



# World Cup 2026 – Rolling Risk Brief

Issue: 08 Date/Time: 24 June 2026 | 09:00 EST Coverage Period: 24 – 30 June 2026

## Executive Snapshot

### Key Shift Since Last Brief:

- The tournament is approaching the end of the Group Stage matches, with the Round of 32 scheduled for June 28. Matches have taken place in all 16 host cities across Mexico, the US, and Canada, and no major security incidents have been reported. However, celebratory gatherings and fan zones may still experience fan-related altercations, as well as mobility and logistics constraints.
- Protests scheduled in the US and Mexico will likely lead to increased congestion in major cities such as Mexico City, New York, and Miami. While these protests are expected to remain peaceful, street and highway blockades – especially in Mexico – could affect travel times and intercity mobility.
- US and Iranian officials are negotiating in Switzerland on further steps to end the conflict between the two countries. A framework agreement was previously announced on 14 June to end the conflict that included promises an end to military operations, cessation of a US blockade and opening of the Strait of Hormuz, and a 60-day period of nuclear negotiations. However, conflict has remained ongoing in southern Lebanon, complicating peace efforts.
- Tropical Storm Arthur impacted the coast of Texas near Houston on 17 June, dissipating. However, remnants of the storm continued to move east into additional southern states, including Atlanta, Georgia, causing storms and heavy rains which impacted World Cup events in the city. Arthur's remnants have since moved away from Atlanta and weather forecasts appear calmer. However, rain is still expected in most of Mexico across the week.

### Highest Attention Cities (Next 7 Days):

- **Seattle** – on 26 June, Iran and Egypt will compete in a match previously designated as the city's "LGBTQ+ Pride Match." Both Iran and Egypt had previously requested that FIFA and the city cancel the celebrations, which was denied.
- **Los Angeles** – Los Angeles is scheduled to host a home game for USA versus Turkiye on 25 June. Crowds throughout the city are likely to be particularly large and boisterous throughout matchday. LAPD has surged personnel for the World Cup, and enhanced security measures including crowd-control and road closures are likely.
- **Mexico City** – Mexico's capital is expected to remain under sustained pressure throughout the coming week as it prepares to host Mexico's final group-stage match against Czechia on 24 June, Pride celebrations on 27 June, and a Round of 32 fixture involving Mexico on 30 June. Large crowds are anticipated around Banorte Stadium, the Fan Fest at Zocalo, Angel de la Independencia, and the Reforma–Roma–Condesa corridor, generating significant pressure on transport networks, public spaces, and city services.



## Analyst View

The tournament enters its third week without major security incidents. Authorities in the US, Mexico and Canada have thus far successfully managed a range of challenges from protest groups, numerous large, animated fan bases and local level dynamics, all against the backdrop of a heightened terror threat environment.

The protest dynamic in Mexico is changing. In Mexico City, the National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE) union has ended their protests in the city center, permitting the circulation of pedestrians and vendors. Nonetheless, transport unions have planned a nationwide demonstration, including roadblocks on highways into Mexico City on 24 June, which is liable to cause considerable disruption. Meanwhile, Mexico is currently scheduled to play a Knockout Stage match on 30 June in Mexico City, which will bring significant crowds to the Angel de Independencia and other key sites in the city.

The ceasefire in Iran remains shaky. Last week, US authorities announced an agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding, though operations in Lebanon and Iran's announcement that it had again closed the Strait of Hormuz cast doubt on its durability. Meanwhile, the Iranian hacktivist group Handala claimed to have infiltrated FBI operated drones and threatened to target unnamed national teams, though this claim was relatively quickly debunked. Iran and Egypt will compete on 26 June in Seattle's designated "LGBTQ+ Pride Match," which will proceed as planned despite requests from both teams. The match serves as an intersection of geopolitical tensions and cultural fault lines. Authorities will be concerned about the potential for isolated acts of violence, but are well positioned to intercept and/or respond to threats.

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## What's Changed (Since Last Issue)

### New Developments

- Toronto police have announced the arrest of several individuals behind shootings that targeted Jewish synagogues and the US Consulate, and killed a police officer. The individuals are accused of operating on behalf of a foreign entity who hired them to carry out the crimes. Authorities did not further elaborate on the origin, although this comes amid greatly heightened tensions in the Middle East. No credible threat against the World Cup is currently known.
- On 27 June, anti-administration rallies are scheduled throughout the US by the 50501 Movement. This will include the New York City and Miami metropolitan areas, who are hosting matches that day. 50501 protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful thus far. However, the combination of demonstrations and matches is likely to cause considerable disruption.
- Attention is shifting to the transport workers' union AMOTAC, which has announced nationwide demonstrations and highway blockades on 24 June. Although the greatest impact is expected in Mexico City, disruptions could affect key highways connecting the capital with Puebla, Queretaro, Cuernavaca, and Pachuca, constraining both urban and intercity mobility. The demonstrations will add pressure to an already active protest environment, including search collectives and relatives of missing persons.

### De-escalations / Stabilising Factors

- The Mexican government successfully negotiated an agreement with the CNTE, leading the group to suspend its mobilizations and dismantle its encampment in Mexico City's Zocalo. The development is expected to ease pressure on the city center, facilitate the reopening of businesses and cultural sites, and improve conditions for Fan Fest activities and public gatherings. Although authorities are likely to continue engaging with other protest groups, including the AMOTAC, there is limited time to secure a comparable settlement before the group's planned 24 June demonstrations.

### Key External Factors:

- While negotiations between the US and Iran remain ongoing, a permanent end to the conflict between them has not been settled upon, and fighting could renew with little warning. Thus, security involving matches with Iran will remain elevated, particularly in Seattle, where Iran is due to play Egypt on 26 June.

### Methodology Note

This rolling brief applies the baseline risk and Fan Tension Index (FTI) methodology outlined in the World Cup 2026 Risk Outlook, updated to reflect current conditions and developments.



## Forward Look (Next 7 Days)

### High-Attention Fixtures

- 24 June: Scotland vs Brazil in Miami
- 25 June: Ecuador vs Germany in New Jersey
- 25 June: USA vs Turkiye in Los Angeles
- 26 June: Egypt vs Iran in Seattle
- 26 June: Uruguay vs Spain in Guadalajara
- 27 June: Panama vs England in New Jersey
- 27 June: Colombia vs Portugal in Miami
- 30 June: Mexico vs TBD in Mexico City

### Pressure Outlook

- **Vancouver** - Workers in Metro Vancouver launched a single day strike on 15 June, before entering mediation. This had impacts on regional parks, watersheds, water and sewer infrastructure, and construction sites. While workers are again on the job, representatives of the union have stated that they could return to striking at any time if they perceive their demands are not being properly addressed by Metro Vancouver. A return to strikes could impact events at BC Place in Vancouver and Fan Fest activities.
- **Guadalajara** – Guadalajara will host the Uruguay v Spain match on 26 June, the city's final World Cup fixture. This is likely to attract large crowds to Akron Stadium, the Fan Fest in Plaza de la Liberacion, and entertainment districts across the metropolitan area. Increased attendance, combined with post-match celebrations and fan gatherings, is likely to place additional pressure on transport networks, public spaces, and security resources. While significant public-order incidents remain unlikely, isolated fan-related altercations, alcohol-related disorder, and localized mobility disruptions cannot be ruled out, particularly around fan zones, nightlife districts, and key transport corridors.

### Emerging Watchpoints

- The upcoming World Cup matches in Mexico warrant continued monitoring due to their potential to generate large-scale gatherings beyond official venues. Mexico's fixtures in Mexico City on 24 and 30 June are particularly likely to drive spontaneous celebrations and crowd concentrations in key urban centers, especially if the national team progresses further in the tournament. Similar dynamics may emerge around the South Africa v South Korea match in Monterrey on 24 June. The principal risk remains severe congestion and mobility disruption around Fan Fest locations, entertainment districts, and major public spaces, particularly in Mexico City. Forecast heavy rainfall across much of the country is likely to further constrain mobility and complicate matchday logistics.
- High heat will pose risks to tournament fixtures, team trainings, fan zone activities, and daily activities in a number of host cities in the United States. Houston, Los Angeles, Seattle, Dallas are all forecast by the National Weather Service (NWS) to have a moderate HeatRisk (middle on a five-tier scale) which affects those who are sensitive to heat, especially those without cooling/hydration, and some health systems and industries. Miami is forecast to have a major HeatRisk (second highest on a five-tier scale) which affects anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems and industries.



## City Spotlight – Miami

**Current Posture:** Elevated

### Key Pressure Points:

- Miami will host both Scotland vs Brazil on 24 June and Colombia vs Portugal on 27 June. Both fixture will draw large crowds of visiting and local fans as national and international attention.
- The Miami area continues to register dangerous levels of heat, according to the National Weather Service, presenting risks to anyone without proper hydration or cooling.
- Brush fires in the Miami area have prompted authorities to issue warnings about road travel and air quality.
- City officials have asked residents and visitors to prepare for high levels of traffic congestion on match days, particularly in the Miami Gardens area.

### Implications:

- Two high attention matches across this reporting window will bring thousands of visitors to Miami. No major related security issues have been reported to this point. Nonetheless, the concentration of visiting fans will lead to considerable disruption in the downtown and tourist districts along with designated Fan Fest areas. Both Scotland and Brazil have had notably large and active travelling fan contingents, which may lead to additional disruption.
- Residents and visitors will need to plan ahead in order to contend with the health threats posed by the ongoing heatwave and brushfires.
- According to the National Hurricane Center, there is currently no tropical cyclone activity expected in or around Miami during this reporting window.

### Implications for Organizations

- Reconfirm transportation plans and allow substantial buffer times for all airport, hotel, and stadium transfers; road closures and security checkpoints are likely to cause significant delays on match days.
- Ensure workforce are aware of the prevailing health threats and plan to minimize exposure to the heat, reduce physical activity and stay well hydrated. They should follow local health officials' guidance surrounding air quality. Have them download the [Heat Awareness Infographic here](#).
- Use vetted transport providers and confirm access arrangements before departure. Allow additional travel time, as vehicle access around Hard Rock (Miami) Stadium may be restricted, requiring pedestrians to walk from designated drop-off locations.
- Consult official sources regularly for updates on road closures, access points, security perimeters, and recommended routes to Hard Rock Stadium and Fan Fest locations.

## Reporting Cadence

		Cadence	Coverage Window
09	1 Jul	Weekly	1–7 Jul
10	8 Jul	Weekly	8–14 Jul
11	15 Jul	Weekly	15–21 Jul