



HISTORY OF ADIDAS WORLD CUP MATCH BALLS

A Legacy of World Cup Match Balls

adidas is at the forefront of every major soccer innovation and has been for more than 90 years. The ball has become the game's most iconic piece of equipment. As visionaries for the sport, adidas has continually innovated to engineer the greatest soccer balls in the game.



1970 FIFA World Cup Mexico

adidas Telstar

For its first FIFA World Cup, adidas created the world's most recognized soccer ball design. It featured 32 hand-stitched panels (12 black pentagons and 20 white hexagons) that made the ball a more perfect sphere and visible on black and white television for a worldwide audience. To this day, the design remains the soccer ball archetype.



1974 FIFA World Cup Germany

adidas Telstar/adidas Chile

Two match balls were used in 1974 – adidas Telstar was updated with new black branding replacing the gold branding and a new all-white version of Telstar named adidas Chile was introduced. 1974 was also the first time World Cup Match Balls could carry names and logos – adidas was no longer an anonymous supplier of Match Balls used on the field.



1978 FIFA World Cup Argentina

adidas Tango

The 1978 Match Ball included twenty panels with triads that created an optical impression of 12 identical circles. The Tango inspired the match ball design for the following five World Cup tournaments.



1982 FIFA World Cup Spain

adidas Tango España

Altered slightly from the 1978 Match Ball, the 1982 ball sported innovative waterproof sealed seams that reduced the ball's water absorption and minimized weight increase during wet conditions. The Tango España was the last traditional leather World Cup ball.



1986 FIFA World Cup Mexico

adidas Azteca

The 1986 World Cup match ball revolutionized soccer balls and production techniques as the first ever fully synthetic/polyurethane-coated match ball. The new materials increased durability and further minimized water absorption. The ball was also the first to include designs inspired by the host nation. The Azteca was elegantly decorated with designs inspired by Mexico's Aztec architecture and murals.



1990 FIFA World Cup Italy

adidas Etrusco Unico

For the first time, the World Cup Match Ball contained an internal layer of black polyurethane foam, making it fully water-resistant and faster than ever. The name and design paid homage to Italy's history and the fine art of the Etruscans.



1994 FIFA World Cup USA

adidas Questra

For the 1994 World Cup, the Questra was first ever match ball to be enveloped in a layer of polystyrene foam. The innovation made the ball softer to the touch and much faster off the foot. The ball's design represents space technology, high velocity rockets and America's "quest for the stars."



1998 FIFA World Cup France

adidas Tricolore

The first ever multi-colored Match Ball, the Tricolore featured an advanced syntactic foam that improved the ball's durability, energy return and responsiveness. adidas also used an under glass print technology for the first time that increased the longevity and visibility of the ball, which featured France's national colors.



2002 FIFA World Cup Korea and Japan

adidas Fevernova

For the first time since 1978, the match ball broke away from the traditional Tango design. The innovative Fevernova included a refined syntactic foam layer that allowed for more precise and predictable flight path. Asian culture inspired the revolutionary colorful look.



2006 FIFA World Cup Germany

adidas Teamgeist

A radically new configuration reduced the amount of panel touch points forming a smooth and perfectly round exterior that improved accuracy and control. Prior to the Teamgeist, the surface of World Cup match balls had notable differences depending on where a player would strike the ball due to seams, ridges and other imperfections where panels come together. The revolutionary propeller design of the Teamgeist minimized corners and created a smoother surface for improved play. The ball was designed with traditional colors of the German flag and was accentuated with the golden color of the World Cup trophy.



2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa

adidas Jabulani

The Jabulani featured a new grip n groove ball technology that provided players a ball with exceptionally stable flight and perfect grip under all conditions. With eight thermally bonded 3-D panels that were spherically molded for the first time, the Jabulani was more round and accurate than any of its predecessors.



2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil

adidas Brazuca

adidas will provide the official match ball for their 12th straight FIFA World Cup in 2014 as Brazuca will be unveiled on December 3, 2013. Brazuca was confirmed as the match ball name after a public vote in Brazil, participated in by more than one million soccer fans in the host country.