

Qatar 2022 World Cup: Italy or Portugal will miss the tournament, after the playoff draw

The qualifiers will be played in March 2022, in the next UEFA international break

Barquisimeto, Lara Nov 29, 2021 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - VENEZUELA - The new report, written by the Venezuelan journalist [Tomás Elías González Benítez](#), compiles the qualifying crosses of the Qatar 2022 World Cup. Portugal or Italy will not play the most essential football championship in the world.

The **soccer bombing** on Friday immediately jumped in all the international media: **Italy or Portugal**, at least one of the last two European champions, **will not play the next World Cup**.

Both countries are framed in the same playoff tie, which forces them, in case of overcoming the first match, to meet in a hypothetical final for a single place in the next World Cup in Qatar.

How do the playoffs work?

The playoffs will occur from **March 24 to 29**, with 10 group runners-up joined by the top two group winners from the 2020/21 UEFA Nations League overall ranking. They have not been directly classified as group winners or entered the playoffs.

These 12 teams will be divided into **three unique semi-final playoff routes and one final**.

The three winners of the route qualify for the World Cup.

Austria, North Macedonia, Turkey, Poland, Ukraine, and the Czech Republic are not seeded.

Portugal vs. Italy

Italy will initially face North Macedonia, and **Portugal will face Turkey**, and if both seeded nations emerge unscathed from those ties, they will then face off for a place in the 2022 World Cup.

That means that the 2022 World Cup will not feature the winners of Euro 2020, or Cristiano Ronaldo.

“It’s not a big draw, it could have been a little better”, Italy coach **Roberto Mancini** said.

“Both we and Portugal will have to win a game first to see each other later. They are complicated and very closed encounters. As we would have liked to avoid them, they too”, said the coach regarding a possible final against Portugal.

The two European champions will serve at home in the semifinals, while **the final will be played at the stadium of the Portugal-Turkey winner**.

That is, if Italy passes, the *Azzurra* will play their ticket to the World Cup for a single match in someone else's field.

The **Italian nightmare** of missing out on the World Cup for the second time in a row after failing to qualify for Russia 2018 is getting closer and closer to reality.

There will be another local rivalry in the final leg as British neighbors **Scotland and Wales** could unite in the last if they beat Ukraine and Austria, respectively.

Without a giant

The result of the draw means that one of the last two winners of the European Championship will not be in the 2022 World Cup.

It also means excellent possibilities for teams like **Scotland and Austria**, who were not present at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

All eyes will also be on some great talents, such as **Cristiano Ronaldo, Marco Verratti, Robert Lewandowski, Gareth Bale, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, or David Alaba**, who could miss the tournament.

With just three of the 12 teams set to progress, **heartbreak is assured** for some of the biggest names in soccer.

The pairings

Scotland vs. Ukraine

Russia vs. Poland

Italy vs. North Macedonia

Wales vs. Austria

Sweden vs. the Czech Republic

Portugal vs. Turkey

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