

# 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

## Preliminary Competition Format & Draw Procedures



### NORTH, CENTRAL AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN ZONE

BASIC CONDITIONS	
Member Associations (MA's):	35
Participating Member Associations (PMAs):	35
Qualification Slots:	3.5

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anguilla</li> <li>• Antigua and Barbuda</li> <li>• Aruba</li> <li>• Bahamas</li> <li>• Barbados</li> <li>• Belize</li> <li>• Bermuda</li> <li>• British Virgin Islands</li> <li>• Canada</li> <li>• Cayman Islands</li> <li>• Costa Rica</li> <li>• Cuba</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curaçao</li> <li>• Dominica</li> <li>• Dominican Republic</li> <li>• El Salvador</li> <li>• Grenada</li> <li>• Guatemala</li> <li>• Guyana</li> <li>• Haiti</li> <li>• Honduras</li> <li>• Jamaica</li> <li>• Mexico</li> <li>• Montserrat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicaragua</li> <li>• Panama</li> <li>• Puerto Rico</li> <li>• St. Kitts and Nevis</li> <li>• St. Lucia</li> <li>• St. Vincent and the Grenadines</li> <li>• Suriname</li> <li>• Trinidad and Tobago</li> <li>• Turks and Caicos Islands</li> <li>• US Virgin Islands</li> <li>• USA</li> </ul>

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### PRELIMINARY COMPETITION FORMAT & DRAW PROCEDURES

#### ROUND ONE:

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

#### THE PAIRINGS FOR ROUND ONE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. 25 March 2015 Bahamas vs. Bermuda  
29 March 2015 Bermuda vs. Bahamas
2. 26 March 2015 British Virgin Islands vs. Dominica  
29 March 2015 Dominica vs. British Virgin Islands
3. 22 March 2015 Barbados vs. US Virgin Islands  
26 March 2015 US Virgin Islands vs. Barbados
4. 23 March 2015 St. Kitts and Nevis vs. Turks and Caicos Islands  
26 March 2015 Turks and Caicos Islands vs. St. Kitts and Nevis
5. 23 March 2015 Nicaragua vs. Anguilla  
29 March 2015 Anguilla vs. Nicaragua
6. 25 March 2015 Belize vs. Cayman Islands  
29 March 2015 Cayman Islands vs. Belize
7. 27 March 2015 Curaçao vs. Montserrat  
31 March 2015 Montserrat vs. Curaçao

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#### ROUND TWO:

- The seven Round One winners then joined the 13 PMAs ranked 9 to 21 in Round Two.
- The 20 teams were paired into 10 home-and-away series.
- The matches were played in the period 7-16 June 2015.
- The 10 series winners advanced to Round Three.

#### THE PAIRINGS FOR ROUND TWO ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. 10 June 2015            St. Vincent and the Grenadines vs. Guyana  
   14 June 2015            Guyana vs. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
2. 12 June 2015            Antigua and Barbuda vs. St. Lucia  
   14 June 2015            St. Lucia vs. Antigua and Barbuda
3. 12 June 2015            Puerto Rico vs. Grenada  
   16 June 2015            Grenada vs. Puerto Rico
4. 11 June 2015            Canada vs. Dominica  
   16 June 2015            Dominica vs. Canada
5. 11 June 2015            Dominican Republic vs. Belize  
   14 June 2015            Belize vs. Dominican Republic
6. 12 June 2015            Guatemala vs. Bermuda  
   15 June 2015            Bermuda vs. Guatemala
7. 10 June 2015            Aruba vs. Barbados  
   14 June 2015            Barbados vs. Aruba
8. 11 June 2015            St. Kitts and Nevis vs. El Salvador  
   16 June 2015            El Salvador vs. St. Kitts and Nevis
9. 10 June 2015            Curaçao vs. Cuba  
   14 June 2015            Cuba vs. Curaçao
10. 7 June 2015            Nicaragua vs. Suriname  
    16 June 2015            Suriname vs. Nicaragua

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#### ROUND THREE:

- The 10 Round Two winners will then join the two PMAs ranked seven and eight (based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of August 2014) in Round Three.
- The 12 teams will be paired into six home-and-away series.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 31 August to 8 September 2015.
- The six series winners advance to Round Four.

#### ALLOCATION TO POTS:

- The 10 Round Two winners along with the two PMAs joining Round Three will be allocated to two pots of six teams each.
- The two PMAs joining Round Three will be placed in Pot 3 along with the four highest ranked PMAs from Round Two (based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of August 2014) and the six remaining winners of Round Two will be placed in Pot 4.

<b>Pot 3</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Jamaica</li><li>2. Haiti</li><li>3. Canada</li><li>4. Aruba</li><li>5. El Salvador</li><li>6. Guatemala</li></ol>	<b>Pot 4</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. St. Vincent and the Grenadines</li><li>2. Grenada</li><li>3. Antigua and Barbuda</li><li>4. Belize</li><li>5. Nicaragua</li><li>6. Curaçao</li></ol>
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#### ROUND FOUR:

- The six teams qualifying from Round Three will then join the six PMAs ranked one to six (based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of August 2014) in Round Four.
- The 12 teams will be drawn into three round-robin, home-and-away groups of four teams each.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 7 November 2015 to 6 September 2016.
- The winners and runners-up of each group advance to Round Five.

#### ALLOCATION TO POTS:

- The six PMAs joining Round Four will be allocated to two pots (based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of August 2014).
- The teams ranked one to three will be placed in Pot 1 and the teams ranked four to six will be placed in Pot 2.

<b>Pot 1</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Costa Rica</li><li>2. Mexico</li><li>3. USA</li></ol>	<b>Pot 2</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Honduras</li><li>2. Panama</li><li>3. Trinidad and Tobago</li></ol>
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#### DRAW PROCEDURES FOR ROUND THREE AND ROUND FOUR:

- The draw starts with the drawing of teams for Round Three.
- A ball is drawn from Pot 4 and another ball is drawn from Pot 3 and both are placed into a central bowl. The two drawn balls in the central bowl are then shuffled. One of the balls from the central bowl is then drawn and this team will play at home in the first leg of the series. The remaining ball is drawn from the central bowl and will play at home in the second leg of the series. This completes the pairings for series one.
- The draw continues in this fashion with the drawing of balls from Pot 4 and Pot 3 until both pots have been emptied and completes series two to six for Round Three.
- The winners of each of the six series for Round Three are automatically allocated into the groups for Round Four in positions three and four in the group respectively. The winners of series one and series two are allocated to Group A, series three and series four are allocated to Group B and series five and series six are allocated to Group C.
- The draw then continues with the drawing of the remaining teams for Round Four.
- A ball is drawn from Pot 2 with the team being placed in position two of Group A. This continues for the remaining two balls in Pot 2 with the team being placed in position two of Group B and Group C respectively.
- The draw continues with the drawing of a ball from Pot 1. This team is placed into position one of Group A. This continues for the remaining two balls in Pot 1 with the team being placed in position one of Group B and Group C respectively.

#### ROUND THREE:

- Series 1: \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_
- Series 2: \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_
- Series 3: \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_
- Series 4: \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_
- Series 5: \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_
- Series 6: \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_

#### ROUND FOUR:

Group A	Group B	Group C
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3. Winner 1	3. Winner 3	3. Winner 5
4. Winner 2	4. Winner 4	4. Winner 6

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#### ROUND FIVE:

- The six teams qualifying from Round Four will take part in Round Five.
- The six teams will be placed into one round-robin, home-and-away group of six teams.
- The matches are foreseen to be played in the period 7 November 2016 to 10 October 2017.
  
- **The top three placed teams will qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™.**
- **The fourth placed team advances to the intercontinental play-off.**

#### DRAW PROCEDURE:

The draw date, location and procedure for Round Five will be confirmed by the end of Round Four by the Organising Committee for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™.