

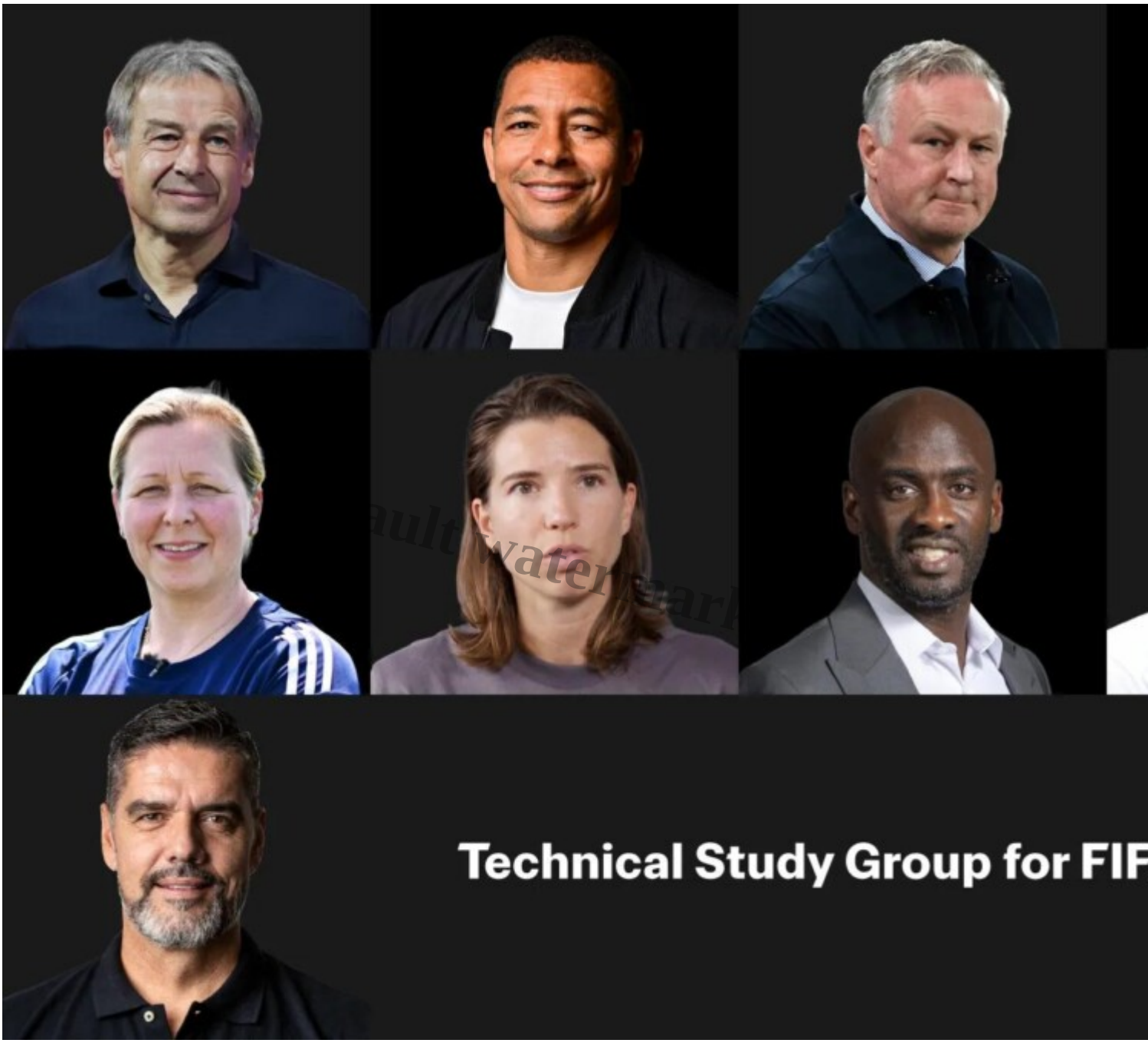
FIFA World Cup 2026 Opening Match Guide: Five Days To The Kickoff

Description

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The **FIFA World Cup 2026 opening match** is just five days away, and the greatest show on earth is preparing to kick off in spectacular fashion. On Thursday, 11 June, Mexico Cityâ??s historic Estadio Azteca will host the curtain-raiser as the host nation face South Africa â?? the first time this legendary stadium has staged a World Cup opener for a remarkable third time, having previously done so in 1970 and 1986.

With 48 nations, 104 matches across 16 host cities, and three co-host countries (Canada, Mexico and the United States), the 2026 edition is the largest and most ambitious World Cup in history. Singapore fans can catch every match on Mediacorpâ??s mewatch and Channel 5.



Source: FIFA official website (inside.fifa.com)

The Opening Match: Mexico vs South Africa

There is no bigger occasion in football than a World Cup opener, and El Tri are relishing the chance to welcome the world to their doorstep. Mexico face a South Africa side making their first World Cup appearance since 2010, and one that has shown considerable resilience under Hugo Broos. The match kicks off at 3pm ET on 11 June (3am Singapore time on 12 June).

Mexico will also face South Korea and Czechia in Group A. The Azteca will be rocking â?? the atmosphere at the iconic venue is expected to be unlike anything seen in recent World Cups. South

Africaâ??s â??Bafana Bafanaâ?• will be desperate to spring a surprise and announce themselves on the world stage once more.

Groups To Watch: The Key Storylines

The 48-team format features 12 groups of four teams, with the top two from each group advancing to the round of 32. Here are the groups Singaporean fans will be watching most closely:

Group C: Brazil vs Morocco â?? Carlo Ancelottiâ??s Brazil, boosted by Neymarâ??s high-profile return, face Morocco â?? the side that stunned the world at Qatar 2022 â?? in one of the opening weekendâ??s most mouth-watering clashes on 13 June in New Jersey. A Neymar versus Achraf Hakimi showdown on the biggest stage? Sign us up.

Group D: USA vs Paraguay â?? The co-hosts kick off their campaign on 12 June at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, with the eyes of North America fixed on a team hungry to make history on home soil.

Group B: Canada vs Bosnia-Herzegovina â?? Canada makes their first World Cup appearance since 1986, hosting their opener in Toronto on 12 June in front of what promises to be a deafening home crowd.

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Source: FIFA official website (inside.fifa.com)

The Big Favourites And What To Expect

This World Cup arrives with an unusually open feel at the top. Argentina, the defending champions, arrive with Lionel Messi at 38 years of age and in what is surely his final World Cup. The question is not whether Messi is still magnificent â?? he is â?? but whether the supporting cast can carry him through the most gruelling format yet.

France, Japan, England, Germany, and Spain all arrive with genuine ambitions, while the expanded format means more nations than ever have a realistic path to the knockout stages. The 104-match schedule runs from 11 June to 19 July, with the final at New York New Jersey Stadium.

How Singapore Fans Can Watch

Mediacorp holds the rights to broadcast the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Singapore, with matches available on mewatch (streaming) and selected games on Channel 5. Given the time difference â?? most matches kick off between 1am and 7am SGT â?? setting your alarm or using the catch-up features will be essential. Check out our full Singapore viewing guide for mewatch and Channel 5 for broadcast schedules and tips.

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Five days and counting. The wait is almost over â?? and this World Cup promises to be one for the ages. Whether you are backing Messi for one last dance, MbappÃ© for his coronation, or simply hoping for the shock of the century, the 2026 FIFA World Cup is set to deliver. Follow all the action right here at Little Big Red Dot Sports.

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