



Draw Procedures for the Concacaf Preliminary Draw for the FIFA World Cup 26™

Qualification for the FIFA World Cup 26™

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SLOT ALLOCATION

The slot allocation for Concacaf for the FIFA World Cup 26™ is 6.5 teams, in addition to the half-slot for the host confederation representative. The half-slots will compete via the Playoff Tournament (six teams in total) for the remaining 2 qualification slots.

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION FORMAT

The Concacaf qualifiers will be composed of three rounds and the format will allow all of FIFA's 32 member associations to compete for access to three direct slots and two play-off slots for the FIFA World Cup 26™.

As three of the six designated slots for Concacaf are preassigned for the representative teams of the organising associations - Canada, Mexico and the USA - they will automatically qualify for the final competition, as per the decision approved by the FIFA Council on 14 February 2023.

ROUND ONE:

The first round of qualifiers will be played in March 2024, with two home-and-away play-offs between the lowest four Concacaf teams in the men's FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of 21 December 2023.

The matchups will be determined based on the teams' positions in the ranking as follows:

- Play-off 1: Turks and Caicos Islands v. Anguilla
- Play-off 2: British Virgin Islands v. US Virgin Islands

The winner of each two-legged play-off will advance to round two.

ROUND TWO:

The second round of the Concacaf qualifiers will be played in a group-stage format in June 2024 and June 2025.

The 30 teams will be divided into six groups of five teams, which will include the two winners of the first round along with the remaining 28 participating member associations.

Each nation will play against every other team in their group once, playing a total of four matches (two home and two away). After the single-leg, round-robin play, the first- and second-placed teams in each of the six groups will qualify to advance to the final round.

Round two pot allocation:

Round two will be played in a group-stage format involving FIFA's member associations in Concacaf ranked 1 to 28 according to the FIFA/Coca-Cola Ranking (excluding Canada, Mexico and the USA), plus the two winners of round 1.

These 30 participating Concacaf member associations will be divided into six groups of five teams.



The 30 competing nations will be allocated to five pots of six teams, each based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of 21 December 2023.

The five team pots will be labelled 1 to 5. The six highest-ranked teams will be allocated to pot 1, the next six to pot 2, the next six to pot 3, and so on until pot 5 is complete.

Each group will be allocated one team from each pot.

POT 1	POT 2	POT 3
Panama Costa Rica Jamaica Honduras El Salvador Haiti	Curaçao Trinidad and Tobago Guatemala Nicaragua Antigua and Barbuda Suriname	St. Kitts and Nevis Dominican Republic Guyana Puerto Rico St. Lucia Cuba
POT 4	POT 5	
Bermuda St. Vincent and the Grenadines Grenada Montserrat Barbados Dominica	Belize Aruba Cayman Islands Bahamas Winner play-off 1 Winner play-off 2	

Round two draw procedures:

The draw will begin by drawing a team from pot 1 and end by drawing the last team from pot 5. Each pot will be completely emptied before moving on to the next pot.

Teams drawn from each pot will be allocated to groups sequentially from A to F. Thus, the team drawn first will be placed in Group A, the team drawn next in Group B, and so on until Group F. The process will be repeated until all five pots are emptied.

The position that each team occupies in a group will be determined by the pot from which it is drawn. Thus, teams drawn from pot 1 will be placed in position 1 of each group, teams from pot 2 will be placed in position 2, and so on.

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.	2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.	3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.	4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.	5.	5.	5.

The match schedule will also be determined after the draw as follows:



FIFA window 1:

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
2 v. 4	1 v. 3		5 v. 2	4 v. 1		3 v. 5

FIFA window 2:

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
4 v. 5		2 v. 3	5 v. 1			3 v. 4
						1 v. 2

Draw constraints:

None