

FIFA[®]

European Play-Off Tournament for the FIFA World Cup 2022™

Draw Procedures



European Play-Off Tournament for the FIFA World Cup 2022™: Draw Procedures

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

The three European slots for the FIFA World Cup 2022™ that are not allocated at the end of the preliminary competition's group stage will be decided through a 12-team play-off tournament.

The ten runners-up from the group stage of European qualifying will be joined by two additional teams selected on the basis of the overall UEFA Nations League 2020/21 rankings* Specifically, these spots will go to the two best-ranked UEFA Nations League group winners that have neither qualified directly for the final tournament as European qualifying group winners nor already entered the play-offs as European qualifying group runners-up.

* As per UEFA circular 95/2020 of 15 December 2020 (https://editorial.uefa.com/resources/0264-10fc7133decc-0734cf828401-1000/unl_rankings_after_md6_with_criteria_1_december_2020.pdf).

POT ALLOCATION

Once the 12 teams involved in the play-offs have been determined, the six best-ranked runners-up from the group stage of European qualifying will be allocated to Pot 1 and play the play-off semi-final at home. The remaining six teams will be allocated to Pot 2.

To determine the six best runners-up to be allocated to Pot 1, firstly, the results of the group runners-up against the teams in sixth place (for groups with six teams) will be discarded and then the following criteria will be applied in the order given:

- a. higher number of points
- b. superior goal difference
- c. higher number of goals scored
- d. higher number of away goals scored
- e. higher number of wins
- f. higher number of away wins
- g. lower disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received by players and team officials (red card = three points, yellow card = one point, sending-off for two yellow cards in one match = three points)
- h. access list for the UEFA Nations League 2020/21 (see the Regulations of the UEFA Nations League 2020/21, Annex C)

POT 1	POT 2
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.

DRAW PROCEDURES

The draw will start by allocating the six best-ranked teams, i.e. the teams from Pot 1, to semi-finals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively as a home team. The first team drawn will occupy the home position in semi-final 1, the second team drawn in semi-final 2 and so on until the pot is emptied.

The draw will then proceed to allocate teams from Pot 2 to semi-final pairings one by one. The first team drawn from Pot 2 will occupy the away position in semi-final 1, the second team drawn in semi-final 2 and so on until all semi-final pairings are determined.

	HOME		AWAY
Path A	Semi-final 1	TEAM FROM POT 1	v. TEAM FROM POT 2
	Semi-final 2	TEAM FROM POT 1	v. TEAM FROM POT 2
Path B	Semi-final 3	TEAM FROM POT 1	v. TEAM FROM POT 2
	Semi-final 4	TEAM FROM POT 1	v. TEAM FROM POT 2
Path C	Semi-final 5	TEAM FROM POT 1	v. TEAM FROM POT 2
	Semi-final 6	TEAM FROM POT 1	v. TEAM FROM POT 2

DRAW CONSTRAINTS

Prohibited team clashes

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

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

The following draw condition applies:

- If a prohibited clash occurs or could occur, the team drawn shall be placed in the next available play-off path.

PLAY-OFF PATH PAIRING DRAW PROCEDURES

Additionally, according to the regulatory articles for the 2020-2022 European qualifiers play-offs:

Play-off path A will be contested by the winners of semi-finals 1 and 2.

Play-off path B will be contested by the winners of semi-finals 3 and 4.

Play-off path C will be contested by the winners of semi-finals 5 and 6.

In order to determine which of the semi-final winners will play at home in the final matches, the following draw will be conducted:

Two draw balls with "Semi-final 1" and "Semi-final 2" will be placed in an empty pot. The first ball drawn will indicate the winners of which semi-final will play the final match at home.

The same procedure will apply for semi-finals 3 and 4 as well as 5 and 6.

DRAW CONSTRAINTS

None.