



ZABIVAKA™



The 2018 FIFA World Cup

The World Cup is just around the corner, starting on June 14, 2018 with the opening match between Russia as the host team against the team from A2 (to be disclosed after the raffle of the groups take place). The tickets for the event are already on sale. The match schedules and locations to follow your favorite team have been published on the official FIFA website. The mascot of the event ZABIVAKA, the Siberian wolf with sports glasses is ready for the kick-off. The World Cup will fill us with excitement and joy this coming summer, 2018. The games begin on Thursday June 14, 2018 at 6:00 pm in Moscow at the Luzhniki Stadium and the next champion will be crowned on Sunday July 15, 2018 with the final match. A full month of emotions and we at ABC Latino are ready to see teams at this event. But first let's check out who has qualified for the World Cup Russia 2018.

From Africa, we have two teams that have qualified Egypt and Nigeria and three more teams to get in which are still to be

determined. This is the third time Egypt will be at the FIFA World Cup, the last time they attended was in Italy in 1990. While for Nigeria this will be their sixth appearance and they are Africa's favored team for the World Cup.

The four tickets for Asia have been taken by Saudi Arabia, Iran, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Japan easily qualified for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, but it must not be forgotten that Korea has been the most successful Asian country at World Cup events in the past.

Asia has total of 4 and a half tickets and the half ticket will be represented by Australia.

Europe, the old continent has fourteen tickets, ten of which have been taken by Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, England, Iceland, Poland, Portugal, Russia and Serbia. The last four tickets for the World Cup might go to Holland, Croatia, Sweden or even Italy. However, the experts are still not sure if Italy will go.

Many of us are happy to see Cristiano Ronaldo, Andres Iniesta, Juan Mata, Gerard Pique, and the most famous French soccer player from the Mexican club UANL Tigres; Andre Pierre Gignac (my Alma Mater) play in the 2018 World Cup.

From North and Central America, the qualified teams are: Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama. The United States is not going to the World Cup but the North and Central Americas have 3 and half a tickets, for that reason, we might see Honduras, who is challenging Australia.

From Oceania, wait... who doesn't remember the last World Cup where Mexico had to travel across the world and have a match with New Zealand which represented the ticket for Oceania? Well, the New Zealand team is back. We will see if

New Zealand can get the World Cup ticket for the first time or if Peru will take it on November 11th. Whom do you want to see?

And of course, South America's most prominent teams are playing again: Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay. We will see Messi from Argentina, with all his magic. Messi made us doubt and made us cry at the beginning of the classification when Argentina was on the line. But "God Messi", made everything possible with his shoes and put Argentina as a contender in the World Cup for the 17th time. We also can see Agüero, Di Maria, Pizarro, Higuain, Caruzzo, Mascherano in Russia.

Three of the South America teams have been world champions on at least in 2 occasions, can you believe it? The only qualified South American team that hasn't won a World Cup is Colombia, but with super stars, James Rodriguez and Radamel Falcao they have a good chance of winning. South America still has a half ticket and is represented by Peru who is ranked number ten by FIFA. They will challenge New Zealand. Good luck Peru. But please let's send luck to the North, Central, and South American teams: Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay. All of those teams will be supported here in the United States. Who will be champion this time? Some team from North, Center or South America, or someone else from the old continent?