

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

EVENTS

16-team tournament for men

12-team tournament for women

ATHLETE / NOC QUOTA

Athlete quota: 288 men (16 teams of 18 players each)
216 women (12 teams of 18 players each)
Total of 504 athletes

Maximum per NOC: 1 men's team of 18 players and 1 women's team of 18 players

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

1. Host nation provision

China PR automatically qualifies a men's and a women's team for the final competition and will not play in the preliminary competition. The host nation allocation is included in the AFC allocation.

2. Preliminary competitions

The preliminary competitions will be organised by FIFA in cooperation with the relevant continental federations and will serve as qualifiers for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, Beijing 2008.

Men:

Asia (AFC):

4 teams will qualify – including host nation China PR

Africa (CAF):

3 teams will qualify

North and Central America (CONCACAF):

2 teams will qualify

South America (CONMEBOL):

2 teams will qualify

Oceania (OFC):

1 team will qualify

Europe (UEFA): European U-21 Championship 2006-2007

4 teams will qualify

Women:Asia (AFC):

3 teams will qualify – including host nation China PR

Africa (CAF):

1.5 teams will qualify (play-off with CONMEBOL)

North and Central America (CONCACAF):

2 teams will qualify

South America (CONMEBOL):

1.5 teams will qualify (play-off with CAF)

Oceania (OFC):

1 team will qualify

Europe (UEFA): FIFA Women's World Cup China 2007

3 teams will qualify

Each continental federation must confirm the dates, location and system of play for the preliminary competitions by April 2006 (tbc).

3. Athlete Eligibility**Men:**

All players participating in the preliminary and final competition of the Tournament shall be born on or after 1 January 1985. However, a maximum of three (3) male players who do not meet this age limit may also be included in the official list of players for the final competition.

Women:

No age restrictions.

QUALIFICATION TIMELINE

April 2006	Date by which the confederations must communicate to FIFA information on the system of play for the preliminary competition as well as the relevant dates and locations of the matches.
May 2006	FIFA Organising Committee for the Olympic Football Tournaments to determine groups and/or sub-groups for the preliminary competitions by seeding and drawing lots.
July 2006	Start of the preliminaries, according to each confederation's schedule.

AFC preliminary competition:**Men:**

First round: February 2007

Second round: February 2007 - June 2007

Third round: August 2007 - November 2007, 3 groups of 4 teams. The 3 group winners qualify for the Olympic Football Tournament.

Women: First round: 17 – 25 February 2007
 Second round: April 2007 - August 2007, 2 groups of 4 teams. The 2 group winners qualify for the Olympic Football Tournament.

CAF preliminary competition:

Men: First round: September 2006 - October 2006
 Second round: February 2007 - March 2007
 Third round: June 2007 - March 2008, 3 groups of 4 teams. The 3 group winners qualify for the Olympic Football Tournament.

Women: Preliminary round: October 2006 - November 2006
 First round: February 2007 - March 2007
 Second round: June 2007
 Third round: July 2007 - March 2008, 4 teams. The winner qualifies for the Olympic Football Tournament. The runner-up plays off with CONMEBOL by end of March 2008.

CONCACAF preliminary competition:

Men: *(Dates and sites to be confirmed)*

Women: *(Dates and sites to be confirmed)*

CONMEBOL preliminary competition:

Men: *(Dates and sites to be confirmed)*

Women: *(Dates and sites to be confirmed)*

Play-off with CAF by end of March 2008

OFC preliminary competition:

Men: March 2008 *(Sites to be confirmed)*

Women: March 2008 *(Sites to be confirmed)*

UEFA preliminary competition:

Men: European U-21 Championship 2006-2007 (tournament changed to odd years)

Preliminary round: March 2006 – July 2006

Group stage: August 2006 – October 2006

Final tournament: Netherlands, June 2007, 8 teams participating.

Women: FIFA Women's World Cup, China, 10 – 30 September 2007. The top 3 European teams will qualify for the Olympic Football Tournament.

April 2008 Confederations to complete preliminary competitions

May 2008 Draw for the men's and women's Olympic football tournaments, Beijing 2008

23 July 2008 Deadline for Beijing 2008 Organising Committee to receive entry forms submitted by NOCs