



England World Cup 2026 Squad: Tuchel Drops Palmer And Foden, Toney Gets Shock Recall

Description

Thomas Tuchel has named his **England World Cup 2026 squad**, and the German head coach has not been shy about making bold calls. Cole Palmer, Phil Foden, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Harry Maguire are all absent, while Brentford striker Ivan Toney earns a shock recall — one of the most eye-catching selections in recent Three Lions history.

The England World Cup 2026 Squad In Full

The 26-man group for this summer's tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico was announced on 22 May 2026, with the reveal broadcast live from Wembley Stadium and soundtracked — in suitably theatrical fashion — by The Beatles' iconic *Come Together*.

Captain Harry Kane leads the side for what will be his third World Cup, equalling the appearance record set by the legendary Billy Wright in 1950, 1954 and 1958. Joining Kane on that historic third tournament are Jordan Pickford, John Stones and Marcus Rashford, while Jordan Henderson goes one better still: the Brentford midfielder is making his fourth World Cup appearance, matching Sir Bobby Charlton's all-time England record. It will also be Henderson's seventh major tournament, equalling Lucy Bronze's all-time England record across Euros and World Cups.



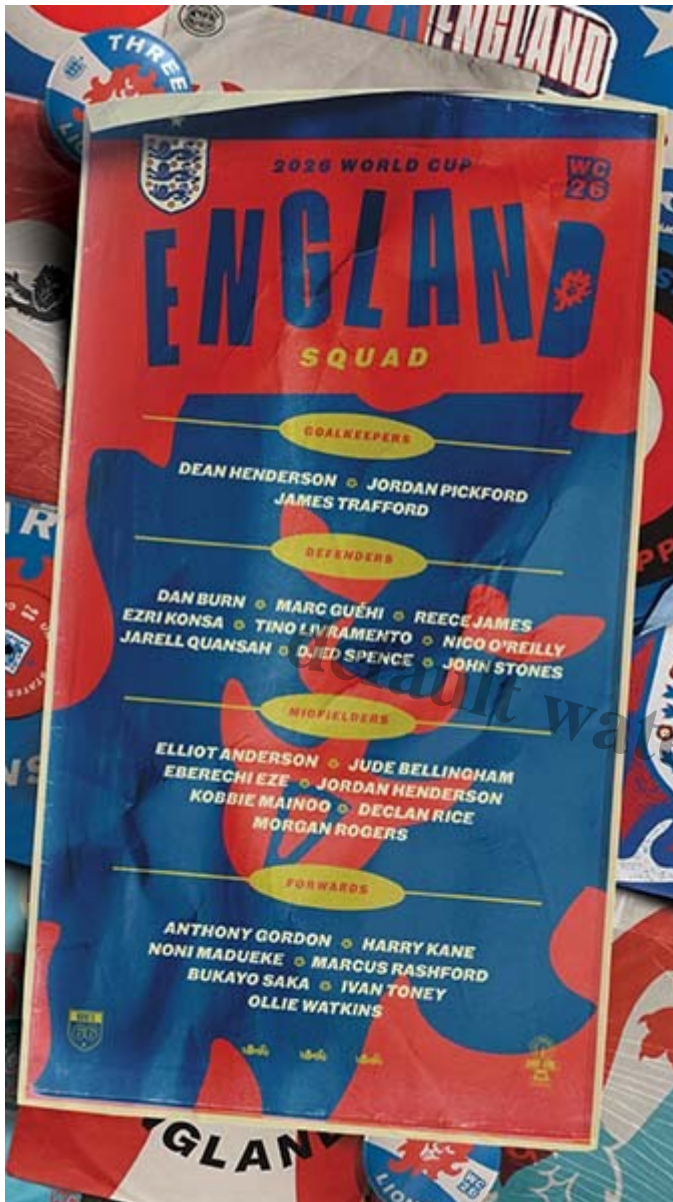
Source: England Football official website (englandfootball.com)

Tuchel's Big Omissions: Palmer, Foden And Alexander-Arnold

The names left out will dominate discussion long into the tournament. Cole Palmer, Premier League player of the season just twelve months ago, has been omitted after a difficult campaign at Chelsea, where goals dried up in the second half of the season and his form dipped considerably. Phil Foden was equally ruthless: the Manchester City playmaker has also lacked the consistency Tuchel demands, while Trent Alexander-Arnold, despite his quality on the ball, misses out as Tuchel builds a squad around defensive solidity and collective effort.

Harry Maguire, too, is absent. The defender told reporters he was "shocked and gutted" by the decision, but Tuchel was clear in his reasoning. "I think from day one, we were very clear that we are trying to select the best possible team, not necessarily collect the 26 most talented players. Teams win championships," the former Bayern Munich boss said. "It was difficult. Sometimes painfully difficult."

The omissions are significant, but so is what they reveal about Tuchel's philosophy. He is building for cohesion, intensity and a clearly defined playing structure.



Source: England Football official website (englandfootball.com)

Toney's Recall And A New Generation Ready To Shine

The selection that has raised the most eyebrows is Ivan Toney. The 30-year-old forward, who moved to Saudi Arabia's Al-Ahli last summer, has scored 32 goals in the Saudi Pro League this season – a stunning tally that proved impossible for Tuchel to ignore. Toney had played just seven minutes under the current England regime before his recall, but his goals record speaks for itself. He joins Harry Kane, Ollie Watkins and Bukayo Saka – now also at Arsenal – in a forward line with genuine firepower.

Nine players will be making their first senior tournament appearances for England: James Trafford, Tino Livramento, Nico O'Reilly, Djed Spence, Dan Burn, Jarell Quansah, Elliot Anderson, Noni Madueke and Morgan Rogers. Livramento, Quansah and Anderson won the UEFA Under-21 European Championship last summer, and the depth of talent in this group suggests England's future is in safe hands regardless of what happens in North America.

Jude Bellingham, Declan Rice and Bukayo Saka provide the midfield and attacking spine, while Reece James returns from injury concerns to claim a berth in defence. This is a squad built on Premier League experience, Champions League pedigree and, crucially, a burning desire to end the wait for a major international trophy. Much like [France's star-studded squad](#) and the defending champions [Argentina](#), England head to North America with genuine belief.

England's Group L Fixtures

England face Croatia in Dallas on 17 June, Ghana in Boston on 23 June, and Panama in New York/New Jersey on 27 June. Before that, the squad gathers in Palm Beach, Florida from 1 June, with warm-up matches against New Zealand (Tampa, 6 June) and Costa Rica (Orlando, 10 June). Tuchel's men will then relocate to their permanent base in Kansas City on 13 June.

Whether Tuchel's selections prove inspired or costly will only become clear over the coming weeks but one thing is certain: this England squad has the quality to go deep. The question, as ever, is whether they have the nerve. For all the latest on [World Cup 2026 and sports news across Singapore and beyond](#), keep reading Little Big Red Dot.

Date Created

31/05/2026

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