



The Minifootball World Cup 2023 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

About Minifootball

What is minifootball?

Minifootball is a sport known as small-sided football. The games take place on artificial turf fields, providing a suitable environment for the sport. This scaled-down version of traditional football is characterized by its dynamism, passion, and intensity, ensuring an exciting experience for both players and spectators. With its fast-paced format and quick plays, minifootball attracts a considerable base of participants and is widely recognized as one of the most popular sports in the world.

How many players are there on a minifootball team?

Minifootball teams can consist of 5, 6, or 7 players, depending on the category in which it is being played. The official minifootball format, known as 6-a-side, features one goalkeeper and five outfield players. This is the category used in major international tournaments such as continental championships and the WMF World Cup. According to the official rules, each team can have a total of 15 players, with unlimited substitutions allowed.

How big is the pitch?

The minifootball pitch is smaller than a standard football field, with dimensions ranging from 25m x 45m to 30m x 50m. This is significantly smaller compared to the official measurement of a football field (105m x 68m). The specific size of the pitch may vary depending on the regulations and category of the minifootball game being played.

How long is each game?

Each minifootball match is played in two halves of 25 minutes each. However, it's important to note that the duration of the halftime break may vary depending on the regulations of each competition, with a maximum limit of 10 minutes.

Does minifootball have a major league and or equivalent to the FIFA World Cup?

The popularity of minifootball has grown significantly in recent years, with many countries setting up their own leagues and competitions. One of the most prestigious events in the sport's calendar is the Minifootball World Cup, which is held every two years.



About the Minifootball World Cup

What is the Minifootball World Cup?

The Minifootball World Cup is the premier event in the sport and the largest competition organized by the World Minifootball Federation (WMF) that brings together National Teams from around the world to compete for the glory. Played in the 6-a-side category, it takes place every two years. Since its inaugural event in 2015, the Minifootball World Cup has been an exhilarating spectacle, attracting teams from around the world to compete for the title of Minifootball World Champions.

Who organizes the Minifootball World Cup?

The World Minifootball Federation (WMF), which is the global governing body for minifootball. The WMF was established in 2008 with the aim of promoting and developing minifootball around the world.

When and where was the first Minifootball World Cup held?

The first Minifootball World Cup was held in 2015 in the US. Since then, the tournament has grown in size and popularity with the federation having representatives in almost 100 countries across five continents - America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia.

Which other countries have hosted the Minifootball World Cup?

The first Minifootball World Cup was held in the US in 2015. Other host nations include Tunisia in 2017 and most recently, Perth, Australia in 2019.

Which countries have won the Minifootball World Cup?

The first ever winner of the Minifootball World Cup was its host nation, the US, with Mexico the runner up. Third and fourth place went to Brazil and Romania respectively. The 2017 Minifootball World Cup winner was the Czech Republic followed by runner-up, Mexico. Senegal and Spain took third and fourth place. The winner of the 2019 Minifootball World Cup was Mexico followed by runner-up, Brazil. Romania and Hungary took third and fourth place.

Are the teams who play in the Minifootball World Cup professional footballers?

The teams are made up of amateur players who are passionate about the sport. However, despite their amateur status, the level of play at the tournament is incredibly high, with some of the best minifootball players in the world competing.



What is the format of the tournament?

The format is similar to that of the FIFA World Cup. National teams from around the world are divided into groups for the group stage, where they compete in a round-robin format, with the top teams from each group progressing to the knockout rounds. The knockout stage comprises a series of elimination matches, including the round of 16, quarterfinals, semi-finals, and the final. The tournament is played over the course of two weeks, with matches taking place every day. Each game is played in two halves of 25 minutes each. The half time break is a maximum of 10 minutes.

What kind of surface are the matches played on?

The field must be wholly artificial or, if the competition rules permit, a wholly natural playing surface except where competition rules permit an integrated combination of artificial and natural materials (hybrid system). The colour of artificial surfaces must be green.

Are there any other specifications that World Cup matches have to follow?

The goal is situated at the centre of each goal line, and must measure 4m to 5m wide and 2m high. All balls must have a circumference between 70 cm (28 ins) and 68 cm (27 ins) and weigh between 450 g (16 oz) and 410 g (14 oz) in weight at the start of the match. The pressure of the ball must be equal to 0.6 –1.1 atmosphere (600 –1,100 g/cm²) at sea level (8.5 lbs/sq in –15.6 lbs/sq in)

Is Minifootball as competitive as Association Soccer?

Absolutely! One of the unique aspects of the Minifootball World Cup is the atmosphere at the tournament. Despite the fierce competition on the pitch, there is a sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship among the teams. Players from different countries often exchange jerseys after matches, and there is a real sense of community among the participants.

Is the Minifootball fan experience like?

In addition to the on-field action, the Minifootball World Cup also features a range of off-field activities and events. There are fan zones where supporters can gather to watch matches and enjoy food and drink, as well as cultural events that showcase the host country's traditions and heritage. The Minifootball World Cup is not just a celebration of minifootball, but also a celebration of global unity and friendship. The tournament brings together people from different countries and cultures who share a love of sport and a desire to compete at the highest level.



Who are the most notable teams?

Powerhouses such as Brazil, Mexico, Czech Republic, and Romania have historically been strong contenders in the Minifootball World Cup. The tournament showcases a multitude of talented players known for their exceptional skills, speed, and goal-scoring abilities.

What is the significance of Minifootball and the Minifootball World Cup?

Minifootball holds significant importance as both a sport and a social platform. It provides a unique opportunity for players of all skill levels to showcase their talents and experience the thrill of competitive football. The Minifootball World Cup, in particular, plays a crucial role in elevating the status of minifootball on a global scale. It brings together teams from various nations, promoting cultural exchange, fostering friendship, and strengthening international cooperation. Moreover, the tournament offers an entertaining and engaging experience for both players and fans, transforming everyday legends into stars and creating memorable football moments.

What are their benefits to the community?

Minifootball brings a range of valuable benefits to the community. Its inclusive nature encourages participation, allowing people of all ages and skill levels to engage in the sport. Through the Minifootball World Cup and other tournaments, it provides entertainment and excitement for both players and spectators, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie. The sport promotes physical well-being and healthy lifestyles, as players engage in active gameplay and teamwork. Additionally, minifootball embodies the values of sportsmanship, fair play, and respect, creating a positive environment for personal growth and development. It serves as a social platform, bringing people together and providing a space for cultural exchange and mutual understanding. Minifootball's community-oriented approach makes it a powerful tool for promoting social inclusion, fostering relationships, and strengthening the fabric of local communities.

About the 2023 Minifootball World Cup in Ras Al Khaimah

When and why was Ras Al Khaimah appointed host nation of this year's tournament?

Ras Al Khaimah won the highly competitive bid to stage the 2023 Minifootball World Cup in 2022 with the World Minifootball Federation (WMF) selecting the destination over other shortlisted contenders, including Manila and Budapest. Cementing the Emirate's reputation as a leading sports destination, Ras Al Khaimah was chosen for its ability to offer a diverse tourist experience and its proven track record in hosting successful global sporting events.



When will the tournament take place?

It will kick off on Thursday 26th October, 2023, with the final taking place on Saturday 4th November, 2023

Where will it take place?

The Minifootball World Cup will take place at in Ras Al Khaimah.

How much are tickets?

They're free of charge. We wanted to make this up-and-coming grassroots sport accessible to all.

How many teams will compete?

There will be 32 international teams in total:

- **Europe** – Azerbaijan, Romania, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic, France, Serbia, Ukraine, Montenegro, England, Israel, Georgia, Albania, Ireland, Spain, Portugal
- **Africa** – Egypt, Ghana, Libya, Tunisia
- **Asia** – India, Thailand, UAE, Japan, Lebanon, Iraq
- **Americas** – Mexico, Brazil, USA, Guatemala

What is the match schedule?

The schedule will be as follows:

- Group Stage: 26 to 31 October, 2023
- Knockout stages:
 - 1/8 Final – 1 November, 2023
 - 1/4 Final – 2 November, 2023
 - 1/2 Final - 3 November, 2023
 - Third place - 4 November, 2023
- The final: 4 November

Where can I learn more about the Minifootball World Cup and the sport itself?

The WMF maintains active social media accounts on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, providing updates, highlights, behind-the-scenes content, and engaging with fans. It's official social media accounts are: WMF [Instagram](#) | WMF [Facebook](#) | WMF [YouTube](#) | WMF WC [Instagram](#) and the hashtags are: #WMFWorldCup #WMFWC #WMFWC2023 #YourGameYourGlory #Minifootball.

Its official websites are: www.minifootball.com | www.wmfworldcup.com.



You can also catch up on all-things Minifootball World Cup via international sports media outlets and publications who provide extensive coverage of the tournament, including match previews, reviews, analysis, and player interviews.

Where can I watch the Minifootball World Cup games?

The Minifootball World Cup receives extensive global television coverage, with the matches broadcasted live in multiple countries on major sports networks and streaming platforms. Matches are also streamed live on official online platforms, providing access to fans worldwide.

Will there be other activities taking place in and around the tournament?

Yes, lots. Residents and visitors alike will enjoy a calendar packed full of family-friendly activities and events happening across the destination throughout the tournament. There will be fan zones where supporters can gather to watch matches and enjoy food and drink, as well as cultural events that showcase Ras AL Khaimah's traditions and heritage. The Minifootball World Cup will not just a celebration of minifootball, but also a celebration of global unity and friendship. The tournament will bring together people from different countries and cultures who share a love of sport and a desire to compete at the highest level.

Why did Ras Al Khaimah bid for the 2023 Minifootball World Cup?

Attracting thousands of spectators and fans from around the globe, this prestigious tournament will deliver significant tourism development and economic benefits to Ras Al Khaimah. It will also act as a springboard for the promotion of minifootball in the UAE, encouraging more residents and visitors to play the sport, in line with the Emirate's objectives to foster liveability as well as engaging with local schools and sports clubs within the local and broader UAE community.

What other sporting events take place in Ras Al Khaimah?

The Emirate already plays host to a number of high-profile events including the Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon, the world's fastest half marathon, the UAE Cycling Championship and the UAE Tour as well as renowned international golf championships, the DP World Tour and the European Tour, to name just a few. All play a significant role in boosting sporting tourism in Ras Al Khaimah.

How easy is it to get to Ras Al Khaimah?

The Emirate is very accessible. Located a few short hours by flight from various key European and Asia hubs, it is served by four international airports across the UAE, including Dubai International Airport - just a 45-minute drive away - and Ras Al Khaimah International Airport.



What kind of accommodation options are there?

Ras Al Khaimah offers a wide choice of accommodation to suit a variety of budgets – from ultra-luxurious beach resorts managed by some of the most notable names in the business, to family-friendly city- and beach resorts.

What else can Minifootball World Cup fans do once in Ras Al Khaimah?

Ras Al Khaimah, featured in Time magazine's World's Greatest Places of 2022 and CNN Travel's Best Destinations to Visit in 2023, is the ideal location for sporting event fans, with a whole host of things to do in between games. Outdoor enthusiasts can go hiking, rock climbing, kayaking, and even take on the world's longest zipline. There is also 64km of stunning coastline, perfect for swimming, snorkelling, or simply relaxing on the white sandy beach. Additionally, visitors can delve into the region's history and culture by exploring its forts, museums, and the much-loved Suwaidi Pearl Farm. Ras Al Khaimah also caters to all tastes and budgets with a diverse range of shopping and dining options.

What is the inspiration behind this year's logo?

The 2023 Minifootball World Cup logo is inspired by the UAE's national bird, the falcon, spreading its wings to convey prestige and national pride in UAE flag colours.

What is the inspiration behind this year's creative campaign - 'Home For Everyday Legends'?

The "Home For Everyday Legends" visual is centered around showcasing the skills and passion for minifootball from around the world and merging them with Ras Al Khaimah landmarks and cultural aspects to create an inspiring and exciting approach to the destination. Using the phrase "Everyday Legends" makes the game relatable to the audience and also magnifies the importance and capabilities of these talented players and giving them the legendary status they deserve. The goal is to inspire viewers to appreciate the sport beyond the professional level and recognize the skillset and talent that exists within minifootball communities.