



The DFB's position on the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

Our commitment to human rights

As per Article 2 of our statutes, we are committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and strongly advocate their implementation, especially in the areas of diversity and inclusion, anti-discrimination, health, safety and child protection. This commitment extends to the context of international matches and tournaments.

Our assessment of the World Cup hosting rights award process and tournament participation

The process leading to Qatar being awarded the FIFA World Cup hosting rights can be viewed as problematic in many ways, especially with regard to human rights and sustainability. In terms of the sport, its players and fans, a different decision could have been expected.

From a sporting perspective, the FIFA World Cup is the most important tournament in the football world, not only for the players, but also the millions of fans worldwide. As part of the international football community, the DFB, like other member associations, has undertaken to take part in World Cup qualification and, in the event of successful qualification, in the final tournament. For not only this reason, we do not consider it productive to abstain from participation at the tournament in the event of successful qualification.

Our social commitment: Sport builds bridges

Human rights are universally applicable, indivisible and are not up for debate. In a world marked by many conflicts, we believe that understanding, exchange and cooperation – especially in and through sport – are necessary to create the basis for improvements across political, religious, and cultural boundaries.

We believe that sport can build bridges, both on and off the pitch. We will do our part and assume our responsibility. As an association, we will be socially active around the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, just as we were in Russia in 2018. This also includes openly specifying the issues we feel need addressing with regard to respecting human rights and the potential for sustainable development.

Our expectations and our experts

Fundamentally, we expect the organisers of international tournaments like the FIFA World Cup to show commitment to respecting human rights and to ensure compliance with relevant international standards.

As regards Qatar, we are in contact with independent experts and representatives from sport, politics and other areas of society. We are listening, informing each other, assessing ideas, and thinking about joint projects. Participants include, among others, FIFA, UEFA, other national associations, NGOs (e.g. Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the Building and Wood Workers' International), the German government (foreign office), the International Labour Organisation, and fan organisations. The majority believe that there is a need to identify and address problems, while contributing to positive change in Qatar. We want to do justice to this cause within the scope of our influence.

Our understanding: The World Cup as a catalyst for development

Discussions, provoked by great public interest, are used by many organisations to draw attention to problem areas and to contribute to improving the human rights situation in Qatar.



The fact that, among others, Amnesty International, the International Labour Organisation, the Building and Wood Workers' International and the independent FIFA Human Rights Advisory Board have pointed out that improvements and reforms with regard to labour and social standards have already taken place only strengthens our resolve. At the same time, there is still more progress to be made, in other important areas, too. It is for that very reason that Amnesty International and others emphasise the need to use the remaining timeframe to initiate and implement additional processes.

It should also be noted that FIFA and the Local Organising Committee have already identified problem and action areas in their joint sustainability strategy and have also identified opportunities for how football can help initiate or accelerate change processes in Qatar beyond the tournament. Looking ahead to the future, we welcome FIFA's policy introduced in November 2017 of applying minimum human rights criteria at all FIFA tournaments, as well as guaranteeing appropriate standards from the off regarding e.g., occupational safety, freedom of expression and inclusion.