

Canadian teams to play world soccer giants in 2025 FIWFA World Nations Cup

TORONTO – Canada will face powerhouse soccer countries including Spain, England and Italy in this fall's World Nations Cup of walking soccer in Spain, following yesterday's draw.

Canada will enter teams in four age groups – Women's Over 50s and Men's Over 50s, 60s and 70s. A total of 63 teams from 25 nations will gather in October at the [Torrevieja Sports City](#).

"This is a global showcase for talented Canadians to show they can compete with the best players from anywhere on the planet," said Team Canada General Manager David Hamon.

In walking soccer, like race walking, players must always have at least one foot on the ground.

Between Oct. 21 and 24 Canada's Men's Over 50s will play six group games, against opponents including France, Czechia and Japan. The Men's Over 70s have an opening fixture against the Netherlands, before facing opponents including England and Japan.

"With our Canadian pride, experienced players, and a commitment to teamwork we will be ready to take on the world," said Men's Over 50s captain Kerrin Hands.

In the tournament's second week, from Oct. 28 to 31, the Women's Over 50s will take on opponents including Wales, Hong Kong and Australia.

"Canada is a land of opportunity, and our national team proves it – diverse, united and driven by a belief that we can achieve greatness together" said Negar Farjadnia of Toronto, a player on the women's over 50 team.

Also that week, the Men's Over 60s renew their rivalry with Italy in a group that also includes Spain, Nigeria and others.

At the first World Nations Cup in the UK in 2023, the Canadian Men's Over 60s shocked the competition with a fourth-place finish. They beat South Korea, Japan and the Basque Country in the group stage, then Northern Ireland in the quarterfinals, before losing to eventual champions England in the semifinals and Italy in the third-place game.



George Lubberts of Coaldale, Alta. won the tournament's Best Goalkeeper Award and striker Pat Brodie of Brampton, Ont. was Canada's leading scorer with eight goals.

"Other countries may have underestimated Canada but following our fourth-place success in the inaugural World Nations Cup, we may not take them by surprise at this year's event," Brodie said.

This year's Canadian [rosters](#) include players from eight clubs in three provinces – Alberta (Lethbridge Walking Soccer) British Columbia (Gorge Soccer Association) and Ontario (London Walking Soccer, Oakville Wild Walkers, Pickering FC, Sarnia Warriors, Stratford Sloths and Toronto Loons).

"Our players are thrilled about this opportunity to test their skills against big time soccer countries on the world stage," said [Canadian Walking Soccer Association](#) (CWSA) Chair, Patrick Yao.

The World Nations Cup is organized by the Federation of International Walking Football Associations (FIWFA). Walking soccer was invented [in England in 2011](#), and that country now has 200,000 players. In 2015, Manchester City became the [first Premier League club to host](#) walking football sessions.

Here in Canada, the CWSA lists [20 registered clubs](#), from Vancouver Island to Halifax.

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