



BIDDING NATION SAUDI ARABIA

Yasser Al Mishal, Saudi Arabian Football Federation President Intention to bid for 2034 FIFA World Cup Pre-recorded interview, 4 October 2023

1. Can you explain what it would mean to the national team to play a FIFA World Cup at home?

Well, hosting a World Cup in Saudi Arabia would mean everything to us. We are a football nation, and this is what dreams are made of for all generations – young and old, boys and girls.

I believe the whole world saw the great passion of all our fans in the last World Cup – 2022 – that passion, noise, energy and colour. I think young kids in Saudi today will be dreaming of this. In fact, we want to help them achieve this dream in 2034.

We already took part in previous six World Cups, so the chance to do so in 2034 on home soil and in front of our fans in Saudi Arabia will be incredible.

2. Did the scenes in Qatar at the 2022 FIFA World Cup – with the victory over Argentina – give a glimpse of Saudi football on and off the pitch?

The win over Argentina is a day that will forever last in our hearts and memories. It gave us belief in the system and approach of Saudi football, and made us believe that our plans are coming together. That day was more than just a good result, it showed what football really means to us and showed how Saudi fans really connect with fans from over the world, to share our love of football.

3. There has been much progress and investment can you tell us about some of the highlights?

We've seen approximately an 86% increase in registered female players since 2021 and also a 50% in male players. This is all thanks to our plans to encourage football participation and give kids the platform to achieve their dreams of becoming professional footballers.

So, the future is bright. 2034 is a very significant year for us as it's when we set ourselves the target of becoming one of the top 20 football nations in men's football. We want to be at our best when we host the world, not only on the pitch but also off the pitch.





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4. How is the country's existing football infrastructure to host football tournaments?

We already have very good and strong existing football infrastructure. We've already welcomed thousands of international fans for events like the Spanish and Italian Super Cups. And now, of course, our Saudi Pro League has a lot of international fans coming into the country.

We're also ready to welcome fans from every corner of the world for the exciting FIFA Club World Cup in Saudi Arabia for the first time ever in 2023. Also since we will host the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, we have plans already for a number of upgrades and some new world-class stadiums. We are working hard to deliver them in the most sustainable ways.

Fans can look forward to enjoying a maximum of only 3 hours flying time between cities and stadiums, while exploring our mountains and islands, and of course, our culture. Everything will be connected with state-of-the-art facilities to guarantee an amazing fan experience

5. What impact do you want to have on football by hosting the 2034 FIFA World Cup in Saudi Arabia?

The impact we want to have by hosting the World Cup is very simple. We want to grow the game for everyone. We want to host the world. After all, we're only approximately 4 hours flying time for almost 250 million people. We have a lot of plans to create a lasting legacy and engage with fans from over the world to create new connections and relationships.

The 2034 World Cup is our invitation to the world to witness Saudi Arabia's development, experience its welcoming society, culture and heritage, and become part of its history.

Our commitment to everyone is really to deliver a memorable World Cup that will bring the football world together.

We are a young and vibrant nation – 70% are under 35 – with a deep love of football. If our successful past events are anything to go by, then fans will have an absolutely incredible experience in 2034.

