



FIFA World Cup 2026 | Group Qualification Report

Group L

Teams

- England
- Croatia
- Ghana
- Panama

Group L features England as clear favourites, alongside experienced tournament performers Croatia, an athletic and dangerous Ghana side, and Panama, who return looking to make an impact on the world stage. While England are expected to dominate the group, the battle for second place could prove highly competitive.

1 Group Overview

✓ Group Difficulty: Moderate-High

✓ Market Narrative: England are expected to win the group.

✓ Potential Market Inefficiency: Croatia's tournament pedigree may still be undervalued despite an ageing squad.

✓ Key Question: Can Ghana challenge Croatia for second place, or will experience prevail?

2 Team Profiles

England

Estimated Qualification Probability: 92%

Positives

- ✓ One of the deepest squads in the tournament
- ✓ Elite attacking talent across multiple positions
- ✓ Strong recent performances at major tournaments
- ✓ Excellent balance between youth and experience

Concerns

- ✓ High public expectation creates pressure
- ✓ Occasionally struggle against deep defensive structures

Assessment

England are deserved favourites and should qualify comfortably, with first place strongly expected.

Croatia

Estimated Qualification Probability: 65%

Positives

- ✓ Outstanding tournament pedigree
- ✓ Technically excellent midfield players
- ✓ Vast experience in knockout football

✓ Strong tactical discipline

Concerns

✓ Ageing core squad

✓ Less athleticism than previous generations

✓ Squad depth not as strong as England

Assessment

Croatia remain strong contenders for qualification and possess the experience to navigate difficult group-stage scenarios.

Ghana

Estimated Qualification Probability: 42%

Positives

✓ Athletic and physically powerful squad

✓ Dangerous attacking players

✓ Strong motivation in major tournaments

✓ Capable of upsetting higher-ranked opponents

Concerns

✓ Defensive consistency can fluctuate

✓ Limited squad depth compared to England and Croatia

✓ Tournament performances have been inconsistent

Assessment

Ghana have the talent to challenge Croatia directly and could emerge as one of the more dangerous outsiders in the tournament.

Panama

Estimated Qualification Probability: 18%

Positives

- ✓ Well-organised defensive structure
- ✓ Strong team spirit and collective identity
- ✓ Experience from previous World Cup participation
- ✓ Nothing to lose as group outsiders

Concerns

- ✓ Significant talent gap compared to England and Croatia
- ✓ Limited attacking quality
- ✓ May struggle to create chances consistently

Assessment

Panama are outsiders but could influence qualification outcomes by taking points from Ghana or Croatia.

3 Group Qualification Model

Team	Qualification Probability
England	92%
Croatia	65%

Team	Qualification Probability
Ghana	42%
Panama	18%

4 Key Group Dynamics

England vs Croatia

Likely to determine top spot. England possess greater squad depth, but Croatia's experience could make this a competitive encounter.

Croatia vs Ghana

Potentially the decisive fixture in the battle for second place. The winner could gain a major qualification advantage.

Ghana vs Panama

A must-win match for Ghana if they are to maintain realistic qualification hopes.

5 Qualification Summary

Most Likely Outcome

- 1** England
 - 2** Croatia
 - 3** Ghana
 - 4** Panama
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6 Ante-Post Betting Recommendations

Primary Selection

✓ Market: To Qualify From Group L

✓ Selection: Croatia

✓ Estimated Probability: 65%

✓ Fair Price: 1.54

Rationale: Croatia's experience, tactical discipline and proven World Cup pedigree make them favourites to secure second place behind England.

Secondary Value Angle

✓ Market: To Qualify From Group L

✓ Selection: Ghana

✓ Estimated Probability: 42%

✓ Fair Price: 2.38

Rationale: Ghana possess enough athleticism and attacking quality to challenge Croatia directly and could become attractive if market prices drift.

7 Value Assessment

Team	Est. Probability	Fair Price
England	92%	1.09
Croatia	65%	1.54
Ghana	42%	2.38
Panama	18%	5.56

Early View

- England should top the group comfortably and are among the strongest group winners on paper.

- Croatia currently look the strongest candidate for second place, supported by their extensive tournament experience.
- Ghana possess enough quality to make qualification highly competitive and could challenge Croatia throughout the group stage.
- Panama remain outsiders but could play a significant spoiler role in the battle for qualification.