

2011 FIFA Club World Cup Guide

by Steve Amoia, [World Football Commentaries](#) for [Beyond The Pitch](#).



Image courtesy of FIFA.



 [Getty Images](#).

Yuto Nagatomo of Internazionale and the Japanese national team pays homage to the earthquake and tsunami victims.

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The eighth edition of the FIFA Club World Cup kicks-off on 8 December 2011 from Toyota, Japan, and the Cup final will take place on 18 December from Yokohoma. There will be eight games played during this mini-tournament. The defending champion is Internazionale Milano.

1. Playing Venues

- Toyota Stadium: Capacity of 45,000. (1)
- International Stadium Yokohoma: Capacity of 72,327. (2)

2. Seven Participating Teams



Image courtesy of FIFA.

Six teams represent the club champions of their respective confederations and the Japanese side, Kashiwa Reysol, will compete as the host. With the exception of FC Barcelona and Auckland City FC who competed in 2006 and 2009, respectively, this will be the first tournament for the other teams. Santos FC won the Intercontinental Cup in 1962 and 1963. (3)

Auckland City FC (New Zealand: Representing OFC).



Al-Sadd Sports Club (Qatar: Representing AFC).



Esperance Sportive De Tunis (Tunisia: Representing CAF).



Club de Futbol Monterrey (Mexico: Representing CONCACAF).



FC Barcelona (Spain: Representing UEFA).



Kashiwa Reysol (Japan: As the host).



Santos Futebol Clube (Brazil: Representing CONMEBOL).



Source: (4)

3. Provisional Team Rosters



AP Photo.

*The past and present of Santos Futebol Clube:
Pelé and Neymar. "Neymar is better than Messi."*

Pelé was quoted by the Madrid sports daily, Marca, about the upcoming tournament. The Brazilian and Santos legend provided his thoughts about a potential final between Santos FC and FC Barcelona, along with an opinion about **Neymar** and **Lionel Messi**:

"Si no hay ningún desastre, el Santos y el Barcelona van a pasar a la final. Estoy seguro de que, si el Santos va a la final y jugándose a un partido, va a ser más duro para el Barcelona que para el Santos".

Pelé afirmó que "la única cosa" en la que el Barcelona supera al Santos es que "ha jugado cuatro años con el mismo equipo", mientras que el club brasileño no ha podido tener regularidad en las alineaciones por las lesiones de centrocampistas como Ganso o Arouca.

"Si se comparan individualmente, Neymar es mejor que Messi. Le pega bien con la zurda, con la diestra, es un excelente jugador. Tiene facilidad de salir para los dos lados, individualmente para mí es el mejor".

"If there is no disaster, Santos and Barcelona are going to make it to the final. I'm certain that, if Santos goes to the final and plays its game, it is going to be more difficult for Barcelona than Santos."

Pele affirmed that 'the only thing' in which Barcelona is superior to Santos is that 'they have played four years with the same team,' while the Brazilian club hasn't been able to maintain the same regularity with its lineups due to injuries to midfielders such as Ganso or Arouca.

"If you compare them individually, Neymar is better than Messi. He kicks well with his left, with his right, and is an excellent player. He can easily play on either side of the pitch. Individually, for me, he is the best." (5)

Here is a link to a PDF file from FIFA for the provisional team rosters:

[Team Rosters](#) (6)

4. Team Managers



 [Getty Images.](#)

Josep "Pep" Guardiola of FC Barcelona.

Al-Sadd Sports Club: **Jorge Fossati**
 Auckland City FC: **Ramon Tribulietx**
 Club de Futbol Monterrey: **Victor Manuel Vucetich**
 Esperance Sportive De Tunis: **Nabil Maaloul**
 FC Barcelona: **Josep Guardiola**
 Kashiwa Reysol: **Nelsinho Baptista**
 Santos Futebol Club: **Muricy Ramalho**

Source: Individual team websites.

5. Fixtures and Tournament Chart

Game 1: 08 December in Toyota: Kashiwa Reysol v. Auckland City FC at 1945.

Game 2: 11 December in Toyota: Winner of Game 1 v. CF Monterrey at 1600.

Game 3: 11 December in Toyota: Esperance Sportive De Tunis v. Al-Sadd Sports Club at 1930.

Game 4: 14 December in Toyota: Fifth Place: Loser of Game 2 v. Loser of Game 3 at 1630.

Game 5: 14 December in Toyota: Semifinal: Winner of Game 2 v. Santos FC at 1930.

Game 6: 15 December in Yokohoma: Semifinal: Winner of Game 3 v. FC Barcelona at 1930.

Game 7: 18 December in Yokohoma: Third Place: Loser of Game 5 v. Loser of Game 6 at 1630.

Game 8: 18 December in Yokohoma: Final: Winner of Game 6 v. Winner of Game 7 at 1930.

Game 1: Play-off 8 December: 1945 Kashiwa Reysol v. Auckland City FC	Game 2: Quarterfinal 11 December: 1600 Winner of Game 1 v. CF Monterrey	Game 3: Quarterfinal 11 December: 1930 Esperance Sportive De Tunis v. Al-Sadd Sports Club	Game 4: 5th Place 14 December: 1630 Loser of Game 2 v. Loser of Game 3
	Game 5: Semifinal 14 December: 1930 Winner of Game 2 v. Santos FC	Game 6: Semifinal 15 December: 1930 Winner of Game 3 v. FC Barcelona	
	Game 7: 3rd Place 18 December: 1630 Loser of Game 5 v. Loser of Game 6	Game 8: Final 18 December: 1930 Winner of Game 5 v. Winner of Game 6	

Source: (7)

6. Time Zone Converter



[Reuters Pictures.](#)

Swiss precision in Zurich, Switzerland.

All games kick-off at Japan Standard Time which is **UTC +9**.

Auckland: +4 hours

Barcelona: -8 hours

Dubai: -5 hours

London: -9 hours

Jakarta: -2 hours

Milan: -8 hours

Monterrey: -15 hours

Moscow: -5 hours

New York: -14 hours

Los Angeles: -17 hours

Rio de Janeiro/Santos: -11 hours

Tunis: -8 hours

Zurich: -8 hours

[Time Zone Converter](#)

7. Match Officials



 [Getty Images](#).

Nicola Rizzoli showing red to **Kevin Prince Boateng** of AC Milan in 2011.

Africa:

Noumandiez Doue of Cote d'Ivoire.
 Djibril Camara of Senegal.
 Songuifolo Yeo of Cote d'Ivoire.

Asia:

Ravshan Irmatov of Uzbekistan.
 Yuichi Nishimura of Japan.
 Bakhadyr Kochkarov of Kyrgyzstan.
 Toshiyuki Nagi of Japan.
 Abdukhamidullo Rasulov of Uzbekistan.
 Toru Sagura of Japan.

CONCACAF:

Joel Aguilar of El Salvador.
 William Torres Mejia of El Salvador.
 Juan Zumba of El Salvador.

CONMEBOL:

Enrique Osses of Chile.
 Carlos Astroza of Chile.
 Francisco Mondria of Chile.

Oceania:

Peter O'Leary of New Zealand.
Jan Hendrik Hintz of New Zealand.
Ravinesh Kumar of Fiji.

UEFA:

Nicola Rizzoli of Italy.
Renato Faverani of Italy.
Andrea Stefani of Italy.

Source: (8)

References

- (1) [FIFA World Club Cup: Destination: Toyota](#)
- (2) [FIFA World Club Cup: Destination: International Stadium Yokohoma](#)
- (3) [Intercontinental Cup: History](#)
- (4) [FIFA World Club Cup: Teams.](#)
- (5) ["Pele: Neymar es mejor de Messi"; Marca.com; 30 November 2011.](#)
- (6) [FIFA World Club Cup: Provisional List of Players](#)
- (7) [FIFA World Club Cup: Matches](#)
- (8) [FIFA World Club Cup: Referees](#)

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