



FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar2022

UEFA Preliminary Competition for the FIFA World Cup 2022™

Competition format

UEFA preliminary competition format for the FIFA World Cup 2022™

The UEFA qualifiers will consist of two rounds, which will take place during the FIFA international match windows starting in March 2021 and ending in March 2022. They will determine the 13 slots for UEFA representatives at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Group stage

The group stage will feature all 55 UEFA member associations divided into ten groups: five groups of six teams and five groups of five teams. All teams within a group play each other twice in a home-and-away format. The ten matchdays are scheduled for March to November 2021. The ten group winners qualify directly for the final tournament of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The ten group runners-up advance to the play-off stage.

The draw for the group stage of the preliminary competition will be organised by FIFA on 7 December 2020.

Play-off stage

The play-off stage of the qualifiers will feature 12 teams: the ten runners-up from the group stage joined by the two best group winners of the UEFA Nations League 2020-2021 overall ranking that have neither qualified directly for the final tournament nor entered the play-offs as runners-up. The play-off will be played in single-leg knockout matches in March 2022. Three play-off paths will be formed with two semi-final pairings each, where the six best-ranked group runners-up will be drawn against the remaining six teams, with the former playing at home. The winners of each semi-final will advance to the respective final (there will be a draw in advance to determine the team playing at home). The winners of the three play-off finals complete the European line-up for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The European play-off draw will be organised by FIFA after the conclusion of the group stage in November-December 2021.

Enclosed: Regulatory articles for the 2020-2022 European qualifiers play-offs