

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1840

Zurich, 6 April 2023

Updates on the Men's and Women's International Match Calendars

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to share the International Match Calendars with you for the upcoming years for both men and women, as approved by the FIFA Council at its most recent meeting in Kigali on 14 March 2023.

The International Match Calendars provide the regulatory and operational framework for the harmonious coexistence of club and national team football across the global football ecosystem.

Following extensive analysis and consultation by the FIFA administration, the confirmation of the International Match Calendars therefore provides clarity and certainty for the years ahead, enabling all participants and stakeholders to plan accordingly.

Men's International Match Calendar

The updated Men's International Match Calendar is enclosed and available on [FIFA.com](https://www.fifa.com).

As of 2026, a new 16-day window with four matches will take place in September/October, replacing the two nine-day windows with two matches each that previously took place during those months. This change will be assessed and subject to continuous consultation during the first three years of its implementation with the option to revert to the previous format.

Specific attention is drawn to the inclusion of the FIFA World Cup 2026™ in the Men's International Match Calendar, whereby the FIFA Council approved the start of the mandatory rest and release period for all players beginning on Monday, 25 May 2026, with exemptions granted, following FIFA approval, to those players whose clubs would be participating in a final of a continental club competition up until 30 May 2026. The final of the FIFA World Cup 2026 will take place on 19 July 2026, with the date of the opening match to be confirmed in due course. The total release period, therefore, remains in line with that of past editions of the FIFA World Cup having taken place in the same period in previous cycles.

The placement of the CAF Africa Cup of Nations during the time period covered will be determined in due course.

Women's International Match Calendar

The updated Women's International Match Calendar is enclosed and available on [FIFA.com](https://www.fifa.com).

The placement of the CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations during the time period covered will be determined in due course.

The details of the Women's International Match Calendar for the post-2025 period will be subject to further consultation between all relevant stakeholders and will be determined and communicated in due course.

We thank you for your kind attention to the above and remain at your disposal should you have any queries in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

Encl.: - Men's International Match Calendar 2023-2030
- Women's International Match Calendar 2023-2025

Cc: - FIFA Council
- Confederations
- ECA
- FIFPRO
- World Leagues Forum