

1924 - 1930

At the 1924 Congress, FIFA agreed to assume responsibility for the organisation of the Olympic Football Tournament by ratifying the proposal that “on condition that the Olympic Football Tournament takes place in accordance with the Regulations of FIFA, the latter shall recognise this as a world football championship”.

The 1924 tournament was a great success with 60,000 spectators following the final between Uruguay and Switzerland. The South Americans won 3-0 and were celebrated as World Champions in Montevideo.

South America’s predominance was even more impressive at the Olympic Football Tournament in Amsterdam in 1928. Against next-door neighbour Argentina, Uruguay did not want to relinquish their victory on that occasion.

This resonance at the Olympic Games intensified FIFA’s wish for its own World Championship. FIFA President Jules Rimet was the driving force in the search for the means to materialise this dream. Following a proposal of the Executive Committee, the FIFA Congress in Amsterdam on 28 May 1928 decided to stage an official FIFA World Championship: the World Cup was born!

One year later Uruguay, twice Olympic Champions, planning the celebration of its 100th anniversary of independence in 1930, were assigned the organisation of the first FIFA World Cup.

THE FIRST WORLD CUP

FIFA’s decision to hold the first World Cup in Uruguay did not only meet acclaim, as Europe was plunged in the midst of an economic crisis. Participation in a World Cup taking place overseas, involved a long sea journey. Moreover, for the clubs it meant they had to renounce their best players for two months. Thus, more and more European associations broke their promise to participate. Thanks to Rimet’s personal efforts, at least four - Belgium, France, Yugoslavia and Romania - set off on the long journey.

The World Cup, opened at the Estadio Centenario on 18 July 1930, became a remarkable success, both in a sporting and financial sense. On 30th July, the first World Cup final saw the same fixture as two

years before at the Olympic Football Tournament. Being 2-1 down at half-time, Uruguay raised the rhythm of their play, regained the lead and - cheered on by the majority of the 93,000 crowd - finally won 4-2. The organisers on the other hand were disappointed at the fact that only four European teams participated. The anger in Montevideo was so intense that four years later, the World Champions - for the first and only time - renounced defending their title.

THROUGH THE YEARS

		F	M	P	S
1930	Uruguay	13	18	-	434,000
1934	Italy	16	17	32	395,000
1938	France	15	18	37	483,000
1950	Brazil	13	22	34	1,337,000
1954	Switzerland	16	26	45	943,000
1958	Sweden	16	35	55	868,000
1962	Chile	16	32	56	776,000
1966	England	16	32	74	1,614,677
1970	Mexico	16	32	75	1,673,975
1974	West Germany	16	38	99	1,774,022
1978	Argentina	16	38	107	1,610,215
1982	Spain	24	52	109	1,856,277
1986	Mexico	24	52	121	2,407,431
1990	Italy	24	52	116	2,517,348
1994	USA	24	52	147	3,587,538
1998	France	32	64	171	2,785,100
2002	Korea/Japan	32	64	199	2,705,197

F	<i>No. of teams in the final competition</i>
M	<i>No. of matches in the final competition</i>
P	<i>No. of teams in the preliminary competition</i>
S	<i>Total spectators in the final competition</i>



FIFA World Cup Rankings 1930-2002

YEAR	COUNTRY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
1930	Uruguay	URU	ARG	USA	YUG	CHI	BRA	FRA	ROM	PAR	PER	BEL	BOL	MEX																			
1934	Italy	ITA	CZE	GER	AUT	ESP	HUN	SUI	SWE	ARG	FRA	NED	ROM	EGY	BRA	BEL	USA																
1938	France	ITA	HUN	BRA	SWE	CZE	FRA	SUI	CUB	ROM	GER	POL	NOR	BEL	NED	INH																	
1950	Brazil	URU	BRA	SWE	ESP	YUG	SUI	ITA	ENG	CHI	USA	PAR	MEX	BOL																			
1954	Switzerland	FRG	HUN	AUT	URU	BRA	ENG	YUG	SUI	TUR	ITA	FRA	BEL	MEX	CZE	SCO	KOR																
1958	Sweden	BRA	SWE	FRA	FRG	YUG	WAL	URS	NIR	CZE	HUN	ENG	PAR	ARG	SCO	AUT	MEX																
1962	Chile	BRA	CZE	CHI	YUG	HUN	URS	FRG	ENG	ITA	ARG	MEX	URU	ESP	COL	BUL	SUI																
1966	England	ENG	FRG	POR	URS	ARG	HUN	URU	PRK	ITA	ESP	BRA	MEX	CHI	FRA	BUL	SUI																
1970	Mexico	BRA	ITA	FRG	URU	URS	MEX	PER	ENG	SWE	BEL	ROM	ISR	BUL	MAR	CZE	SLV																
YEAR	COUNTRY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
1974	West Germany	FRG	NED	POL	BRA	SWE	GDR	YUG	ARG	SCO	ITA	CHI	BUL	URU	AUS	HAI	ZAI																
1978	Argentina	ARG	NED	BRA	ITA	POL	FRG	AUT	PER	TUN	ESP	SCO	FRA	SWE	IRN	HUN	MEX																
1982	Spain	ITA	FRG	POL	FRA	BRA	ENG	URS	AUT	NIR	BEL	ARG	ESP	ALG	HUN	SCO	YUG	CMR	HON	CZE	PER	KUW	CHI	NZL	SLV								
1986	Mexico	ARG	FRG	FRA	BEL	BRA	MEX	ESP	ENG	DEN	URS	MAR	ITA	PAR	POL	BUL	URU	POR	HUN	SCO	KOR	NIR	ALG	IRQ	CAN								
1990	Italy	FRG	ARG	ITA	ENG	YUG	CZE	CMR	IRL	BRA	ESP	BEL	ROM	CRC	COL	NED	URU	URS	AUT	SCO	EGY	SWE	KOR	USA	UAE								
1994	USA	BRA	ITA	SWE	BUL	GER	ROM	NED	ESP	NGA	ARG	BEL	KSA	MEX	USA	SUI	IRL	NOR	RUS	COL	KOR	BOL	CMR	MAR	GRE								
1998	France	FRA	BRA	CRO	NED	ITA	ARG	GER	DEN	ENG	YUG	ROM	NGA	MEX	PAR	NOR	CHI	ESP	MAR	BEL	IRN	COL	JAM	AUT	RSA	CMR	TUN	SCO	KSA	BUL	KOR	JPN	USA
2002	Korea/Japan	BRA	GER	TUR	KOR	ESP	ENG	SEN	USA	JPN	DEN	MEX	IRL	SWE	BEL	ITA	PAR	RSA	ARG	CRC	CMR	POR	RUS	CRO	ECU	POL	URU	NGA	FRA	TUN	SVN	CHN	KSA

FIFA WORLD CUP ORIGIN