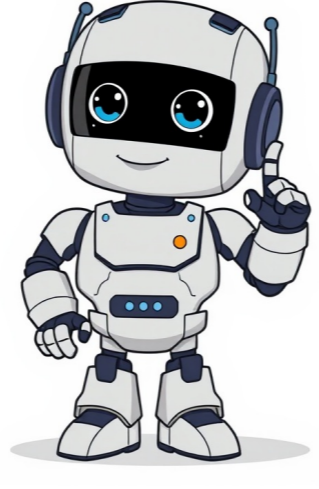


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The FIFA Men's World Ranking is a system that determines the ranking of men's national football teams based on their performance in international matches. The ranking has undergone several changes since its introduction in December 1992. It is sponsored by Coca-Cola and uses the Elo rating system, which was originally developed for chess and Go. The use of shootout penalties in FIFA rankings has led to an increase in total points over time, a phenomenon known as ranking inflation. This is evident in the example of FIFA-recognized games between June 4, 2018, and March 31, 2022, where the initial total value of points was increased by 2,099 points due to 24 games with shootout penalties applied. The FIFA World Ranking system has undergone several changes since its introduction in 1992. Initially, the rankings were calculated using a simple method that did not take into account the quality of opponents or the importance of matches. This led to anomalies, such as Norway reaching second in October 1993 and July-August 1995. In response to criticism, FIFA introduced a revised system in January 1999, which incorporated more factors, including the number of goals scored or conceded, whether the match was played at home or away, regional strength, and importance of the match. The point ranking was scaled up by a factor of ten, and only the seven best matches annually were taken into account. The new system continued to grant awards, such as Team of the Year and Best Mover of the Year, but made the ranking more complex. However, it also improved its accuracy by making it more comprehensive. FIFA announced updates to the ranking system after the 2006 World Cup, cutting the evaluation period from eight to four years and simplifying the calculation methodology. The revised rankings were published on July 12, 2006, and aimed to address criticisms of the previous system. However, issues remained, such as the inability of hosts of major tournaments to retain high rankings due to participation in lower-value friendly matches. Teams also realized they could "game" the system by avoiding non-competitive matches. In recent years, teams have been accused of exploiting the ranking system, particularly by playing only a few friendlies before major tournaments. This allowed them to manipulate their rankings and gain an advantage over their opponents. The use of regional strength multiplier was also criticized for reinforcing biases against certain regions. The FIFA World Rankings have a complex and dynamic system, with multiple teams leading the rankings at different times. The current leader is Argentina, having taken the top spot in April 2023 after winning the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The rankings are used to rank the progression and ability of national football teams and are used as part of the calculation or entire grounds for seeding competitions. The ranking system has undergone changes over the years, with a significant update in August 2018 when FIFA adopted the Elo rating system. This change led to two teams being joint leaders for a short period in October 2018 before Belgium regained sole possession of the top spot. The current rankings are published multiple times a year and are used to determine seeding for competitions. The rankings have been used to seed groups in tournaments, including the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualification tournament. They have also been used to determine the winners of annual awards given to national teams based on their performance in the rankings. The Football Association uses the average of the last 24 months of rankings as one of the criteria for player work permits. Brazil holds the records for the most consecutive wins (seven, between 1994 and 2000) and most wins overall (thirteen). Spain has won the Team of the Year award four times, while Argentina have won it four times in the last five years. The table shows the three best teams of each year, providing a snapshot of the global football landscape. The Best Mover of the Year is awarded to the team that makes the most progress in FIFA rankings from one year to another. The calculation takes into account the points earned by each team during the year, not just the number of places they move up the ranking. This method was used until 2006, when it was changed due to concerns about manipulation. Since then, the Best Mover Award has been awarded based on the difference in FIFA world ranking points between the end of the year and 12 months earlier. The award is not officially part of the annual FIFA awards gala show but is still recognized by the organization. The first official Best Mover Award was given to the coach of the Slovenia national football team, Srečko Katanec, in 1999. However, this award has not been presented since 2006. Despite this, FIFA continues to release a list of the "Best Movers" each year. In recent years, the Best Mover Award has been given to teams such as Colombia, Germany, France, and Morocco. The methodology used to calculate the Best Mover results is based on the difference in FIFA world ranking points between the end of the year and 12 months earlier. **### REFERENCE LIST** The FIFA World Rankings, established in 1992, have long been a topic of debate among football enthusiasts. The rankings are used to determine the strength of national teams and can have significant implications for team performance and qualification for major tournaments. One of the most striking aspects of the FIFA World Rankings is their unpredictability. Teams that fail to qualify for major tournaments in years past have seen significant increases in ranking, while top-ranked teams often struggle to maintain their position. For example, Israel's national team has consistently defied expectations, climbing from a lowly 40th place in 2013 to its current ranking of 15. Critics argue that the rankings system is flawed, as it can be manipulated through various means, including friendlies and seeding for major tournaments. To address these concerns, FIFA introduced changes to the ranking procedure in 2006, which aimed to reduce manipulation and ensure a more accurate representation of team strength. Despite these efforts, the rankings remain contentious. Many question the methodology behind the system, citing factors such as team performance, competition level, and even geographical location as contributing factors. Others argue that the rankings do not accurately reflect a team's chances of success in major tournaments. In recent years, there have been calls for reform or even abolition of the FIFA World Rankings. Some suggest replacing the current system with a more comprehensive approach that takes into account a broader range of factors, such as team quality and performance over multiple seasons. Ultimately, the future of the FIFA World Rankings remains uncertain. As the sport continues to evolve, it is likely that changes will be made to the ranking system in an effort to improve its accuracy and fairness. **###Spain remains on top in the FIFA rankings, with Wales moving up to second place. The best mover of the year award has also been given to Spain, with Argentina taking second place. FIFA faces pushback over regulations following ECJ ruling, class action lawsuit filed** Fifteen Fifa officials suspended for "corruption" over World Cup bids Fifa is facing a fresh probe into its handling of the Qatar 2022 World Cup bid after Fifa President Gianni Infantino was accused of attempting to prevent elections at the governing body's congress in May last year. FIFA's handling of the 2022 World Cup has been under scrutiny, with many officials suspended over allegations of corruption. FIFA's history dates back to 1913 in Belgium, with its first president being Robert Guérin. However, it was not until 1914 that the organization gained international recognition, with the 1912 Olympics serving as a precursor to its growth. The early years of FIFA were marked by turmoil, with several presidents facing challenges such as World War I and financial struggles. During this time, Carl Hirschmann took over as president in 1918 but eventually stepped down due to the withdrawal of the Home Nations from international competitions. The organization's survival was uncertain, but it persevered after the war. Jules Rimet succeeded Hirschmann and served as FIFA's president until his death in 1954. The first World Cup took place in 1930, with Uruguay emerging as the winner. Since then, FIFA has grown to become a global institution, with its current headquarters located in Zürich, Switzerland. The organization has also adopted an anthem, composed by Franz Lambert, which is played at official matches and tournaments worldwide. FIFA recognizes 211 national associations and their men's teams, making it one of the largest international sports organizations. However, its expansion has not been without controversy, with several countries facing suspension due to governance issues, corruption, and doping scandals. Today, FIFA operates under a unique governance structure, with the FIFA Congress serving as its supreme body. The council is responsible for implementing decisions made by the congress, and it reviews bids to host the World Cup. As the world of football continues to evolve, FIFA remains at the forefront, working to promote the sport globally while addressing the challenges that come with its growth. FIFA's highest authority is the Congress, which selects host countries through a vote. The President and Secretary General oversee daily operations via the general secretariat, staffed with approximately 280 members. Gianni Infantino serves as president after Sepp Blatter's suspension in 2016 pending corruption investigation.[38][39] FIFA's worldwide structure includes several bodies under the FIFA Council or created by Congress: the FIFA Emergency Committee, Ethics Committee, Finance Committee, Disciplinary Committee, and Referees Committee. The Emergency Committee deals with urgent matters between regular council meetings, consisting of the president and one member from each confederation.[42] Decisions are immediately effective but must be ratified at the next Executive Committee meeting.[43] FIFA publishes results according to International Financial Reporting Standards, with total compensation for management in 2011 totaling \$30 million for 35 people. Blatter earned approximately two million Swiss francs, mostly in bonuses. The Laws of the Game are maintained by IFAB, not solely FIFA's responsibility. The body includes four FIFA representatives and the UK associations' (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) who jointly established IFAB in 1882 for game creation history. Changes must be agreed upon by at least six delegates. The governing system consists of Congress, executive committee, general secretariat, and standing/ad hoc committees.[48] FIFA actively develops and governs the sport worldwide, suspending teams from international competition when governments interfere or associate member organizations malfunction. A 2007 ruling led to controversy over player registrations and appearances, prompting a modification in the following year. In contrast, recent developments have seen FIFA permit video evidence during matches and for subsequent sanctions, with the introduction of VARs into Laws of the Game on March 3, 2018. [52] Goal-line technology was sanctioned in early July 2012 subject to IFAB rules. The 2015 corruption scandal exposed a widespread bribery scheme involving over two dozen officials. Accusations included bribing for World Cup hosting rights and inducing player transfers. The scandal led to the arrest of several high-ranking officials, including Webb and Figueroed, with further investigations revealing additional corruption resulting in suspensions and bans for executives such as Blatter, Platini, and Valcke. This organizational culture characterized by greed, secrecy, and corruption severely damaged FIFA's reputation.[49] In contrast to past stances against video use,[50][51] VARs were introduced into the Laws of the Game on March 3, 2018. Their adoption remains optional for competitions. The governance of international football has been under scrutiny lately, with widespread calls for significant reforms. This criticism section may be seen as biased and should be addressed on the talk page. In February 2022, FIFA suspended Russia's participation due to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, as recommended by the International Olympic Committee. The Russian Football Union appealed the ban but lost in the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Some observers have pointed out that FIFA did not take similar action against other countries with questionable human rights records or military interventions. The organization has previously banned Indonesia due to government interference in the team. FIFA requires members to play "with no influence from third parties." Recently, allegations emerged that FIFA did not pay players the agreed-upon sums, affecting 420 players who did not receive their payments, totaling £3m. FIFA hosts an annual awards ceremony, the Best FIFA Football Awards, which recognizes individual and team achievements. The organization presents various other awards, including the Ballon d'Or, the FIFA Puskás Award, and the Golden Glove. In 2000, FIFA presented two awards to decide the greatest football club and player of the 20th century. The ranking system used by FIFA to rank countries based on their performance in men's and women's football is a widely followed and closely watched metric. The current top 20 ranked men's football countries are led by Argentina, followed closely by Spain, France, England, Brazil, and Portugal. The rankings are updated regularly, with the most recent update being released on July 10, 2025. The team that has seen the largest change in ranking is Croatia, which has moved up to 10th place after a strong performance in recent tournaments. In contrast, the top 20 ranked women's football countries are led by Spain, followed closely by the United States, Sweden, England, Germany, and France. The rankings for the women's team have also seen significant changes, with some teams moving up or down the ranks based on their performances in recent tournaments. FIFA+ is an online streaming platform that provides access to live matches, documentaries, and other football-related content. Launched in 2022, it has become a popular destination for fans of the sport. The platform offers coverage of various international competitions, including the OFC Champions League and the COSAFA Cup. The scandal surrounding CONCACAF and FIFA has led to numerous allegations of corruption and misuse of funds. Liburd, along with many others, has been vocal in exposing the allegedly improper allocation of money by CONCACAF and drawing parallels between alleged CONCACAF wrongdoings and similar behaviors at FIFA. Since then, and in light of fresh allegations of corruption by FIFA in late 2010, Jennings and Brennan have remained highly critical of FIFA. Brennan has strongly advocated for an alternative to FIFA to be considered by the stakeholders in the sport worldwide. In a recent Panorama exposé, Jennings alleged that three senior FIFA officials, Nicolas Leoz, Issa Hayatou, and Ricardo Teixeira, had been paid substantial bribes by ISL between 1989 and 1999, which FIFA had failed to investigate. The program also alleged that another current official, Jack Warner, has been repeatedly involved in reselling World Cup tickets to tourists. Blatter stated that FIFA had not investigated the allegation because it had not been informed through "official channels." Panorama also claimed that FIFA requires nations bidding to host the World Cup to agree to implement special laws, including a blanket tax exemption for FIFA and its corporate sponsors and limitation of workers' rights. Following Jennings' earlier investigations, he was banned from all FIFA press conferences for reasons he claimed had not been made clear. The accused officials failed to respond to his allegations verbally or in writing. Prime Minister David Cameron and Andy Anson, head of England's World Cup bid, criticized the timing of the broadcast three days before FIFA decided on the host for the 2018 FIFA World Cup. In June 2011, it was revealed that the International Olympic Committee had started inquiry proceedings against FIFA honorary president João Havelange into claims of bribery. Panorama alleged that Havelange accepted a \$1 million 'bung' in 1997 from ISL. The IOC stated that they take all allegations of corruption very seriously and would always ask for any evidence of wrongdoing involving IOC members to be passed to their ethics commission. In a 2014 interview, American sportswriter Dave Zirin said that corruption is endemic to FIFA leadership and that the organization should be abolished for the game's good. He suggested that currently, FIFA is in charge of both monitoring corruption in association football matches and marketing and selling the sport, but that two separate organizational bodies are needed: one responsible for monitoring corruption and match-fixing and another responsible for marketing and sponsorships and selling the sport. In May 2015, 14 people were arrested, including nine FIFA officials, after being accused of corruption. In the 2022 World Cup bid, Qatar was awarded the hosting rights. It has since been discovered that Qatar paid as much as \$200 billion to host the World Cup. Between 2013 and 2015, four individuals, and two sports television rights corporations pleaded guilty to United States financial misconduct charges. The pleas of Chuck Blazer, José Hawilla, Daryan Warner, Darrell Warner, Traffic Group, and Traffic Sports USA were unsealed in May 2015. In another 2015 case, Singapore imposed a 6-year "hardest sentence ever received for match-fixing" on match-fixer Eric Ding who had bribed three Lebanese FIFA football officials with prostitutes as an inducement to fix future matches. Fourteen FIFA officials and marketing executives were indicted by the United States Department of Justice in May 2015. The officials were arrested in Switzerland and are currently in the process of extradition to the US. Swiss authorities have also opened a separate criminal investigation into FIFA's operations pertaining to the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bids. FIFA's top officials were arrested at a hotel in Switzerland on suspicion of receiving bribes totalling \$100m (€65m). The US Department of Justice stated that nine FIFA officials and four executives of sports management companies were arrested and accused of over \$150m in bribes. The UK Shadow Home Secretary, Andy Burnham, stated in May 2015 that England should boycott the 2018 World Cup against corruption in FIFA and military aggression by Russia. The bidding process for the 2022 World Cup was shrouded in controversy, with several high-profile figures implicated in corruption scandals. The whistleblower's allegations against FIFA executive committee members Issa Hayatou and Jacques Anouma have sparked renewed interest in the matter. Blatter has urged taking the matter 'step by step' and is awaiting more evidence before asking its ethics committee to examine the allegations. However, critics argue that the investigation was compromised from the start. In 2011, David Triesman, former head of England's bid and the English Football Association, made allegations against four long-standing FIFA executive committee members, including Jack Warner and Nicolas Leoz. The whistleblowers claimed that these officials engaged in "improper and unethical" conduct during the bidding process for the 2018 World Cup, which was won by Russia. The investigation into the 2018 bidding process led to several high-profile suspensions, including those of Mohamed Bin Hammam and Jack Warner. However, critics argue that this was a whitewash, as the report released by FIFA's ethics committee was deemed "materially incomplete" by Michael J. Garcia. In recent years, there have been numerous allegations against FIFA officials, including claims of corruption and bribery. The organization has faced intense scrutiny from authorities and lawmakers around the world. Despite these challenges, Blatter remains committed to reforming FIFA and ensuring that the organization operates with integrity. FIFA is facing a major crisis with numerous allegations of corruption and bribery, prompting calls for reform and concrete measures to be taken by the organization's authority. Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is being tipped for a role on the newly proposed 'Solutions Committee', while former Netherlands national football team player Johan Cruyff was also being linked with a role. UEFA secretary-general Gianni Infantino hopes for "concrete" measures to be taken, saying that the executive committee has "taken note of the will of FIFA to take concrete and effective measures". IOC president Jacques Rogge commented on the situation by stating that he believes FIFA can "emerge stronger" from its worst-ever crisis. Several sponsors and partners have raised concerns about the allegations, including Coca-Cola, Adidas, Emirates and Visa. Australian Sports Minister Mark Arbib said it is clear that FIFA needs to change, while Australian Senator Nick Xenophon accused FIFA of "scamming" Australia out of millions of dollars spent on a failed World Cup bid. Transparency International renewed its call for FIFA's governance structure to be changed. Diego Maradona was critical of FIFA in light of the corruption scandal, comparing members of the board to dinosaurs. The organization has revised its code of ethics to remove corruption as one of the enumerated bases of ethical violations, but added a statute of limitation clause and made public statements against FIFA defamatory offenses. Over 100 female footballers sent an open letter to FIFA demanding the organization to end its sponsor deal with Saudi oil company Aramco due to human rights violations and women's rights abuses in Saudi Arabia. The once dominant force of world football, Fifa, now finds itself engulfed in scandal after scandal, its integrity hanging by a thread. The self-proclaimed 'football man' Michel Platini, who had been hailed as the savior of the organization, was banned for eight years, his reputation in tatters. Despite the efforts of Gianni Infantino to stem the tide, trust in Fifa has only improved marginally. A survey conducted by the Guardian found that a mere 30% of respondents believed that the organization had taken adequate steps to address its problems. As the Ethics Committee continued to investigate hundreds of cases, it seemed increasingly uncertain whether any concrete action would be taken. The world watched with bated breath as Infantino embarked on his personal 'reform' agenda, leaving many to wonder if this was just a mere exercise in damage control. Meanwhile, the question on everyone's lips remained: what exactly did Fifa know about the massive corruption scandal that had been unfolding before its very eyes? The answer, much like the organization itself, seemed shrouded in mystery. Fifa's 113th foundation day passed relatively unnoticed, a stark contrast to the excitement and anticipation that usually surrounded such events. It was a poignant reminder of just how far the organization had fallen from the heights it once occupied. As the years went by, Fifa continued to make headlines for all the wrong reasons. The Russia World Cup debacle served as a stark warning of the consequences of inaction, with the organization's failure to act decisively in the face of corruption and wrongdoing coming under intense scrutiny. Despite the many criticisms levelled against it, Fifa refused to be silenced. Its anthem continued to echo through the corridors of power, a defiant symbol of its enduring influence over the beautiful game. But as the world looked on with growing disdain, one thing became painfully clear: Fifa's days of unbridled power were behind it. The organization's STATUTES, once considered sacrosanct, now seemed like little more than a relic of a bygone era. The emergency committee that had been established to tackle corruption was seen as a mere token gesture, its powers limited and ineffective in the face of such entrenched malfeasance. As Fifa stumbled from one crisis to the next, it became increasingly clear that the organization's very foundations were being called into question. The question on everyone's lips remained: would Fifa ever be able to reclaim its former glory, or was it forever doomed to be a shadow of its former self? **###ARTICLE#**The ban appeal against a player has been rejected by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). This decision comes as part of the ongoing controversies surrounding the World Cup in Qatar, with some critics accusing FIFA of hypocrisy and political manipulation. According to reports, FIFA suspended Russia from the country's invasion of Ukraine, sparking concerns about double standards. Meanwhile, other nations such as Indonesia were banned from international competitions due to their own human rights record. The situation has raised questions about the role of sports organizations in addressing social issues and promoting fair play. Some have argued that cultural boycotts can be effective in bringing attention to important causes, while others believe that this approach can also be counterproductive. FIFA's relationship with its sponsors and partners is also under scrutiny, with some calling for greater transparency and accountability. The organization has announced plans to launch a new streaming platform, FIFA+, which will offer free live soccer matches to fans around the world. Despite these developments, there are still concerns about corruption and governance within FIFA. In 2015, several high-ranking officials were arrested on corruption charges, including former president Sepp Blatter. The scandal led to widespread criticism of the organization's leadership and its handling of financial matters. The recent decision by CAS to reject a player's ban appeal has added fuel to the fire, with many calling for greater reform within FIFA. As the World Cup in Qatar approaches, it remains to be seen whether the organization will take steps to address these concerns and promote more transparency and accountability. **###FBI** launched an investigation into South Florida offices linked to FIFA in a soccer scandal ^ WPLG. The Guardian reported that Fifa corruption arrests key questions answered ^ "Fifa corruption arrests: key questions answered". The English football team may boycott the 2018 World Cup, says Andy Burnham ^ "England should boycott 2018 World Cup, says Andy Burnham". Guardian. Simon Barnes wrote an article in The Australian, saying FIFA is a gathering of nasty, mad old men ^ Simon Barnes (6 December 2010). The Qatar selection adds to FIFA's ongoing folly - World Soccer ^ Rogers, Martin (2 December 2010). Media Reaction to World Cup Voting ^ Seltzer, Greg (3 December 2010). FIFA, SAFA voting baffling: Sport: Columnists: Mark Gleeson ^ "FIFA, SAFA voting baffling: Sport: Columnists: Mark Gleeson". 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