

FIFA[®]

European Play-Off Tournament for the FIFA World Cup 2022™

Draw Procedures



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PARTICIPATING TEAMS

The three European slots for the FIFA World Cup 2022™ that are not allocated at the end of the preliminary competition's group stage will be decided through a 12-team play-off tournament.

The ten runners-up from the group stage of European qualifying will be joined by two additional teams selected on the basis of the overall UEFA Nations League 2020/21 rankings*. Specifically, these spots will go to the two best-ranked UEFA Nations League group winners that have neither qualified directly for the final tournament as European qualifying group winners nor already entered the play-offs as European qualifying group runners-up.

* As per UEFA circular 95/2020 of 15 December 2020 ([https://editorial.uefa.com/resources/0264-10fc7133decc-0734cf828401-1000/unl_rankings_after_md6_with_criteria_1_december_2020 .pdf](https://editorial.uefa.com/resources/0264-10fc7133decc-0734cf828401-1000/unl_rankings_after_md6_with_criteria_1_december_2020.pdf)).

POT ALLOCATION

Once the 12 teams involved in the play-offs have been determined, the six best-ranked runners-up from the group stage of European qualifying will be allocated to Pot 1 and play the play-off semi-final at home. The remaining six teams will be allocated to Pot 2.

To determine the six best runners-up to be allocated to Pot 1, firstly, the results of the group runners-up against the teams in sixth place (for groups with six teams) will be discarded and then the following criteria will be applied in the order given:

- a. higher number of points
- b. superior goal difference
- c. higher number of goals scored
- d. higher number of away goals scored
- e. higher number of wins
- f. higher number of away wins
- g. lower disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received by players and team officials (red card = three points, yellow card = one point, sending-off for two yellow cards in one match = three points)
- h. access list for the UEFA Nations League 2020/21 (see the Regulations of the UEFA Nations League 2020/21, Annex C)