

Brazil vs Morocco: FIFA World Cup 2026 Group C Preview â?? Can the Atlas Lions Silence the Samba Giants?

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The **Brazil vs Morocco World Cup 2026** clash kicks off at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on Saturday 13 June â?? and with Neymar racing against the clock to be fit, Vinicius Jr and Carlo Ancelotti know their first test in this tournament is anything but straightforward. This Group C opener could set the tone for both sidesâ?? entire campaigns.

Neymarâ??s Shadow Looms Over Brazilâ??s World Cup 2026 Opener

The pre-match narrative has been dominated by one name: Neymar. Brazilâ??s all-time record scorer is doubtful for tonightâ??s opener after suffering a grade-two right calf strain â?? a partial muscle tear the national team doctor confirmed on 28 May could sideline him for up to three weeks. Coach Carlo Ancelotti has dismissed the idea of replacing Neymar in the squad, insisting he has â??no regretsâ?• about bringing the Santos forward despite the ongoing injury concern.

In Neymarâ??s absence, Ancelotti is expected to start Igor Thiago through the middle, with the dazzling pace of Vinicius Jr on the left, Raphinha on the right, and the likes of Gabriel Martinelli, Endrick, and Gabriel Rayan as further options from the bench. Raphinha, speaking at training, said he knows he â??can do much moreâ?• for the national team â?? and this World Cup opening night is his moment to prove it.



Source: Brazil Football Confederation (CBF) official website (cbf.com.br)

Alisson remains one of the worldâ??s finest goalkeepers and provides genuine reassurance behind a defence anchored by Marquinhos and Gabriel MagalhÃ£es. Brazil have the attacking depth to hurt any opponent even without their talisman â?? the question is whether they can do it with the polish and

unpredictability that Neymar normally provides.

Morocco: Giant-Killers Eyeing Another Historic Upset

Morocco arrive on the back of that extraordinary 2022 World Cup campaign, where they became the first African side to reach a semi-final. Head coach Walid Regragui has built a relentless, disciplined unit that punishes opponents on the counter and defends with genuine ferocity. In Qatar, they kept five clean sheets in seven matches â?? a level of defensive organisation that still commands respect from every top side in world football.

The Atlas Lions famously beat Brazil 2-1 in a 2023 friendly, a result that reminds Ancelottiâ??s side never to take this fixture lightly. Morocco face their own selection concerns heading in, with key centre-back Nayef Aguerd carrying a question mark and Noussair Mazraoui doubtful at left-back. But Moroccoâ??s collective strength means individual absences rarely derail them. Regragui will set up his team to be compact, organised, and dangerous on the transition â?? and Brazil will need to be at their best to break them down.

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Source: Brazil Football Confederation (CBF) official website (cbf.com.br)

Group C: Brazil, Morocco, Scotland, Haiti

Group C also features Scotland and Haiti, making Brazil and Morocco the two most likely qualifiers on paper. However, the head-to-head result between the top two carries enormous implications for both. Brazil have met Morocco only once at a World Cup â?? a 3-0 win back in 1998 â?? but that was a vastly different Morocco side from the one Regragui has built over the past four years.

For Ancelotti, this is his first World Cup as a head coach, despite having won virtually every club honour available. Managing a nationâ??s expectations â?? particularly for a football-obsessed country like Brazil â?? brings a very different kind of pressure. The 66-year-old Italian spoke ahead of the match of the â??responsibility and honourâ?• of representing the country of football, and Brazilâ??s supporters will expect nothing less than a convincing opening win.

Singapore fans can catch the action live on Channel 5 and meWATCH. Kick-off at MetLife is 6pm ET on Saturday 13 June â?? that is 6am SGT on Sunday 14 June. Read more of our World Cup 2026 coverage, including our England World Cup 2026 Group L preview and the Canada vs Bosnia-Herzegovina Group B preview.

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Verdict: Brazil Have Too Much Quality

Even without a fully fit Neymar, Brazil possess the quality to see off Morocco. Vinicius Jr is arguably the best player on the planet right now and will pose constant problems for the Atlas Lionsâ?? defence. Morocco will be difficult to break down and will threaten from set pieces and on the counter, but Brazil have too much attacking firepower not to find a way through.

Prediction: Brazil 2-0 Morocco

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