

FORMATS OF THE FIFA WORLD CUP FINAL COMPETITIONS 1930 – 2006

FIFA World Cup™ URUGUAY 1930

- 13 finalists (no preliminary competition, teams entered by invitation)
- Three pools of three teams, one pool of four teams (winner of each pool progressed to the semi-final knock-out stage)
- Semi-finals
- Final

FIFA World Cup™ ITALY 1934

- 16 finalists
- 16 teams qualifying by preliminary competition (host also had to qualify!)
- First round (knock-out stage), eight teams proceed to second round (in case of a draw the game was replayed)
- Second round (knock-out stage), four teams proceed to semi-finals (in case of a draw the game was replayed)
- Semi-finals
- Third-place play-off
- Final

FIFA World Cup™ FRANCE 1938

- 16 finalists
- 14 teams qualifying by preliminary competition
- Host and World Cup holder automatically qualified - only 15 finally entered, giving Sweden a bye to the second round
- First round (knock-out stage), eight teams proceeded to second round (in case of a draw the game was replayed)
- Second round (knock-out stage), four teams proceeded to semi-finals (in case of a draw the game was replayed)
- Semi-finals
- Third-place play-off
- Final

FIFA World Cup™ BRAZIL 1950

- 13 finalists
- 11 teams qualifying by preliminary competition
- Host and World Cup holder automatically qualified
- Two pools of four teams, one pool of three teams, one pool of two teams
- Winner of each pool progressed to final pool where all the teams played each other once
- First of the pool was the World Cup winner

FIFA World Cup™ SWITZERLAND 1954

- 16 finalists
- 14 teams qualifying by preliminary competition
- Host and World Cup holder automatically qualified
- Four first round pools, (with two seeded teams per pool) winner and second placed team of each pool progressed to the quarter finals
- Quarter-finals (knock-out stage)
- Semi-finals
- Final

FIFA World Cup™ SWEDEN 1958

- 16 finalists
- 14 teams qualified by preliminary competition
- Host and World Cup holder automatically qualified
- Four first round pools, winner and second place of each pool progressed to the quarter finals (in a case of equal points a play-off game was played to decide)
- Quarter finals (knock-out stage)
- Semi-finals
- Third-place play-off
- Final

FIFA World Cup™ CHILE 1962, ENGLAND 1966, MEXICO 1970

- 16 finalists
- 14 teams qualified by preliminary competition
- Host and World Cup holder automatically qualified
- Four groups of four teams (first two teams progressed to quarterfinals - separated for the first time by goal-average)
- Quarter-finals (knock-out stage)
- Semi-finals
- Third-place play-off
- Final

FIFA World Cup™ GERMANY FR 1974, ARGENTINA 1978

- 16 finalists
- 14 teams qualified by preliminary competition
- Host and World Cup holder automatically qualified
- Four groups of four teams (first two teams progressed into two quarter-final groups – separated by goal-difference)
- Two quarter-final groups (with the winners becoming the finalists and the runners-up meeting in a third-place play-off)
- Third-place play-off
- Final

FIFA World Cup™ SPAIN 1982

- 24 finalists
- 22 teams qualified by preliminary competition
- Host and World Cup holder automatically qualified
- Six groups of four (top two teams progressing in to four further groups of three)
- Four groups of three (group winners progressing to a semi-final knock-out stage)
- Semi-finals
- Third-place play-off
- Final

FIFA World Cup™ MEXICO 1986, ITALY 1990, USA 1994

- 24 finalists
- 22 teams qualified by preliminary competition
- Host and World Cup holder automatically qualified
- Six groups of four teams (top two in each group qualified for the knock-out stage in the second round, together with the four best third-placed teams, the final matches in each group were played simultaneously)
- Second round (knock-out stage, winners proceeding to quarter-finals - in a case of a draw after extra time penalty shoot-outs were used to decide)
- Quarter-finals (knock-out stage)
- Semi-finals
- Third-place play-off
- Final

FIFA World Cup™ FRANCE 1998

- 32 finalists
- 30 teams qualified by preliminary competition
- Host and World Cup holder automatically qualified
- Eight groups of four teams (top two in each group qualified for the knock-out stage in the second round)
- Second round (knock-out stage, winners proceeding to quarter-finals - in a case of a draw after extra time penalty shoot-outs were used to decide)
- Quarter-finals (knock-out stage)
- Semi-finals
- Third-place play-off
- Final

FIFA World Cup™ KOREA/JAPAN 2002

- 32 finalists
- 29 teams qualify by preliminary competition
- Both hosts and World Cup holder automatically qualified
- Eight groups of four teams (top two in each group qualify for the knock-out stage in the second round)
- Second round (knock-out stage, winners proceed to quarter-finals - in a case of a draw after extra time penalty shoot-outs will be used to decide)
- Quarter-finals (knock-out stage)
- Semi-finals
- Third-place play-off
- Final

FIFA World Cup™ GERMANY 2006

- 32 finalists
- 31 teams qualify by preliminary competition (the current World Cup holder will not automatically qualify)
- Host automatically qualified
- Eight groups of four teams (top two in each group qualify for the knock-out stage in the second round)
- Second round (knock-out stage, winners proceed to quarter-finals - in a case of a draw after extra time penalty shoot-outs will be used to decide)
- Quarter-finals (knock-out stage)
- Semi-finals
- Third-place play-off
- Final