

## 2026 WORLD CUP ALPHABET

# Q is for

**Queiroz, Carlos** – although best known to English football fans as having been the assistant to Alex Ferguson at Manchester United when they were good, Carlos has a very impressive record in his own right as an international manager. For he has been at five World Cups, leading his native Portugal, South Africa and three times with Iran. He has also managed the UAE, Colombia, Egypt, Qatar and is currently in charge of Oman. Oh man, what a cv – yet he has not been linked with the vacant post at Manchester United...



**Quickest goal** – five goals have been scored within the first 30 seconds of World Cup games. The quickest goal of all was scored in 11 seconds by Hakan Sükür for Turkey vs South Korea in 2002, and what a defensive howler it is:

### [Hakan Sukur scores the fastest goal in World Cup History](#)

Hungary's Laszlo Kiss holds the record for the fastest hat-trick at the World Cup. He bagged three goals in a seven minute spell vs El Salvador in 1982. He is also the only substitute to score a hat trick!

**Quickest sending off** – No surprises for guessing it was a South American player. Uruguay's Sergio Batista got his marching orders vs Scotland in 1986 after only 56 seconds!

### [Fastest red card in WC history](#)

The foul doesn't look that bad as to merit a straight red card – and would probably have been considered a normal tackle in Scotland at that time!

**Queen, the** - no, not the awful band whose terrible tune "we are the champions" against wasn't played at Old Trafford or Anfield this season. Rather, we mean THE Queen, Elizabeth 2. Now better known as the mother of the Andrew formerly known as Prince, the greatest moment of her 83-year reign was presenting the World Cup to Bobby Moore in 1966. This makes her the only woman who has ever touched the World Cup (and it was on condition that she wore gloves)



*In the background Prince Philip grins as he prepares some racist "banter" for the losing Germany team.....*

So proud was she of the England team's achievement in 1966 that she had "I love Nobby" tattooed on her arm. This explains why you never saw the Queen wearing a t-shirt in public!

**Quincunx** - A quincunx is a geometric pattern consisting of five points arranged in a cross, with four of them forming a square or rectangle and a fifth at its centre.



Why are we sharing this trivia with you? Well, we are desperate to fill the Q section of the alphabet. And also because the official nickname of the Portugal team is the *Seleção das Quinas*, which translates as the Team of the Quincunxes – because of the quincunx that appears on both the national flag and the team's crest.

As well as in heraldry, according to Wikipedia Quincunxes are used in modern computer graphics as a pattern for multisample anti-aliasing. (*ed: nope, I don't understand a word of that either*).