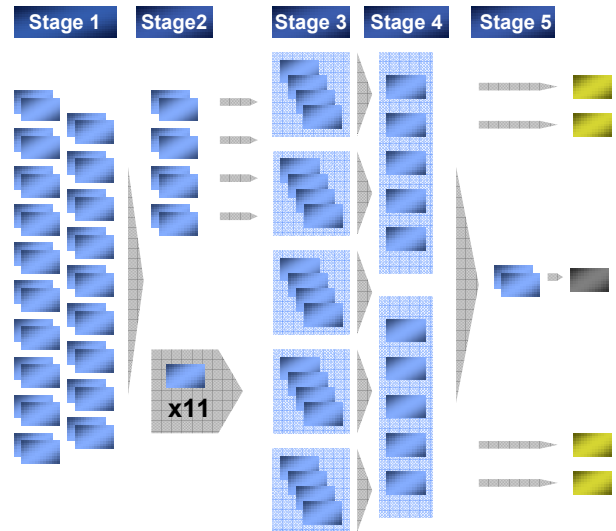




BASIC CONDITIONS

Member Associations (MAs):	46
Participating Member Associations (PMAs):	43
Qualification Slots:	4.5*



*Playoff with Oceania

PARTICIPATING MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

The 43 Participating Member Associations are seeded based on the results from the 2006 FIFA World Cup Germany™ and earlier qualifying rounds. The seeding is as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Australia | 16. Qatar | 31. Malaysia |
| 2. Korea Republic | 17. Syria | 32. Chinese Taipei |
| 3. Iran | 18. Palestine | 33. Bangladesh |
| 4. Japan | 19. Thailand | 34. Macau |
| 4. Saudi Arabia | 20. Turkmenistan | 35. Pakistan |
| 6. Bahrain | 21. Tajikistan | 36. Afghanistan |
| 7. Uzbekistan | 22. Indonesia | 37. Mongolia |
| 8. Kuwait | 23. Hong Kong | 38. Guam |
| 9. DPR Korea | 24. Yemen | 39. Nepal |
| 10. China | 25. Vietnam | 40. Cambodia |
| 11. Jordan | 26. Kyrgyzstan | 41. Bhutan |
| 12. Iraq | 27. Maldives | 42. Myanmar |
| 13. Lebanon | 28. India | 43. Timor-Leste |
| 14. Oman | 29. Singapore | |
| 15. UAE | 30. Sri Lanka | |

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

STAGE ONE

- The PMAs seeded 1 – 5 received byes to Stage Three.
- The remaining 38 PMAs contested Stage One.
- The teams were paired into 19 home-and-away series.
- The 11 highest-ranked Stage One winners earned byes to Stage Three.
- The 8 lowest-ranked Stage One winners advanced to Stage Two.
- Update: Bhutan and Guam withdrew from the competition giving byes to Kuwait and Indonesia respectively.



STAGE TWO

- The 19 Stage One winners were ranked 1 to 19 for Stage Two based on the overall seeding (above).
- The 11 highest-ranked winners, seeded 1 to 11, earned byes.
- The 8 lowest-ranked winners, seeded 12 to 19, contested Stage Two.
- The Stage Two winners advanced to Stage Three.

STAGE THREE

- The 11 top-ranked Stage One winners (via byes) and the 4 Stage Two winners will join the 5 remaining, top-ranked PMAs in Stage Three.
- The Stage consists of 5 round-robin, home-and-away groups of 4 teams.
- All group winners and runners-up advance to Stage Four.

STAGE FOUR

- The 5 Stage Three group winners and the 5 Stage Three group runners-up will contest Stage Four.
- The stage consists of 2 round-robin, home-and-away groups of 5 teams.
- The 3rd placed teams from each group advance to Stage Five.

 The 2 Stage Four group winners and the 2 group runners-up qualify for the FIFA World Cup™.

STAGE FIVE

- The 3rd placed teams from the two Stage Four groups will contest Stage Five.
- The teams will play one home-and-away play-off series.

 The Stage Five winner advances to the inter-confederation playoff with the top team from Oceania.

PRELIMINARY DRAW

STAGE TO BE DRAWN

- Stage Three will be drawn at the Preliminary Draw in Durban, South Africa.

DRAW FORMAT

- The 20 Stage Three teams will be allocated to 4 pots of 5 teams based on the 2006 FIFA World Cup Germany™ and earlier qualifying rounds (above). The top 5 teams will be placed in Pot A; the next 5 best teams will be placed in Pot B; and so on.
- The teams will be drawn into 5 groups of 4 teams for Stage Three.
- The draw starts with Pot D and ends with Pot A.
- The teams in Pod D are placed in position 4 of each group; the teams in Pot C in position 3; the teams from Pot B in position 2; and the teams from Pot A in position 1.
- Groups are filled starting with Group 1 and ending with Group 5.