



Frequently asked questions about the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking

What matches are included in the ranking?

All international "A" matches played in the previous four years (48 months).

What criteria are included in the calculation?

- Win, draw or defeat (points: 3, 1, 0)
- Status of match (multiplication factor of 1 to 4)
- Opponent's strength (multiplication factor of between 50 and 200)
- Strength of team's confederation (multiplication factor of between 0.85 and 1.00)

Who benefits?

The biggest winners are teams who win competitive matches, especially against high-ranking opponents. Draws secure only limited gains, particularly in friendly matches, while defeats do not bring any points.

Who loses out?

Teams often losing or drawing matches will get fewer points. Also, if a team that previously recorded points for a major victory does not gain additional points, it will fall in the ranking as only results over the last twelve months count in full, those from the previous year count half, while games played up to three and four years earlier have even less significance.

What happens to less active teams?

Teams that play fewer than five matches in the preceding 12 months have their total number of points for that year divided by five.

Why can teams that have not played lose points?

The longer it is since a match was played, the less important it becomes for the ranking, and after a period of four years, it no longer has any impact on the calculation of the ranking.

Why is the ranking not calculated exclusively on results of major competitions?

Because small associations would not even make it into the ranking as they rarely qualify for the top events and it is important that friendly matches are included in the ranking for nations hosting major championships since they do not normally take part in qualifiers.

Why does the calculation include the strength of the confederation?

Matches between teams from different confederations (interconfederational matches) are relatively rare. The separate regions therefore retain the character of autonomous and relatively closed leagues that are only partially comparable with one another, and by including the strength of the confederation, teams are consequently ranked in context.

Why are host nations not given a special status?

They have the advantage of automatic qualification and as they only contest friendly matches for a certain period, they may fall in the world ranking.

Why Coca-Cola World Ranking?

Coca-Cola has been the presenting partner of the world ranking since its launch in August 1993. Nevertheless, they do not have any influence on the underlying principles or calculation of the ranking.