

Official Rules

4Schoolers FIFA World Cup 2026 Prediction Challenge

1. What Is This Competition?

A **free** data science competition where high school teams predict the outcomes of international football (soccer) matches. Teams use machine learning to forecast which team will win—or if the match will end in a draw.

Two Stages:

1. **Stage 1 (Remote):** Build models, submit predictions on Kaggle, write methodology reports
2. **Stage 2 (Boston):** Top 8 teams travel to Boston for live paper trading during World Cup knockout rounds

2. Who Can Compete?

Students

- Ages 14-18 (high school level)
- No prior data science experience required
- Must be enrolled at a high school or equivalent

Teams

- **3 to 5 students** from the same school
- One designated **Team Captain** (must be 16+ years old)
- One **Advisor** (teacher or school staff member)

3. How Does It Work?

Stage 1: Kaggle Competition (Remote)

Registration	February 3 - April 2, 2026
Phase 1A: Predictions	April 3 - May 15, 2026 (6 weeks)
Phase 1B: Reports	May 15 - May 29, 2026 (Top 20 teams)
Advancement	Top 8 teams advance to Stage 2 (announced June 5)

Stage 2: Live Paper Trading (Boston)

- **Dates:** July 7-19, 2026
- **Format:** Predict live World Cup knockout matches in real-time
- **Outcome:** 1st, 2nd, 3rd place announced on World Cup Final day

4. What Are the Rules?

Data Rules

You MAY use:

- All provided training data
- Public data sources (FIFA rankings, historical stats)
- Online tutorials and learning resources

You MAY NOT use:

- Actual results of 2025 matches
- Paid data sources
- Someone else's predictions

Academic Integrity

- All work must be your own team's effort
- Cite any external resources you use
- AI tools (ChatGPT, etc.) are allowed but must be disclosed
- **Plagiarism = disqualification**

5. Prizes

Place	Award
1st Place	Trophy + Certificates + Website Feature
2nd Place	Trophy + Certificates
3rd Place	Trophy + Certificates
Top 8	Trip to Boston + Finalist Certificate
Top 20	Semifinalist Certificate
All Teams	Participation Certificate

6. Questions?

Email: competition@4schoolers.com

Website: <https://4schoolers.com/worldcup2026>

By registering, teams agree to follow these rules and accept judges' decisions as final.