

# THE BEST FIFA FOOTBALL AWARDS™ 2021

## RULES OF ALLOCATION

The articles below relate to the following six Awards:

- **The Best FIFA Men's Player,**
- **The Best FIFA Women's Player,**
- **The Best FIFA Men's Coach,**
- **The Best FIFA Women's Coach,**
- **The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper, and**
- **The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper,**

which are herein referred to individually as an "**Award**" and collectively as the "**Awards**".

Art. 1. The Awards are organised and presented by FIFA.

Art. 2. The Awards reward the best in each category, regardless of championship or nationality, for their respective achievements during the period from 8 October 2020 to 7 August 2021 inclusive for The Best FIFA Men's Player, The Best FIFA Men's Coach and The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper and from 8 October 2020 to 6 August 2021 inclusive for The Best FIFA Women's Player, The Best FIFA Women's Coach and The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper.

Art. 3. The Awards are bestowed on the basis of on-pitch performance and general conduct on and off the pitch for players, and on the basis of the on-pitch performance and general behaviour of their teams on and off the pitch for coaches.

Art. 4. Nominations for the Awards are compiled by FIFA in collaboration with football stakeholders. The nominations as well as the submitted information supporting such nominations shall be reviewed by a panel of FIFA football experts. A panel of experts in men's football and a panel of experts in women's football shall compile a shortlist of nominees for the respective categories, which shall be published on FIFA.com shortly thereafter in order to enable a public vote among fans registered on FIFA.com.

Art. 5. In the event that two or more nominees are tied for the last position(s) on the shortlist in any of the above categories, having received the same number of panellist votes, all such nominees will be included in the shortlist that will be made available to the international jury comprising national-team captains, national-team coaches, representatives of the media and fans.

Art. 6. The winners of The Best FIFA Men's Player, The Best FIFA Men's Coach and The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper Awards will be selected by an international jury comprising the current coaches of all men's national teams (one per team), the current captains of all men's national teams (one per team), one specialist journalist from each territory represented by a national team and fans from all over the world registered on FIFA.com.

- Art. 7. The winners of The Best FIFA Women's Player, The Best FIFA Women's Coach and The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper Awards will be selected by an international jury comprising the current coaches of all women's national teams (one per team), the current captains of all women's national teams (one per team), one specialist journalist from each territory represented by a national team and fans from all over the world registered on FIFA.com.
- Art. 8 Each of the four groups of voters within the jury has the same electoral weight irrespective of the actual number of voters in those groups (i.e. the votes of the coaches, the captains, the specialist journalists and the fans shall each make up one quarter of the poll, notwithstanding the number of voters in each group). The coaches', captains' and journalists' individual votes shall be published on FIFA.com. For the avoidance of doubt:
- a) Captains of national teams may vote for coaches from the national team they represent.
  - b) Captains and coaches of national teams may vote for players from the national team they represent.
  - c) Nominated captains and coaches are not permitted to vote for themselves.
  - d) Specialist journalists may vote for players, coaches and goalkeepers who are from their own country or who represent clubs affiliated to their own country.
  - e) Fans registered on FIFA.com may vote for any men's and women's football players, coaches and goalkeepers, provided that any such vote is cast fairly and in accordance with these Rules of Allocation.
- Art. 9. Each member of the jury will be requested to nominate, in decreasing order of merit, the three players, three coaches and three goalkeepers whom, in accordance with the criteria set out in articles 2 and 3 above, they consider most deserving of the respective Award. These nominations will respectively be drawn:
- a) for **The Best FIFA Men's Player** Award, from a shortlist of 11 male players compiled by a panel of experts in men's football representing different FIFA and external football stakeholders;
  - b) for **The Best FIFA Men's Coach** Award, from a shortlist of five men's football coaches compiled by a panel of experts in men's football representing different FIFA and external football stakeholders;
  - c) for **The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper** Award, from a shortlist of five men's goalkeepers compiled by a panel of experts in men's football representing different FIFA and external football stakeholders;
  - d) for **The Best FIFA Women's Player** Award, from a shortlist of 11 female players compiled by a panel of experts in women's football representing different FIFA and external football stakeholders;
  - e) for **The Best FIFA Women's Coach** Award, from a shortlist of five women's football coaches compiled by a panel of experts in women's football representing different FIFA and external football stakeholders; and

- f) for **The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper** Award, from a shortlist of five women's goalkeepers compiled by a panel of experts in women's football representing different FIFA and external football stakeholders.

Art. 10. The three players, three coaches and three goalkeepers nominated by each jury member will receive five points, three points or one point respectively, depending on whether the jury member places the player, coach or goalkeeper first (five points), second (three points) or third (one point).

Art. 11. The Award is bestowed upon the player, coach or goalkeeper, in each particular Award category, who receives the **most scoring points**, which will be calculated through the application of the procedure detailed below to the four equally weighted jury groups described in article 8 above.

In the case of The Best FIFA Men's Player and The Best FIFA Women's Player, the following procedure will apply to scoring points:

- a) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the first-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive 13 scoring points for that jury group.
- b) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the second-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive 11 scoring points for that jury group.
- c) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the third-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive nine scoring points for that jury group.
- d) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the fourth-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive eight scoring points for that jury group.
- e) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the fifth-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive seven scoring points for that jury group.
- f) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the sixth-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive six scoring points for that jury group.
- g) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the seventh-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive five scoring points for that jury group.
- h) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the eighth-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive four scoring points for that jury group.
- i) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the ninth-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive three scoring points for that jury group.
- j) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the tenth-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive two scoring points for that jury group.
- k) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the 11<sup>th</sup>-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive one scoring point for that jury group.
- l) After applying the point system defined in article 10, if there are more than 11 shortlisted players because of a tie as described in article 5, any 12<sup>th</sup>- or lower-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will not receive any scoring points for that jury group.

In the case of The Best FIFA Men's Coach, The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper, The Best FIFA Women's Coach and The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper, the following procedure will apply to scoring points:

- a) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the first-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive seven scoring points for that jury group.
- b) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the second-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive five scoring points for that jury group.
- c) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the third-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive three scoring points for that jury group.
- d) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the fourth-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive two scoring points for that jury group.
- e) After applying the point system defined in article 10, the fifth-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will receive one scoring point for that jury group.
- f) After applying the point system defined in article 10, if there are more than five shortlisted players because of a tie as described in article 5, any sixth- or lower-ranked nominee in a particular group of voters (captains, coaches, media and fans) will not receive any scoring points for that jury group.

Once all of the scoring points for each nominee have been determined for each of the four groups of voters, these scoring points will be added up to give all nominees a final score that will determine their overall final position. The Award will be bestowed upon the player, coach or goalkeeper who receives the highest final score.

Art. 12. In the event of a tie for first place after the above procedure has been applied, the player, coach or goalkeeper with the highest number of "five-point" scores from the votes cast by the nominee's own group of voters per article 10 (i.e. for men's players, the votes of men's national-team captains; for men's coaches, the votes of men's national-team coaches; for men's goalkeepers, the votes of men's national-team captains; for women's players, the votes of women's national-team captains; for women's coaches, the votes of women's national-team coaches; and for women's goalkeepers, the votes of women's national-team captains) shall be the winner of the relevant Award. In the event that this also leads to a tie, the player, coach or goalkeeper with the highest number of "three-point" scores from the votes cast by the nominee's own group of voters per article 10 (i.e. for men's players, the votes of men's national-team captains; for men's coaches, the votes of men's national-team coaches; for men's goalkeepers, the votes of men's national-team captains; for women's players, the votes of women's national-team captains; for women's coaches, the votes of women's national-team coaches; and for women's goalkeepers, the votes of women's national-team captains) shall be the winner of the relevant Award. In the event that there is still a tie after this procedure, the player, coach or goalkeeper with the highest number of "five-point" scores from the votes cast by the captains, coaches and media per article 10 shall be the winner of the relevant Award. In the event that this also leads to a tie, the player, coach or goalkeeper with the highest number of "three-point" scores from the votes cast by the captains, coaches and media per article 10 shall be the winner of the relevant Award. In the event that this still leads to a tie, the player, coach or goalkeeper with the highest number of "five-point" scores from the votes cast by the captains, coaches, media *and fans* per article 10 shall be the winner of the relevant Award. In the event that this still leads to a tie, the player, coach or goalkeeper with the highest number of "three-point" scores from the votes cast by the captains, coaches, media *and fans* per article 10

shall be the winner of the relevant Award. In the event that this still leads to a tie, each nominee who remains tied for first place shall jointly receive the Award.

- Art. 13. Each member of the jury will be requested to make a valid vote submission via an online system or another means provided by FIFA.
- Art. 14. The voting period for the Awards will commence on 22 November and conclude on 10 December 2021.
- Art. 15. The respective winners of the Awards will receive the relevant trophy during a ceremony organised by FIFA.
- Art. 16. The voting procedure for each of the Awards is supervised and monitored by independent observers.
- Art. 17. Any dispute arising from the voting process shall be reviewed and resolved by FIFA at its sole discretion. FIFA's decisions shall be final and binding.
- Art. 18. Notwithstanding the foregoing articles, FIFA is entitled at any point to disregard any vote from any member of the international jury in the event that the member is deemed by FIFA, at its sole discretion, to have been associated with or involved in any unethical and/or disreputable act or practice, or any unlawful activity, conduct or undertaking (including, but not limited to, bribery, corruption, discrimination of any kind and racism), at any time. For the avoidance of doubt, FIFA is not obliged to publish such votes or communicate any such decision to the member or to any other person.