

Delivering on the global stage

Ultralow-latency connectivity for FIFA World Cup 2026™



Key takeaways

- FIFA needed a partner to provide and sustain enough network capacity for critical broadcast data throughout FIFA World Cup 2026™.
- Verizon Business used its existing fiber-optic network to enable remote broadcast productions.
- All 16 stadium feeds were sent through designated fiber routes to a single production operations hub.

A production of epic proportions

16 cities across the U.S., Canada and Mexico. 104 total matches played. Millions of viewers per match and billions of viewers over the course of the tournament. The scope and scale of FIFA World Cup 2026™ posed production challenges that could only be met with high levels of network reliability and capacity. Fall short, and FIFA's reputation, media partnerships and fan loyalty could come into question.

Turning constraints into catalysts

As footballers competed on the pitch to bring glory to their home nations, Verizon Business knew that production teams had their own matches to win across stadiums. To help bring the tournament to life, production teams needed ultralow-latency connectivity with enough capacity to handle tremendous amounts of broadcast data.

End-to-end coverage needs

Key production areas – including stadium personnel communications, sideline reporting and specialized cameras – required ultralow latency to enable smooth broadcasts.

A modernized approach

FIFA helped enable remote productions by centralizing operations at the International Broadcast Center (IBC) in Dallas. This approach meant that production teams could execute broadcast-critical work hundreds or thousands of miles away from stadiums while also helping FIFA reduce its overhead and carbon footprint.

Actualizing the vision

Building on its current network infrastructure, Verizon Business made local optimizations to allow production teams to edit, organize and distribute content from a distance.

- **The Broadcast Contribution Network (BCN):** Verizon Business established the BCN on more than 80,000 miles of fiber-optic cable, helping production teams route audio and visual data from all 16 stadiums to the IBC.
- **Complementary connectivity:** Verizon Business fortified broadcasts with local connectivity upgrades, helping production teams get ahead of other potential barriers – including data security and structural dependencies – on a stadium-by-stadium basis.

Solutions



The hidden highway

Verizon Business built on its extensive fiber infrastructure to establish fixed data routes and streamline transmissions from stadiums to the IBC – resulting in ultralow-latency broadcast connectivity.



Structural enhancements

Verizon Business bolstered broadcast capabilities across match sites based in the U.S. and Mexico by installing redundant fiber entry points directly into stadium grounds, helping reduce the risk of local network failures.



On-field innovations

Verizon Business deployed a private 5G network on the field at every host stadium, supporting the connectivity of Lenovo Referee View body cameras.

Results



Reduced operational costs

By transmitting data at speeds of 7–8 Tbps, Verizon Business made it possible to funnel data from 16 cities to a central point on the continent, allowing production teams to work remotely and helping lower costs.



Protected network availability

Verizon Business designed its network solutions with integrated security capabilities, helping prioritize and isolate critical broadcast data from public fan data circulating throughout the stadium.



Future-ready stadiums

The construction done on FIFA World Cup 2026™ host stadiums resulted in permanent additions to their respective infrastructures, helping lower setup costs for future high-capacity events at these venues.



Enhanced viewing experience

Backed by a dedicated private 5G network, the Lenovo Referee View body cameras allowed fans to view matches from the officials' perspectives, giving them a closer look at the action.

80K+

miles of fiber-optic
infrastructure used



Why Verizon Business?

More than one million miles of fiber-optic cable available to use. The ability to deploy on-site network solutions. Coordinated efforts of industry-leading network architects, engineers and consultants. With these advantages and more, Verizon Business was uniquely positioned to support FIFA World Cup 2026™ productions.

The same capabilities that helped bring the tournament to life have applications far beyond international broadcast media. Verizon Business has provided a blueprint for powering business- and mission-critical operations across entertainment, finance, healthcare, public safety and other industries.

**Ready to discover what Verizon Business
can do for you?**

Contact your Verizon Business Representative or
visit [verizon.com/poweringfifaworldcup](https://www.verizon.com/poweringfifaworldcup) to learn more
about the solutions we deployed.