

## Venue Specific Training Sites (VSTSs)

The Venue Specific Training Sites (VSTS) are used by national teams participating in the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ for training sessions ahead of matches at the associated stadiums. There will be 36 VSTS linked to 12 World Cup stadiums in 11 Host Cities: two main sites and one back-up venue for each stadium (the main sites and the back-ups are still to be defined). The VSTSs associated to Moscow's Spartak Stadium, as well as to the stadiums in Kazan, Saint Petersburg and Sochi will also be used by the teams playing the FIFA Confederations Cup Russia 2017.

VSTSs must meet a number of requirements. In particular, they must have a high-quality natural grass pitch compliant with high international standards, a press centre for a minimum of 100 people seated, equipped dressing room and stands with a minimum capacity for 500 people that can potentially be used by media and, in case of an open-to-public training session, spectators as well.

The preparation of these sporting facilities will represent a long-term legacy for the local communities. After the FIFA World Cup, Russian football clubs, sports schools and ordinary football enthusiasts will continue to benefit from these high-quality pitches and infrastructure. VSTSs to be used during the FIFA Confederations Cup Russia 2017 must be finished and commissioned by 1 May 2017, while the deadline for facilities to be used for the FIFA World Cup is 1 May 2018.

### VSTSs X TBCs

The difference between a Venue Specific Training Site and a Team Base Camp (TBC) is that VSTSs are used ahead of matches taking place in a paired stadium, while TBCs are the pairing of a hotel and a training ground where national teams stay and train before the tournament and between the matches played in the host cities.

This means that a team playing the FIFA World Cup will be based in a TBC located in Russia (not necessarily in one of the host cities), and travel from there to each match. As the teams arrive in advance in the host city, should they choose to train ahead (or even the day after their match), they would use a VSTS. If the pitch conditions allow, the teams train in the stadium where the game will take place the day before the match.

After the game, the teams return to their TBC. Therefore, while TBCs are exclusive to one national team, the VSTSs can be used by various teams playing at the associated stadiums during 2018 FIFA World Cup. There are no TBCs for the FIFA Confederations Cup. During this competition, the teams train in the VSTSs located in the city where the next match will take place, going directly from one host city to the other (known as "venue-hopping").