



World Cup 2026 – Rolling Risk Brief

Issue: 09 Date/Time: 1 July 2026 | 09:00 EST **Coverage Period:** 1 – 7 July 2026

Executive Snapshot

Key Shift Since Last Brief:

- The transition from the group stage to the knockout rounds represents a shift in the tournament's risk profile. As each match becomes a single-elimination contest, fan intensity, international travel, and media attention become increasingly concentrated, elevating the potential for crowd-related disruption and operational pressure around key fixtures and host cities.
- The tournament's operational center of gravity will shift further towards the US over the coming week. Canada will host its final match on 7 July and Mexico on 5 July, after which all remaining fixtures will take place in the US. However, Fan Festivals and other public viewing events will continue across all three host countries through the final, maintaining localized pressure on public spaces, transport networks, and security resources.
- The US and Iran exchanged fire on 27-28 June after Iran struck a civilian vessel attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz. Both sides accused one another of violating the ongoing ceasefire. However, large spread exchanges of fire have not resumed as a result of the incidents.
- Operational pressure is expected to increase across several host cities as adverse weather, overlapping World Cup and Major League Baseball (MLB) fixtures, and US Independence Day celebrations coincide. Heavy rainfall is likely to continue affecting mobility in Mexico City, while heatwaves are forecast across parts of the US, including Atlanta, increasing pressure on transport networks and emergency services.
- Security measures are likely to become more visible during the knockout stage following recent shootings near Fan Zones in Mexico and the US, despite no indication that the incidents were tournament-related. Reinforced deployments, enhanced screening, and emotionally charged eliminatory fixtures may also increase the likelihood of isolated fan-related confrontations and localized public order incidents.

Highest Attention Cities (Next 7 Days):

- **San Francisco** – The US vs Bosnia and Herzegovina fixture is due to take in San Francisco on 1 July after both teams advanced out of group stages and into the knockout rounds. The Bay Area is likely to have a surge of fans to watch the game in person, at the Fan Fest, or other local venues. This surge is likely to put additional pressures on local authorities for crowd control measures and to prevent public disorder.
- **United States Host Cities** – Urban centres nationwide, including all American host cities, will have activities commemorating American Independence Day on 4 July. This year marks the 250th year of American independence, and celebrations are larger than previous years. Many cities are hosting festivals and parades which will run in parallel with World Cup activities. This will cause overland travel disruptions and have ample law enforcement presence.





Analyst View

The tournament enters the knockout stage without any major security incidents directly affecting World Cup events. This week represents a tipping point in the competition, as Mexico and Canada host their final matches before the remaining tournament shifts entirely to the US. Consequently, operational pressure is expected to become increasingly concentrated across US host cities, where the knockout stage will coincide with Independence Day celebrations, Major League Baseball fixtures, and other large public gatherings. In Mexico, authorities have shown an increased ability to negotiate with protest groups, reducing the likelihood of sustained disruption; nevertheless, further mobilizations remain capable of affecting mobility and logistics around the remaining fixtures. In the US, elevated tensions with Iran continue to represent an indirect operational concern despite Iran's elimination from the tournament, as conflict-related demonstrations could still constrain roads and public spaces in major urban centers. These overlapping dynamics, together with persistent adverse weather – including heavy rainfall in Mexico and heatwaves across parts of the US – are likely to increase pressure on transport networks, emergency services, and security resources.

Security perception is also likely to become more sensitive following several shootings near World Cup-related locations, including the Zocalo Fan Fest in Mexico City, central Monterrey, and San Pedro Square Fan Zone in San Jose, California. Although the incidents appear targeted and unrelated to the tournament, their proximity to Fan Zones may prompt more visible security deployments, surveillance, and enhanced screening at public viewing areas. At the same time, the eliminatory nature of the knockout rounds will increase pressure on teams and supporters. While widespread fan-related disorder remains unlikely, emotionally charged fixtures and larger supporter gatherings could increase the likelihood of isolated confrontations and scuffles, particularly as the tournament approaches the final rounds.

What's Changed (Since Last Issue)

New Developments

- On 27 June anti-administration rallies took place in urban centers across the US, including numerous host cities such as New York City, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. These protests proceeded peacefully and no major security incidents nor disruptions to World Cup activities were noted.
- Philadelphia will be holding the largest Independence Day festival in the US before and on 4 July. Numerous concerts throughout the city will take place, along with street parties and parades. The celebration culminates with a fireworks show on 4 July. Extensive street closures will take place in the city and heightened security has been reported.
- Security has been reinforced around key World Cup locations following fatal shootings near the Zocalo Fan Fest in Mexico City on 26 June and in central Monterrey on 30 June. Although both incidents appear linked to localized criminal dynamics rather than the tournament itself, they are likely to reinforce security deployments and police presence in both city centers. Further targeted security operations and localized disruption remain possible as authorities continue efforts against criminal groups.
- A shooting took place in the evening at San Pedro Square Fan Zone in San Jose (California), killing one and wounding another individual on 28 June. However, the shooting took place after fans had dispersed.

De-escalations / Stabilising Factors

- In Vancouver, the Greater Vancouver Regional District Employees' Union (GVRDEU) launched a one-day strike on 15 June. However, they agreed to enter negotiations which remain ongoing.
- The Mexican government reached an agreement with the AMOTAC transport workers' union late on 23 June, demobilizing the group ahead of its planned nationwide protest on 24 June. While further protests remain likely during the tournament, this reduces the probability of highly disruptive blockades affecting key routes and thoroughfares in all of Mexico's host cities.

Key External Factors:

- The US and Iran remain in negotiations surrounding an end to the conflict between the two countries. Although smaller ceasefire violations have occurred, they have not yet derailed negotiations. Although the elimination of the Iranian team has removed some risk, a possible resumption of conflict could prompt civil unrest and other disruptions in the US.

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

- 01 July: England vs Democratic Republic of Congo in Atlanta
- 01 July: Belgium vs Senegal in Seattle
- 01 July: USA vs Bosnia and Herzegovina in San Francisco
- 02 July: Spain vs Austria in Los Angeles
- 02 July: Portugal vs Croatia in Toronto
- 02 July: Switzerland vs Algeria in Vancouver
- 03 July: Australia vs Egypt in Dallas

Pressure Outlook

- **Houston**- On 4 July, the city will host a round of 16 knockout match between Canada and a to be determined opponent. Additionally, the Houston Astros will play the Tampa Bay Rays that day. The two matches will take place in conjunction with Independence Day celebrations. Expect widespread traffic disruptions and a law enforcement presence that is stretched thin between commemorative events and protecting the World Cup fixture and baseball game.
- **Mexico City** – Mexico City is likely to remain the country's principal pressure point during the first week of July. Should Mexico defeat Ecuador on 30 June, large spontaneous celebrations are expected to continue into the following days around Angel de la Independencia, Reforma Avenue, Roma, Condesa, and other entertainment districts. Attention will then shift to the city's final World Cup fixture on 5 July, which is likely to generate further crowd concentrations around official Fan Fest locations, public viewing areas, and the Banorte Stadium. Persistent heavy rainfall may further compound mobility constraints and event logistics throughout the week.

Emerging Watchpoints

- Heavy rainfall is expected to remain a key operational consideration throughout the coming week. Flooding between 27 and 28 June affected areas surrounding Banorte Stadium, constrained mobility, and prompted emergency service deployments, while central and northern districts of Mexico City also experienced localized disruption. The National Meteorological Service forecasts continued showers and heavy rainfall across central Mexico through at least 4 July, increasing the risk of flash flooding, reduced visibility, and localized road closures. These conditions are likely to further affect access routes, Fan Fest operations, and matchday logistics on 5 July, when the last game in Mexico City will be played.
- Weather patterns continue to pose risk to fans and teams throughout the US. A major heatwave is affecting portions of the Mid-Atlantic, Midwest and South. The National Weather Service has New York, Kansas City, Philadelphia, and Boston under Major HeatRisk warning (second highest on a five-tier scale), indicating the heat affects anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems and industries. Atlanta is under an Extreme HeatRisk warning (highest on a five-tier scale) indicating rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with no overnight relief affecting anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems, industries, and infrastructure.





City Spotlight – Atlanta

Current Posture: Elevated

Key Pressure Points:

- England is set to play the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 1 July. Enhanced security can be expected around Mercedes Benz Stadium and the Fan Fest on match day.
- The Atlanta Braves are also scheduled to host the St. Louis Cardinals on the evening of 1 July. Atlanta is well-known for its severe traffic and two sporting events on the same day will exacerbate traffic concerns.
- Atlanta continues to experience dangerous levels of heat, with extreme temperatures and limited overnight relief expected, according to the National Weather Service, presenting risks for anyone without reliable cooling or hydration.

Implications:

- Residents and visitors will need to plan ahead in order to contend with the health threats posed by the ongoing heatwave.
- The baseball game and World Cup fixture on the same day is likely to strain public transportation and highway infrastructure throughout Atlanta. Delays in overland travel can be expected.

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 throughout the match day.
- Use vetted transport providers and confirm access arrangements before departure. Allow additional travel time, as vehicle access around Mercedes-Benz 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 Mercedes-Benz Stadium and Fan Fest locations.
- Ensure local workforce is aware of the prevailing health threats and plans to minimize exposure to the heat, reduce physical activity and stay well hydrated.

Reporting Cadence

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