



FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP UAE 2024

FASE FINALE



CARTELLA STAMPA

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A CURA DI FIGC / COMUNICAZIONE & UFFICIO STAMPA

FROM 15 TO 24 FEBRUARY

BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP ITALY VS. USA IN THE OPENING MATCH IN DUBAI ON THURSDAY

In the United Arab Emirates, the 12th edition of the FIFA World Cup begins: the Azzurri open the tournament (RaiSport 12:30).

■ Three days until the start of the **FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup**, scheduled in Dubai from February 15th to 25th: among the 16 contenders, Italy is also present, returning to the World Cup after missing the 2021 tournament.

Placed in Group A, they will face the United States in the tournament's opening match on Thursday, February 15th (12:30 pm live on RaiSport), then Egypt (on the 17th at the same time, live on RaiPlay), and on the 19th, the third group match against the host United Arab Emirates (4:30 pm, RaiSport).

THE ITALIAN NATIONAL TEAM. Led by coach Emiliano Del Duca, reached the United Arab Emirates recently, after initial preparations at the CPO in Tirrenia and a second phase in Muscat, Oman, where they played friendly matches against Saudi Arabia (5-3 win) and Oman (two losses, 4-5 and 2-3). These matches were decisive for the final squad selection, with Del Duca announcing the 12-player list for the World Cup on February 4th, aiming for a mix of experience (including Carpita, Gentilin, and Zurlo, veterans from the 2019 second-place finish) and youth (such as Bertacca and Fazzini born in 2001), leaving out Paterniti, Shalabi, Sassari, and Percia Montani who returned to Italy recently. Among the squad is Fabio Sciacca, who participated in the 2009 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Egypt, having made his Serie A debut with Catania. The selected players, all amateurs, mostly come from Tuscan clubs (5 out of 12, with 3 from Viareggio being the most represented, 1 from San Miniato and Pietrasanta), mainly playing in the Promotion league. During the summer, they compete in the Serie A of beach soccer: 5 with Farmaè Viareggio, 2 with Catania BS, and Alsa Lab Napoli.

After finalizing the squad, Italy had their last tests in Dubai last week against Colombia (lost 8-7 on penalties), Senegal (won 3-2), and Mexico (won 7-2). With preparations completed, Italy will have the honor of opening the World Cup against the United States on Thursday (February 15th, 12:30 pm); followed by matches against Egypt (February 17th, 12:30 pm) and host United Arab Emirates (February 19th, 4:30 pm).

TV. All matches of the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup will be broadcasted on the RaiSport channel and RaiPlay, with commentary by Lucio Michieli.

FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP. This edition in Dubai marks the 12th FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, 11 years after the 2013 edition also held in the United Arab Emirates. Sixteen teams have qualified: Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Oman, Portugal, Senegal, Tahiti, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and the USA. Brazil (5 titles), Russia (3), and Portugal (2) are the most successful teams in the competition and are also considered favorites this year.

ITALY'S AWARDS. Italy's Beach Soccer National Team was established in 2004 and was the first team assembled by a Federation in the previously "unofficial" circuit. In these 20 years, Italy has achieved two second place finishes in the World Cup in 2008 (lost to Brazil) and 2019 (lost to Portugal), as well as two fourth-place finishes. In the Euroleague, which is the European championship promoted by the BeachSoccerWorldWide circuit (UEFA has not yet established an official tournament), Italy has won three times (in 2005, 2018, and 2023), with one second-place finish (2010) and three third-place finishes (2009, 2012, and 2017).



GROUP A FIXTURES

Thursday 15 February 2024

First stage - Group A

 USA	12:30
 ITALY	

Saturday 17 February 2024

First stage - Group A

 ITALY	12:30
 EGYPT	

Monday 19 February 2024

First stage - Group A

 ITALY	16:30
 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	

Races on RaiSport and RaiPlay

Thursday, February 15
 12.30 p.m.: Italy – USA RaiSport
Saturday, February 17
 12.30 pm: Italy – Egypt RaiPlay
Monday, February 19
 4.30 pm: Italy – UAE RaiSport

THE SQUAD / THE 12 AZZURRI

THREE "VETERANS" OF 2ND PLACE 2019, BERTACCA AND FAZZINI THE YOUNGEST

CARPITA, GENTILIN AND ZURLO WERE IN PARAGUAY. GIORDANI AND CASAPIERI, POSSIBLE PROTAGONISTS. SCIACCA WAS AT THE UNDER-20 WORLD CUP

Starting with 16 and reducing to the 12 officially listed for FIFA, the Azzurri approach the World Cup almost as if it were their first time. Only Andrea Carpita, Josep Gentilin, and Emmanuele Zurlo have previously played in the World Cup. The Viareggio goalkeeper and the Brazilian-born defender (both in 2019 in Paraguay), while the captain has been part of three expeditions (Portugal 2015, Bahamas 2017, and Paraguay 2019). The three veterans, who won silver in Asunción five years ago, will have to lead a new and very young group. All the other players, in fact, are making their debut in the competition, starting with the two stars of Del Duca, Leandro Casapieri, elected best goalkeeper of the last European Championship, and Marco Giordani, acclaimed by the public as the best player of the same competition after an extraordinary hat-trick in the final in Alghero against Spain.

THE YOUNGSTERS. It will also be a debut for the two Viareggio beach soccer jewels. Tommaso Fazzini, nicknamed "the prince", born in 2001 with pure talent, is the older brother of Jacopo, already a U21 National Team player and Empoli footballer. Luca Bertacca, also born in 2001, is a defender with overwhelming physicality, elected best young beach soccer player in the world in November 2022, ready to compete with the big names in the discipline. Special mention to Fabio Sciacca, who has already played in a World Cup, but in 11-a-side football: in 2009, after making his Serie A debut with Catania under Zenga, Francesco Rocca took him to the U-20 World Cup in Egypt. **THE STAFF.** Some have even participated in 8 World Cups, like Delegation Head Ferdinando Arcopinto, who was also present in the last unofficial World Cup in 2004. It's the third time in the dugout, the second as head coach (he was Massimo Agostini's assistant in 2017) for coach Emiliano Del Duca, one of the most successful in the Serie A of beach soccer with Terracina (2003 - 2016) and then co-opted into the Italian staff since 2018. He has two EBSL European titles and a World Cup runner-up title to his name. Then there are two old acquaintances of beach soccer serving as assistants: Simone Feudi and Michele Leghissa, who have played 5 World Cups each.

PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH GROUP OPPONENTS

WITH THE USA ONLY THE CHALLENGE OF 2004, NEGATIVE BALANCE WITH EGYPT AND THE UAE

In terms of previous encounters, the Azzurri have played 6 matches against the three group opponents. With the USA, the only confrontation dates back to 2004, the debut season of the Italian National Team in the discipline: in the Mundialito in Portimao, it ended 3-1. With Egypt, one victory, that in the Final at the 2016 Mediterranean Games in Pescara (5-1), and two defeats at the Intercontinental Cup in Dubai in 2019 (4-6 aet) and at the more recent Mediterranean Games 2023 in Heraklion, Greece (2-3). With the United Arab Emirates, finally, a loss (4-6 aet) also at the Intercontinental Cup in Dubai in 2019.

THE SQUAD / ITALY

Player	Club	Caps	Goal
GOALKEEPERS			
Andrea CARPITA	Viareggio	128	10
Leandro CASAPIERI	/	41	9
DEFENDERS			
Luca BERTACCA	Viareggio	36	15
Josip GENTILIN	/	75	31
Alessandro MICELI	City of Luzzi	55	5
LOCATIONS			
Ovid ALLA	Aurora Sabaudia	24	5
Tommaso FAZZINI	Viareggio	40	10
Gianmarco GENOVALI	Pietrasanta	36	11
Marco GIORDANI	Montespaccato	53	32
Alessandro REMEDEI	San Miniato Basso	40	19
ATTACKERS			
Fabio SCIACCA	Olympus Rome	54	18
Emmanuele ZURLO	Settingian Gavel	186	149

NB: Paterniti, Shalabi, Sassari, and Percia Montani, who took part in the retreat in Oman, did not return to the list of 12 selected for the World Cup.

STAFF	
TECHNICIAN	Emiliano DEL DUCA
HEAD OF DELEGATION	Ferdinando ARCOPINTO
TECHNICAL	Michele LEGHISSA and Simone FEUDI (Technical Assistants); Luca BOSSI (Athletic Trainer); Antonino NOSDEO (Goalkeeping Coach).
DOCTORS / PHYSIO	Alvise CLARIONI , Daniele DEL RE (Doctors) Fabio CALIENDO (Physio)
CLUB ITALY	Sabrina FILACCHIONE (Secretary), Fabio FERAPPI
PRESS OFFICE	Matteo SANTI (Media Officer BS NT)

CELEBRATING THE 2023 EUROLEAGUE

FIGC President Gravina: "Proud of you, a valuable group"

FIGC President Gabriele Gravina wished the beach soccer national team good luck on January 18th, taking the opportunity to celebrate the victory at the 2023 European Championship at the FIGC headquarters. "We are proud of you," Gravina said to the team, "because the results you are achieving enhance a fundamental aspect of the football world, that of amateurs."

Coach Del Duca reiterated their maximum commitment: "In Dubai, we will carry the emotions experienced in Alghero, and we are all working together to be ready. We can compete to go all the way." Captain Zurlo does not hide their ambitions: "I am sure we will do well, and we don't hide: we want to win the World Cup, clearly without underestimating the competition and aware that most of us are making our debut in a World Cup. I am convinced that we will give our best because each of us wants to win this competition."



1

Andrea CARPITA

Position: GOALKEEPER
Club: VIAREGGIO
Date of birth: 27/05/1988

CAPS: 128

GOAL: 10

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: FARMAÈ VIAREGGIO



12

Leandro CASAPIERI

Position: GOAL KEEPER
Club:
Date of birth: 31/03/1994

CAPS: 41

GOAL: 9

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: LENERGY PISA



6

Luca BERTACCA

Position: DEFENDER
Club: VIAREGGIO
Date of birth: 04/05/2001

CAPS: 36

GOAL: 15

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: FARMAÈ VIAREGGIO



5

Josep Junior GENTILIN

Position: DEFENDER
Club:
Date of birth: 19/04/2000

CAPS: 75

GOAL: 31

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023:



3

Alessandro MICELI

Position: DEFENDER
Club: CITTÀ DI LUZZI
Date of birth: 03/11/1986

CAPS: 55

GOAL: 5

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: SAMBENEDETTESE BS



2

Ovidio ALLA

Position: DEFENDER
Club: AURORA SABAUDIA
Date of birth: 28/10/1996

CAPS: 24

GOAL: 5

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: ALSA LAB NAPOLI



8

Tommaso FAZZINI

Position: WINGER
Club: VIAREGGIO
Date of birth: 18/05/2001

CAPS: 40

GOAL: 10

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: FARMAÈ VIAREGGIO



4

Gianmarco GENOVALI

Position: WINGER
Club: PIETRASANTA
Date of birth: 25/03/1994

CAPS: 36

GOAL: 11

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: FARMAÈ VIAREGGIO



11

Marco GIORDANI

Position: WINGER
Club: MONTESPACCATO
Date of birth: 08/08/1997

CAPS: 53

GOAL: 32

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: CATANIA BS



10

Alessandro REMEDI

Position: WINGER
Club: SAN MINIATO BASSO
Date of birth: 02/11/1992

CAPS: 40

GOAL: 19

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: FARMAÈ VIAREGGIO



7

Francesco Fabio SCIACCA

Position: FORWARD
Club: OLIMPUS ROMA
Date of birth: 16/05/1989

CAPS: 54

GOAL: 18

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: ALSA LAB NAPOLI



9

Emmanuele ZURLO

Position: FORWARD
Club: MARTELLETTO SETTINGIANO
Date of birth: 27/02/1988

CAPS: 186

GOAL: 149

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: CATANIA BS



Sebastiano PATERNITI BARBINO

Position: GOALKEEPER
Club: ROSMARINO
Date of birth: 18/10/1989

CAPS: 26

GOAL: 0

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023:



Amir SHALABI

Position: DEFENDER
Club: SPES MUNDIAL
Date of birth: 30/09/2004

CAPS: 3

GOAL:

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: LAZIO BS



Samuele SASSARI

Position: WINGER
Club: CAIRESE
Date of birth: 05/01/1996

CAPS: 18

GOAL: 1

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: CITTÀ DI MILANO



Marcello PERCIA MONTANI

Position: FORWARD
Club: CITTÀ DI LUZZI
Date of birth: 10/02/1988

CAPS: 22

GOAL: 8

SERIE A BEACH SOCCER 2023: CATANIA BS



EMILIANO DEL DUCA
Head Coach

Terracinese, 50 years old, UEFA A coach, led Terracina BS from 2003 to 2016 winning 3 Scudetti, 3 Italian Cups, 3 Super Cups (in 2011 hat-trick). In 2018 he took charge of the national team, bringing the Azzurri back to the top of Europe twice (2018 and 2023) and coming close to the World Cup (2nd in 2019). He was awarded the "Golden Bench" for Beach Soccer in 2023 by the Technical Sector.

In carica dal 2018: 107 gare
Score: 80 vinte (75%), 27 perse



FERDINANDO ARCOPIANTO
Head of Delegation

A long-time sports manager, 64 years old, he started in 1995 with Casertana, with whom he won promotion to Serie C. He then moved on to the cadres of the LND and the FIGC. Graduated in Marketing Management at "The Constantinian University – Cranston" in Rhode Islands in the USA, he has dedicated his professional life to beach soccer. In his career he has participated in 20 European Championships, 11 World Championships, 3 European Games, 3 Mediterranean Games, as well as 4 Mundiali and 5 Eurocup.



MICHELE LEGHISSA
Assistant Coach

Michele Leghissa, born and bred in Friuli, is the Italian to have won the most European Championships: 1 on the pitch in 2005, 2 on the coaching staff (2018 and 2023). As a player, he made his debut for the national team in August 2004 for the Mundialito of Figueira da Foz in Portugal. He played 5 World Cups, boasting 2 second places between the field and the bench. Since 2009 he has also been the captain of the Azzurri.



SIMONE FEUDI
Assistant Coach

Nicknamed "the Baron", he was captain of the national team, as well as the flag of Terracina with whom he won everything. He is considered one of the 10 strongest Italian players ever, In his career he boasts 3 league titles, 3 Italian Cups, 3 Super Cups, 5 participations in the World Cup (including 2nd place in 2008), 2 European Championships, as a player in 2005 and as an assistant in 2023.



LUCA BOSSI
Athletic trainer

Born in '78, graduated from the Alma Mater Studiorum in Bologna, former athletic trainer of Triestina in Serie C and for 10 years of the National Referees Hub, he has been collaborating with the football federation since August 2021.



ANTONINO NOSDEO
Goalkeepers trainer

Born in '70, ISEF graduate, coach with UEFA A qualification, since 2014 he has been collaborating with the FIGC as a goalkeeper coach. In his career, 4 World Championships and 6 European Championships. Head of the youth team of Ascoli Calcio.



ALVISÈ CLARIONI
Doctor

Born in 1960, he graduated from La Sapienza University and boasts 2 specializations (emergency surgery and orthopedics). With the NT's since 2012, in the BS team he has participated in 3 World Cups and 9 European Championships.



DANIELE DELRE
Doctor

Born in '94, graduated in Medicine and Surgery, specializing in Sports Medicine, since November 2021 he has been collaborating with FIGC. With the Azzurri of the beach at the FIFA Qualifiers and the 2023 European Championship.



FABIO CALIENDO
Physio

Born on 22/08/1978, graduated in Sports Science with a diploma in massage physiotherapy, he has been collaborating with the staff of the National Teams since 2019: with beach soccer he has participated in 2 World Cups and 3 European



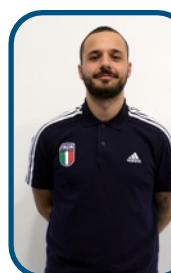
SABRINA FILACCHIONE
Team secretary

Born in '63, with the national teams since 1991. She has taken part in World and European Championships, Olympics and the main FIFA/UEFA tournaments. Since 2019 he has been the Secretary of the Beach Soccer NT.



AGOSTINO POMPEANO
Kit Manager

Born on 07/06/1991, he has been collaborating with the FIGC since 2020. Since 2022 he has been the Kit Manager of the national beach soccer team. He took part in 2 Euroleague European Finals in this role; he is at his first World Cup.



MATTEO SANTI
Media Officer

Born on 10/12/1988, journalist, he has been at the FIGC press office since 2019, after working in the same unit of the 5-a-side Football Division (LND). He participated in Euro Futsal 2022 and Euro Futsal U19 2023.



FABIO FERAPPI
Team secretary

Since 2000 he has been at Club Italia: Secretary of the Women's National Team, several Youth Teams, the University Academy, the Women's Beach Soccer. He has participated in Universiade, Olympics, Under-20 World Cup and Beach Soccer.

FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP / MATCH SCHEDULE

BRAZIL – PORTUGAL, FACE OFF IN THE FIRST ROUND

THE 2 QUEENS OF THE WORLD (7 TITLES TOGETHER) CLASH IN THE FIRST GAME OF GROUP B.

■ At the 12th FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, 16 teams will participate: Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Oman, Portugal, Senegal, Tahiti, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, USA. The first phase (February 15-20) will be played through four groups of four teams: three points for a win in regular time, two points for a win in extra time, and one point for a win in a penalty shootout.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the knockout stage: quarterfinals (February 22), semi-finals (February 24), third-place playoff, and the final (February 25).



In addition to the group of the Azzurri, who will have to deal mainly with Egypt, faced twice in the last 5 years in closely contested matches (4-3 victory in 2019, 3-2 defeat in the last Mediterranean Games), great attention is around Group B, which Italy, if they advance to the quarter - finals, could face.

Iran, Tahiti, Spain, and Argentina will play for the two spots in the knockout stage. On Friday 16, it will be the turn of Group C and D. In the first, Japan – which can boast the star Ozu Moreira, also a protagonist in the Beach Soccer championship. Always a forge of great Italian talents (players like Gori and Bertacca emerged there), Viareggio will face Belarus and Senegal a step ahead of Senegal and Colombia. The same goes for Group D, which has Brazil and USA.

THE 2025 EDITION

In one year, the World Cup in Africa: Seychelles appointment

The 2025 World Cup, marking the 20th anniversary of the tournament that began in Rio de Janeiro in 2005, will take place in Victoria, on the island of Mahé (Seychelles), from May 1st to 11th, 2025. It will be the first time the tournament is held in Africa, the last continent to host the event, completing the tour of all 6 confederations (4 times in UEFA countries, 4 times in CONMEBOL, once in AFC, Concacaf, and OFC). Seychelles will participate for the first time in the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, along with 4 UEFA teams, 3 each from AFC and CONMEBOL, 2 each from CAF and Concacaf, and 1 from OFC.

FROM VIAREGGIO TO DUBAI

Teammates in Italian Serie A, opponents at the World Cup

The 2023 championship title belongs to Viareggio Beach Soccer. Always a breeding ground for great talents (players like Gori and Ramacciotti have grown there, legends also in the National Team), it provides the National Team with 5 players: goalkeeper Carpita, the 2001-born Bertacca and Fazzini, and the more experienced Genoali and Remedi. But at the World Cup, there will be other protagonists from the Viareggio championship: Japanese Ozu Moreira, Portuguese Leo Martins, and Brazilian superstar Zé Lucas. Teammates in Versilia, opponents in the National Team.

		I GIRONI																				
		Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D																	
		UAE (UAE) Egypt (EGY) USA (USA) Italy (ITA)	Spain (ESP) IR Iran (IRN) Tahiti (TAH) Argentina (ARG)	Senegal (SEN) Belarus (BLR) Colombia (COL) Japan (JPN)	Brazil (BRA) Oman (OMA) Portugal (POR) Mexico (MEX)																	
	MATCH SCHEDULE FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP UAE 2024 DUBAI™																					
	Group Matches						Quarter-Finals		Semi-Finals		3 rd Place & Final											
	THURSDAY 15 February		FRIDAY 16 February		SATURDAY 17 February		SUNDAY 18 February		MONDAY 19 February		TUESDAY 20 February		WEDNESDAY 21 February		THURSDAY 22 February		FRIDAY 23 February		SATURDAY 24 February		SUNDAY 25 February	
	1 15:30		5 15:30		9 15:30		13 15:30		17 15:30		21 15:30		REST DAY		25 15:30		REST DAY		29 18:00		31 18:00	
	USA vs ITA		COL vs JPN		ITA vs EGY		JPN vs BLR		EGY vs USA		BLR vs COL				1 st D vs 2 nd C				W27 vs W25		3 rd Place	
	2 17:00		6 17:00		10 17:00		14 17:00		18 17:00		22 17:00				26 17:00				30 19:30		32 19:30	
	TAH vs ARG		POR vs MEX		ESP vs TAH		MEX vs OMA		ARG vs ESP		OMA vs POR				1 st C vs 2 nd D				W28 vs W26		FINAL	
	3 19:30		7 19:30		11 19:30		15 19:30		19 19:30		23 19:30				27 19:30							
	4 21:00		8 21:00		12 21:00		16 21:00		20 21:00		24 21:00		28 21:00									
	ESP vs IRN		BRA vs OMA		ARG vs IRN		BRA vs POR		IRN vs TAH		MEX vs BRA		1 st A vs 2 nd B									

FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP / HISTORY

FROM 2005, 4 TEAMS HAVE WON: FRANCE, BRAZIL, RUSSIA AND PORTUGAL

ONLY BRAZIL AND JAPAN HAVE BEEN PRESENT IN ALL 11 EDITIONS. PORTUGUESE MADJER HAS DOMINATED INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS.

The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Dubai 2024 is the 12th edition of the tournament, a part of the football family since 2005. It was first held for three years on the beaches of Rio de Janeiro, where from 1995 to 2004, 10 editions of a non-official World Cup (Beach Soccer World Championship) took place (9 victories for Brazil, 1 for Portugal). Since 2008, the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup has left Brazil and moved across different Confederations: from Marseille (France) to Dubai (United Arab Emirates), from Ravenna (Italy) to Papeete (Tahiti), from Espinho (Portugal) to Nassau (Bahamas), from Luque (Paraguay) to Moscow (Russia). After annual editions between 2005 and 2009, the tournament became biennial.

TEAM RECORDS. So far, only 4 teams have lifted the trophy: Brazil with 5 titles (plus two second places and one third place), followed by Russia (3 titles, plus one third place), Portugal (2 titles, plus one second place and three third places), and France (1 title, in 2005). Spain, Italy, Tahiti, Uruguay, Switzerland, Japan, Mexico, and Iran have podium finishes without winning the tournament. Brazil and Japan are the only two teams always present, participating in all 11 editions from 2005 to date, reaching 12/12 in Dubai. Portugal, on the other hand, will reach 11 tournaments and holds the largest victory in the history of the World Cup, 14-2 against the Solomon Islands in 2006. Brazil holds the longest winning streak: 30 consecutive victories from the 11-2 win in the third-place match in 2005 (when they lost on penalties to Portugal, who were then defeated in the final by France) to the 8-12 loss in the final to Russia in 2011, the first defeat in regulation time for Brazil in World Cup history.

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS. Regarding individual records, Brazilian goalkeeper Mao has the most appearances in the tournament (52), followed by Madjer (49), who is the symbol of the World Cup, having won 11 awards: 2 times Best Player (Golden Ball), 2 times second (Silver Ball), and 1 time third (Bronze Ball); 3 times top scorer (Golden Scorers) and 3 times second (Silver Scorers). The Portuguese star also holds the record for goals in a tournament: 21 in 2006; behind him is Italian Gabriele Gori (17 in 2017). Gori is the most awarded Italian player at the World Cup: Top Scorer (Golden Scorer) in 2017 and 2019; only one other Italian, Emanuele Zurlo, has received awards at the World Cup, finishing second behind Gori in 2017 (Silver Scorer), as well as receiving the award for the tournament's best goal (the first for Switzerland).

Dutchman Roel Liefden was the oldest player to participate in the World Cup: 46 years and 216 days in 2013; and among others on the field with him was his son Diego (23 years old). The youngest players are two fifteen-year-olds, Erasmus Ndlovu (South Africa 2005) and Abu Azeez (Nigeria 2009). The fastest goal came after 2 seconds, and 4 players share the record: Buru (Brazil) and Madjer (Portugal) in 2009, Pachev (Ukraine) in 2011, Torres (Spain) in 2017.

YEARLY RECORDS (2005 / 2021)		
ANNO	LOCATION	WINNER
2005	Rio de Janeiro (BRA)	FRANCE
2006	Rio de Janeiro (BRA)	BRAZIL
2007	Rio de Janeiro (BRA)	BRAZIL
2008	Marseille (FRA)	BRAZIL
2009	Dubai (EAU)	BRAZIL
2011	Ravenna (ITA)	RUSSIA
2013	Papeete (THA)	RUSSIA
2015	Espinho (POR)	PORTUGAL
2017	Nassau (BAH)	BRAZIL
2019	Luque (PAR)	PORTUGAL
2021	Mosca (RUS)	RUSSIA

MEDAL LIST					
VINCITORE	1°	2°	3°	TOT	
BRAZIL	5	1	2	8	
RUSSIA	3	0	2	5	
PORTUGAL	2	1	3	6	
FRANCE	1	0	1	2	
SPAIN	0	3	0	3	
ITALY	0	2	0	2	
TAHITI	0	2	0	2	
URUGUAY	0	1	1	2	
SWITZERLAND	0	1	1	2	
JAPAN	0	1	0	1	
MEXICO	0	1	0	1	
IRAN	0	0	1	1	

ITALY YEAR PLACEMENT (2005 / 2021)	
ANNO	PIAZZAMENTO
2005	DID NOT QUALIFY
2006	GROUP STAGE
2007	GROUP STAGE
2008	2nd PLACE
2009	QUARTER FINALS
2011	QUARTER FINALS
2013	DID NOT QUALIFY
2015	4th PLACE
2017	4th PLACE
2019	2nd PLACE
2021	DID NOT QUALIFY

FIFA BS WORLD CUP / ITALY RESULTS					
Edition	P	W	L	Gs	Gc
RIO DE JANEIRO 2006	3	0	3	6	11
RIO DE JANEIRO 2007	3	1	2	13	12
MARSIGLIA 2008	6	4	2	27	21
DUBAI 2009	4	2	2	11	12
RAVENNA 2011	4	3	1	18	18
ESPINHO 2015	6	4	2	28	20
NASSAU 2017	6	4	2	37	25
LUQUE 2019	6	4	2	38	27
TOT	38	22	16	178	146

LEGENDA. P: Played; V: win, P: Lost; Gs: goal scored; Gc: goal conceded.

ITALY AT THE WORLD CUP / HISTORY

AZZURRI TWICE A STEP AWAY FROM TRIUMPH

IN 2008 AND 2019, THE TWO DEFEATS IN THE FINAL. IN 2005, THE PLAYOFF DISAPPOINTMENT, IN 2011 IN RAVENNA THE GREAT LETDOWN.

In Dubai, Italy will reach their ninth participation in the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, five of which were consecutive between 2006 and 2011: behind Brazil, Japan (13), and Portugal (11), the Azzurri are among the teams with the most appearances in the Final Phase of the competition. In addition to the 2nd place achieved in 2008 in Marseille (France) and in 2019 in Luque (Paraguay), Italy also finished in the top 4 in 2015 and 2017 (4th place in both editions). Italy has missed the World Cup only on three occasions: in 2005, 2013, and 2021.

Italy's history at the FIFA World Cup began in 2005, or rather, did not fully begin. In the first World Cup, Italy reached Rio de Janeiro, but only with the certainty of participating in the playoff for the last available European spot. To assign the 4 UEFA spots, a somewhat questionable regulation was enacted: FIFA considered the top 3 from the European tournament (EBSL), namely France, Portugal, and Ukraine, while Italy, which finished fourth, was forced to face a four-team playoff with Spain (a global powerhouse but finished 5th in Europe), Switzerland, and Austria. After defeating Austria in the semifinals, the beach soccer National Team's journey was halted by the Red Furies led by the acrobat Amarelle, who thus entered among the 16 qualified National Teams. While the tournament began, the Azzurri were already bitterly on their way back home.

A year later, in November 2006, the Azzurri made their official debut at the World Cup, but the outcome was disastrous: 3 defeats in 3 matches against Bahrain, Nigeria, and Argentina. The first victory would come in the following edition, in 2007, the last one in Copacabana: on November 3, 6-3 against Japan, a victory that did not avoid the second elimination in the group stage due to losses against Uruguay and Senegal. When the World Cup left Copacabana, Italy began to dream in 2008 on the Prado beach in Marseille, the Azzurri eliminated the host country France led by Eric Cantona, then the eternal rival Spain, surrendering only to the Brazilian phenomena in the final (5-3). After the quarter-final elimination in Dubai in 2009, at the hands of Brazil, in 2011 came the biggest disappointment: the tournament at home, in Ravenna, but the great ambitions of the eve, grown after 3 successes in the group, clashed against a modest El Salvador in the quarterfinals.

Following the failure at the Qualifier for 2013 and then the great rebirth: a new Italy is a protagonist in Espinho 2015 and Nassau 2017, but in both tournaments stops in the semi-finals (many regrets especially for the defeat against Tahiti in Portugal). In 2019, in Luque, Paraguay, the Azzurri achieve the feat: Russia beaten in the semi-finals 8-7 and entrance in the final with Portugal. Dreams of glory, however, again postponed, after a very balanced game, the Portuguese pull ahead and close 6-4.

Absent in 2021 in Moscow, Italy secured the pass for the World Cup in the United Arab Emirates (the first country to repeat the tournament's organization after Brazil) at the FIFA QUALIFIER in Baku (Azerbaijan).



Palmacci



Gori



Agostini



Fruzzetti



Carotenuto



Pasquali



Corosiniti



Leghissa

AZZURRI CAPS ALL TIME	
CAPS	CALCIATORE
274	PALMACCI
248	COROSINITI
202	DEL MESTRE
201	GORI
189	SPADA
186	ZURLO
184	RAMACCIOTTI
182	MARINAI
161	LEGHISSA
151	FRAINETTI
142	PASQUALI
128	CARPITA
125	FEUDI
102	DI PALMA
93	PLATANIA
89	GALLI
88	MARRUCCI
84	FRUZZETTI
75	GENTILIN
65	CAROTENUTO

AZZURRI CAPS AT FBSWC	
CAPS	PLAYER
38	PALMACCI
35	COROSINITI
26	DEL MESTRE
	SPADA
22	GORI
	RAMACCIOTTI
20	LEGHISSA
	FEUDI
18	ZURLO
	FRAINETTI
	MARINAI
15	PASQUALI
13	MARRUCCI
12	DI PALMA
	CHIAVARO
10	PLATANIA
	SORIA
	MARADONA
	ESPOSITO

23 player follow

AZZURRI GOALS ALL TIME	
GOAL	PLAYER
319	GORI
212	PALMACCI
164	PASQUALI
147	ZURLO
103	RAMACCIOTTI
95	COROSINITI
93	CAROTENUTO
60	MARINAI
52	AGOSTINI
46	FRUZZETTI
45	LEGHISSA
33	FEUDI
	ESPOSITO
32	GIORDANI
31	GENTILIN
30	SORIA
30	FRAINETTI
28	FORTE
26	DI PALMA
19	MARRUCCI

AZZURRI GOALS AT FBSWC	
GOAL	PLAYER
41	GORI
27	PALMACCI
20	PASQUALI
19	ZURLO
13	RAMACCIOTTI
11	COROSINITI
8	FEUDI
5	SORIA
3	DI PALMA
	MARINAI
	ESPOSITO
	MARRUCCI
2	CAROTENUTO
	MAIORANO
	MARADONA
	FRAINETTI
	GENTILIN
	CONDORELLI
	PALMA

FIFA WORLD CUP: EURO QUALIFIERS

The European national teams faced off in Azerbaijan from July 2nd to July 9th, 2023: Belarus, Italy, Portugal, and Ukraine secured their tickets to Dubai. After the initial phase (four groups of four teams each), the top two from each group clashed in the quarterfinals, matches valid for the World Cup: France, Spain, Denmark, and Moldova were defeated. The Azzurri sealed a 4-3 victory in extra time against Spain, who had come back from 1-3 to 3-3 in the third period. The extra time was decided by Emmanuele Zurlo's acrobatic shot. Then Spain was reinstated due to Ukraine's withdrawal.

ITALY'S MATCHES AT THE FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP (2006 / 2019)

DATE	MATCH	RES	ROUND	GOAL SCORERS
FIFA WORLD CUP 2006 RIO DE JANEIRO (BRAZIL) / ITALY ELIMINATED AT THE FIRST ROUND				
2 nov	ITALIA - BAHRAIN	2-4	FASE A GIRONI	Pasquali 2
4 nov	NIGERIA - ITALIA	4-3	FASE A GIRONI	Pasquali 2, El Hafez
6 nov	ITALIA - ARGENTINA	1-3	FASE A GIRONI	Palmacci
FIFA WORLD CUP 2007 RIO DE JANEIRO (BRAZIL) / ITALY ELIMINATED AT THE FIRST ROUND				
3 nov	URUGUAY - ITALIA	3-2 dts	FASE A GIRONI	Pasquali, Palmacci
5 nov	ITALIA - GIAPPONE	6-3	FASE A GIRONI	Pasquali 3, Palmacci, Maiorano, Leghissa
7 nov	ITALIA - SENEGAL	5-6 dts	FASE A GIRONI	Pasquali 2, Palmacci, Maiorano, Feudi
FIFA WORLD CUP 2008 MARSEILLE (FRANCE) / ITALIA 2nd PLACE				
17 lug	ITALIA - ISOLE SALOMON	7-4	FASE A GIRONI	Corosiniti 2, Palmacci, Feudi, Soria, Pasquali, Condorelli
19 lug	EL SALVADOR - ITALIA	1-4	FASE A GIRONI	Palmacci 2, Pasquali, Feudi
21 lug	PORTOGALLO - ITALIA	5-4 dts	FASE A GIRONI	Esposito, Maradona jr., Soria, Platania
24 lug	FRANCIA - ITALIA	2-5	QUARTI DI FINALE	Feudi 2, Esposito, Condorelli, Palmacci
26 lug	ITALIA - SPAGNA	5-4 dtr (4-4)	SEMIFINALE	Pasquali 2, Feudi, Esposito
27 lug	BRASILE - ITALIA	5-3	FINALE 1-2° POSTO	Palmacci, Pasquali, Maradona jr.
FIFA WORLD CUP 2009 DUBAI (EAU) / ITALY ELIMINATED AT QUARTER FINALS				
16 nov	ARGENTINA - ITALIA	2-3 dts	FASE A GIRONI	Palmacci, Pasquali, Carotenuto
17 nov	ITALIA - RUSSIA	1-3	FASE A GIRONI	Palmacci
18 nov	COSTARICA - ITALIA	1-3	FASE A GIRONI	Feudi, Carotenuto, Palmacci
20 nov	BRASILE - ITALIA	6-4	QUARTI DI FINALE	Pasquali 4
FIFA WORLD CUP 2011 RAVENNA (ITALY) / ITALY ELIMINATED AT QUARTER FINALS				
1 Set	ITALIA - IRAN	11-10 dtr (6-6)	FASE A GIRONI	Soria 2, Marrucci, Gori, Palma, Corosiniti
3 set	SENEGAL - ITALIA	6-7 dtr (4-4)	FASE A GIRONI	Palmacci 3, Feudi
5 set	ITALIA - SVIZZERA	3-2	FASE A GIRONI	Corosiniti 2, Soria
8 set	ITALIA - EL SALVADOR	5-6 dts	QUARTI DI FINALE	Palmacci 4, Palma
FIFA WORLD CUP 2015 ESPINHO (PORTUGAL) / ITALY 4th PLACE				
9 lug	ITALIA - COSTARICA	6-1	FASE A GIRONI	Gori 3, Zurlo 2, Villegas (aut),
11 lug	ITALIA - OMAN	4-2	FASE A GIRONI	Zurlo 2, Marinai, Gori
13 lug	ITALIA - SVIZZERA	6-4	FASE A GIRONI	Zurlo, Gori, Palmacci 2, Marinai, Frainetti
17 lug	ITALIA - GIAPPONE	3-2	QUARTI DI FINALE	Zurlo 2, Ramacciotti
18 lug	ITALIA - TAHITI	7-9 dtr (6-6)	SEMIFINALE	Palmacci, Gori 2, Ramacciotti, Di Palma, Corosiniti
19 lug	ITALIA - RUSSIA	3-5	FINALE 3-4° POSTO	Palmacci, Marinai
FIFA WORLD CUP 2017 NASSAU (BAHAMAS) / ITALY 4th PLACE				
27 apr	ITALIA - NIGERIA	12-6	FASE A GIRONI	Palmacci 3, Zurlo, Gori 6, Di Palma, Chiavaro
29 apr	ITALIA - IRAN	5-4	FASE A GIRONI	Gori 2, Corosiniti, Ramacciotti 2
1 mag	ITALIA - MESSICO	8-1	FASE A GIRONI	Di Palma, Zurlo, Palmacci 2, Gori 3, Ramacciotti
3 mag	ITALIA - SENEGAL	5-1	QUARTI DI FINALE	Gori 3, Frainetti, Marrucci
6 mag	ITALIA - BRASILE	4-8	SEMIFINALE	Marrucci, Ramacciotti, Gori, Corosiniti
7 mag	ITALIA - IRAN	3-5	FINALE 3-4° POSTO	Gori 2, Ramacciotti
FIFA WORLD CUP 2019 LUQUE (PARAGUAY) / ITALY 2nd PLACE				
21 nov	ITALIA-TAHITI	12-4	FASE A GIRONI	Gori 5, Corosiniti 2, Zurlo 4, aut. Tahiti
24 nov	ITALIA-URUGUAY	3-4	FASE A GIRONI	Gori 3
25 nov	ITALIA-MESSICO	6-2	FASE A GIRONI	Gori 5, Zurlo
29 nov	ITALIA-SVIZZERA	5-4	QUARTI DI FINALE	Gentilin, Zurlo 3, Ramacciotti
30 nov	ITALIA-RUSSIA	8-7	SEMIFINALE	Corosiniti, Ramacciotti 3, Gori 3, Zurlo
1 dic	ITALIA-PORTOGALLO	4-6	FINALE 1-2° POSTO	Zurlo, Ramacciotti 2, Gentilin

AZZURRI's NUMBERS

Gori, the king of strikers: Golden scorer in '17 e '19

For the first time Palmacci will not be with the Azzurri at the World Cup: he played 38 matches, in 8 editions

In its 8 participations in the World Cup, Italy has played 38 matches: 22 wins and 16 losses, with a goal difference of +32 (178/146). Throughout the 38 matches, there's been one constant: Paolo Palmacci, always in the squad from 2006 to 2019: 8 World Cups, 38 appearances, scoring 27 goals, placing him 2nd in the list of top scorers. Ahead of him is Gabriele Gori, with 41 goals in 4 editions, Golden Scorer in 2017 and 2019. Third among the top scorers is Roberto Pasquali (20), who scored Italy's first goal at the FIFA World Cup in 2006; followed by Emmanuele Zurlo (19). Gori also holds the record for most goals in a single match: 5 against Mexico in 2019; Palmacci and Pasquali reached 4 (against El Salvador in 2011 and Brazil in 2009). In terms of World Cup appearances, behind Palmacci with 8, is Corosiniti (7 tournaments from 2006 to 2017), who is also second in number of appearances (35), followed by Feudi, Leghissa, and Pasquali (5 between 2006 and 2011).

BEACH SOCCER ITALY NT / HISTORY

DEBUT IN 2004, FIRST TROPHY IN 2005

IN 20 YEARS, ITALBEACH HAS WON 3 EUROPEAN TITLES, 2 GOLD MEDALS AT THE MEDITERRANEAN GAMES, AND 1 SILVER MEDAL AT THE 2015 EUROPEAN OLYMPIC GAMES.



February 29, 2004: The newly established Italian Beach Soccer National Team makes its debut in Rio de Janeiro with a 3-2 victory over France. Goals scored by Galli, Agosto, and Fruzzetti. In the last unofficial World Cup, Italy finished fourth.

■ The Italian Beach Soccer National Team has been at the forefront of the sport for several years. Established in 2004 under the auspices of the National Amateur League (the first federation to recognize the discipline), it later became part of Club Italia, fully integrating into the National Team family. In the Italian team's palmares, there are two second place finishes at the FIFA World Cup in 2008 (defeated by Brazil) and 2018 (defeated by Portugal), as well as three European Championship titles (in 2005, 2018, and 2023), one second place (in 2010), and three third places (in 2009, 2012, and 2017).

From 2004 to the present day, six Head Coaches have alternated on the Italian bench: Pedro Pablo Pasculli in 2004, Massimo Agostini from 2005 to 2006, Fausto Silipo for a brief period in 2006, Giancarlo Magrini from 2006 to 2010, Massimiliano Esposito from 2010 to 2015, Massimo Agostini again from 2015 to 2017, and currently Emiliano Del Duca, in office since September 2018.

VICTORIES. In 2005, Italy clinched their first European title in Marseille, defeating Portugal on penalties after an incredible comeback in the final period. In 2015, they won gold at the "Mediterranean Beach Games" in Pescara (and a couple of months later, a silver medal at the European Olympic Games in Baku). The second triumph came in September 2018 in Alghero: Italy became European Champions for the second time by defeating Spain in the final on penalties. Again in Alghero, in September 2023, Italy achieved their third Euroleague triumph: after defeating Portugal, eight-time European champions, in the semifinals, they overcame Spain in the final with the same outcome as in 2018, 5-4. For Italy, there were also two individual awards: Marco Giordani was named the tournament's best player with 3 goals in the final, and Casapieri was awarded best goalkeeper.

For Coach Del Duca, it was his second title leading the team, while for assistant coach Michele Leghissa, it was his third, having also won as a player in 2005.

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

The rapid rise of the Azzurre

The Women's Beach Soccer National Team is the newest addition to the Azzurre National Teams. It held its first training camp in October 2021 and made its debut in a European competition on June 1, 2022, when it defeated Spain 3-2 on the beach in Nazaré in a match valid for the Women's EuroLeague. In that year's European finals, the girls of Del Duca had a great run, reaching the final but ultimately losing 2-0 to Spain. In the 2023 edition of the EBSL Superfinal, Italy finished 5th, defeating Ukraine in the playoff match. This result allowed the Azzurre to climb positions in the European ranking, rising to 6th place.

YOUTH ACTIVITY

Since 2022, Under 17 & 15 tournaments have been organized

The Youth and School Sector, which established the Technical Commission for Youth Beach Soccer in 2022, promotes beach soccer activity for youth categories, with the aim of facilitating the development of beach soccer in Italy by fostering a system rooted at the top, both in terms of National Teams and club competitions. In the summer of 2022, Under 18 and Under 15 tournaments were organized for the first time. In the 2023 season, Under 17 and Under 15 tournaments were held. Alongside the tournaments, courses dedicated to coaches and managers have been launched. So far, 28 Beach Soccer Coaches have been qualified with an A License, 24 with a B License, and 224 with a UEFA Grassroots E License.

CLUB ACTIVITY

Serie A and other competitions

The 2023 Serie A championship belongs to Viareggio Beach Soccer. The city of Versilia has always been a breeding ground for great talents (players like Gori and Ramacciotti, legends also in the National Team, grew up there) thanks to the famous "muretto" and the "Matteo Valenti" tournament, a highly anticipated event in the area. In addition to the Coppa Italia (held by Catania) and the Supercoppa (won by Pisa), the LND also organizes women's competitions (with Lady Terracina winning the tricolor, Cagliari winning the coccarda, and Genova BS winning the Supercoppa), as well as the Under 20 championship and cup, both won by Farmaè Viareggio.