FIFA World Cup 2026 - Match Schedule with Venues: 5 June 2026 to 12 July 2026

By Nick Stathes (nstathes@tszlegal.com); this Calendar was submitted to the FIFA Counsel on 13 March 2023, supplementing the Original Proposal submitted to FIFA Council on 3 March 2023.

www.12groupsof4.com

World Cup Format Summary:Features 96 matches taking place over 38 days.

- Canada hosts 12 matches, Mexico 18, & USA 66.

West Region Venue POD:

Hosts Groups D, H & L; &

Quadrant 2 Second Round

Los Angeles (LA) (6)

San Francisco (SF) (5)

Seattle (SEA) (5)

South Region Venue POD

Hosts Groups A, E & I; &

Quadrant 1 Second Round:

Guadalajara (GUD) (5)

Houston (HOU) (6)

Mexico City (MEX) (8)

Monterrey (MON) (5)

- Nations drawn into 12 groups of 4 teams; group matches played within 1 of 4 Regional PODs

Draw includes 12 group seeded teams (ex. A1, B1, C1, etc.) based on hosts & FIFA Ranking.

Remaining draw, A2 through L4 (36 total remaining group teams), based on Confederation.
 Groups further divided into 4 Quadrants (ex. Groups A, B & C comprise a Quadrant, etc.)
 Hosts placed in separate Quadrants, ensuring all hosts play at home until Semis at earliest.
 Group winners & runners-up advance to 2nd Round (no 3rd place teams advance).
 Highest 2 ranked group winners per Quadrant advance directly to Round of 16 (8 total).

Lowest Quadrant group winner & 3 Quadrant group runners-up to Play-in Round (16 total). Winners of Play-in Round play against automatic Round of 16 qualifiers within Quadrant.

Each 2nd Round match within a Quadrant played within 1 of 4 Regional Venue PODs.

No teams from same group can face one another until Quarterfinals (see Proposal).
Following Play-in Round, Round of 16, & Quarterfinals, 4 Quadrant winners advance to Semi

- Following Play-in Round, Round of 16, & Quarterlinals, 4 Quadrant winners advance to Sem - Full Proposal sent to FIFA Council & example Quadrant found at <u>www.12groupsof4.com.</u>

This format is superior to 16 groups of 3 and & 12 groups of 4 with Round of 32

East Region Venue POD	Central Region Venue POD:		
Hosts Groups C, G & K; &	Hosts Groups B, F & J; &		
Quadrant 3 Second Round:	Quadrant 4 Second Round		
Boston (BOS) (6)	Atlanta (ATL) (6)		
New York City (NYC) (7)	Dallas (DAL) (7)		
Philadelphia (PHL) (6)	Kansas City (KC) (6)		
Toronto (TOR) (6)	Miami (MIA) (6)		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1. Mexico v. A2 (MEX)	2: A3 v. A4 (GUD) 3. B1 v. B2 (DAL) 4: B3 v. B4 (MIA)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5: C1 v. C2 (PHL)	9: E1 v. E2 (HOU)	13: USA v. G2 (NYC)	17: I1 v. I2 (MEX)	21: K1 v. K2 (BOS)	25: Mexico v. A3 (MEX)	29: C1 v. C3 (TOR)
6: C3 v. C4 (BOS)	10: E3 v. E4 (MON)	14: G3 v. G4 (TOR)	18: I3 v. I4 (GUD)	22: K3 v. K4 (PHL)	26: A2 v. A4 (HOU)	30: C2 v. C4 (NYC)
7: Canada v. D2 (TOR)*	11: F1 v. F2 (ATL)	15: H1 v. H2 (SF)	19: J1 v. J2 (MIA)	23: L1 v. L2 (SEA)	27: B1 v. B3 (ATL)	31: Canada v. D3 (VAN)
8: D3 v. D4 (LA)	12: F3 v. F4 (KC)	16: H3 v. H4 (SEA)	20: J3 v. J4 (DAL)	24: L3 v. L4 (LA)	28: B2 v. B4 (KC)	32: D2 v. D4 (SF)
14	15	16			19	20
14	15	10	17	49: B1 v. B4 (MIA)	55: E1 v. E4 (MON)	61: H1 v. H4 (LA)
33: E1 v. E3 (MON)	37: USA v. G3 (PHL)	41: I1 v. I3 (MON)	45: K1 v. K3 (NYC)	50: B2 v. B3 (DAL)	56: E2 v. E3 (GUD)	62: H2 v. H3 (SEA)
34: E2 v. E4 (GUD)	38: G2 v. G4 (BOS)	42: I2 v. I4 (HOU)	46: K2 v. K4 (TOR)	51: C1 v. C4 (BOS)	57: F1 v. F4 (KC)	63: I1 v. I4 (HOU)
35: F1 v. F3 (MIA)	39: H1 v. H3 (LA)	43: J1 v. J3 (KC)	47: L1 v. L3 (LA)	52: C2 v. C3 (PHL)	58: F2 v. F3 (ATL)	64: I2 v. I3 (MEX)
36: F2 v. F4 (DAL)	40: H2 v. H4 (SEA)	44: J2 v. J4 (ATL)	48: L2 v. L4 (SEA)	53: Mexico v. A4 (MEX)	59: Canada v. D4 (VAN)	65: USA v. G4 (BOS)
		, ,	` '	54: A2 v. A3 (HOU)	60: D2 v. D3 (SF)	66: G2 v. G3 (NYC)
21	22	23	24	25	26	25
67: K1 v. K4 (TOR) 68: K2 v. K3 (PHL)	Play-In, Quadrant 1**	Play-In, Quadrant 2***	Play-In, Quadrant 3****	Play-In, Quadrant 4		Round of 16, Quadrant 1**
69: L1 v. L4 (SF)	73: 1st ABC v. 2nd ABC (MEX)	75: 1st DEF v. 2nd DEF (VAN)	77: 1st GHI v. 2nd GHI (NYC)	79: 1st JKL v. 2nd JKL (ATL)	Rest Day	81: 1st ABC v. Win 73 (MEX)
70: L2 v. L3 (VAN) 71: J1 v. J4 (DAL)	74: 2nd AB v. 2nd BC (GUD)	76: 2nd DE v. 2nd EF (LA)	78: 2nd GH v. 2nd HI (TOR)	80: 2nd JK v. 2nd KL (KC)		82: 1st ABC v. Win 74 (MON)
72: J2 v. J3 (MIA)	29	30	1	2	3	
Round of 16, Quadrant 2***	Round of 16, Quadrant 3	Round of 16, Quadrant 4	•		Quarters, Quadrants 1 & 2	Quarters, Quadrants 3 & 4
83: 1st DEF v. Win 75 (VAN)	85: 1st GHI v. Win 77 (NYC)	87: 1st JKL v. Win 79 (DAL)	Rest Day	Rest Day	89: Win 81 v. Win 82 (MEX)	91: Win 85 v. Win 86 (PHL)
84: 1st DEF v. Win 76 (SF)	86: 1st GHI v. Win 77 (NTC)	88: 1st JKL v. Win 80 (KC)	Rest Day	Rest Day	90: Win 83 v. Win 84 (VAN)	92: Win 87 v. Win 88 (MIA)
5	6	7	8	9	10	
		Semifinal, Quadrant 1 v. 2	Semifinal, Quadrant 3 v. 4			Third Place
Rest Day	Rest Day	93: Win 89 v. Win 90 (DAL)	94: Win 91 v. Win 92 (ATL)	Rest Day	Rest Day	95: Loser 93 v. Loser 94 (HOU
12						
Final						
96: Win 93 v. Win 94 (NYC)						
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*Canada opens its World Cup in TOR, despite Canada playing in Group D; this is the only opportunity for Canada to play in TOR throughout the World Cup as its remaining matches are in VAN (West POD)

**If Mexico advances to this match, it will play in MEX; the other match on the same date will be played in the other city listed (easily accommodated, but perhaps unnecessary as other match in Mexico)

***If Canada advances to this match, it will play in VAN; the other match on same date will be played in the other city listed (this is easily accommodated, and necessary for Canada to play at home)

****If USA advances to this match, it will play in NYC; the other Play-in Round match on same date not involving USA will be played in TOR (this is easily accommodated, and necessary for USA to play at home)

Final Note: There is no better format for a 48 team World Cup than having 12 groups of 4 with 24 teams advancing to the Second Round. It's the best way to maintain the excitement of the Group Stage and guarantee that World Cups moving forward, which will have a minimum of three hosts, ensure host nations play at home until the Semifinals at the earliest. However, while I maintain that relatives, this format is the best system: this calendar, my Proposal, and any idea or opinion I have set forth hereunder or under the Proposal is far from perfect. FIFA, among others, can potentially make this better. But a World Cup with 12 groups of 4 and 24 advancing to the Second Round to format the tournament, regardless of how PIFA elects to setup it's dates and venues.