



KINGS
WORLD CUP NATIONS
BRAZIL 2026

REGULATIONS

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1. THE COMPETITION – FORMAT

1.1 Number of teams

The number of teams taking part in the Kings World Cup Nations Brazil 2026 has been fixed at twenty (20) national teams.

Kings reserves, at its sole discretion, the right to modify the format of the Competition and the corresponding dates, after giving reasonable notice to the teams.

1.2 Calendar

KINGS

WORLD CUP NATIONS

FINAL - SÃO PAULO 2026

CALENDAR

LOCAL TIME
BRAZIL

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

03-JAN

ROUND 1

04-JAN

05-JAN

ROUND 2

06-JAN

07-JAN

08-JAN

09-JAN

10-JAN

ROUND 3*

11-JAN

12-JAN

LAST CHANCE

13-JAN

QUARTER FINALS

14-JAN

15-JAN

SEMIFINALS

16-JAN

17-JAN

FINAL

GLOBAL TIME DIFFERENCES FROM BRAZIL

USA WEST -5

USA CENTRAL -4

CDMX -3

PER / COL / USA EAST -2

R.DOM / VEN -1

ARG 0

UK +3

EUR / MOR +4

KSA / TUR +6

IND +8.5

IDN +10

JPN / KOR +12

*ROUND 3 SCHEDULE TBD

1.3 Regular stage

Group Stage (MD1-MD9):

- 5 groups of 4 teams each (20 teams total)
- 9 matchdays of round-robin group play, with each team facing all others in their group once (3 matches)
- Teams ranked 1st in group stage will directly qualify to Quarter-Finals
- Teams ranked 2nd + best team ranked 3rd in group stage will play the Last Chance round

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D	GROUP E
Morocco	Germany	Italy	Brazil	Mexico
Colombia	Argentina	France	Spain	Saudi Arabia
Chile	USA	Poland	Qatar	India
The Netherlands	Japan	Algeria	Peru	Indonesia

1.4 Knockout phase

- **Last Chance Round (MD10):**
 - A draw will be held before this round to determine the pairings
 - There will be 1 pot, containing the 5 teams ranked 2nd + the best 3rd team from the group stage
 - Teams will be taken consecutively from the pot to determine the match fixtures, as follows:
 - Last Chance Match 1: Team 1 vs Team 2
 - Last Chance Match 2: Team 3 vs Team 4
 - Last Chance Match 3: Team 5 vs Team 6
 - 3 winners advance to Quarter-Finals

Note: the above configuration does not necessarily represent the chronological order in which the matches will be played.

- **Quarter-Finals (MD11-MD12):**
 - A draw will be held before this round to determine the pairings
 - There will be 2 pots, 1 containing the 5 teams ranked 1st from the group stage and 1 containing the Last Chance round pairings
 - Teams will be taken from pot 1 and 2 alternatively, except for the last two balls which will be taken from pot 1 consecutively, to determine the match fixtures, as follows:
 - Quarter-Final Match 1: Team 1 vs Team 2
 - Quarter-Final Match 2: Team 3 vs Team 4
 - Quarter-Final Match 3: Team 5 vs Team 6
 - Quarter-Final Match 4: Team 7 vs Team 8
 - 4 winners advance to Semi-Finals

Note: the above configuration does not necessarily represent the chronological order in which the matches will be played.

- **Semi-Finals (MD13):**

- Semi-Final Match 1: Winner of Quarter-Final Match 1 vs Winner of Quarter-Final Match 2
- Semi-Final Match 2: Winner of Quarter-Final Match 3 vs Winner of Quarter-Final Match 4
- 2 winners advance to Final

Note: the above configuration does not necessarily represent the chronological order in which the matches will be played.

- **Final (MD14):**
 - Winner of Semi-Final 1 Match 1 vs Winner of Semi-Final 2 Match 2

1.5 Group Standings

All teams in each group are ranked according to their results:

- Match ball phase & penalty shootout:
 - 1 point for a win
 - 0 points for a loss

1.6 Equality of points - Group stage

- If **two teams** in the same group finish on **equal points**, the following criteria shall be applied to determine the ranking:
 - a. Greater number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned.

To rank two teams tied in a group which haven't played each other yet, following criteria will be considered:

 - b. Superior goal difference resulting from the group matches;
 - c. Greatest number of goals scored in group matches;
 - d. Best disciplinary record in accordance with the team performance (first RC and then YC);
- If **more than two teams** in the same group finish on **equal points**, a triple penalty shootout round will be held after finishing group stage and before last chance round. Functioning will be as follows:
 - All three teams participate, alternating roles in each round.
 - The team that **scores 5 penalty shootouts in the fewest rounds** will finish best ranked than the other two.
 - If there is a tie (more than one team scores 5 goals in the same round), **sudden death** proceeds with the tied teams: the team that misses is eliminated.

- The order of shooting will be as follows, with team A being the home team, team B being the away team, and team C being the team that did not participate in the recently played match:
 - **Round 1:**
 - Team A shoots against B
 - B shoots against C
 - C shoots against A
 - **Round 2:**
 - Team C shoots against B
 - B shoots against A
 - A shoots against C
 - **Round 3:**
 - Team A shoots against B
 - B shoots against C
 - C shoots against A
 - **Round 4:**
 - Team C shoots against B
 - B shoots against A
 - A shoots against C
 - **Round 5:**
 - Team A shoots against B
 - B shoots against C
 - C shoots against A
 - **The following rounds repeat the previous rotation.**

Finally, to determine the **best 3rd team** qualifying to the **last chance round**, the following criteria, in the order below, shall be applied to determine it:

- a. Greater number of points obtained in the group matches;
- b. Superior goal difference resulting from the group matches;
- c. Greatest number of goals scored in group matches;

- d. Best disciplinary record in accordance with the team performance (first RC and then YC);
- e. Shootouts between the teams concerned.

2. TEAMS CONFIGURATION

2.1 Squads

Composition: all teams must have a maximum of 20 members in accordance with the following rules:

- **Players:** All teams will be composed of a maximum of 13 players, who shall be chosen by each staff team according to each player's nationality. Players with country's residence permit and/or registered themselves for more than three (3) years will also be eligible.
- **Staff members:** All teams will have a maximum of 7 staff members.
- **Substitutions:** No substitutions will be allowed after submitting the list for the competition. Additionally, if a player is injured during the Kings World Cup Nations, they cannot be replaced by any other player.