



# FIFA World Cup 2026 | Group Qualification Report

## Group I

### Teams

- France
- Iraq
- Norway
- Senegal

Group I is one of the most competitive groups in the tournament. France enter as one of the leading contenders to lift the World Cup, while Senegal and Norway appear set for a fascinating battle for the second qualification place. Iraq arrive as outsiders but have the potential to influence the group by taking crucial points from their rivals.

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### 1 Group Overview

✓ Group Difficulty: High

✓ Market Narrative: France are the clear favourite.

✓ Potential Market Inefficiency: Norway and Senegal may be much closer than markets suggest.

✓ Key Question: Can Norway's attacking quality overcome Senegal's tournament experience and defensive organisation?

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## **2** Team Profiles

### **France**

Estimated Qualification Probability: 92%

#### **Positives**

- ✓ One of the deepest squads in world football
- ✓ Elite quality across every area of the pitch
- ✓ Exceptional recent tournament pedigree
- ✓ Strong balance of youth and experience

#### **Concerns**

- ✓ Heavy favourites often face increased pressure
- ✓ Occasional defensive vulnerability against direct counter-attacks

#### **Assessment**

France should qualify comfortably and are strong favourites to win the group.

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### **Senegal**

Estimated Qualification Probability: 62%

#### **Positives**

- ✓ Physically powerful and athletic squad
- ✓ Excellent defensive structure
- ✓ Significant World Cup and AFCON experience

✓ Proven ability to compete with elite opposition

### **Concerns**

✓ Goal production can occasionally be inconsistent

✓ Squad depth below France

### **Assessment**

Senegal enter as slight favourites for second place thanks to their tournament pedigree and defensive reliability.

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## **Norway**

Estimated Qualification Probability: 58%

### **Positives**

✓ World-class attacking talent

✓ Direct and effective style of play

✓ Dangerous on transitions and set pieces

✓ Improving international performances

### **Concerns**

✓ Limited recent World Cup experience

✓ Defensive consistency remains a concern

✓ Heavily dependent on key attacking players

### **Assessment**

Norway possess enough quality to qualify and could easily finish second if they secure a positive result against Senegal.

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## **Iraq**

Estimated Qualification Probability: 15%

### **Positives**

- ✓ Strong team spirit and organisation
- ✓ Disciplined defensive approach
- ✓ Underdog status removes pressure
- ✓ Capable of frustrating stronger opponents

### **Concerns**

- ✓ Lowest-ranked side in the group
- ✓ Significant talent gap compared to France, Senegal and Norway
- ✓ Limited attacking depth

### **Assessment**

Iraq are outsiders but could influence qualification by taking points from either Senegal or Norway.

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## **3 Group Qualification Model**

### **Team Qualification Probability**

France 92%

Senegal 62%

## Team Qualification Probability

Norway 58%

Iraq 15%

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## 4 Key Group Dynamics

### France vs Senegal

A fascinating opening fixture between two physically strong sides. France possess superior quality, but Senegal have the tools to remain competitive.

### Senegal vs Norway

Likely the decisive fixture for second place. The winner could take a major step toward qualification.

### Norway vs Iraq

A match Norway cannot afford to drop points in if qualification ambitions are to remain on track.

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## 5 Qualification Summary

### Most Likely Outcome

- 1 France
  - 2 Senegal
  - 3 Norway
  - 4 Iraq
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## 6 Ante-Post Betting Recommendations

### Primary Selection

✓ Market: To Qualify From Group I

✓ Selection: Senegal

✓ Estimated Probability: 62%

✓ Fair Price: 1.61

**Rationale:** Senegal's defensive structure, athletic profile and tournament experience make them slight favourites to secure second place.

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### Secondary Value Angle

✓ Market: To Qualify From Group I

✓ Selection: Norway

✓ Estimated Probability: 58%

✓ Fair Price: 1.72

**Rationale:** Norway's attacking quality gives them a genuine opportunity to challenge Senegal and could offer value if market prices drift.

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### 7 Value Assessment

Team	Est. Probability	Fair Price
France	92%	1.09
Senegal	62%	1.61
Norway	58%	1.72
Iraq	15%	6.67

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### Early View

- France should top the group comfortably and are among the strongest favourites to progress deep into the tournament.

- Senegal currently look the strongest candidate for second place, largely due to their tournament experience and defensive organisation.
- Norway possess enough attacking quality to make qualification highly competitive and should not be underestimated.
- Iraq remain outsiders but could significantly influence the group if they manage to take points from either Senegal or Norway.