FIFA

Anti-Doping Report 2020-2021

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FOREWORD

Anti-doping is one of FIFA's central pillars to ensure that the game of football remains about sporting excellence, passion and team spirit. This Anti-Doping Report aims to examine FIFA's efforts as an anti-doping organisation in its various competitions.

Understandably, this year's edition has a slightly different focus due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the postponement of almost all FIFA tournaments due to be held in the second half of 2020. With the gradual easing of restrictions and the implementation of strong safety and health concepts, however, doping control activities gradually resumed in the first half of 2021, which enabled FIFA to re-establish a strong doping control presence at the FIFA Club World Cup 2020™ (which took place from 1 to 11 February 2021 in Doha, Qatar), the first qualifying round of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, the FIFA Arab Cup 2021™ qualifiers and the out-of-competition tests conducted for the Olympic Football Tournaments in Tokyo in July 2021.

Despite the above-mentioned restrictions, the worldwide anti-doping movement managed to successfully implement the latest update to its regulatory framework. New rules and regulations were introduced via the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code (WADA Code) and the 2021 edition of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations (FIFA ADR), both of which aimed to combat doping in sport even more efficiently across the globe. As well as updating its core document to fight doping in football after an extensive consultation process involving key stakeholders, FIFA also educated member associations and their officials, team personnel, players and other interested parties via various webinars and workshops held over the past year.

In addition to providing an overview of FIFA's tests in the past 12 months, therefore, the report shares information on the work carried out in relation to the new anti-doping regulatory framework.

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DEFINITIONS

Adverse analytical finding: a report from a WADA-accredited laboratory that establishes the presence of a prohibited substance or method in a collected sample.

Atypical finding: a report from a WADA-accredited laboratory or other WADA-approved laboratory which requires further investigation as provided by the International Standard for Laboratories or related technical documents prior to the determination of an adverse analytical finding.

Blood passport: a blood sample collected from a player that serves to build up a biological passport for a particular player, which allows an anti-doping organisation to monitor the longitudinal effect of the possible use of prohibited substances or methods.

Confederation: a group of associations that are recognised by FIFA as belonging to the same continent (or assimilable geographical region).

Doping control: all steps and processes involved in checking for prohibited substances or methods, from test distribution planning to the final lodging of an appeal, and everything in between, such as the provision of whereabouts information, sample collection and handling, laboratory analysis, therapeutic use exemptions, results management and hearings.

In-competition: the period commencing at 23:59 on the day before a match in which the player is scheduled to participate through to the end of the match and including the sample collection process relating to it.

Member association: a football association recognised as such by FIFA. A total of 211 member associations are currently affiliated to FIFA.

Out-of-competition: a period when doping control tests are not in-competition.

Prohibited List: a list published and annually updated by WADA identifying prohibited substances and methods.

Prohibited substance/method: any substance or method which is prohibited in sport as described in the Prohibited List.

Sample: any biological material collected for the purposes of doping control which can be analysed by a WADA-accredited laboratory. FIFA collects urine, blood and blood-passport samples during a doping control.

Test: the parts of the doping control process involving test distribution planning, sample collection, sample handling and sample transport to a WADA-accredited laboratory.

Therapeutic use exemption (TUE): a document attesting to a player's condition which requires the use of a prohibited substance or method for valid medical reasons. The player must obtain a TUE in accordance with the rules stipulated in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

WADA: the World Anti-Doping Agency.

World Anti-Doping Code (WADA Code): a code published by WADA that is the core document harmonising anti-doping policies, rules and regulations within sports organisations and among public authorities around the world. As a signatory to the WADA Code, FIFA must conduct its anti-doping efforts in compliance with it.

METHODOLOGY

This report covers FIFA's anti-doping efforts from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

The underlying data has been extracted from the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS), which has been developed by WADA in order to coordinate worldwide antidoping activities among all the signatories to the WADA Code.

The FIFA ADR establish a shared responsibility between FIFA, its 211 member associations and the six confederations to conduct anti-doping tests. As a consequence, FIFA mainly conducts testing during its own competitions, such as the FIFA Women's World Cup™, while the confederations and member associations are required to conduct doping control tests for competitions at confederation or national level respectively. This report focuses on FIFA's testing efforts directly at FIFA tournaments.

Lastly, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, which began to unfold across the globe in March 2020, has had a significant impact in terms of planning and implementing FIFA's anti-doping programme, as tournaments have had to be postponed and matches cancelled. This naturally distorted the data, which should be taken into account when comparing the data in this report with those in past and future reports.

OVERALL TESTS AND COLLECTED SAMPLES

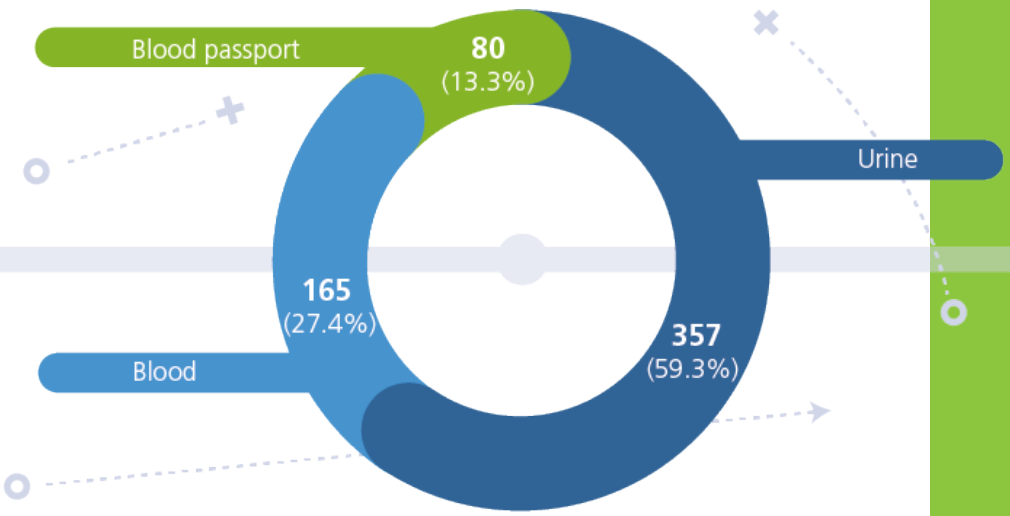
From July 2020 to June 2021, a total of 354 players were subjected to doping control tests in five FIFA competitions (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Number of players tested per competition

The total number of samples collected as part of those tests was 602, consisting of 357 urine samples, 165 blood samples and 80 blood-passport samples. It should be noted that this overview does not take into account the number of partial urine samples that did not meet the testing criteria and, as a result, the respective players who had to be asked to provide an additional urine sample. It does, however, include players who had to be asked to give an additional urine sample in case the first sample did not meet the requirements regarding the specific gravity of the urine (Figure 2).

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES COLLECTED AS PART OF THOSE TESTS WAS 602

Figure 2: Number of samples by sample type



Timing of sample collection

As the WADA Prohibited List sets out different rules for different types of prohibited substances, it is paramount that tests are carried out in the context of anti-doping programmes during a competition (commonly referred to as "in-competition") and during the period leading up to a competition ("out-of-competition"). It should be noted, however, that due to the new in-competition definition, short periods of out-of-competition time frames can occur even during a competition. Such periods are, of course, also counted as out-of-competition tests. Of the total 354 players tested, 322 samples were collected in-competition, while 280 samples were collected out-of-competition (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Time frame of sample collection

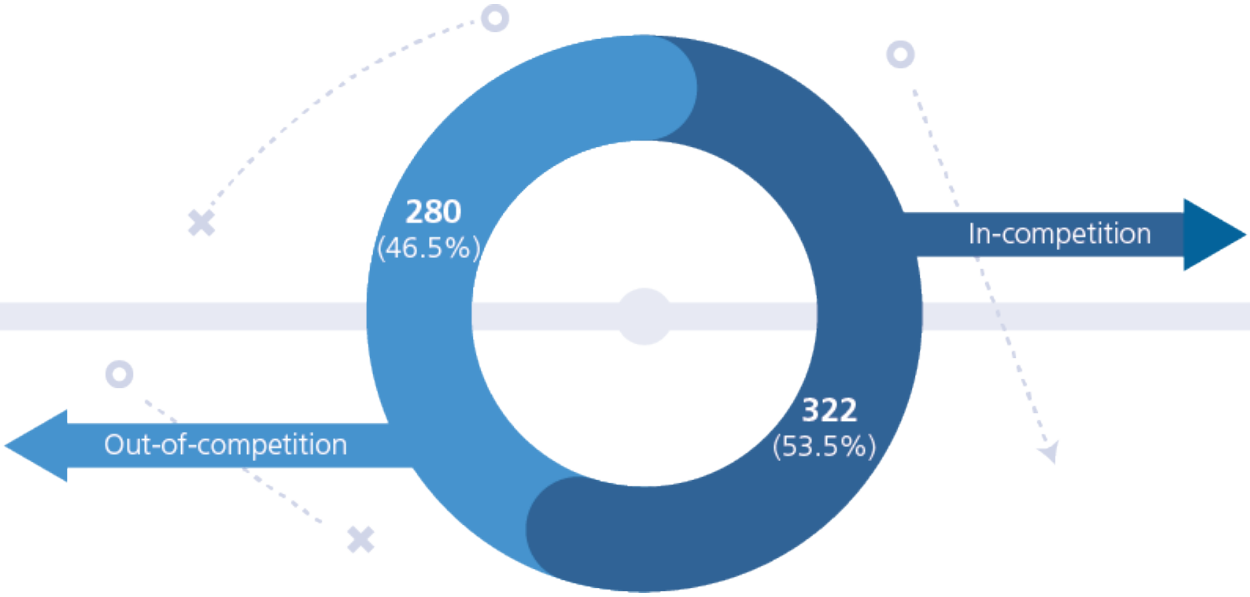
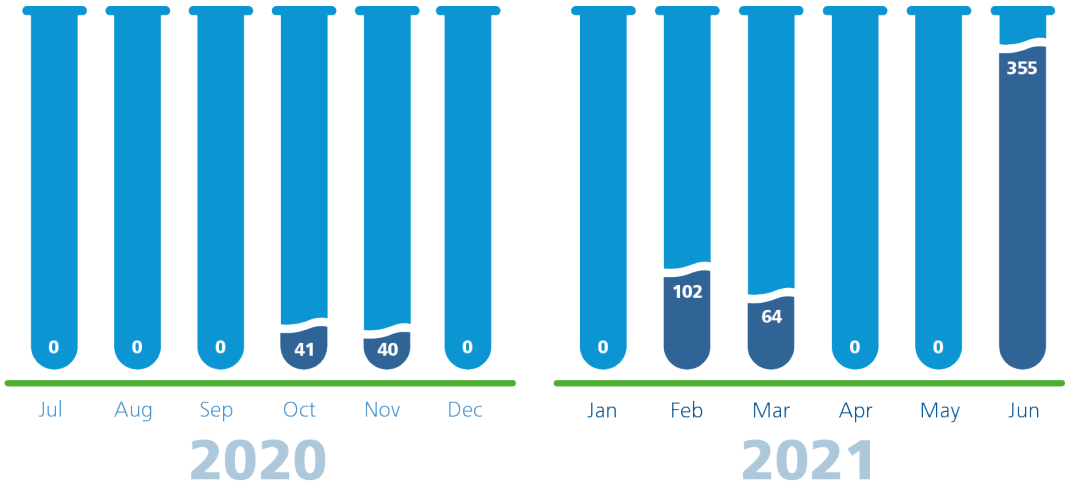


Figure 4 gives an overview of the months in which tests were conducted within the relevant reporting period. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, no tests were conducted in the period from July 2020 up to the end of January 2021, with the notable exception of the FIFA World Cup™ qualifying matches organised by CONMEBOL in November 2020. This was the only international football competition that did not grind to a halt in the second half of 2020.

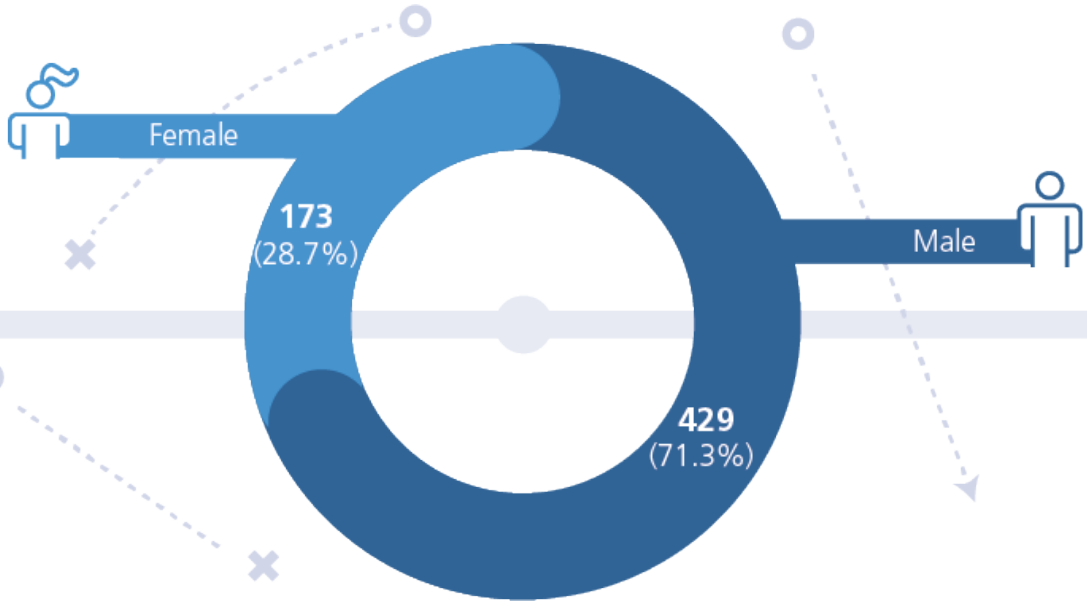
Figure 4: Number of samples by year and month



Test distribution by gender

The events at which doping controls were conducted consisted mainly of men's tournaments, due to the fact that besides the Women's Olympic Football Tournament Tokyo 2020, no women's competitions were scheduled during the relevant reporting period. Therefore, almost 75% of all samples were collected from male football players (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Number of samples by gender



Most-tested member associations

All in all, 50 member associations were represented by at least one of their national teams in the competitions taking place during the reporting period (Figure 6). As such, at least one player of each team had to undergo a doping control test. Figure 7 shows the top ten national teams per number of tests conducted. The numbers are influenced by how many teams from the same member association qualified for or participated in FIFA competitions. Tests conducted at the FIFA Club World Cup Qatar 2020™ are not counted because players represented their clubs at that competition rather than their national team.

Figure 6: Location of member associations subject to doping controls

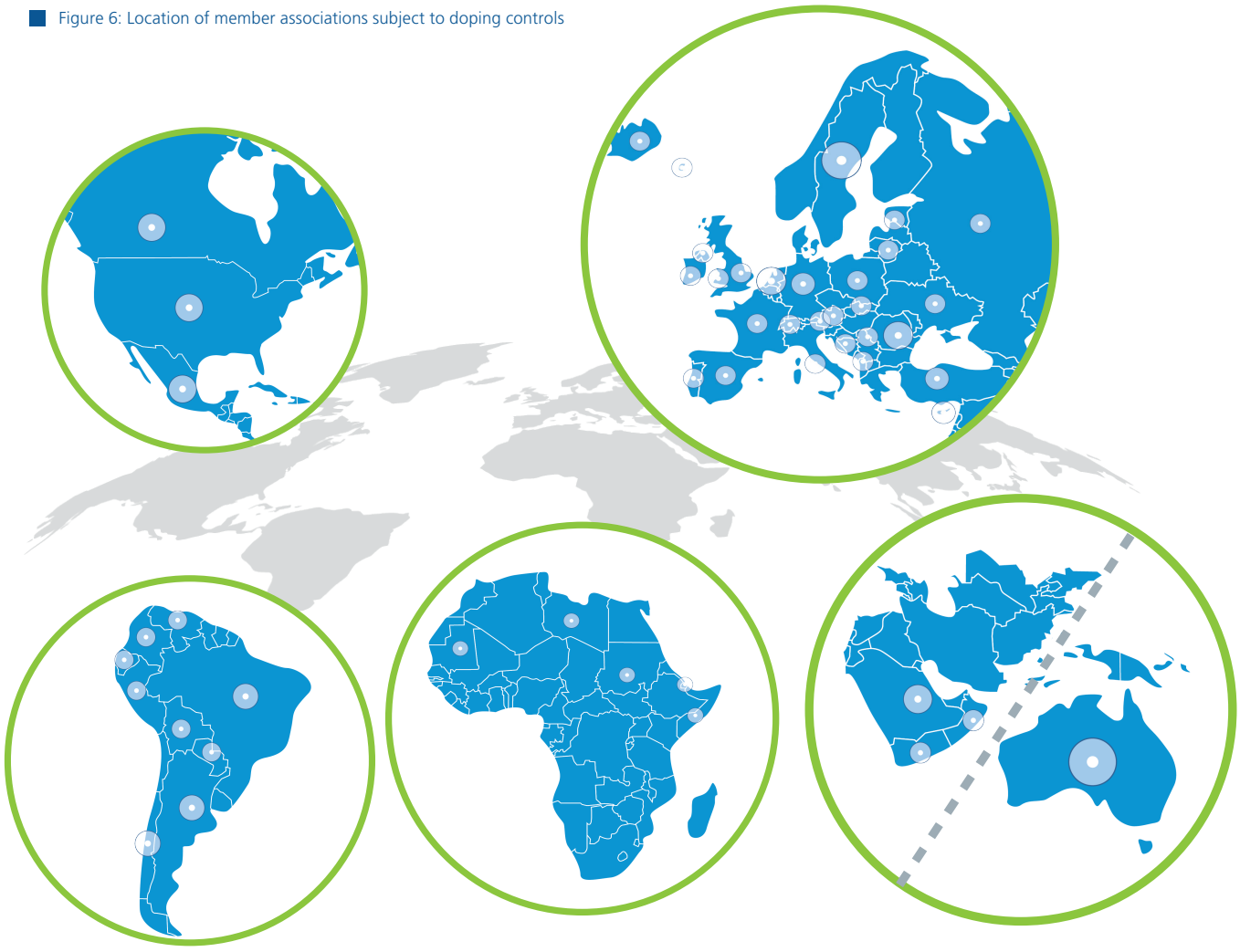
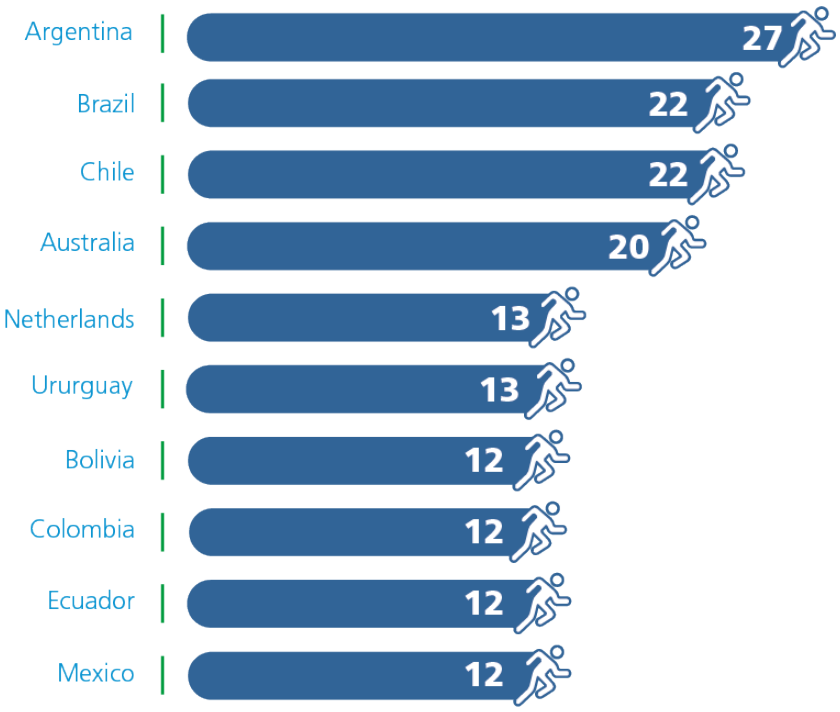


Figure 7: Top ten most-tested member associations by number of tests

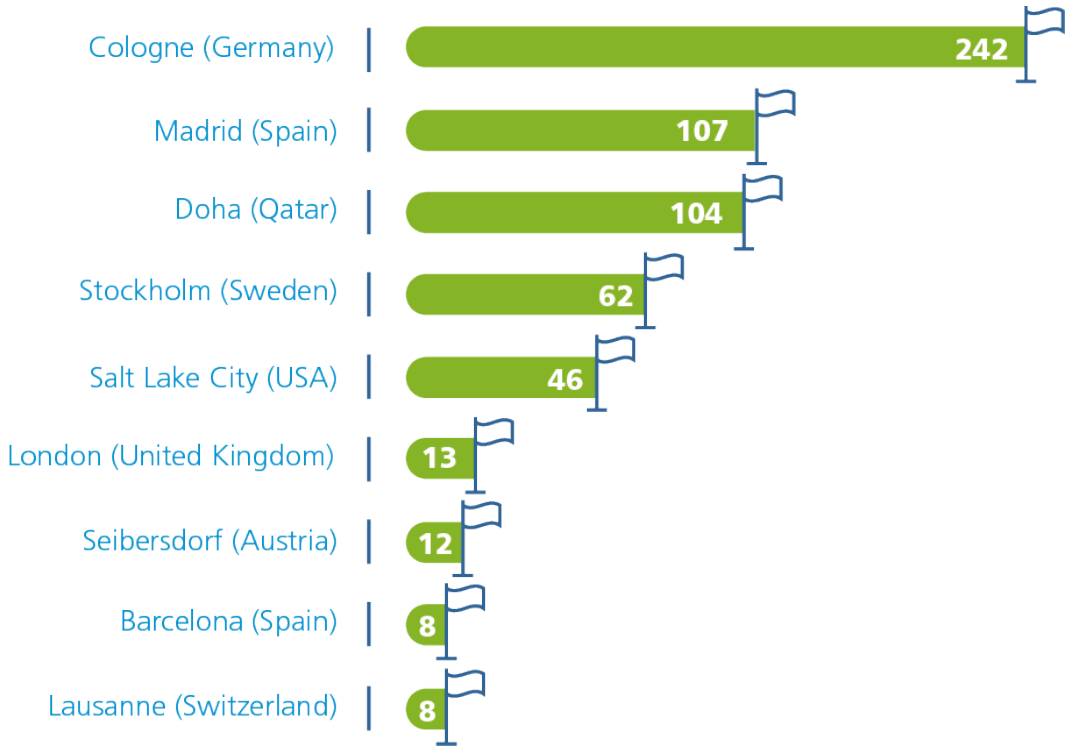


TESTS CONDUCTED AT THE FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP QATAR 2020™ ARE NOT COUNTED BECAUSE PLAYERS REPRESENTED THEIR CLUBS AT THAT COMPETITION RATHER THAN THEIR NATIONAL TEAM

Analysis carried out by WADA-accredited laboratories

For the analysis of samples, FIFA can count on the valuable collaboration of 32 different WADA-accredited laboratories around the world, each one specially equipped to detect the possible presence of prohibited substances or methods. The analysis of the 602 samples was carried out by nine different laboratories.

Figure 8: Number of samples analysed by WADA-accredited laboratories



Anti-doping rule violations

Out of the 602 samples collected, only one of them resulted in an atypical finding. Further investigation into the concentration of the prohibited substance found in this particular sample pointed to the most likely conclusion that meat contamination had been the source of the atypical finding. Following the guidelines put in place by WADA regarding this scenario, it was then decided to not put forward this finding as an adverse analytical finding and to close the case accordingly.

FIFA Club World Cup Qatar 2020™

FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP QATAR 2020™

The winners of the six confederation club tournaments, as well as the host nation's league champions, qualified for the FIFA Club World Cup Qatar 2020™. After the withdrawal of Auckland City FC in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and related measures required by the New Zealand authorities, only six teams competed in the competition, which was held from 1 to 11 February 2021. Following the routine in-competition procedure as described in the FIFA ADR, two players per team were selected for doping control after each of the eight matches to provide urine or blood samples. Altogether, 28 urine and 28 blood samples were collected and analysed at the WADA-accredited laboratory in Doha, Qatar.

None of the samples tested positive for prohibited substances or methods.

NONE OF THE 28 URINE AND 28 BLOOD SAMPLES TESTED POSITIVE FOR PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES OR METHODS

Olympic Football Tournaments Tokyo 2020

OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS TOKYO 2020

FIFA also conducted tests in the reporting period to establish a strong anti-doping test history among the women's and men's national teams participating at the Olympic Football Tournaments in Tokyo.

Although testing had been ongoing in the previous reporting period, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the planned tests for most of 2020. As a result of this, FIFA intensified its testing efforts following the easing of the lockdown restrictions in spring 2021 and included in its testing plans players that had since been called up for their respective teams, in order to make sure that the initial goal of testing a significant number of players playing at the Olympic Football Tournaments could still be reached.

Accordingly, the data presented here exclusively concerns testing conducted in 2021. The 143 tests carried out between November 2019 and February 2020 are not included in this report, although they were part of the overall testing efforts for this tournament. In addition, the testing programme continued in July 2021, which is outside the scope of this report. In the reporting period, 118 tests were conducted, resulting in 313 samples (Figure 10). The distribution among the genders was 140 samples from male players and 173 from female players (Figure 11) to ensure a level playing field, as fewer tests are conducted on female players in their club competitions.

FIFA also worked closely with the International Testing Agency (ITA), which was mandated by the International Olympic Committee to conduct the doping controls during the Tokyo Summer Olympics in-competition period, and made sure that high-quality data for the doping controls conducted would be available to the organisation as well as additional information and intelligence.

Figure 10: Number of samples by sample type

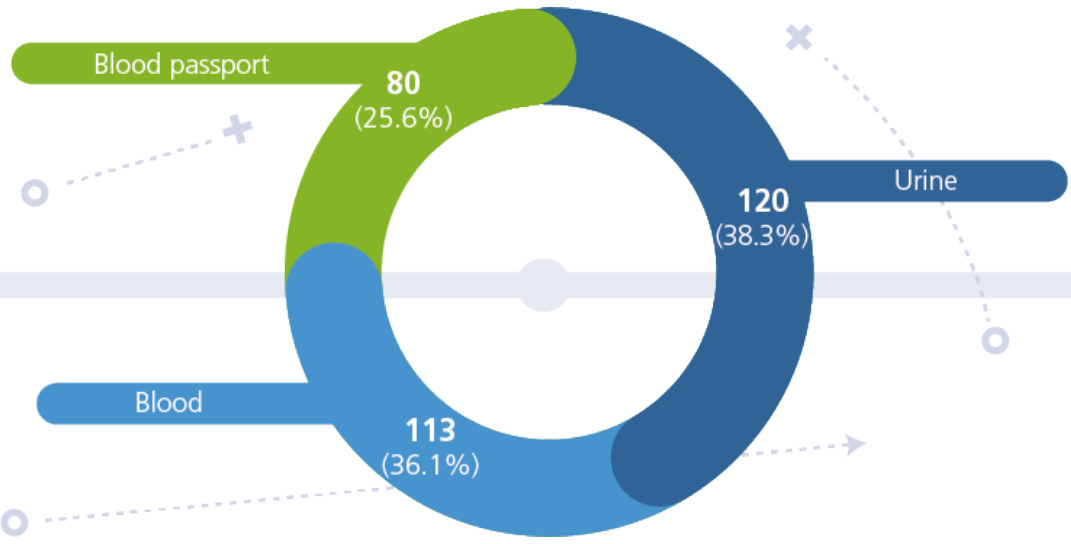
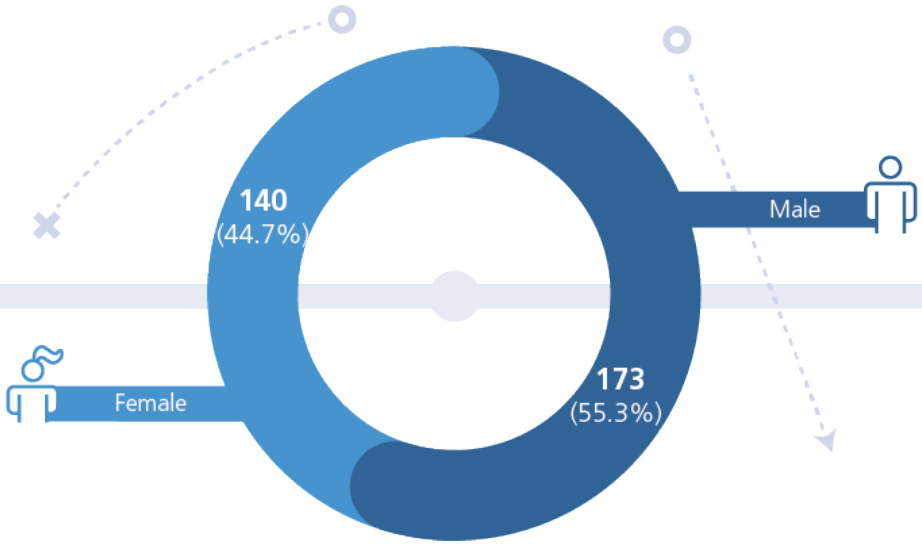
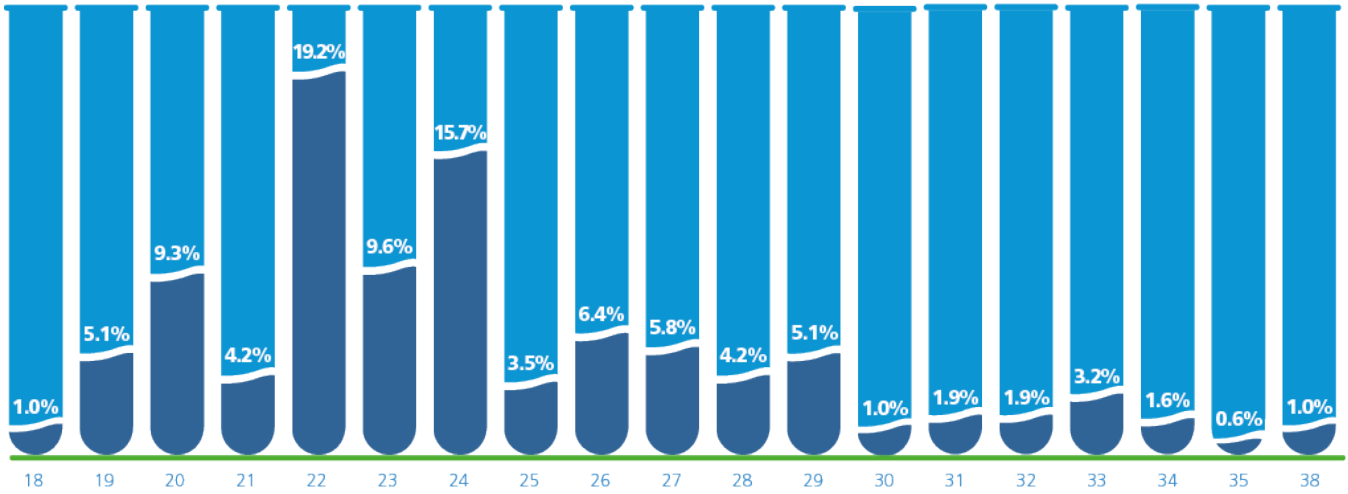


Figure 11: Number of samples by gender



The age distribution among the tests conducted clearly shows that the largest number of samples was collected from players aged 24 or under (Figure 12). This is largely due to the fact that the men's competition rules usually only allow for three players in each team to be older than 23. However, to take into account the postponement of the Olympic Games from 2020 to 2021, this requirement was changed to the age of 24. There are no such age restrictions with regard to the women's competition.

Figure 12: Age distribution by percentage of samples

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FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ qualifiers

FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022™ QUALIFIERS

Qualification for the FIFA World Cup 2022™ involves a series of tournaments organised by the six confederations to determine the 32 teams that will play in the final competition. Of course, those tournaments were also subject to various postponements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, only CONMEBOL was able to organise any qualifying rounds (two) in the second half of 2020, which did, however, feature a strong doping control presence.

The end of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe enabled a large number of doping control tests to be conducted during the European qualifiers in March 2021, while respecting the large number of pandemic countermeasures, such as travel restrictions, quarantine periods and restricted access to stadiums.

At the time of writing, it is expected that all confederations will be in a position to at least partially resume their qualifying tournaments in the next few months, which will see a continuation of the robust testing presence at various matches to ensure that every team that could qualify for the FIFA World Cup Qatar will have been subject to doping controls.

Figure 13: Number of samples by year and month

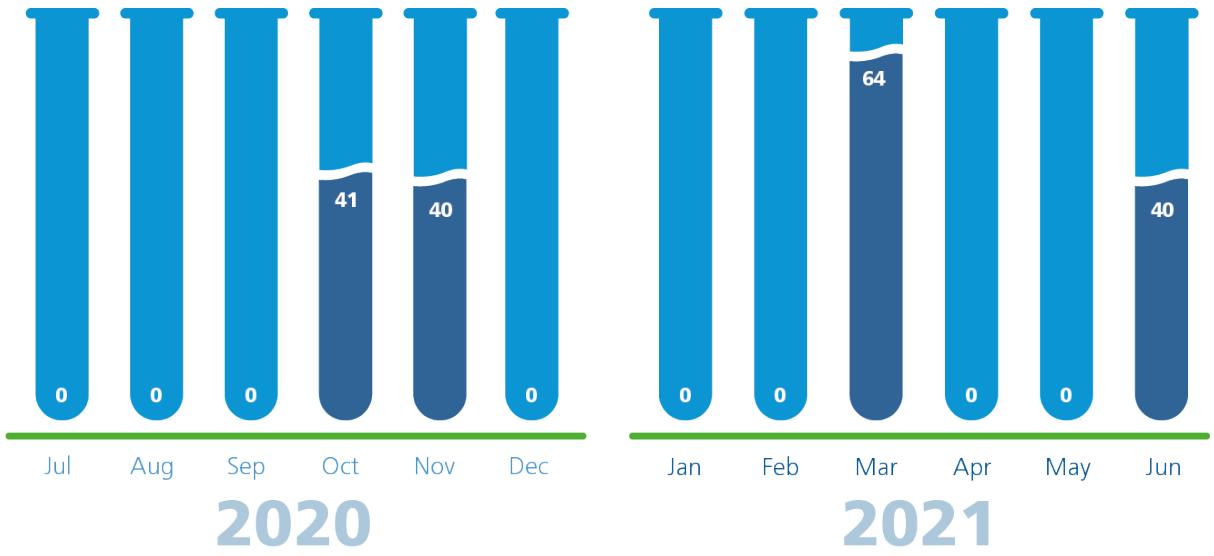

Figure 14: Age distribution by percentage of samples

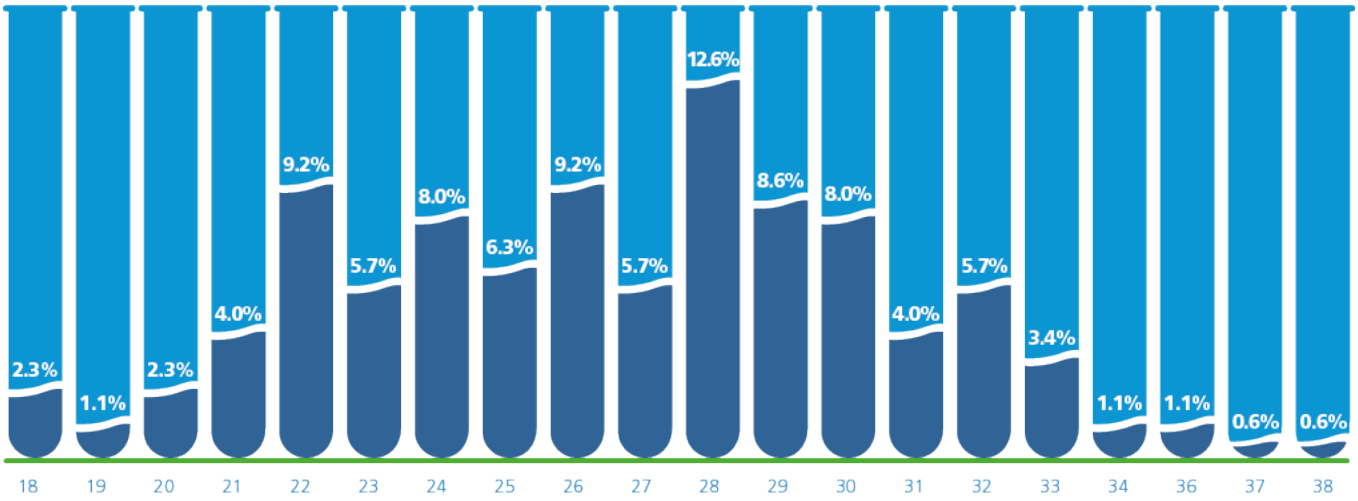

Figure 15: Location of member associations subject to doping controls

FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021™ qualifiers

FIFA ARAB CUP 2021™ QUALIFIERS

The FIFA Arab Cup 2021™ will be held in Qatar between 30 November and 18 December 2021 as a prelude to the FIFA World Cup 2022™. The final competition will feature 16 member associations from the Arab world, including the seven winners of a qualifying competition that took place from 19 to 25 June 2021. On this occasion, FIFA conducted regular in-competition doping controls. Altogether, 24 urine and 24 blood samples were collected and analysed at the WADA-accredited laboratory in Doha, Qatar.

None of the samples tested positive for prohibited substances or methods.

NONE OF THE 24 URINE AND 24 BLOOD SAMPLES TESTED POSITIVE FOR PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES OR METHODS

Other anti-doping activities

FIFA ADR 2021

On 7 November 2019, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Foundation Board approved the new WADA Code, which came into force on 1 January 2021.

FIFA, being a signatory to the WADA Code, incorporated the new rules in its own regulations, which is why the FIFA ADR were revised in the course of 2020. While retaining their core principles and proven processes, the revised FIFA ADR include the changes from the new WADA Code as well as important updates to address the new challenges in the fight against doping in football worldwide.

In order to ensure that the revised FIFA ADR framework was reflected at member association level, FIFA organised a series of online webinars designed to highlight the most important changes, which included providing an overview of the new anti-doping rule violations and disciplinary measures, explaining the content of newly incorporated definitions (such as the revised "in-competition" definition) and illustrating the results management procedure in positive cases. The three webinars, which were held on 22 September, 24 September and 1 October 2020 respectively and streamed online from FIFA's headquarters in Zurich, were attended by a broad spectrum of anti-doping managers from many of FIFA's 211 member associations around the world.

FIFA subsequently contacted each member association, in particular with a view to helping them incorporate the rules and principles established in the revised FIFA ADR, either by implementing them within their own regulatory framework or by directly adopting the FIFA ADR as their own regulatory framework for anti-doping matters.

" The three webinars, which were held in 2020 and streamed from FIFA's headquarters in Zurich, were attended by a broad spectrum of anti-doping managers, many from FIFA's 211 MAs around the world."

FIFA Executive Programme in Anti-Doping

The FIFA Executive Programme in Anti-Doping is aimed at providing an in-depth analysis of the main regulatory, institutional and scientific aspects of anti-doping in sport. Under the direction of FIFA Chief Legal & Compliance Officer Dr Emilio García Silvero and Prof. Antonio Rigozzi, partner at the law firm Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler, the first edition of the programme was launched in October 2020 and attracted 32 lawyers, doctors and sports administrators with an interest in anti-doping from all over the world: from international and national federations, club leagues, players' unions, law firms and/or private institutions.

The programme consists of three modules taught over four days by renowned sports lawyers and sports administrators, each being an experienced practitioner and expert in their respective field. The topics included an in-depth analysis of anti-doping and anti-doping proceedings, provided an insight into the history and current legal framework of the area and presented WADA and the WADA Code. Participants also got to know more about the actual content of anti-doping rule violations in the WADA Code, the results management process and the Prohibited List published by WADA. The course was rounded off with presentations and discussions of the applicable sanctions for anti-doping rule violations, the proceedings and leading decisions at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and took a detailed look at the role of science in the anti-doping framework.

Further anti-doping educational measures and training

In addition to regular testing, anti-doping education is key to combating the use of doping in football. Although the COVID-19 pandemic brought testing in football to a halt, FIFA continued to educate on anti-doping through the extensive use of online webinars and presentations.

In particular, FIFA established a new anti-doping campaign by scripting and animating five videos covering different aspects of the process surrounding doping controls and therapeutic use exemptions as well as the need for the anti-doping programme itself. The videos are now an integral part of various educational sessions aimed at players, team doctors and other officials, especially in the preparations leading up to a tournament.

Furthermore, in order to ensure that doping controls under FIFA's authority are of sufficiently high quality, FIFA conducted online workshops for its doping control officers, informing them about the new FIFA ADR and the revised procedures that came with it, as well as running through the process of correctly notifying the players selected to undergo a doping control and informing them about the COVID-19 countermeasures to be taken during doping controls. It also organised live demonstrations showing the sample collection process for urine and blood, which were streamed live from Zurich to participating doping control officers around the world.

In addition, presentations were given at the AFC Anti-Doping Webinar, and preparations are currently under way for the FIFA Integrity Summit along with additional webinars and seminars scheduled to take place in 2022.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER

With regard to any potential technical references included in this report, please be advised that in the event of any contradiction between this report and the actual text of the relevant regulations, the latter always prevails. Equally, this report cannot alter any existing jurisprudence of the competent decision-making bodies and is without prejudice to any decision which the said bodies might be called upon to pass in the future. In the event of any contradiction between this report and other FIFA publications, the most recent always prevails.

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