



## Iran changes its base ahead of the 2026 World Cup

### Description

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Iranian Players poses for one minute silent during FIFA World Cup Qualifier match between Iran v Cambodia

In a move that reflects the political complexities surrounding the [2026 World Cup](#), FIFA has approved Iran to move its football team base from the US to Mexico.

The decision came after months of escalating political tension between Tehran and Washington, which had raised concerns within Iranian sporting circles regarding the national team's participation in the World Cup, co-hosted by the US, Mexico and Canada.

The crisis reached boiling point, with reports that Iran might withdraw from the finals.

[FIFA](#) president, Gianni Infantino, confirmed that the international federation was committed to the Iranian team participating as normal. He also denied any intention to exclude or replace the football team.

## Iran move national team's training camp

Iran's national team had originally planned to hold its main training camp in Tucson, Arizona, as its three group stage matches were to be played in the US.

However, the Iranian Football Federation requested that the base be moved to Tijuana, Mexico, near the US border, a change to which FIFA has agreed.

In comments reported by the [Guardian](#), Mehdi Taj, president of the Iranian Football Federation, noted that the move would help overcome any potential complications regarding visas or entry into the US.

Taj explained that the national team will enter the US via Mexico to play their matches, adding that there is a possibility of arranging return flights with Iran Air in an effort to facilitate the delegation's travel during the tournament.

## Participation under political pressure

These developments come at a time when Iran-US relations have seen a sharp escalation in recent months, amid growing concerns about the safety of the Iranian delegation during its US stay.

Despite this atmosphere, Iran's national team is continuing its preparations for the historic first edition of the World Cup, which features 48 teams instead of 32.

The draw places them in Group G alongside Belgium, Egypt and New Zealand.

Iran's national team begins its campaign against New Zealand on 16 June, before facing Belgium and then Egypt on 21 and 27 June respectively.

Team Melli hopes to progress to the knockout stage and reach the knockout rounds for the first time in its history.

*Featured image via Amin M. Jamali/ Getty Images*

By [Alaa Shamali](#)

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