

# FIFA World Cup: Hope For Black Stars?



In the just published FIFA NATIONS RANKING, Ghana ranked 60<sup>th</sup> position making the Black Stars retain their position of being the lowest ranked team of the 32 teams heading into the World Cup in Qatar next month.



The image shows a ranking chart for the 32 participating teams in the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The teams are listed in two columns, with their rank, flag, and name followed by their current FIFA ranking in parentheses. Below the list are two rows of player action shots from various teams.

FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022™ PARTICIPATING TEAMS		FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022™ PARTICIPATING TEAMS	
1	BRAZIL (1 <sup>st</sup> )	9	DENMARK (10 <sup>th</sup> )
2	BELGIUM (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	10	GERMANY (11 <sup>th</sup> )
3	ARGENTINA (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	11	CROATIA (12 <sup>th</sup> )
4	FRANCE (4 <sup>th</sup> )	12	MEXICO (13 <sup>th</sup> )
5	ENGLAND (5 <sup>th</sup> )	13	URUGUAY (14 <sup>th</sup> )
6	SPAIN (7 <sup>th</sup> )	14	SWITZERLAND (15 <sup>th</sup> )
7	NETHERLANDS (8 <sup>th</sup> )	15	USA (16 <sup>th</sup> )
8	PORTUGAL (9 <sup>th</sup> )	16	SENEGAL (18 <sup>th</sup> )
17	WALES (19 <sup>th</sup> )	25	COSTA RICA (31 <sup>st</sup> )
18	IRAN (20 <sup>th</sup> )	26	AUSTRALIA (38 <sup>th</sup> )
19	SERBIA (21 <sup>st</sup> )	27	CANADA (41 <sup>st</sup> )
20	MOROCCO (22 <sup>nd</sup> )	28	CAMEROON (43 <sup>rd</sup> )
21	JAPAN (24 <sup>th</sup> )	29	ECUADOR (44 <sup>th</sup> )
22	POLAND (26 <sup>th</sup> )	30	SAUDI ARABIA (50 <sup>th</sup> )
23	KOREA REPUBLIC (28 <sup>th</sup> )	31	QATAR (51 <sup>st</sup> )
24	TUNISIA (30 <sup>th</sup> )	32	GHANA (60 <sup>th</sup> )

CURRENT FIFA RANKING: 60<sup>th</sup>

HIGHEST FIFA RANKING: 14<sup>th</sup> (April-May 2007, February 2008)

LOWEST FIFA RANKING: 84<sup>th</sup> (June, 2004)

Ghana’s lowest FIFA ranking in June 2004, preceded a World Cup qualification campaign which would see the Black Stars

make their first appearance on the World Stage (Germany 2006).



Our World Cup campaigns came in between mixed performances in FIFA rankings. Ghana produced its highest FIFA ranking entering into the World Cup season in our last appearance (Brazil 2014), where the team placed 23<sup>rd</sup> (22<sup>nd</sup> out of the 32 teams). Nevertheless, in contrast, our performance did not tally with that ranking as the nation was booted out in the group stages with only 1 point and a lot of post-competition controversies.



WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT	FIFA RANKING	POSITION (OUT OF 32)	STAGE REACHED
GERMANY - 2006	50 <sup>TH</sup>	30 <sup>TH</sup> /32	Round of 16
SOUTH AFRICA -2010	38 <sup>TH</sup>	27 <sup>TH</sup> /32	Quarter - Finals
BRAZIL -2014	23 <sup>RD</sup>	22 <sup>ND</sup> / 32	Group Stages(4 <sup>th</sup> /4)
QATAR- 2022	60 <sup>TH</sup>	32 <sup>ND</sup> / 32	-

A well renowned statistical base, OPTA, has given Ghana a 0.02% chance of lifting the trophy. But are the Black Stars being too underrated? With the new recruits and in form players available at the disposal of the team, do the Black Stars have a good shot as being the 'black horse' of next month's tournament? Can the Stars emulate their good runs in 2006 and 2010 even with rather poor FIFA rankings at that time?



Will this rating rather be an advantage for the team by going to Qatar with a point to prove?