Soccer Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. A shot reaches the goal with no infringement by the scoring team. What must happen for the referee to award a goal?
   A. The entire ball passes over the goal line within the goal opening.
   B. Part of the ball passes over the line within the goal opening.
   C. The entire ball passes over the line anywhere along the end of the field.
   D. The ball touches the inside of a post and bounces away without crossing the line.
   Correct answer: A. The entire ball passes over the goal line within the goal opening.
   Every part of the ball must cross the goal line in the space between the posts and below the crossbar.

2. The first men’s FIFA World Cup final took place in Montevideo in 1930. Which country won it?
   A. Brazil
   B. Argentina
   C. Uruguay
   D. Italy
   Correct answer: C. Uruguay
   Uruguay took the inaugural title with a 4–2 win over Argentina in the final.

3. Which country staged the first FIFA Women’s World Cup in 1991?
   A. Sweden
   B. China
   C. United States
   D. Germany
   Correct answer: B. China
   China hosted the inaugural FIFA Women’s World Cup in 1991. Sweden, one of the visiting teams, finished third.

4. A defender gets the last touch before the ball fully crosses their team’s goal line outside the posts. There is no foul. How does play restart?
   A. The referee drops the ball.
   B. The defending team takes a goal kick.
   C. The opposing team takes a throw-in.
   D. The opposing team takes a corner kick.
   Correct answer: D. The opposing team takes a corner kick.
   The ball went out across the defending team’s goal line, and the defender touched it last. That gives the opposing team a corner kick.

5. Which Summer Olympics held the first Olympic women’s soccer tournament?

A. Barcelona 1992
B. Atlanta 1996
C. Sydney 2000
D. Athens 2004

Correct answer: B. Atlanta 1996
Women’s soccer joined the Olympic Games at Atlanta in 1996. Eight teams competed in that first tournament.

6. In a fictional match between White and Blue, White touches the ball last before it fully crosses the touchline, or sideline, near midfield. What is the correct restart?

A. Blue takes a throw-in.
B. White takes a throw-in.
C. Blue takes a corner kick.
D. The referee drops the ball for White.

Correct answer: A. Blue takes a throw-in.
When the ball goes completely beyond the touchline, the other team gets the throw-in. White touched it last, so Blue restarts play.

7. England and Germany were tied after regulation in the 2022 UEFA Women’s EURO final. Which England player scored the extra-time winner?

A. Lauren Hemp
B. Ella Toone
C. Beth Mead
D. Chloe Kelly

Correct answer: D. Chloe Kelly
Chloe Kelly put England ahead 2–1 in extra time at Wembley. Ella Toone had scored England’s first goal during regulation.

8. The 2012 men’s Africa Cup of Nations ended with a final in Libreville, Gabon. Which national team lifted the trophy there?

A. Mali
B. Ghana
C. Zambia
D. Côte d’Ivoire

Correct answer: C. Zambia
Zambia won the continental title at the 2012 final in Libreville.

9. Which country won its first men’s Copa América in 2015 after facing Argentina in the final?

A. Chile
B. Colombia
C. Peru
D. Uruguay

Correct answer: A. Chile
The final finished scoreless through extra time. Chile defeated Argentina in the penalty shootout to claim its first Copa América title.

10. The 2002 men’s FIFA World Cup was the first edition hosted jointly. Which two countries shared it?

A. Japan and Saudi Arabia
B. Japan and China
C. China and South Korea
D. Japan and South Korea

Correct answer: D. Japan and South Korea
Japan and South Korea each hosted matches in the 2002 tournament. The Japan Football Association lists its co-host as Korea Republic.

11. In each of two fictional plays, an attacker is in an offside position when a teammate plays the ball. In Play A, the attacker receives it directly from a goal kick. In Play B, the attacker plays an ordinary pass from the teammate in open play. In which play does touching the ball result in an offside offense?

A. Both plays
B. Play A only
C. Play B only
D. Neither play

Correct answer: C. Play B only
Receiving the ball directly from a goal kick is an exception to the offside rule. In Play B, the attacker becomes involved by playing a teammate’s pass from an offside position.

12. An archive abbreviates the 2011 FIFA Women’s World Cup final as “Japan 2–2 USA (3–1 on penalties).” Which entry correctly expands the result?

A. The match ended 2–2 after extra time. The United States won the shootout 3–1.
B. The match ended 2–2 after extra time. Japan won the shootout 3–1.
C. The match ended 3–1 to Japan after extra time. The shootout ended 2–2.
D. The match ended 5–3 to Japan after the shootout goals were added.

Correct answer: B. The match ended 2–2 after extra time. Japan won the shootout 3–1.
Japan and the United States each scored twice during the match. The 3–1 shootout made Japan the champion and was recorded separately.

13. The 1984 women’s European championship final took two matches. Sweden won the first 1–0 and England won the second 1–0. Which summary gives the combined score and the eventual winner?

A. The combined score was 1–0 to England. England won outright.
B. The combined score was 1–1. England won the penalty shootout.
C. The combined score was 2–0 to Sweden. Sweden won outright.
D. The combined score was 1–1. Sweden won the penalty shootout.

Correct answer: D. The combined score was 1–1. Sweden won the penalty shootout.
Each side scored once across the two matches, giving a 1–1 aggregate score. Sweden then won the shootout.

14. New Zealand drew all three of its group matches at the 2010 men’s World Cup. A fictional comparison team has a win, a draw, and a loss. With three points for a win, one for a draw, and zero for a loss, what are their totals?

A. New Zealand 3, comparison team 4
B. New Zealand 3, comparison team 3
C. New Zealand 4, comparison team 3
D. New Zealand 6, comparison team 4

Correct answer: A. New Zealand 3, comparison team 4
New Zealand earns 1 + 1 + 1 = 3 points. The other record earns 3 + 1 + 0 = 4 points, so a team with one loss can still finish with more points.

15. In two fictional plays, the referee correctly signals and each kick is taken properly. In Play A, a direct free kick goes straight into the opponents’ goal. In Play B, an indirect free kick does the same. No other player touches either ball. What are the rulings?

A. Goal kick in Play A. Goal in Play B.
B. Goal in both plays.
C. Goal in Play A. Goal kick in Play B.
D. Goal kick in both plays.

Correct answer: C. Goal in Play A. Goal kick in Play B.
A direct free kick can score on its own. An indirect free kick needs a touch from another player before a goal can count, so Play B ends with a goal kick.