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

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)


**DRAW PROCEDURES**

The draw will start by allocating the six best-ranked teams, i.e. the teams from Pot 1, to semi-finals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively as a home team. The first team drawn will occupy the home position in semi-final 1, the second team drawn in semi-final 2 and so on until the pot is emptied.

The draw will then proceed to allocate teams from Pot 2 to semi-final pairings one by one. The first team drawn from Pot 2 will occupy the away position in semi-final 1, the second team drawn in semi-final 2 and so on until all semi-final pairings are determined.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOME</th>
<th>AWAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEAM FROM POT 1</td>
<td>v.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEAM FROM POT 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**DRAW CONSTRAINTS**

**Prohibited team clashes**

Based on the UEFA Executive Committee decisions valid at the time of the draw, the following teams cannot be drawn together:

- Armenia and Azerbaijan
- Gibraltar and Spain
- Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Kosovo and Serbia
- Kosovo and Russia
- Ukraine and Russia

The following draw condition applies:
• If a prohibited clash occurs or could occur, the team drawn shall be placed in the next available play-off path.

PLAY-OFF PATH PAIRING DRAW PROCEDURES

Additionally, according to the regulatory articles for the 2020-2022 European qualifiers play-offs:

Play-off path A will be contested by the winners of semi-finals 1 and 2.

Play-off path B will be contested by the winners of semi-finals 3 and 4.

Play-off path C will be contested by the winners of semi-finals 5 and 6.

In order to determine which of the semi-final winners will play at home in the final matches, the following draw will be conducted:

Two draw balls with “Semi-final 1” and “Semi-final 2” will be placed in an empty pot. The first ball drawn will indicate the winners of which semi-final will play the final match at home.

The same procedure will apply for semi-finals 3 and 4 as well as 5 and 6.

DRAW CONSTRAINTS

None.