



BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP
BAHAMAS 2017



FIFA

TECHNICAL REPORT

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INTERVIEW WITH GILBERTO COSTA, HEAD COACH OF BRAZIL



Bahamas 2017 brought the best out of Brazil, what was different about your team this year compared to Portugal 2015?

Only three players made their World Cup debut (Rafael Padilha, Filipe and Lucão). Then all the others overcame the frustration of previous defeats. This team also understood that individual talents alone do not win championships and with that we improved our collective game, especially our defensive system. The mental work was also critical, I always tell them that focused minds make better decisions.

What was your plan before the final on how to defend against Tahiti? Because it obviously worked very well (6-0 win)...

In the final, we met a Tahiti team who were stronger than in the first game. Not letting the goalkeeper Jo play comfortably is key to achieving success against them. Another key point was to prevent the central bicycle kicks of the Tahitian team. We also used pressure marking on Tararui and Tapa, the best Tahitian players in the World Cup. Our defensive line went further than usual.

And we took very good advantage of the counter attacks. We really played a great final... we did not make any mistakes during the final game, even though Tahiti had a very strong defence.

The FIFA TSG (Ross Ongaro and Amarelle) noticed that Brazil was the only country in Bahamas 2017 to play two systems during matches. Line one played a multiple passing attack led by number 8 Bruno Xavier, while line two isolated players to go one on one. Was this your team plan or just how the lines were organised?

This team allows for several tactical changes within a match, and various combinations. When Bruno Xavier is on the pitch, most play passes through him. But we have Mauricinho and Datinha also organising triangulations. As for one-on-one placements, they can happen at the right time and place. We try to build a team with multi-purpose players who perform various functions within the game – everyone needs to attack and defend with the same efficiency.

**“WE REALLY PLAYED
A GREAT FINAL...”**



How was your team preparation leading up to the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Bahamas 2017 different from past years?

The entire training process has been very good since January 2016, and we thank The CBF and our directors for working to provide this. We have had more games than in recent years (29 before the start of the World Cup). We faced great opponents in this period, such as Portugal, Russia, Iran, Italy, Japan and Tahiti, for example. We attended training camps. I had great coaching staff by my side, helping to prepare all the study material and videos about the opponents. We had a couple of psychologists (Vanessa Protásio and Sérgio Guerreiro) who helped us with the mental work that was essential for our preparation. We knew that only training and preparation would put us back on top in beach soccer.

For the past three FIFA Beach Soccer World Cups, Brazil were not the champions. With Russia winning in 2011 and 2013, and Portugal in 2015, Brazilian results went from losing in the final to Russia in 2011, finishing third in 2013, and not even reaching the semi-finals in 2015, this World Cup was crucial. Was winning the only acceptable result or did you plan on just getting back on the podium?

Our team had only one task. Do the best in every second of every match and every training session. I do not work to win medals and trophies. Those are the consequence of doing your best every day,

staying focused at all times. My mission is to extract the best from the whole team. Do not play thinking about victory, you need to play focused on giving your best. Always.

Does Brazil have a U-23 or U-20 beach soccer developmental programme that helps develop younger players for the transition for the future with the full national team?

The world title cannot be attributed to development work in Brazil. We do not have any structure for developing the sport. Our national team has good support, but this is not enough for the development and growth of beach soccer in Brazil. We do not have a plan for the development of new generations. We do not have a competition calendar or a long national championship. Our sport survives in Brazil thanks to the love and passion of the many avid supporters of beach soccer. We need to change this reality urgently and with a lot of work. Planning and organisation are fundamental for a greater professionalisation of beach soccer in Brazil.

**“PLAY FOCUSED
ON GIVING YOUR
BEST. ALWAYS.”**





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BAHAMAS 2017

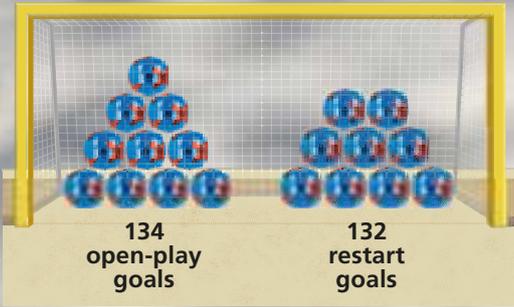
Final standings

- 1 Brazil**
Basic 1-1-2-1 formation; excellent link-up play between strikers when in possession; disciplined, well-organised defence; immediate pressure after losing possession; good coordination among the players on the pitch; rapid transition from defence to attack; comfortable in possession when under pressure; attacking strength in one-on-one situations; influential individual players; players with the ability to flick the ball up and play.
- 2 Tahiti** 1-1-2-1
- 3 Iran** 1-2-2
- 4 Italy** 1-3-1
- 5 Switzerland** 1-2-1-1
- 6 Senegal** 1-2-2
- 7 Paraguay** 1-3-1
- 8 Portugal** 1-3-1
- 9 United Arab Emirates** 1-3-1
- 10 Japan** 1-2-1-1
- 11 Bahamas** 1-2-2
- 12 Nigeria** 1-2-2
- 13 Mexico** 1-2-2
- 14 Panama** 1-3-1
- 15 Poland** 1-2-1-1
- 16 Ecuador** 1-3-1



266 goals scored

8.3 average per match



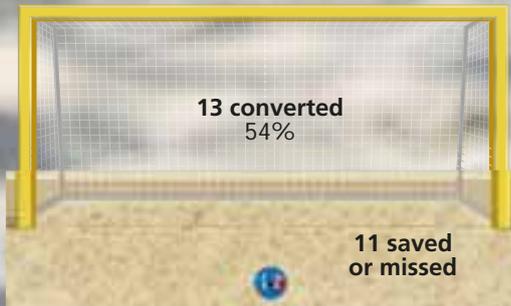
73 goals scored in period 1
27.4%

86 goals scored in period 2
32.3%

107 goals scored in period 3
(incl. extra time)
40.3%

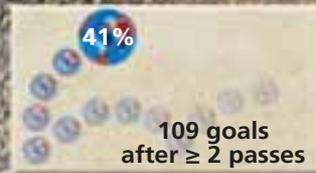
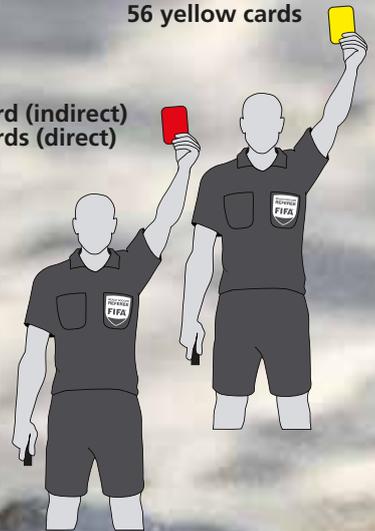


24 penalties awarded



56 yellow cards

1 red card (indirect)
2 red cards (direct)



TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL ANALYSIS AND TRENDS IN THE GAME

The better teams all showed tactical flexibility, talent and a hunger for glory, and none more so than Brazil. With a line-up full of exquisite players, combining youth and experience, and a voracious ambition and balance emanating from the bench, they came back with a team that has set the bar so high that it may well be out of reach for most “mortals”.

Our glorious sport promises a future where players will only be limited by their own imagination, and where anyone with enough desire can become a true protagonist, but they face the challenge of either stepping up or falling behind.

Some member associations have decided to step up big time in the sport and this was evident in their teams, which are more professional and have more and new players that are more complete, more self-assured and have greater tactical resources and a level of confidence that only comes when a good job is well done.

This is how the semi-finalists lined up: Iran, self-assured and attempting to make steps closer to victory; the talent and aesthetic beauty of the Tahitians' game that was bettered only by the champions; and the eternal spirit of Italy, who were the only team to make the podium at successive tournaments. They are clearly getting something right on the training field.

Portugal were the team that most believed in their experience; they weren't as dominant as previously, but they only lost to the eventual champions; meanwhile, the remaining quarter-finalists also gave a strong showing in building more dynamic teams with greater quality and more resources, and less dependent on individuals. They presented a very bright future, but on this occasion were unable to make the crucial step.

The analysis of the statistics leads us to various conclusions.



The players and teams that take part regularly in domestic and continental competitions showed the greatest level of development and preparation: the fact of stringing together a decent number of matches and training sessions gives all of them a significant margin of improvement every year which, combined with experience, means the best tend to be those that have more than five to seven years playing at the highest level.

The African teams caused a degree of shock in their first matches, but the experience of their rivals subsequently shone through in the areas mentioned above. However, they have the potential to become imminent powerhouses in the sport if they can lay some solid foundations back home and across the continent: the physical and technical abilities of their players really are quite exceptional.

The game is moving towards a greater level of control; everyone is aware that a goal can come from anywhere in beach soccer, and therefore wants to give their opponents as few chances as possible to score a goal, resulting in a tendency among most teams to launch fewer attacks. Having greater control of the ball and space, with phases of possession lasting longer and a more selective approach to goal, places more technical and tactical demands on the players, which is something we saw in this competition. Accordingly, more than 60% of goals were scored from inside the team's own penalty area, 30% within the team's own half, and only a few scored from beyond the halfway line: there is much less risk in shooting from long distance; the chances of success are generally much lower, also given the high standard and development of the goalkeepers: as well as being excellent with the ball at their feet,



in some cases verging on exquisite, they are now much more dominant of their space and are able to react tremendously to the movement of the ball, especially in one-on-ones and free kicks; in all of these aspects, the percentage of goals scored has gone down compared with previous editions of the competition.

With regard to the coaches, we should highlight the tactical variations used by most teams. All have their own personal style, but they are also all capable of varying their attacking and defensive approaches in order to neutralise the virtues or capitalise on the weaknesses of their rivals: we witnessed matches of much greater tactical quality this time around.

The use of the goalkeeper starting the game with his feet, with the traditional 1-2-2 system, or the 1-2-1-1 variant, was also key during the competition, and while we have already seen this for a number of years in Tahiti's approach,

we saw how it has now been adopted by more teams, even if it is not their primary tactic, but certainly used at some point in the match.

But if this system was originally created to seek superiority by using the goalkeeper to start the game and subsequently established a philosophy of greater spectacle and creativity, at times during this World Cup, it was used more to coax the opponents out of their own half, to exhaust them physically and mentally, or even just to keep possession of the ball, which would bring the pace of the game right down and remove the dynamism and spectacle.

A big "thank you" to the Bahamas: beach soccer is on the right track and the country has contributed to this; we now need to see a new development process that will surely throw up all sorts of surprises at the next World Cup.



OFFICIAL FIFA AWARDS

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ADIDAS GOLDEN BALL

This award goes to the best player in the final competition on the basis of a ranking compiled by the FIFA Technical Study Group. A Silver Ball and a Bronze Ball are awarded to the second and third best players.



Mohammad Ahmadzadeh (IRN, 11)

strong all-round player, scissor-kick specialist, excellent goalscorer

ADIDAS SILVER BALL: Mauricinho (BRA, 11)

ADIDAS BRONZE BALL: Datinha (BRA, 10)

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ADIDAS GOLDEN SCORER

This award is given to the top goalscorer of the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Bahamas 2017. Assists were included if two or more players were equal on goals scored. The FIFA Technical Study Group, which was represented at each match, decided whether an assist was to be counted. If two or more players remained equal, the player who had played fewer matches in the final competition was ranked first.



Gabriele Gori (ITA, 10)

acrobatic, full of spirit, scores goals

ADIDAS SILVER SCORER: Rodrigo (BRA, 9)

ADIDAS BRONZE SCORER: Mohammad Ahmadzadeh (IRN, 11)

adidas

ADIDAS GOLDEN GLOVE

The top goalkeeper award at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Bahamas 2017 is given by the FIFA Technical Study Group based on performances throughout the final competition.



Peyman Hosseini (IRN, 1)

excellent long-range shots, quick saves, inspirational leader

FIFA
MY GAME
IS FAIR PLAY

FIFA FAIR PLAY TROPHY

The FIFA Fair Play Trophy is awarded to the team with the best fair play record, according to a points system and criteria specified in the competition regulations.

Brazil

