

HOST COUNTRIES

China, Canada, Scotland, Italy, Japan, Ecuador, Egypt, New Zealand, Trinidad & Tobago, Finland and Peru - FIFA's Under-17 World Championship has been staged on every continent.

COMPETITION FORMULA

The formula of the teenage tournament has always aimed to give all continents an equal chance, especially in this developing age group. Since the first world tournament in 1985, three teams from each confederation and one from Oceania have been allowed to qualify in order to give the national associations from each confederation the opportunity to flex their muscles against their contemporaries from all corners of the globe.

From 1985 to 1993, matches were played during two 40-minute halves (extra time was ten minutes each way). In 1995 in Ecuador, the standard duration of matches was increased to the traditional format of 45 minutes per half (with 15 minutes per half in extra time).

HISTORY

A glance over recent years serves to illustrate how the organisers of the past nine championships endowed each one with an individual flavour.

CHINA PR 1985: The inaugural FIFA under-16 competition in 1985, the first international tournament ever to be held in China PR, witnessed stadia filled to capacity, while the Workers' Stadium in Beijing, with a capacity of 80,000, was packed to the rafters no fewer than four times. African supremacy, which was to leave its mark on championships in the ensuing years, began to assert itself in China PR, with Nigeria the winners and Guinea semi-finalists.

CANADA 1987: The sprawling cities of Toronto and Montreal and the picturesque provincial venues of St John (New Brunswick) and St John's (Newfoundland) provided the backdrop to the 2nd FIFA Under-16 World Tournament in Canada in

1987. Nigeria were on the verge of repeating their 1985 triumph in a thrilling final only to be downed by the USSR in the penalty shoot-out.

SCOTLAND 1989: This was the turn of the first European country, namely Scotland, with its long and sophisticated tradition in professional football, to host this FIFA championship. At the memorable final in Glasgow's Hampden Park, a crowd of more than 50,000 watched transfixed as the home team, two goals up at half-time, allowed Saudi Arabia to creep up on them and beat them by a hair's breadth on penalties after goalless extra time.

ITALY 1991: The Italian association pulled off a feat of organisational prowess at very short notice when it managed to arrange yet another "Italian summer". A series of unforgettable matches at six venues scattered all over Tuscany, culminating in a technically superior, irresistible winner from Ghana was the mark of this first U-17 World Championship.

JAPAN 1993: In autumn 1993 (shortly after the triumphant start of the J League), Japan proved itself to be a perfect and, above all, technologically superb organiser. Nigeria beat Ghana 2-1 in the final, setting new standards in technique and tactics for this age category.

ECUADOR 1995: Ghana's youngsters made it three in a row for Africa as they swept to a thrilling 3-2 victory against Brazil in the final of the 1995 World Championship in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

EGYPT 1997: Brazil became the first South American team to win the Under-17 World Championship and to add the FIFA/JVC Cup to its unparalleled list of international honours. In a remake of the 1995 Under-17 final in Ecuador, Brazil encountered Ghana but this time the roles were reversed. While two years earlier the Africans had had the upper hand, winning 3-2 in the final, this time it was Brazil who came out on top, coming from a goal behind to snatch a dramatic victory from the Cup-holders. Africa became the only continent to ensure all three teams made it to the last eight.

NEW ZEALAND 1999: On a day when football in New Zealand set a record for crowd attendance, Brazil just edged out Australia 8-7 in a penalty shoot-out to retain the FIFA Under-17 World Championship crown. A crowd of 22,859 spectators crammed the Stadium to watch. The Aussies, who had made it to their first ever final of a FIFA tournament, came close to taking the shine off Brazil with a couple of excellent goal-scoring chances.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO 2001: France won their first FIFA U-17 World Championship in comprehensive fashion, leading throughout the entire tournament with the lethal strike partnership of Sinama Pongolle and Le Tallec. Sinama Pongolle became the all-time top scorer in a U-17 Championship with nine goals.

FINLAND 2003: Brazil triumphed 1-0 over courageous Spain in Helsinki's Töölö stadium to become World Champions for the third time. Though the eventful final produced the strike that equalled the all-time record for most goals at a single FIFA U-17 World Championship (117 - Egypt 97), the match did not live up to the raucous goalscoring standards set at the 2003 edition of the tournament. As always, the Championship showcased a wealth of young talent, with USA's remarkable 14-year-old Freddy Adu leaving a lasting impression.

PERU 2005: After Ecuador in 1995, Peru became the second South American country to host the FIFA U-17 World Championship. With total attendance figures of over half a million spectators, Peru 2005 is in third place in the all-time FIFA U-17 World Championship ranking behind China PR 1985 and Egypt 1997. Triumphant Mexico sealed their first FIFA World Championship title at youth level in their long footballing history, defeating highly-fancied Brazil by a clear-cut 3-0 scoreline in the final. For the South Americans, the result represented a first final defeat since a 3-2 reverse against Ghana at the 1995 tournament in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

ALL-TIME RECORDS

YEAR	COUNTRY	TEAMS/GAMES	FINAL	WINNER
1985	CHINA PR	16/32	Nigeria – West Germany 2:0 (1:0)	NIGERIA
♦ <i>Golden Ball:</i>	William DE OLIVEIRA, BRA			
♦ <i>Golden Shoe:</i>	Marcel WITECZEK, FRG (8 goals)			
♦ <i>Fair Play Prize:</i>	West Germany			
1987	CANADA	16/32	USSR – Nigeria 4:2 PSO (1:1, 1:1, 1:1 a.e.t.)	USSR
♦ <i>Golden Ball:</i>	Philip OSUNDO, NGA and Moussa TRAORE, CIV			
♦ <i>Golden Shoe:</i>	Moussa TRAORE, CIV (5 goals)			
♦ <i>Fair Play Prize:</i>	Soviet Union			
1989	SCOTLAND	16/32	Saudi Arabia – Scotland 5:4 PSO (0:2, 2:2, 2:2 a.e.t.)	SAUDI ARABIA
♦ <i>Golden Ball:</i>	James WILL, SCO			
♦ <i>Golden Shoe:</i>	Fode CAMARA, GUI (3 goals)			
♦ <i>Fair Play Prize:</i>	Bahrain			
1991	ITALY	16/32	Ghana – Spain 1:0 (0:0)	GHANA
♦ <i>Golden Ball:</i>	Nii Odartey LAMPTEY, GHA			
♦ <i>Golden Shoe:</i>	Adriano SILVA, BRA (4 goals)			
♦ <i>Fair Play Prize:</i>	Argentina			
1993	JAPAN	16/32	Nigeria – Ghana 2:1 (1:0)	NIGERIA
♦ <i>Golden Ball:</i>	Daniel ADDO, GHA			
♦ <i>Golden Shoe:</i>	Wilson ORUMA, NGA (6 goals)			
♦ <i>Fair Play Prize:</i>	Nigeria			
1995	ECUADOR	16/32	Ghana – Brazil 3:2 (2:0)	GHANA
♦ <i>Golden Ball:</i>	Mohamed AL KATHIRI, OMN			
♦ <i>Golden Shoe:</i>	Daniel ALLSOPP, AUS (5 goals)			
♦ <i>Fair Play Prize:</i>	Brazil			
1997	EGYPT	16/32	Brazil – Ghana 2:1 (0:1)	BRAZIL
♦ <i>Golden Ball:</i>	SERGIO, ESP			
♦ <i>Golden Shoe:</i>	DAVID, ESP (7 goals)			
♦ <i>Fair Play Prize:</i>	Argentina			
1999	NEW ZEALAND	16/32	Brazil – Australia 8:7 PSO (0:0, 0:0, 0:0 a.e.t.)	BRAZIL
♦ <i>Golden Ball:</i>	Landon DONOVAN, USA			
♦ <i>Golden Shoe:</i>	Ishmael ADDO, GHA (7 goals)			
♦ <i>Fair Play Prize:</i>	Mexico			
2001	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	16/32	France – Nigeria 3:0 (1:0)	FRANCE
♦ <i>Golden Ball:</i>	Florent SINAMA PONGOLLE, FRA			
♦ <i>Golden Shoe:</i>	Florent SINAMA PONGOLLE, FRA (9 goals)			
♦ <i>Fair Play Prize:</i>	Nigeria			

2003	FINLAND	16/32	Brazil – Spain 1:0 (1:0)	BRAZIL
♦ <i>Golden Ball:</i>	CESC, ESP			
♦ <i>Golden Shoe:</i>	CESC, ESP (5 goals)			
♦ <i>Fair Play Prize:</i>	Costa Rica			
2005	PERU	16/32	Mexico - Brazil 3:0 (2:0)	MEXICO
♦ <i>Golden Ball:</i>	ANDERSON, BRA			
♦ <i>Golden Shoe:</i>	Carlos VELA, MEX (5 goals)			
♦ <i>Fair Play Prize:</i>	Korea DPR			

FIFA U-17 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 1985 – 2005

ANNÉE	PAYS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1985	China PR	NGA	FRG	BRA	GUI	AUS	KSA	HUN	CHN	ARG	MEX	ITA	USA	BOL	CGO	QAT	CRC
1987	Canada	URS	NGA	CIV	ITA	QAT	AUS	FRA	KOR	KSA	MEX	EGY	ECU	BRA	USA	BOL	CAN
1989	Scotland	KSA	SCO	POR	BHR	NGA	BRA	GDR	ARG	GUI	USA	CHN	GHA	COL	AUS	CUB	CAN
1991	Italy	GHA	ESP	ARG	QAT	USA	BRA	AUS	GER	CGO	SUD	MEX	ITA	URU	CHN	UAE	CUB
1993	Japan	NGA	GHA	CHI	POL	RCS	AUS	USA	JPN	ARG	MEX	COL	TUN	QAT	CHN	ITA	CAN
1995	Ecuador	GHA	BRA	ARG	OMA	NGA	AUS	ECU	POR	ESP	JPN	GER / GUI		CRC	QAT	USA	CAN
1997	Egypt	BRA	GHA	ESP	GER	MLI	ARG	OMA	EGY	CHI	MEX	USA	BHR	CRC	THA	AUT	NZL
1999	New Zealand	BRA	AUS	GHA	USA	PAR	MEX	QAT	URU	ESP	BFA	NZL	POL	GER	MLI	JAM	THA
2001	Trinidad & Tobago	FRA	NGA	BFA	ARG	BRA	MLI / CRC		AUS	PAR	ESP	CRO	JPN	OMN	IRN	USA	TRI
2003	Finland	BRA	ESP	ARG	COL	USA	MEX	CRC	POR	NGA	CMR	KOR	FIN	SLE	CHN	YEM	AUS
2005	Peru	MEX	BRA	NED	TUR	USA	CRC	CHN	PRK	GAM	ITA	GHA	AUS	PER	CIV	URU	QAT