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.


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)