

How are points calculated in the FIFA World Ranking?



1. Calculation of points for the FIFA World Ranking

The basic logic of these calculations is simple. Any team that does well in world football wins points and lays the foundations for climbing the world ranking. However, the number of points that can actually be won in a match depends on the following factors:

- Was the match won, or did it end in a draw? (**M**)
- How important was the match (*friendly match to FIFA World Cup™*)? (**I**)
- How strong was the opponent in terms of its ranking position and the confederation to which it belongs? (**T and C**)

These factors are brought together in the following formula to ascertain the total number of points (**P**).

$$P = M \times I \times T \times C \times 100$$

The following codes and conditions apply to the calculation of points:

M: Points for a victory (3 points), a draw (1 point) or a defeat (0 points)

In a penalty shoot-out the winning team gains 2 points, the losing team 1 point.

I: Importance of a match with the following weighting:

Friendly match (including small tournaments): $I = 1.0$

World Cup qualifier and continental qualifier: $I = 2.5$

Continental final competition and FIFA Confederations Cup: $I = 3.0$

World Cup final competition: $I = 4.0$

T: Strength of opposition calculated according to the following formula:

$[200 - \text{ranking position of opposition}] \div 100$

Only the team at the top of the ranking is assigned the value 2.00 (teams ranked 150th and below are assigned the minimum weighting of 0.50).

The ranking position is taken from the opposition's ranking in the most recently published FIFA World Ranking.

C: The strength of a confederation. When calculating intercontinental matches, the mean value of the confederations to which the two competing teams belong is used. The strength of a confederation is calculated on the basis of the number of victories by confederation at the last three FIFA World Cup™ competitions. Their values are as follows.

Confederation	After 2006 FIFA World Cup™	Up to and including 2006 FIFA World Cup™
UEFA	1.00	1.00
CONMEBOL	0.98	0.99
CONCACAF	0.85	0.88
AFC	0.85	0.85
CAF	0.85	0.85
OFC	0.85	0.85

2. Examples of calculation

The following sections feature a number of examples of actual matches to illustrate how points are calculated for the FIFA World Ranking.

It should be noted that a team's ranking position and the total number of points cannot be determined only from the points totals for individual matches. Matches are combined with earlier games to provide an average value, and matches are devalued over a period of four years (100%, 50%, 30%, 20%).

Very high number of points from World Cup final competition

France v. Brazil (quarter-final, 2006 FIFA World Cup™)

	Team A	Team B
Date of match	1 July 2006	
Status of match	World Cup final competition	
Team	BRA	FRA
Result	0	1
Ranking position	1	6
Regional strength	0.99	1.00
M (points for result)	0	3
I (status of match)	4.0	
T (strength of opponent)	1.94	2.00
C (strength of confederation)	0.995	
P = M x I x T x C x 100	0.0	2,388.0

The maximum number of points that can be won in one match is 2,400. In this case, the maximum number of points was not attained because CONMEBOL has a strength of less than 1.0.

High number of points despite draw from World Cup final competition

Italy v. France (final, 2006 FIFA World Cup™)

	Team A	Team B
Date of match	9 July 2006	
Status of match	World Cup final competition	
Team	ITA	FRA
Result	5 (pso)	3 (pso)
Ranking position	10	6
Regional strength	1.00	1.00
M (points for result)	2	1
I (status of match)	4.0	
T (strength of opponent)	1.94	1.90
C (strength of confederation)	1.0	
P = M x I x T x C x 100	1,552.0	760.0

In a penalty shoot-out the winning team gains 2 points, the losing team 1 point

Comparatively few points from World Cup final competition

Mexico v. Angola (group match, 2006 FIFA World Cup™)

	Team A	Team B
Date of match	16 June 2006	
Status of match	World Cup final competition	
Team	MEX	ANG
Result	0	0
Ranking position	11	59
Regional strength	0.88	0.85
M (points for result)	1	1
I (status of match)	4.0	
T (strength of opponent)	1.41	1.89
C (strength of confederation)	0.865	
P = M x I x T x C x 100	487.9	653.9

High number of points from another competition

Nigeria v. Côte d'Ivoire (semi-final, African Cup of Nations)

	Team A	Team B
Date of match	7 February 2006	
Status of match	Continental finals	
Team	NGA	CIV
Result	0	1
Ranking position	22	38
Regional strength	0.85	0.85
M (points for result)	0	3
I (status of match)	3.0	
T (strength of opponent)	1.62	1.78
C (strength of confederation)	0.85	
P = M x I x T x C x 100	0.0	1,361.7

Moderate number of points from another competition

Kuwait v. Australia (qualifier, Asian Cup)

	Team A	Team B
Date of match	6 September 2006	
Status of match	Continental qualifier	
Team	KUW	AUS
Result	2	0
Ranking position	95	37
Regional strength	0.85	0.85
M (points for result)	3	0
I (status of match)	2.5	
T (strength of opponent)	1.63	1.05
C (strength of confederation)	0.85	
P = M x I x T x C x 100	1,039.1	0.0

Low number of points from another competition

Nigeria v. Niger (qualifier, African Cup of Nations)

	Team A	Team B
Date of match	2 September 2006	
Status of match	Continental qualifier	
Team	NGA	NIG
Result	2	0
Ranking position	11	169
Regional strength	0.85	0.85
M (points for result)	3	0
I (status of match)	2.5	
T (strength of opponent)	0.50*	1.89
C (strength of confederation)	0.85	
P = M x I x T x C x 100	318.8	0.0

* teams ranked 150th and below are assigned the minimum weighting of 0.50

Comparatively high number of points from friendly match

Brazil v. Argentina

	Team A	Team B
Date of match	3 September 2006	
Status of match	Friendly match	
Team	BRA	ARG
Result	3	0
Ranking position	1	3
Regional strength	0.98	0.98
M (points for result)	3	0
I (status of match)	1.0	
T (strength of opponent)	1.97	2.00
C (strength of confederation)	0.98	
P = M x I x T x C x 100	579.2	0.0

Moderate number of points from friendly match

Switzerland v. Costa Rica

	Team A	Team B
Date of match	6 September 2006	
Status of match	Friendly match	
Team	SUI	CRC
Result	2	0
Ranking position	13	47
Regional strength	1.00	0.85
M (points for result)	3	0
I (status of match)	1.0	
T (strength of opponent)	1.53	1.87
C (strength of confederation)	0.925	
P = M x I x T x C x 100	424.6	0.0

Low number of points from friendly match

Luxembourg v. Portugal (victory over a low-ranked team)

	Team A	Team B
Date of match	3 June 2006	
Status of match	Friendly match	
Team	LUX	POR
Result	0	3
Ranking position	195	15
Regional strength	1.00	1.00
M (points for result)	0	3
I (status of match)	1.0	
T (strength of opponent)	1.85	0.50*
C (strength of confederation)	1.0	
P = M x I x T x C x 100	0.0	150.0

* teams ranked 150th and below are assigned the minimum weighting of 0.50

Very low number of points from friendly match

Sri Lanka v. Nepal (a tied match between two teams in very low ranking positions)

	Team A	Team B
Date of match	6 April 2006	
Status of match	Friendly match	
Team	SRI	NEP
Result	1	1
Ranking position	166	178
Regional strength	0.85	0.85
M (points for result)	1	1
I (status of match)	1.0	
T (strength of opponent)	0.50*	0.50*
C (strength of confederation)	0.85	
P = M x I x T x C x 100	42.5	42.5

* teams ranked 150th and below are assigned the minimum weighting of 0.50

With the confederation factors as they currently stand, the 42.5 points won by each team is the lowest possible number of points for a tied match.