



HOME FOR EVERYDAY LEGENDS: WMF WORLD CUP RAS AI KHAIMAH 2023

Tournament to take place from 26 October to 4 November 2023

The World Minifootball Federation (WMF) has selected Ras Al Khaimah to stage the 2023 Minifootball World Cup, cementing the Emirate's reputation as a leading sports destination.

Taking place later this year, the Emirate will host thousands of spectators and fans from around the globe. Bringing together 32 national teams to Ras Al Khaimah, the tournament will act as a springboard for the minifootball awareness in the UAE, encouraging more people to play the sport, in line with the Emirate's objectives to foster livability as well as engaging with local schools and sports clubs within the local and broader UAE community.

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.

What is minifootball?

Minifootball, also known as small-sided football, is a smaller version of the traditional 11-a-side game that is played on smaller pitches with fewer players. Typically, the game is played with five or six players on each team, and the pitch is smaller than a standard football field. Minifootball is a fast-paced and exciting sport that requires skill, agility, and teamwork. 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 minifootball calendar is the Minifootball World Cup, which is held every two years.

WMF World Cup Overview

The Minifootball World Cup is an international tournament that showcases the sport of minifootball. It brings together teams from around the world to compete for the prestigious title of Minifootball World Cup champions. The tournament features fast-paced, skillful, and exciting matches played on a smaller pitch with smaller teams. The tournament is organized by the World Minifootball Federation (WMF), which is the global governing body for mini football. The WMF was established in 2008 with the aim of promoting and developing mini football around the world.

The first Minifootball World Cup was held in 2015 in the US, and 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. The teams that participate in the Minifootball World Cup 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. The format of the Minifootball World Cup is similar to that of the FIFA World Cup, with teams divided into groups for the group stage before progressing to the knockout rounds. The tournament is played over the course of two weeks, with matches taking place every day. 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. 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.

Key Information

Tournament Name: Minifootball World Cup

Inaugural Year: 2015

Frequency: Biennial (held every two years)

Governing Body: World Minifootball Federation (WMF)

Official Websites: www.minifootball.com | www.wmfworldcup.com

Tournament Format

Participating Teams: The tournament features national teams from around the world, representing their respective countries.

Group Stage: The teams are divided into groups, where they compete in a round-robin format. The top teams from each group advance to the knockout stage.

Knockout Stage: The knockout stage includes a series of elimination matches, including the round of 16, quarterfinals, semifinals, and the final.

Previous Winners

2015: USA

2017: Czech Republic

2019: Mexico



Media Coverage

Broadcasting: The Minifootball World Cup receives extensive global television coverage, with rights holders broadcasting matches live in multiple countries. Major sports networks and streaming platforms often acquire the broadcasting rights.

Online Streaming: Matches are streamed live on official platforms, providing access to fans worldwide.

Press Coverage: International sports media outlets and publications provide extensive coverage of the tournament, including match previews, reviews, analysis, and player interviews.

Key Players and Teams

Notable Teams: Powerhouses such as Brazil, Spain, Mexico, Czech Republic, and Romania have historically been strong contenders in the Minifootball World Cup.

Star Players: The tournament showcases a multitude of talented players known for their exceptional skills, speed, and goal-scoring abilities.

Social Media

WMF maintains active social media accounts on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, providing updates, highlights, behind-the-scenes content, and engaging with fans.

Official Social Media Accounts: [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)

Official Hashtags: #WMFWorldCup #WMFWC #VisitRasAlKhaimah

Impact and Significance

Promoting Minifootball: The MiniFootball World Cup plays a vital role in promoting the sport of mini-football, increasing its popularity and global recognition.

International Cooperation: The tournament serves as a platform for cultural exchange, fostering friendship, and enhancing international cooperation among participating nations.

Community Development: Mini-football's accessibility and smaller scale make it an ideal sport for community development initiatives, promoting physical activity and teamwork at the grassroots level.

Ras Al Khaimah's journey to becoming the hosts of the 2023 Minifootball World Cup

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



WMF World Cup 2023

- The tournament will take place from 26th October to 4th November, 2023
- Tickets are free of charge, making this up-and-coming grassroots sport accessible to all
- 32 international teams will compete:
 - **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
- 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

Match schedule

- 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, 2023

Did you know...

- The first Minifootball World Cup took place in the United States in 2015, with 12 teams competing. The US won, while Mexico was runner-up. Brazil and Romania took third and fourth place.
- In 2017, Tunisia was the host nation, with 24 teams competing. The winner was the Czech Republic followed by runner-up, Mexico. Senegal and Spain took third and fourth place.
- The last Minifootball World Cup took place in Perth, Australia in October 2019, with 32 teams competing. The winner was Mexico followed by runner-up, Brazil. Romania and Hungary took third and fourth place
- Each team consists of five players and one goalkeeper
- The maximum number of authorized substitutes is nine
- A match is played in two halves of 25 minutes each. The half time break is a maximum of 10 minutes
- The 50 x 30m field must be wholly natural or, if competition rules permit, a wholly artificial 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
- A goal is situated at the centre of each goal line, measuring 4m 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)

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About Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA)

The Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) was established in May 2011 under the government of Ras Al Khaimah. RAKTDA aims to develop the Emirate's tourism infrastructure and establish Ras Al Khaimah as a world-class destination for leisure and business travel, creating sustainable investment opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. In order to achieve its goals, the Authority has a government mandate to license, regulate and monitor the Emirate's tourism and hospitality industry.

www.visitrasalkhaimah.com | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)

Hashtag: #VisitRasAlKhaimah #RasAlKhaimah, #visitrasalkhaimah

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