# Article information:

FIFA confirms expanded 2026 World Cup with record 104 matches | Football News | Al Jazeera
<https://www.aljazeera.com/sports/2023/3/14/fifa-confirms-expanded-2026-world-cup-with-record-104-matches>

# Article summary:

1. The 2026 World Cup will have a record 104 matches instead of the typical 64 games due to its expanded format, with 48 teams taking part.

2. The tournament will consist of 12 groups of four teams each, and the top two nations in each group will go through to the knockout round along with the eight best third-placed sides.

3. FIFA also announced that a 32-team Club World Cup will be played every four years from June 2025, and a competition for continental champions will start annually in 2024.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article provides a detailed overview of the expansion of the 2026 World Cup, which will now feature 48 teams and a record 104 matches. The format for the event, co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, will stick to four teams in a group after plans for 16 groups of three were shot down. The article highlights that the revised format mitigates the risk of collusion and ensures that all teams play a minimum of three matches while providing balanced rest time between competing teams.

However, there are some potential biases in the article. For example, it focuses heavily on the benefits of expanding the tournament, such as increased revenue and more tickets sold. While these are undoubtedly important factors for FIFA and its stakeholders, there is little discussion about potential drawbacks or risks associated with expanding the tournament.

Additionally, there is no mention of how this expansion may impact smaller nations or whether it could lead to an increase in injuries due to players having to play more games. Furthermore, there is no exploration of counterarguments against expanding the tournament or whether fans are supportive of this decision.

The article also includes promotional content regarding FIFA's plans for a 32-team Club World Cup starting in June 2025. While this information is relevant to football fans, it does not necessarily add value to an analysis of the expanded World Cup.

Overall, while the article provides useful information about the expanded World Cup format and its implications for stakeholders like FIFA and host countries, it could benefit from a more balanced approach that considers potential drawbacks and explores counterarguments.

# Topics for further research:

* Potential drawbacks of expanding the World Cup tournament
* Impact of the expanded World Cup on smaller nations
* Risks of player injuries due to increased number of games
* Counterarguments against expanding the World Cup
* Fan opinions on the expanded World Cup format
* Implications of FIFA's plans for a 32-team Club World Cup

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/4ad73b9764b91dcb8ef14cb7841a5246>