is too short to ever be dull" (https://www.theguardian.com/football/2018/jun/14/robbie-williams-delivers-for-short-sharp-world-cup-opening-ceremony). *Guardian*. 14 June 2018. Retrieved 14 June 2018.
91. "Match report – Group A – Russia-Saudi Arabia" (https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/eng-01-0614-rus-ksa-fulltime-pdf-2956344.pdf?cloudid=pu4pxs0jv3ldwtjexj9f) (PDF). *FIFA.com*. Fédération Internationale de Football Association. 14 June 2018. Retrieved 14 June 2018.
92. "Match report – Group A – Egypt-Uruguay" (https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/eng-02-0615-egy-uru-fulltime-pdf-2957042.pdf?cloudid=knobvkvm8t3j8k07wjis) (PDF). *FIFA.com*. Fédération Internationale de Football Association. 15 June 2018. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
93. "Match report – Group B – Morocco-Iran" (https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/eng-04-0615-mar-irn-fulltime-pdf-2957287.pdf?cloudid=blbvovm1253pu2epd6kp) (PDF). *FIFA.com*. Fédération Internationale de Football Association. 15 June 2018. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
94. "Match report – Group B – Portugal-Spain" (https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/eng-03-0615-por-esp-fulltime-pdf-2957672.pdf?cloudid=uicllwhyjnhmpjhxkp0l) (PDF). *FIFA.com*. Fédération Internationale de Football Association. 15 June 2018. Retrieved 15 June 2018.
95. Henley, Brendon (27 October 2017). "FIFA World Cup Prize Money" (http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/fifacouncil/02/91/78/09/fwcprizemoney_2014v2018_neutral.pdf) (pdf). FIFA.com. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171029064816/http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/fifacouncil/02/91/78/09/fwcprizemoney_2014v2018_neutral.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 29 October 2017. Retrieved 28 October 2017.
96. " 'Russia's heart & soul': World Cup 2018 logo unveiled in Moscow (PHOTOS, VIDEO)" (http://rt.com/news/200231-russia-world-cup-logo/). RT. 28 October 2014. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20141029144914/http://rt.com/news/200231-russia-world-cup-logo/) from the original on 29 October 2014. Retrieved 29 October 2014.
97. sport, Guardian (21 October 2016). "Russia 2018: World Cup mascot Zabivaka the wolf unveiled in Moscow" (http://www.theguardian.com/football/2016/oct/21/russia-2018-zabivaka-world-cup-mascot). *the Guardian*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170325112015/https://www.theguardian.com/football/2016/oct/21/russia-2018-zabivaka-world-cup-mascot) from the original on 25 March 2017. Retrieved 10 June 2018.
98. "Ticket sales for 2018 FIFA World Cup™ to start on 14 September 2017" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2017/m=9/news=ticket-sales-for-2018-fifa-world-cuptm-to-start-on-14-september-2017-2907645.html). FIFA.com. 12 September 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171113113813/https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2017/m=9/news=ticket-sales-for-2018-fifa-world-cuptm-to-start-on-14-september-2017-2907645.html) from the original on 13 November 2017.
99. "Russia to ease visa regime for World Cup fans in 2018" (http://voiceofrussia.com/2014_07_11/Russia-to-cancel-visas-for-World-Cup-fans-in-2018-Putin-9017/). Voice of Russia. 11 July 2014. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20141021170818/http://voiceofrussia.com/2014_07_11/Russia-to-cancel-visas-for-World-Cup-fans-in-2018-Putin-9017/) from the original on 21 October 2014. Retrieved 6 June 2015.
100. "2018 FIFA World Cup™ official match ball unveiled: an exciting re-imagining" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2017/m=11/news=2018-fifa-world-cuptm-official-match-ball-unveiled-an-exciting-re-imag-2919272.html). *FIFA.com*. 9 November 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171109201734/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2017/m=11/news=2018-fifa-world-cuptm-official-match-ball-unveiled-an-exciting-re-imag-2919272.html) from the original on 9 November 2017.
101. "Archived copy" (https://www.eurogamer.net/articles/2018-04-30-fifa-18-gets-free-world-cup-mode-this-month). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180501225232/https://www.eurogamer.net/articles/2018-04-30-fifa-18-gets-free-world-cup-mode-this-month) from the original on 1 May 2018. Retrieved 14 May 2018.
102. "2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Official Song 'Live It Up' to be performed by all-star line-up" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/2018-fifa-world-cup-russiatm-official-song-live-it-up-to-be-performed-by-all-sta). FIFA. 23 May 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180529044910/https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/2018-fifa-world-cup-russiatm-official-song-live-it-up-to-be-performed-by-all-sta) from the original on 29 May 2018.
103. Syal, Rajeev (3 December 2010). "World Cup 2018 win raises Russian racism fears" (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/dec/03/world-cup-2018-russian-racism). *The Guardian*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20130920223511/http://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/dec/03/world-cup-2018-russian-racism) from the original on 20 September 2013. Retrieved 20 August 2011.
104. "Yaya Toure: Black players may boycott 2018 Russia World Cup" (https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/24660581). *BBC Sport*. 25 October 2013. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160118110813/http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/24660581) from the original on 18 January 2016.
105. "Racism in Russia and FIFA's 3-step plan to tackle it" (https://www.sbs.com.au/news/racism-in-russia-and-fifa-s-3-step-plan-to-tackle-it). Sbs.com.au. 11 June 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180612000108/https://www.sbs.com.au/news/racism-in-russia-and-fifa-s-3-step-plan-to-tackle-it) from the original on 12 June 2018.
106. J.P. McCormick (25 March 2014). "Campaigns demand FIFA bans Russia from hosting 2018 World Cup due to anti-gay law" (http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2014/03/25/campaigns-demand-fifa-relocates-2018-world-cup-russia-due-anti-gay-law/). Pink News. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20141006082031/http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2014/03/25/campaigns-demand-fifa-relocates-2018-world-cup-russia-due-anti-gay-law/) from the original on 6 October 2014.
107. J. Lavin (28 February 2014). "Why FIFA Needs to Move the World Cup" (http://www.advocate.com/commentary/2014/02/28/op-ed-why-fifa-needs-move-world-cup). advocate.com. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20141006102722/http://www.advocate.com/commentary/2014/02/28/op-ed-why-fifa-needs-move-world-cup) from the original on 6 October 2014.
108. "Fifa urged to rethink staging 2018 World Cup in Russia" (http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-26679542). Bbc.com. 21 March 2014. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20140407092515/http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-26679542) from the original on 7 April 2014. Retrieved 17 April 2014.
109. Winter, Stuart (23 March 2014). "US calls for Fifa to drop Russia from hosting World Cup in 2018" (http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/466357/US-calls-for-Fifa-to-drop-Russia-from-hosting-World-Cup-in-2018). Express.co.uk. Retrieved 17 April 2014.
110. "Sepp Blatter: Russia will host 2018 World Cup despite Crimea" (https://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/26691561). BBC Sport. 21 March 2014. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20140428234840/http://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/26691561) from the original on 28 April 2014. Retrieved 17 April 2014.
111. Ornstein, David (17 November 2014). "World Cup: Former FA chief David Bernstein calls for boycott" (https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/30077311). *BBC Sport*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20141117170857/http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/30077311) from the original on 17 November 2014. Retrieved 17 November 2014.
112. Dunbar, Graham. "FIFA under fire after report on Qatar, Russia" (https://web.archive.org/web/20141116023958/http://bigstory.ap.org/article/4de5fea12fc44b86bd7221bb429f360f/fifa-clears-russia-and-qatar-host-world-cup). Associated Press. Archived from the original (http://bigstory.ap.org/article/4de5fea12fc44b86bd7221bb429f360f/fifa-clears-russia-and-qatar-host-world-cup) on 16 November 2014. Retrieved 14 November 2014.

13. Roan, Dan (17 November 2014). "Greg Dyke: FA demands full report findings into World Cup corruption" (https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/30088006). *BBC Sport*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20141117232328/http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/30088006) from the original on 17 November 2014. Retrieved 17 November 2014.
14. Conway, Richard. "FIFA corruption report: Who is to blame and what happens now?" (https://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/30042309). BBC Sport. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20141114221017/http://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/30042309) from the original on 14 November 2014. Retrieved 14 November 2014.
15. "Michael Garcia: FIFA investigator resigns in World Cup report row" (https://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/30522170). BBC. 17 December 2014. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160115222149/http://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/30522170) from the original on 15 January 2016.
16. "Ben Rumsby, "Fifa in crisis: FBI extends investigation to Russia 2018 and Qatar 2022 World Cup bids", *The Telegraph*" (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/football/fifa/11650428/Fifa-in-crisis-FBI-extends-investigation-to-Russia-2018-and-Qatar-2022-World-Cup-bids.html). 4 June 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150604021845/http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/football/fifa/11650428/Fifa-in-crisis-FBI-extends-investigation-to-Russia-2018-and-Qatar-2022-World-Cup-bids.html) from the original on 4 June 2015. Retrieved 4 June 2015.
17. "James Riach "FBI investigating Fifa's awarding of 2018 and 2022 World Cups – report", *The Guardian*" (https://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/jun/03/fbi-investigating-fifa-2018-2022-world-cup). 3 June 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150604102346/http://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/jun/03/fbi-investigating-fifa-2018-2022-world-cup) from the original on 4 June 2015. Retrieved 4 June 2015.
18. " 'Russia & Qatar may lose World Cups' – Fifa official" (https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/33041467). BBC News. 7 June 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150802010929/http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/33041467) from the original on 2 August 2015.
19. Owen Gibson (7 June 2015). "Russia and Qatar may lose World Cups if evidence of bribery is found" (https://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/jun/07/russia-qatar-lose-world-cups-if-bribery-found-fifa). The Guardian. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20161226061720/https://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/jun/07/russia-qatar-lose-world-cups-if-bribery-found-fifa) from the original on 26 December 2016.
20. "Prince William and David Cameron caught up in Fifa corruption scandal (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/27/prince-william-david-cameron-caught-fifa-corruption-scandal/) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180120140450/http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/27/prince-william-david-cameron-caught-fifa-corruption-scandal/) 20 January 2018 at the Wayback Machine.". *The Daily Telegraph*. 27 June 2017.
21. "Video: David Cameron and Prince William implicated in FIFA corruption probe (https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/video-news/video-david-cameron-and-prince-william-implicated-in-fifa-corruption-probe-35874189.html)". *Belfast Telegraph*. 28 June 2017.
22. "Russia Orders $560-Million Cuts on World Cup 2018 Spending" (http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/russia-orders-560-million-cuts-on-world-cup-2018-spending/524112.html). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160709093430/http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/russia-orders-560-million-cuts-on-world-cup-2018-spending/524112.html) from the original on 9 July 2016. Retrieved 10 January 2017.
23. "Brussels riot after Morocco football win" (http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41961801). *BBC News*. 12 November 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171120151328/http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41961801) from the original on 20 November 2017. Retrieved 20 November 2017.
24. "Cars burnt, police hurt in Brussels after Morocco World Cup success" (https://www.reuters.com/article/us-soccer-worldcup-civ-mar-brussels-riot/cars-burned-police-hurt-in-brussels-after-morocco-world-cup-success-idUSKBN1DC0EO). *Reuters*. 12 November 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171120022914/https://www.reuters.com/article/us-soccer-worldcup-civ-mar-brussels-riot/cars-burned-police-hurt-in-brussels-after-morocco-world-cup-success-idUSKBN1DC0EO) from the original on 20 November 2017. Retrieved 20 November 2017.
25. "Fifa contacts McLaren over doping claims in football" (https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/42062974). bbc.com. 21 November 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171216150738/http://www.bbc.com/sport/football/42062974) from the original on 16 December 2017.
26. "Doctor sacked by Fifa was investigating alleged Russian football doping" (https://www.theguardian.com/football/2017/dec/20/doctor-sacked-fifa-alleged-russian-football-doping-jiri-dvorak-gianni-infantino). *The Guardian*. 20 December 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171222095625/https://www.theguardian.com/football/2017/dec/20/doctor-sacked-fifa-alleged-russian-football-doping-jiri-dvorak-gianni-infantino) from the original on 22 December 2017. Retrieved 22 December 2017.
27. "Update on the investigations following the McLaren reports" (http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/update-on-the-investigations-following-the-mclaren-reports). FIFA. 22 May 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180522153257/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/update-on-the-investigations-following-the-mclaren-reports) from the original on 22 May 2018.
28. "Russians to take no part in World Cup drug testing: FIFA" (https://www.reuters.com/article/us-soccer-worldcup-doping-fifa/russians-to-take-no-part-in-world-cup-drug-testing-fifa-idUSKCN1IP0UK). Reuters. 24 May 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180528052242/https://www.reuters.com/article/us-soccer-worldcup-doping-fifa/russians-to-take-no-part-in-world-cup-drug-testing-fifa-idUSKCN1IP0UK) from the original on 28 May 2018.
29. Osborne, Samuel (14 March 2018). "Theresa May's statement in full as she expels 23 Russian spies from Britain" (https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-russia-statement-in-full-spies-expel-nerve-agent-salisbury-poisoning-a8255661.html). *The Independent*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180314192928/http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-russia-statement-in-full-spies-expel-nerve-agent-salisbury-poisoning-a8255661.html) from the original on 14 March 2018. Retrieved 14 March 2018. "So we will suspend all planned high level bilateral contacts between the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation. This includes... confirming there will be no attendance by Ministers – or indeed Members of the Royal Family – at this Summer's World Cup in Russia.""
30. "Iceland to diplomatically boycott 2018 World Cup in Russia" (https://www.rt.com/sport/422397-iceland-boycott-fifa-russia/). *Russia Today*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180326200041/https://www.rt.com/sport/422397-iceland-boycott-fifa-russia/) from the original on 26 March 2018. Retrieved 28 March 2018.
31. "West 'trying to deny Russia World Cup' " (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-43609505). *BBC News*. 1 April 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180401042313/http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-43609505) from the original on 1 April 2018. Retrieved 1 April 2018.
32. "Why the 'lone jihadi' poses the greatest terror threat to this summer's World Cup in Russia" (https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/01/russia-world-cup-threatened-by-lone-jihadi-terror-attacks.html). *CNBC*. 1 May 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180506072148/https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/01/russia-world-cup-threatened-by-lone-jihadi-terror-attacks.html) from the original on 6 May 2018. Retrieved 1 June 2018.
33. "ISIS Threatens 2018 FIFA World Cup with Chilling Poster of Messi" (https://www.news18.com/news/sports/isis-threatens-2018-fifa-world-cup-with-chilling-poster-of-messi-1556461.html). *News18*. 24 October 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180402035620/https://www.news18.com/news/sports/isis-threatens-2018-fifa-world-cup-with-chilling-poster-of-messi-1556461.html) from the original on 2 April 2018. Retrieved 1 April 2018.
34. Draper, Kevin (11 October 2017). "Fox and Others Will Feel Pain of U.S. Absence at World Cup" (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/11/sports/soccer/world-cup-soccer.html). *The New York Times*. ISSN 0362-4331 (https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0362-4331). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171024072730/https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/11/sports/soccer/world-cup-soccer.html) from the original on 24 October 2017. Retrieved 26 October 2017.
35. "USMNT elimination is a disaster for Fox Sports" (https://www.si.com/tech-media/2017/10/11/usa-world-cup-elimination-fox-sports-coverage-mexico-el-tri). *SI.com*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171026111153/https://www.si.com/tech-media/2017/10/11/usa-world-cup-elimination-fox-sports-coverage-mexico-el-tri) from the original on 26 October 2017. Retrieved 26 October 2017.
36. "Fox Projects Up to $20 Million in Lost World Cup Ad Sales" (https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-11/fox-is-said-to-project-20-million-in-lost-world-cup-ad-sales). *Bloomberg.com*. 11 October 2017. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171026111201/https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-11/fox-is-said-to-project-20-million-in-lost-world-cup-ad-sales) from the original on 26 October 2017. Retrieved 26 October 2017.
37. "Ukrainian public broadcaster decides not to show World Cup matches" (https://www.kyivpost.com/sport/ukrainian-public-broadcaster-decides-not-show-world-cup-matches.html). *KyivPost*. 12 February 2018. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180314192928/https://www.kyivpost.com/sport/ukrainian-public-broadcaster-decides-not-show-world-cup-matches.html) from the original on 14 March 2018. Retrieved 1 March 2018.
38. "Ukraine's public broadcaster refuses to show Fifa World Cup" (http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/ukraine-broadcaster-refuses-to-show-russia-world-cup). *SportsPro*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180314192928/http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/ukraine-broadcaster-refuses-to-show-russia-world-cup) from the original on 14 March 2018. Retrieved 1 March 2018.
39. "FIFA and adidas extend partnership until 2030" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2013/m=11/news=fifa-and-adidas-extend-partnership-until-2030-2227271.html). *FIFA.com*. FIFA. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170628145045/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2013/m=11/news=fifa-and-adidas-extend-partnership-until-2030-2227271.html) from the original on 28 June 2017. Retrieved 10 May 2017.
40. "Coca-Cola renews Fifa football sponsorship until 2022" (http://www.campaignlive.co.uk/article/coca-cola-renews-fifa-football-sponsorship-until-2022/529147?src_site=brandrepublic). *Campaignlive.co.uk*. Campaign. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170827171212/http://www.campaignlive.co.uk/article/coca-cola-renews-fifa-football-sponsorship-until-2022/529147?src_site=brandrepublic) from the original on 27 August 2017. Retrieved 10 May 2017.
41. "Gazprom agrees Fifa sponsorship deal" (http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/gazprom_agree_four_year_sponsorship_deal_with_fifa). *SportsProMedia.com*. SportsPro. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170707034148/http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/gazprom_agree_four_year_sponsorship_deal_with_fifa) from the original on 7 July 2017. Retrieved 10 May 2017.
42. "Hyundai-Kia drives on as FIFA Partner until 2022" (https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2010/m=11/news=hyundai-kia-drives-fifa-partner-until-2022-1339629.html). *FIFA.com*. FIFA. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170618201025/http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2010/m=11/news=hyundai-kia-drives-fifa-partner-until-2022-1339629.html) from the original on 18 June 2017. Retrieved 10 May 2017.
43. "Qatar Airways announced as Official Partner and Official Airline of FIFA until 2022" (https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2017/m=5/news=qatar-airways-official-partner-airline-fifa-2882728.html). *FIFA.com*. FIFA. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170511144714/http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2017/m=5/news=qatar-airways-official-partner-airline-fifa-2882728.html) from the original on 11 May 2017. Retrieved 10 May 2017.
44. "Visa extending World Cup deal for eight years" (http://www.sportsbusinessdaily.com/Journal/Issues/2013/04/01/Marketing-and-Sponsorship/Visa-FIFA.aspx). *SportsBusinessDaily.com*. Sports Business Daily. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170827173751/http://www.sportsbusinessdaily.com/Journal/Issues/2013/04/01/Marketing-and-Sponsorship/Visa-FIFA.aspx) from the original on 27 August 2017. Retrieved 10 May 2017.
45. "Wanda Group becomes new FIFA Partner" (https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2016/m=3/news=wanda-group-becomes-new-fifa-partner-2771032.html). *FIFA.com*. FIFA. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170424180611/http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2016/m=3/news=wanda-group-becomes-new-fifa-partner-2771032.html) from the original on 24 April 2017. Retrieved 10 May 2017.
46. "FIFA and Anheuser-Busch InBev announce FIFA World Cup™ sponsorship for 2018 / 2022" (https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2011/m=10/news=fifa-and-anheuser-busch-inbev-announce-fifa-world-cuptm-sponsorship-for--1531958.html). *FIFA.com*. FIFA. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170827170218/http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2011/m=10/news=fifa-and-anheuser-busch-inbev-announce-fifa-world-cuptm-sponsorship-for--1531958.html) from the original on 27 August 2017. Retrieved 10 May 2017.
47. "Hisense becomes Official Sponsor of 2018 FIFA World Cup™" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2017/m=4/news=hisense-becomes-official-sponsor-of-2018-fifa-world-cuptm-2878703.html). *FIFA.com*. FIFA. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170520045955/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2017/m=4/news=hisense-becomes-official-sponsor-of-2018-fifa-world-cuptm-2878703.html) from the original on 20 May 2017. Retrieved 10 May 2017.
48. "McDonald's looking ahead to 2018" (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2014/m=10/news=mcdonald-s-looking-ahead-to-2018-2461293.html). *FIFA.com*. FIFA. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170529072148/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2014/m=10/news=mcdonald-s-looking-ahead-to-2018-2461293.html) from the original on 29 May 2017. Retrieved 10 May 2017.
49. "Mengniu Group added to Fifa World Cup sponsor line-up" (http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/mengniu-group-added-to-fifa-world-cup-sponsor-line-up). *Sportspromedia.com*. SportsPro. Retrieved 20 December 2017.

50. "Fifa agrees massive World Cup deal with Vivo" (http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/fifa-agrees-massive-world-cup-deal-with-vivo). *SportsProMedia.com*. SportsPro. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170602135310/http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/fifa-agrees-massive-world-cup-deal-with-vivo) from the original on 2 June 2017. Retrieved 31 May 2017.
51. "Egypt government selected as regional sponsor for 2018 FIFA World Cup" (http://www.egyptindependent.com/egypt-government-selected-as-regional-sponsor-for-2018-fifa-world-cup/). *Egypt Independent*. Retrieved 13 June 2018.
52. "More Chinese sponsors sign up for Fifa World Cup" (http://www.thedrum.com/news/2018/06/11/more-chinese-sponsors-sign-up-fifa-world-cup). *TheDrum*. TheDrum. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180314192928/http://www.thedrum.com/news/2018/06/11/more-chinese-sponsors-sign-up-fifa-world-cup) from the original on 13 June 2018. Retrieved 13 June 2018.
53. "Fifa adds latest Chinese sponsor for World Cup" (http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/fifa-adds-latest-chinese-sponsor-for-world-cup). *SportsProMedia.com*. SportsPro. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180314192928/http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/fifa-adds-latest-chinese-sponsor-for-world-cup) from the original on 14 March 2018. Retrieved 5 March 2018.
54. "Alfa-Bank unveiled as first-ever Regional Supporter for the FIFA World Cup™" (https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2016/m=7/news=alfa-bank-unveiled-as-first-ever-regional-supporter-for-the-fifa-world-2812200.html). *FIFA.com*. FIFA. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170521003800/http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2016/m=7/news=alfa-bank-unveiled-as-first-ever-regional-supporter-for-the-fifa-world-2812200.html) from the original on 21 May 2017. Retrieved 10 May 2017.
55. "Alrosa completes line-up of European Regional Supporters of the 2018 FIFA World Cup™" (http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2018/m=4/news=alrosa-completes-line-up-of-european-regional-supporters-of-the-2018-fifa-world-.html). *FIFA.com*. FIFA. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180425115725/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2018/m=4/news=alrosa-completes-line-up-of-european-regional-supporters-of-the-2018-fifa-world-.html) from the original on 25 April 2018. Retrieved 24 April 2018.
56. Carp, Sam. "Fifa World Cup adds Rostelecom as regional partner" (http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/fifa-world-cup-rostelecom). *SportsPro*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180601111503/http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/fifa-world-cup-rostelecom) from the original on 1 June 2018. Retrieved 22 March 2018.
57. "Russian Railways announced as an Official European Supporter of the 2018 FIFA World Cup™" (http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2018/m=4/news=russian-railways-announced-as-an-official-european-supporter-of-the-2018-fifa-wo.html). *FIFA.com*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180416200742/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2018/m=4/news=russian-railways-announced-as-an-official-european-supporter-of-the-2018-fifa-wo.html) from the original on 16 April 2018. Retrieved 16 April 2018.

External links

- FIFA.com 2018 website (https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/index.html)
- Welcome2018.com (http://welcome2018.com/en/)

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2018_FIFA_World_Cup&oldid=846031045"

This page was last edited on 15 June 2018, at 20:32.

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.