

SPORT

The FIFA World Cup: How has it changed?

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The FIFA World Cup began in 1930 and has held a competition every 4 years since, except for during WWII when many of the countries that would take part were at each other's throats.

Brazil has been part of all of the 20 World Cups so far, and are part of the 21st in Russia. Brazil have won 5 World Cups so far, which is the highest of any country, but Germany and Italy are hard on their tail, both with 4 titles. Germany won the previous World Cup and have a good enough team to win another and tie with Brazil's trophy count.



The first World cup Brazil won had Pele, the man, the myth, the legend, in their squad who is arguably the best player ever and has scored 1281 goals in 1300 games making him, statistically, the best player ever.

Uruguay held and won the first ever World cup, 20 years later they went and won another in Brazil. Although there is now 42 teams in the world cup, Uruguay won when there were only 13 nations, making it considerably easier for them to win.



The FIFA World cup is currently the most watched sporting event, getting even more views than the Olympic Games. The 2006 World Cup in Germany had over 700 million people watching the final, that's a ninth of the population of the entire world!

In total 77 nations have taken part in the world cup and only 8 of those have won it, those nations are Brazil, Germany, Italy, Uruguay, Argentina, Spain, England and France.

At the end of the world cup there are many awards given to players and teams chosen by the public and the media. The most well-known of these and the most sought after is the golden ball which is given to the best player as voted by the media. Last World Cup in Brazil 2014, Lionel Messi of Argentina got the Golden ball, James Rodriguez of Colombia got the Golden boot scoring 6 goals and the young French player Paul Pogba (age 21 at the time) got the best young player award.