
FIFA Confederations Cup™

One of the most recent introductions to FIFA's range of competitions for national teams is the FIFA Confederations Cup, held every four years. In recent times, it has been seen as a warm-up event in the host country of the next FIFA World Cup™, but is by no means a minor competition. In fact, due to the nature of its participants, it is often referred to as the 'Champions of Champions' tournament. The FIFA Confederations Cup aims to give the top teams from all continents a chance to represent their region in a world play-off, and this opportunity – together with the handsome prize money that goes with it – is particularly important and appealing to teams from certain developing football continents.

History

The FIFA Confederations Cup was first designated a FIFA competition in December 1997 when it was held in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. Previously there had been two other tournaments in Riyadh, in 1992 and 1995, under the title of Intercontinental Championship.

In 1992, the winners were Argentina, then reigning South American champions. They came with a star-studded team including Batistuta, Redondo, Caniggia and Simeone and carried off the trophy after defeating the host country, despite their tremendous support from the home fans, in the final. The other two teams taking part on that occasion were the USA and Côte d'Ivoire.

Six teams took part in the 1995 competition and this time it was Denmark who took the honours, with strong performances from the Laudrup brothers earning them victory over Argentina. Mexico and Nigeria made it to the semi-finals, while Japan and the host country were eliminated after losing both of their group matches.

In 1997, Brazil promptly stamped their authority on the competition to win the striking new gold trophy. One of the main purposes of the tournament was clearly demonstrated when Australia made it to the final to take on the then world champions.

In 1999, the Mexicans richly deserved to win the cup as one of two teams unbeaten in the group stage to make it to the final. The home "Azteca" factor – Mexico had not been beaten there for 18 years – could not be ignored. Brazil lived up to expectations as their talent factory continued to produce outstanding players.

The tournament also witnessed a standard of goalkeepers seldom seen in a single tournament with the likes of Keller (USA), Campos (MEX), Dida (BRA) and Utting (NZL) competing. Surprise packages Saudi Arabia recovered after a 5-1 thrashing by Mexico in their opening match to qualify for the semi-finals, following a 5-1 win in an all-Arab clash with Egypt. The USA defeated giants Germany only to later narrowly fail to a golden goal by Mexico's top scorer Blanco. New Zealand went home happy after gamely facing up to Germany and the USA.

In Korea/Japan in 2001, a near-capacity crowd of over 65,000 saw world champions France defeat co-hosts Japan with the only goal of the final to win the tournament and complete an unprecedented hat-trick of three major trophies in just four years. But they had to defend resolutely at times as Japan staged a second-half fight-back.

In 2003, defending and European champions France hosted the FIFA Confederations Cup, organising matches in three of the 1998 World Cup stadiums – Lyons, St Etienne and Paris/St Denis. Brazil had to accept an early flight home after the group stage, bowing out of a tough group of strong performers in the shape of Cameroon, Turkey and the USA. The revitalised hosts, on the other hand, won their group. Turkey consolidated their rise as a global football power and only just missed out on a place in the final. The event was overshadowed by the tragic death of Cameroonian midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe, whose team-mates conceded the title to France by a whisker in an emotionally charged final against an equally shaken French side.

Despite the absence of superstar striker Ronaldo from the FCC 2005, Brazil dazzled in an exciting final against rivals Argentina to lift the trophy for the second time. Adriano gained justified recognition as a force to be reckoned with, earning both the adidas Golden Ball and Golden Shoe awards. While Argentina's defeat was hard to take, their performance clearly showed a hint of great things to come with the competition shining a spotlight on the magical skills of their key player, Riquelme.

The competition also displayed German prowess in the shape of a well-organised dry run for the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ and the emergence of a young and promising German team – in particular, the partnership of up-and-coming starlets Podolski and Schweinsteiger – under the watchful eye of footballing legend Jürgen Klinsmann, enabling them to secure third-place in a thrilling extra time play-off against Mexico.

In 2009, for the first time in the history of the FIFA Confederations Cup, the event took place on African soil. South Africa certainly proved themselves capable of hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ and impressively presented some of their World Cup host cities – Johannesburg, Rustenburg, Mangaung/Bloemfontein und Tshwane/Pretoria.

The gripping tournament in South Africa ended with a worthy final in Johannesburg with both Brazil and the USA battling for the title. After a 3-2 victory, it was Brazil who lifted the trophy for the third time.

Winners at a glance

Year	Winners	Runners-up	Final	Venue
2009	Brazil	USA	USA – Brazil 2:3 (2:0)	Johannesburg, Ellis Park
2005	Brazil	Argentina	Brazil – Argentina 4:1 (2:0)	Frankfurt, Waldstadion
2003	France	Cameroon	Cameroon – France 0:1 AET (0:0)	St. Denis, Stade de France
2001	France	Japan	Japan – France 0:1 (0:1)	Yokohama, Int. Stadium
1999	Mexico	Brazil	Mexico – Brazil 4:3 (2:1)	Mexico City, Azteca
1997	Brazil	Australia	Brazil – Australia 6:0 (3:0)	Riyadh, King Fahd Stadium
1995*	Denmark	Argentina	Argentina – Denmark 0:2 (0:1)	Riyadh, King Fahd Stadium
1992*	Argentina	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia – Argentina 1:3 (0:2)	Riyadh, King Fahd Stadium

Overall statistics

Year	Host country	Teams/Matches	Goals	Ø	Spectators	Ø
2009	South Africa	8/16	44	2.75	584,894	36,556
2005	Germany	8/16	56	3.50	603,106	37,694
2003	France	8/16	37	2.31	491,700	30,731
2001	Korea/Japan	8/16	31	1.94	557,191	34,824
1999	Mexico	8/16	55	3.44	970,000	60,625
1997	Saudi Arabia	8/16	52	3.25	333,500	20,844
1995*	Saudi Arabia	6/8	19	2.38	165,000	20,625
1992*	Saudi Arabia	4/4	18	4.50	169,500	42,375
	TOTAL		312	2.89	3,874,891	35,879

*Intercontinental Championship for the King Fahd Cup

All-time ranking

Rank	Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.	Avg pts	Part.	Saudi Arabia 1992	Saudi Arabia 1995	Saudi Arabia 1997	Mexico 1999	Korea/Japan 2001	France 2003	Germany 2005	South Africa 2009
1	Brazil	28	18	5	5	64	25	59	2.11	6			1	2	4	5	1	1
2	Mexico	19	8	5	6	33	28	29	1.53	5		3	5	1	8		4	
3	France	10	9	0	1	24	5	27	2.7	2					1	1		
4	USA	15	6	1	8	20	20	19	1.27	4	3			3		7		2
5	Argentina	10	5	3	2	22	14	18	1.8	3	1	2						2
6	Japan	13	5	2	6	15	16	17	1.31	4		6			2	6	5	
7	Australia	13	5	1	7	13	20	16	1.23	3			2		3		8	
8	Germany	8	4	1	3	17	17	13	1.62	2				5			3	
9	Cameroon	8	4	1	3	5	5	13	1.62	2					6	2		
10	Spain	5	4	0	1	11	4	12	2.4	1								3
11	Saudi Arabia	12	3	1	8	13	31	10	0.83	4	2	5	7	4				
12	Uruguay	5	3	0	2	8	6	9	1.8	1			4					
13	Denmark	3	2	1	0	5	1	7	2.33	1		1						
14	Czech Republic	5	2	1	2	10	7	7	1.4	1			3					
15	Turkey	5	2	1	2	8	8	7	1.4	1							3	
16	Korea Republic	3	2	0	1	3	6	6	2	1					5			
17	Colombia	5	2	0	3	5	5	6	1.2	1						4		
18	Nigeria	3	1	2	0	4	1	5	1.67	1		4						
19	Egypt	6	1	2	3	9	16	5	0.83	2				7				6
20	South Africa	8	1	2	5	9	13	5	0.62	2			8					4
	Tunisia	3	1	0	2	3	5	3	1	1							6	
21	Italy	3	1	0	2	3	5	3	1	1								5
23	United Arab Emirates	3	1	0	2	2	8	3	1	1			6					
24	Bolivia	3	0	2	1	2	3	2	0.67	1				6				
25	Iraq	3	0	2	1	0	1	2	0.67	1								7
26	Greece	3	0	1	2	0	4	1	0.33	1							7	
27	Canada	3	0	1	2	0	5	1	0.33	1					7			
28	New Zealand	9	0	1	8	2	24	1	0.11	3				8		8		8
29	Côte d'Ivoire	2	0	0	2	2	9	0	0	1	4							

For detailed statistics please refer to our official [Stats Kit](#)