



## England vs Norway World Cup 2026 Quarter-Final: Can the Three Lions Tame the Viking Giant?

### Description

The World Cup 2026 quarter-final between England and Norway promises to be one of the most gripping matches of the entire tournament. On Saturday 11 July at Miami Stadium, Thomas Tuchel's Three Lions face the challenge of Erling Haaland - the tournament's joint-leading scorer - in a tie that has everything: goals, history, and the weight of expectation on both sides.

## England vs Norway World Cup 2026: The Road to Miami

England have arrived at the quarter-final stage in impressive form. After a rocky group-stage draw with Ghana, Tuchel's side found their feet - beating Panama, DR Congo, and then producing one of their most dramatic wins in decades, a 3-2 comeback victory over Mexico at the Azteca with ten men. Jude Bellingham's brace was the defining moment, cementing the 22-year-old's status as one of the finest midfielders at this World Cup, with four goals in the campaign making him the most prolific England midfielder in major tournament history.

Harry Kane, meanwhile, has been a constant menace in front of goal. Six goals in five games places him level with the likes of Gary Lineker in 1986 for England's most prolific individual at a single World Cup. The numbers are remarkable. But it is [Norway who have produced arguably the most remarkable story of the tournament](#) so far.



Source: England Football Association official website ([englandfootball.com](http://englandfootball.com))

Norway are here for the first time in their history at this stage of a major tournament. They came second in Group I behind France before beating Côte d'Ivoire in the Round of 32 and then producing perhaps the result of the tournament: a 2-1 defeat of five-time champions Brazil, with Haaland scoring twice. Norway have both scored and conceded in every game so far – 12 goals for, 9 against – which tells you everything about Ståle Solbakken's swashbuckling, high-risk, high-reward approach.

## Haaland vs England: The Ultimate Test

Erling Haaland is the story of this World Cup. Seven goals in four matches – he co-leads the Golden Boot race alongside Kylian Mbappé and Lionel Messi. He has scored in all four of Norway's games, and his record against England's goalkeeper Jordan Pickford in the Premier League makes for sobering reading: seven goals from ten shots on target in club football. Pickford will know exactly what is coming, and stopping Haaland will be the defining challenge of his international career.

Martin Ødegaard, Norway's captain and chief creator, has been quietly brilliant throughout. Three assists in five games, and a habit of making things happen in the moments that count. Antonio Nusa on the left wing – quick, tricky, and entirely unpredictable – offers an additional dimension that England's right side will need to manage carefully.



Source: *England Football Association official website (englandfootball.com)*

England have their own firepower. Kane's six goals, Bellingham's 33% shot conversion rate in the tournament, and the pace of Bukayo Saka and Marcus Rashford on the flanks make them deeply difficult to contain over 90 minutes. Elliot Anderson has been England's unsung hero - leading the squad for interceptions, tackles, possession won, duels won, and line-breaking passes. The Newcastle midfielder anchors the midfield in a way that gives Bellingham the licence to roam and create.

## History, Stakes, and Saturday's Showdown

The two nations have met 12 times before, with England winning seven and Norway winning just twice. Their last meeting was a 1-0 friendly win for England in September 2014 - Haaland was eleven years old at the time. That statistic almost perfectly encapsulates how much Norwegian football has changed since then.

England have been eliminated from five of their last six World Cup knockout matches against European opposition, and the 2022 quarter-final defeat to France at this same stage still stings. They will be desperate to change that narrative in Miami. Norway, for their part, have never won a knockout game against a European nation at the World Cup - a streak they will be desperate to end.

This is a contest between two sides playing with genuine freedom and belief. [France saw off Morocco to reach the semi-finals](#), and whoever wins in Miami will face Les Bleus next. The stakes could not be higher. Saturday night in Miami promises to be spectacular.

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