

The History of the Football World Cup under the Eye of Philately

1994 – June 17th to July, USA

Despite having little tradition in football, the United States successfully organized the 15th edition of the World Cup. The largest number of spectators in the history of the competition – 3,587,538 people in 52 games – watched Brazil win the first four-time championship. It was played by 24 countries (3 newcomers: Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Greece) in 9 stadiums in 9 different cities.

The match Russia 6x1 Cameroon recorded an unprecedented feat until today: the player Oleg Salenko scored 5 goals in a single match. He finished the competition as top scorer, with 6 goals in total. The mail from the host country issued just one block alluding to the World Cup held in North America, highlighting in its art the American map with the host cities, national colors, the name of the 24 competing teams, the official logo and the sport represented by the athletes of the North American team.



Champions: **Brazil**
Runners-up: **Italy**

05/26/1994: the North American block allusive to the Cup bears the name of the 24 participating teams, the map of the United States with the 9 cities and the official logo of the competition

1998 – 10 June to 21 July, FRANCE

The country of the creator of the World Cups, Jules Rimet, under the leadership of Zinedine Zidane, defeated Brazil in the final and reached the unprecedented world title in the first World Cup played between 32 teams. Ten stadiums in different cities were used for a total of 64 games.

The French post office issued a block with 10 stamps showing the host cities and innovating with a stamp in a circular format resembling a soccer ball, reissuing the same stamp after the title win, with the inscription "Champion du Monde". Two years after the unprecedented achievement, the French post office issued a new stamp commemorating the French conquest.

Champions: **France**
Runners-up: **Brazil**



07/12/1998:
Reissue of stamp with the inscription "Champion du Monde France"

04/15/2000:
Commemorative stamp alluding to the unprecedented title, two years after the conquest of hosts

