

## 2006 revision of the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FIFA WORLD RANKING:

#### WHY DID IT NEED TO BE REVISED?

- “The world ranking gives too little weighting to recent results”
- “The world ranking is too complicated”
- “The world ranking is difficult to understand”

#### WHAT ARE THE KEY POINTS FOR THE NEW WORLD RANKING?

Transparency and simplicity. In addition to these two considerations, the revised world ranking also takes sporting criteria (the reality of world football) and statistical requirements into account.

#### WHAT IS NEW / WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- The standard number of points gained for a victory (3 points), a draw (1 point) and a defeat (0 points)
- Only results during the previous four years are taken into account
- The weighting indicating the significance of a match has been simplified
- The formulas for calculating an opposing team’s strength and regional strength have been simplified
- “Number of goals scored” and “Away bonus” no longer affect the world ranking

#### WHO WORKED ON THE REVISION?

A multinational team comprising external experts from various fields (statistics, media, football coaching, IT) and FIFA employees drew up the new method of calculating the world ranking and prepared tests to assess its viability.

#### HOW DID FIFA TEST THE NEW SYSTEM?

The new method of calculating the world ranking was chosen after extensive tests and assessments of more than 20 formulas and over 700 variations.

#### WHEN DOES THE NEW WORLD RANKING COME INTO FORCE?

The first FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking drawn up on the basis of the new method of calculation will be published on Wednesday, 12 July 2006 – three days after the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ final.

#### WHAT WILL THE NEW WORLD RANKING LOOK LIKE?

Given the top weighting that is accorded to the 64 matches of the World Cup, the world ranking would be full of changes in any case. With the various amendments and corrections that have been carried out, the world ranking is therefore likely to be very see lots of movement.

#### WHAT COUNTS TOWARDS THE RANKING?

All international “A” matches played in the previous four years (48 months).

#### HOW ARE RANKING POINTS CALCULATED?

Points are won on the basis of a number of specific criteria:

- Points for a win, draw or defeat (3, 1, 0)
- Status of match (multiplication factor of 1 to 4)
- Strength of opponent (multiplication factor of between 0.50 and 2.00)
- Strength of confederation in question (multiplication factor of between 0.85 and 1.00)

#### WHO BENEFITS FROM THE REVISION?

Generally speaking, the biggest winners are the teams who win competitive matches, especially against high-ranking opponents. Draws secure only limited gains, particularly in friendly matches, while defeats do not bring any points.



#### **WHO LOSES OUT?**

Teams who often lose or draw matches will get fewer points. Furthermore, any team that records a major victory (e.g. a continental championship title) will suffer losses in the ranking 12 months later if, by that time, it has not gained lots of points in more recent matches.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS TO TEAMS THAT HAVE NOT PLAYED ENOUGH?**

If a team has played less than five matches in the preceding 12 months, its total for the year (e.g. for the three matches it has played) is simply divided by five.

#### **WHY DO TEAMS SOMETIMES LOSE POINTS EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE NOT PLAYED?**

The longer it is since a match was played, the less important it becomes for the ranking. This continues until, after four years, the match no longer has any impact on the calculation of the ranking. As a result, it is possible for teams to climb or fall in the ranking even if they have not played.

#### **WHY IS THE RANKING NOT CALCULATED EXCLUSIVELY ON THE BASIS OF RESULTS IN MAJOR COMPETITIONS?**

Because it would mean that small associations would not even make it into the ranking as they never qualify for the top events. Moreover, the statistics show that 50% of matches taken into account in the ranking between 2002-2005 were friendlies. These matches are also important for the nations hosting major championships since they do not usually have to take part in qualifiers.

#### **WHY DOES THE CALCULATION INCLUDE A CONFEDERATION WEIGHTING?**

Matches between teams from different confederations (interconfederational matches) are relatively rare. The separate regions therefore retain the character of autonomous and relatively closed leagues that are only partially comparable with one another.

#### **IS IT POSSIBLE TO CALCULATE POTENTIAL POINTS GAINS BEFORE A MATCH?**

Yes. Plans are being made to introduce a tool in 2007 that will allow anyone who is interested in the world ranking to calculate potential and actual points gains and monitor the overall progress of their chosen team on FIFA.com.

#### **WHY ARE HOST NATIONS THAT DO NOT HAVE TO COMPETE IN QUALIFYING MATCHES NOT GIVEN A SPECIAL STATUS?**

Because we do not want to jeopardise the desired transparency and also to take account of the fact that host nations have the advantage of automatic qualification in any case. The host nations of major tournaments only contest friendly matches for a certain period. As a result, they may fall in the world ranking.

#### **WHAT IS COCA-COLA'S ROLE?**

Coca-Cola has been the presenting partner of the FIFA World Ranking since its launch in August 1993, but it does not have any influence on the underlying principles or calculation of the ranking.