

Differences in the Performance of National Football Teams from Different Continents at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar

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Abstract

Analysis of the playing style, tactical and situational parameters in football shows different variations depending on continental affiliation. The aim of the paper was to determine the differences in the performance of national teams coming from different continents at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. The study included all national teams ($n=32$) that participated in the FIFA World Cup, with the performance of each team analyzed in every match they played. Since each match involved two national teams, a total of 128 individual team appearances were analyzed across 64 official FIFA World Cup matches. The participating national teams ($n=32$) were distributed across five continents: distributed across 5 continents: Europe ($n=13$ national teams; $n=56$ team appearances), Asia ($n=6$; $n=21$), Africa ($n=5$; $n=20$), South America ($n=4$; $n=18$) and North and Central America ($n=4$; $n=13$). The variables analyzed were: goals scored, shots on goal, passes, completed passes, pass accuracy percentage, ball possession percentage, total distance covered, total distance covered in zones 4 and 5, maximum speed achieved, successful line breaks, successful line breaks of the opponent's defensive line, ball receptions in the final third of the field, second balls won (www.fifa.com). The results show significant differences between continents in the following performances: shots on goal ($p=0.049$), shots on goal ($p=0.001$), total number of passes ($p=0.00$), total number of completed passes ($p=0.00$), percentage of pass accuracy ($p=0.00$), percentage of possession ($p=0.00$), maximum team speed achieved ($p=0.006$), successful line breaks ($p=0.00$) and touches with the ball in the last third of the field ($p=0.00$). The groups do not differ in goals scored ($p=0.122$), distance covered ($p=0.875$), distance covered in zones 4 and 5 ($p=0.180$), successfully broken defensive lines ($p=0.198$) and second balls won ($p=0.744$). Differences between continents have been observed, with European and South American teams having more possession of the ball, more passes and controlling the tempo of the game, while African, Central American and Asian teams prefer faster transitions and a more direct style of play based on the individual qualities of players. In terms of distance covered and intensity of movement in zones 4 and 5, the teams are at approximately the same level. The differences reflect historical, tactical and technical factors, which contribute to the diversity, unpredictability and richness of the game of football in the world.

Keywords: football, analysis, competition, football federations

Introduction

Football is a very complex sport that includes in its structure the interaction between physical and technical-tactical performances, and the success and performance in the match itself depends on several factors (Bjelica et al., 2025; Bradley et al., 2016; Bradley, 2024; Mota, Thiengo, Gimenes, & Bradley, 2016). This performance is characterized by the mutual interaction of technical, tactical, physical, physiological, and

psychological components (Azmi, Azli, Jakiwa, & Atan, 2026; Vergonis et al., 2019). Football has become the most popular and most watched sport in the world, and the FIFA World Cup is undoubtedly the largest football tournament followed by billions of people in more than 200 countries, and is organized every 4 years (Acar et al., 2009; Labbaf & Ketabchi, 2025). In general, after such major football tournaments, various factors of success in football are the subject of research by a large

number of scholars and experts, including the playing style, systems, and player movements of successful teams (Baškaya & Şentürk, 2016; Katanić et al., 2025). Although there is a significant number of studies in the literature on large organized football tournaments, research on the differences in physical performance and success factors between winning and losing teams in their matches is limited (Castellano, Casamichana, & Lago, 2012; Lepschy, Woll, & Wasche, 2021; Rumpf, Silva, Hertzog, Farooq & George, 2017).

The World Cup brings together the best national teams in the world, bringing together different playing styles, and therefore key performance indicators can differ significantly from those set in national leagues or in a single continental confederation. Based on this, it is considered very important to investigate the differences in physical, technical, and tactical performance between the winning and losing teams in the tournament, but also those teams coming from different continents.

Similar previous research shows that teams during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar covered an average of about 108.1 ± 3.6 km in total, of which 9.0 ± 0.9 km and 2.3 ± 0.3 km at higher intensities (≥ 20.0 km/h and ≥ 25.0 km/h) (Bradley, 2024). Compared to the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, national teams in Qatar 2022 covered only 3% more total distance, but covered 16%-19% more distance at higher intensities (Bradley, 2024). According to the results of the research by Šepić, Nemčić Bojić and Barišić (2024), we see that national teams that did not pass the group stage of the competition received statistically significantly more goals and were punished with a greater number of yellow cards compared to national teams that advanced. In relation to running performances by game positions of all teams in 2022, excluding the goalkeeper position, it is evident that team positions are approaching each other in terms of distance covered, movement intensity and maximum movement speed (Čolakhodžić, Ademović, & Hero, 2025). Differences between FIFA confederations show statistically significant differences in running performance characteristics in all positions among FIFA confederations except the winger position (Cikojević, 2024). Ju et al. (2024) compared and analyzed the performance of elite soccer players from different confederations during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and the 2023 Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. The data showed that South American players covered a lower total distance than European players at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar ($p=0.040$; Ju, Cost, & Oliva-Lozano, 2024). However, no differences were found in high-intensity running and sprinting distances between confederations in both tournaments. European players typically demonstrated superior technical/tactical performance. Furthermore, the analysis shows differences in physical strategy – for example, teams from continents such as North America and Asia (USA, Iran, Canada) demonstrated a combination of high total and total distance at high intensities, while teams such as Saudi Arabia demonstrated high explosiveness with relatively lower running volume. Ball possession and passing success also differentiate the teams: Spain, which leads in total number of passes and possession (average possession of 69% and 804 to 2489 successful passes in the group stage), shows dominance

different from styles such as North and South America, which are based on more direct and faster play but less ball possession (Ju et al., 2024; Tuo et al., 2019).

Despite the growing body of research examining physical, technical and tactical performance during FIFA World Cup tournaments, the existing literature has primarily focused on comparisons between winning and losing teams, playing positions or individual performance indicators. Comparatively little attention has been given to comprehensive comparisons of match performance among national teams representing different FIFA continental confederations under the same competitive conditions. Such analyses may provide valuable insights into continent-specific playing characteristics and contribute to a better understanding of how geographical and football-cultural differences are reflected in elite international competition. Therefore, this study aimed to examine the differences in selected physical, technical and tactical performance indicators among national teams from different FIFA continental confederations during the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

This study conducted a comparative analysis of football teams from five continents: Europe, South America, Africa, Asia and North America, to determine differences in their situational efficiency at the 2022 World Cup. Special attention was paid to identifying characteristic patterns of play and competitive performance of individual continents, such as more pronounced control of ball possession by European teams or greater creativity and individual expressiveness in the game of South American teams. The analysis includes a set of quantitative and qualitative variables that reflect different aspects of situational efficiency and their potential contribution to achieving a sporting result. The obtained findings aim to improve the understanding of specific continental characteristics in modern football, as well as to consider their possible role in predicting future performances of teams at major international competitions.

Methods

Research sample

The research sample consisted of all national teams participating in the 2022 World Cup in Qatar ($n=32$), divided into eight groups. The analysis included 64 official World Cup matches, or 128 team appearances by national teams ($N=128$ team appearances), distributed across 5 continents: Europe ($n=13$ national teams; $n=56$ matches), Asia ($n=6$ national teams; $n=21$ matches), Africa ($n=5$ national teams; $n=20$ matches), South America ($n=4$ national teams; $n=18$ matches), and North and Central America ($n=4$ national teams; $n=13$ matches).

Procedures

For the purposes of this research, official national team data from the official FIFA website (<https://www.fifa.com>) from the last World Cup held in Qatar in 2022 was taken. The championship was held from 20 November to 18 December and included 64 matches in which 32 national teams from all five FIFA continents participated (www.fifa.com). This championship

represented a unique opportunity to analyze the performance of national teams from different continents under unique playing conditions (high temperatures, different climatic conditions and cultural specificities), with the aim of identifying continental differences in situational efficiency based on key football variables. This paper examines variables that encompass different aspects of football at the highest level through technical aspects of the game, physical aspects of the game and tactically focused indicators of performance in the game.

Sample variables

In order to determine the differences in the situational efficiency of the national teams in relation to the continent they come from, the following variables were selected that encompass different aspects of the football game at the highest level through the technical aspects of the game: goals scored - SEPG (No.); shots on goal - SEUNG (No.); shots on goal frame - SEUOG (No.); number of passes - SEDO (No.); number of passes - SEDO (No.); completed passes - SEDK (No.); percentage of passing accuracy - SEDP (%); percentage of ball possession - SEPL (%), through the physical aspects of the game: total distance covered - SEUPD (km); total distance covered in high speed/zones 4 and 5 - SEPDZ45 (km); maximum speed achieved by an individual during the game - SEMB (km/h) and through tactical focus indicators of success in the game: successful breaking through the lines - SEUPL (No.); successful breaking through the opponent's defensive line - SEPDL (No.); receiving the ball in the last third of the field - SEDPT (No.) and winning the second ball - SEODL (No.).

Statistics

The statistical software package SPSS 25 (Version 25.0; IBM Corp., 2017) for Windows was used for data entry and processing. For all variables, the central and dispersion parameters, arithmetic mean (Mean) and standard deviation (SD), were determined, and the normality of the distribution

was determined for all variables based on measures of asymmetry (Skewness) and homogeneity of the distribution (Kurtosis). Homogeneity of variances was checked by Levene's test before conducting ANOVA analysis. To determine the differences between groups, a One-way ANOVA analysis of variance was used. After determining statistically significant differences by ANOVA analysis, the LSD post hoc test was applied to identify pairs of groups between which there are differences. The significance level was set at 0.05.

Results

For each applied variable, the central and dispersion parameters were calculated (Table 1), and the obtained results show that for the variables that define the technical aspects of the game: number of goals scored (SEPG), shots on goal (SEUNG) and shots on goal frame (SEUOG), number of passes (SEDO), completed passes (SEDK), percentage of pass accuracy (SEDP), ball possession (SEPL), the teams from Europe and South America clearly dominate. For the variables that represent the physical aspects of the game, the obtained results of the arithmetic means of the total distance covered show that the teams from Europe ran the most (116.07 ± 10.50 km) and the teams from Africa ran the least (113.36 ± 8.43 km). In terms of total distance covered at high intensities, in zones 4 and 5, the teams from Central and North America ran the most (15.90 ± 2.87 km) and the teams from South America ran the least (14.55 ± 1.92 km), while in terms of maximum individual speed achieved by the team, the results are approximately the same, with the best result achieved by the team from Central and North America (34.41 km/h). Tactically focused indicators of situational efficiency, such as successful line-breaking (SEUPL), defensive line (SEPDL) and receiving the ball in the opponent's third of the field (SEDPT), show the dominance of teams from Europe and South America, while in terms of second balls won (SEODL), where we have approximate values for all teams, South America and Central and Middle America dominate.

Table 1. Central and dispersion parameters of the groups of national team matches at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar

Variables	Europe (n=56 game)		Asia (n=21 game)		Africa (n=20 game)		South America (n=18 game)		North and Central America (n=13 game)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
SEPG (No.)	1.60	1.65	1.04	0.80	1.05	1.14	1.61	1.09	0.76	0.72
SEUNG (No.)	11.67	5.22	9.57	5.04	9.65	2.92	14.05	5.97	10.30	7.33
SEUOG (No.)	4.03	2.48	3.14	1.87	3.15	1.53	6.16	3.31	3.23	2.97
SEDO (No.)	571.16	173.58	401.57	116.72	389.55	92.15	560.27	122.71	446.61	95.91
SEDK (No.)	498.92	172.41	326.38	119.41	318.45	89.87	487.22	127.06	378.46	95.53
SEDP (%)	86.39	4.15	79.47	8.11	81.10	5.00	86.22	4.08	84.07	4.32
SEPL (%)	49.14	11.38	35.87	10.89	37.68	8.94	48.37	8.67	43.58	11.19
SEUPD (km)	116.07	10.50	115.85	8.31	113.36	8.43	114.59	14.38	114.73	7.65
SEPDZ45 (km)	15.35	1.82	15.02	1.36	14.70	0.76	14.55	1.92	15.90	2.87
SEMB (km/h)	34.15	0.77	33.59	0.61	34.32	0.79	33.91	0.70	34.41	0.76

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Table 1. Central and dispersion parameters of the groups of national team matches at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar

Variables	Europe (n=56 game)		Asia (n=21 game)		Africa (n=20 game)		South America (n=18 game)		North and Central America (n=13 game)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
SEUPL (No.)	103.91	28.70	80.14	21.73	76.00	11.73	102.55	26.23	90.00	19.98
SEPD (No.)	10.66	5.96	8.81	4.08	7.70	3.22	11.16	6.40	9.84	6.42
SEDPT (No.)	105.25	26.80	85.85	24.00	75.55	17.39	109.00	28.51	92.30	28.70
SEODL (No.)	66.55	12.51	66.28	15.09	67.55	11.50	71.11	12.72	68.61	14.23

Note. SEPG - goals scored (No.); SEUNG - shots on goal (No.); SEUOG - shots on goal frame (No.); SEDO - number of passes (No.); SEDK - completed passes (No.); SEDP - percentage of passing accuracy (%); SEPL - percentage of ball possession (%); SEUPD - total distance covered (km); SEPDZ45 - total distance covered at high speed in zones 4 and 5 (km); SEMB - maximum speed achieved by an individual during the game (km/h); SEUPL - successful breaking through the lines (No.); SEPD (No.); SEDPT - receiving the ball in the last third of the field (No.); SEODL - winning the second ball (No.); SD - standard deviation.

Table 2 shows the results of the analysis of the differences in arithmetic means of the groups of national teams from different continents that participated in the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. One-way analysis of variance - ANOVA, for certain variables, a statistically significant difference was determined between the groups in the variables: shots on goal ($p=0.049$), shots on goal ($p=0.001$), total number of passes ($p=0.000$), total number of completed passes ($p=0.000$), percentage of passing accuracy ($p=0.000$),

percentage of ball possession ($p=0.000$), maximum speed achieved by an individual member of the national team during the match ($p=0.006$), successful line-breaking ($p=0.000$) and touches with the ball in the last third of the field ($p=0.000$). The differences found are not statistically significant in the variables: goals scored ($p=0.122$), total distance covered ($p=0.875$), distance covered in zones 4 and 5 ($p=0.180$), successful penetration of the opponent's defensive line ($p=0.198$) and second ball won ($p=0.744$).

Table 2. Analysis of the difference between groups of national teams at the World Cup 2022 in Qatar – ANOVA

Variables		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
SEPG (No.)	Between Groups	13.03	4	3.26	1.856	0.122
	Within Groups	215.85	123	1.76		
	Total	228.88	127			
SEUNG (No.)	Between Groups	273.68	4	68.42	2.458	0.049*
	Within Groups	3423.62	123	27.83		
	Total	3697.31	127			
SEUOG (No.)	Between Groups	122.02	4	30.50	5.017	0.001**
	Within Groups	747.86	123	6.08		
	Total	869.88	127			
SEDO (No.)	Between Groups	833383.54	4	208345.89	10.428	0.000**
	Within Groups	2457404.33	123	19978.90		
	Total	3290787.88	127			
SEDK (No.)	Between Groups	833603.85	4	208400.96	10.430	0.000**
	Within Groups	2457685.96	123	19981.19		
	Total	3291289.81	127			

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Table 2. Analysis of the difference between groups of national teams at the World Cup 2022 in Qatar – ANOVA

Variables		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
SEDP (%)	Between Groups	1003.79	4	250.95	9.502	0.000**
	Within Groups	3248.43	123	26.41		
	Total	4252.22	127			
SEPL (%)	Between Groups	3979.36	4	994.84	8.867	0.000**
	Within Groups	13800.77	123	112.20		
	Total	17780.13	127			
SEUPD (km)	Between Groups	128.31	4	32.08	0.303	0.875
	Within Groups	13021.33	123	105.86		
	Total	13149.64	127			
SEPDZ45 (km)	Between Groups	20.36	4	5.09	1.593	0.180
	Within Groups	393.11	123	3.20		
	Total	413.47	127			
SEMB (km/h)	Between Groups	8.53	4	2.13	3.837	0.006*
	Within Groups	68.33	123	.56		
	Total	76.86	127			
SEUPL (No.)	Between Groups	17538.15	4	4384.54	7.299	0.000**
	Within Groups	73887.57	123	600.71		
	Total	91425.72	127			
SEPDL (No.)	Between Groups	183.06	4	45.77	1.530	0.198
	Within Groups	3680.18	123	29.92		
	Total	3863.24	127			
SEDPT (No.)	Between Groups	18482.68	4	4620.67	7.059	0.000**
	Within Groups	80510.79	123	654.56		
	Total	98993.47	127			
SEODL (No.)	Between Groups	332.04	4	83.01	0.489	0.744
	Within Groups	20873.93	123	169.71		
	Total	21205.97	127			

The results of the comparison of the arithmetic means of the variables between the continents are also shown graphically (figures 1–4).

Figures 1a, 1d, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3c, 3d, and 4a show the dominance of the national teams from the European and South American continents. Graphs 1b, 1c, and 4b show the dominance of the South American national teams, the continent from which the winner of the World Cup – Argentina – comes. In graphs 3a and 3b, which show the variables of total distance covered in high speed/zones 4 and 5 and the maximum speed achieved by an individual during the match, the teams from the African continent and from North and Central America dominate, and which are, among other things,

the weakest in all other indicators at the championship. This once again confirms the hypothesis and claim that the teams from Europe and South America play a dominant role in world football, that they still play the most beautiful, most appealing, and most dominant football. Other teams coming from outside these continents show their technical-tactical weaknesses and deficits, which these two teams significantly exploit and achieve dominance through ball possession, the number of successful passes, and shots on goal. Other teams try to compensate for their weaknesses through high levels of distance covered and running intensity in order to achieve positive results and the desired goal in the match.

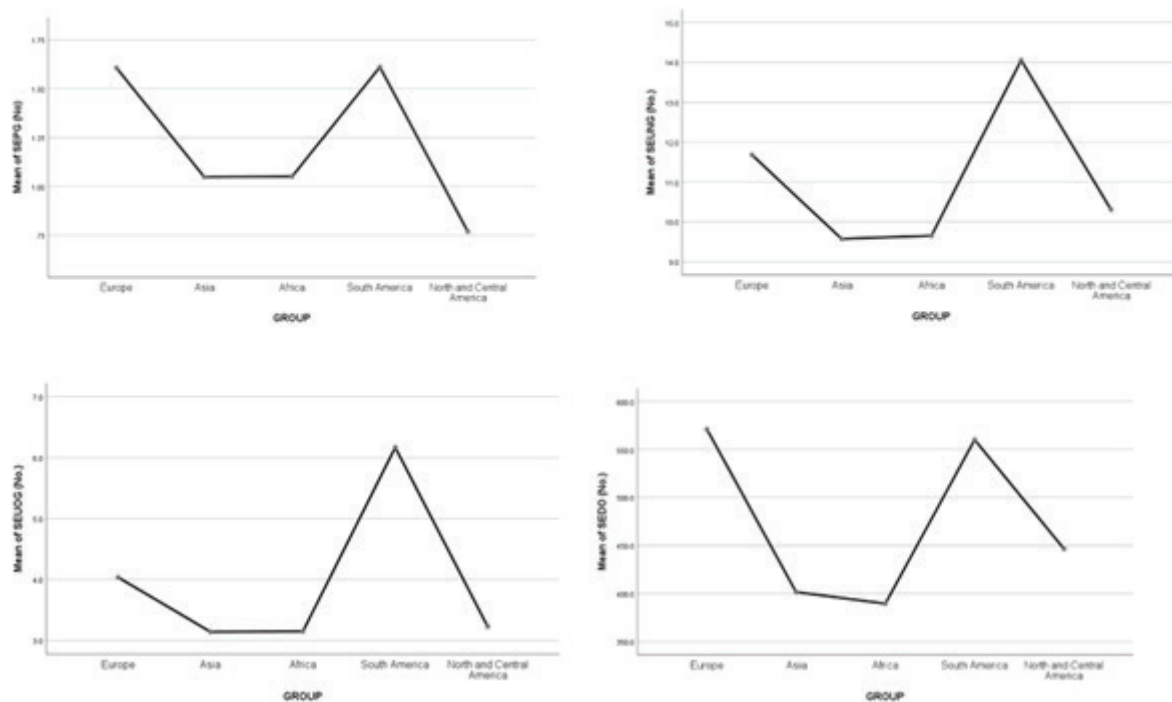


Figure 1. Graphical comparison of technical aspects between continents: a) Goals scored per game (SEPG); b) Shots on goal (SEUNG); c) Shots on goal frame (SEUOG); d) Total number of passes (SEDO)

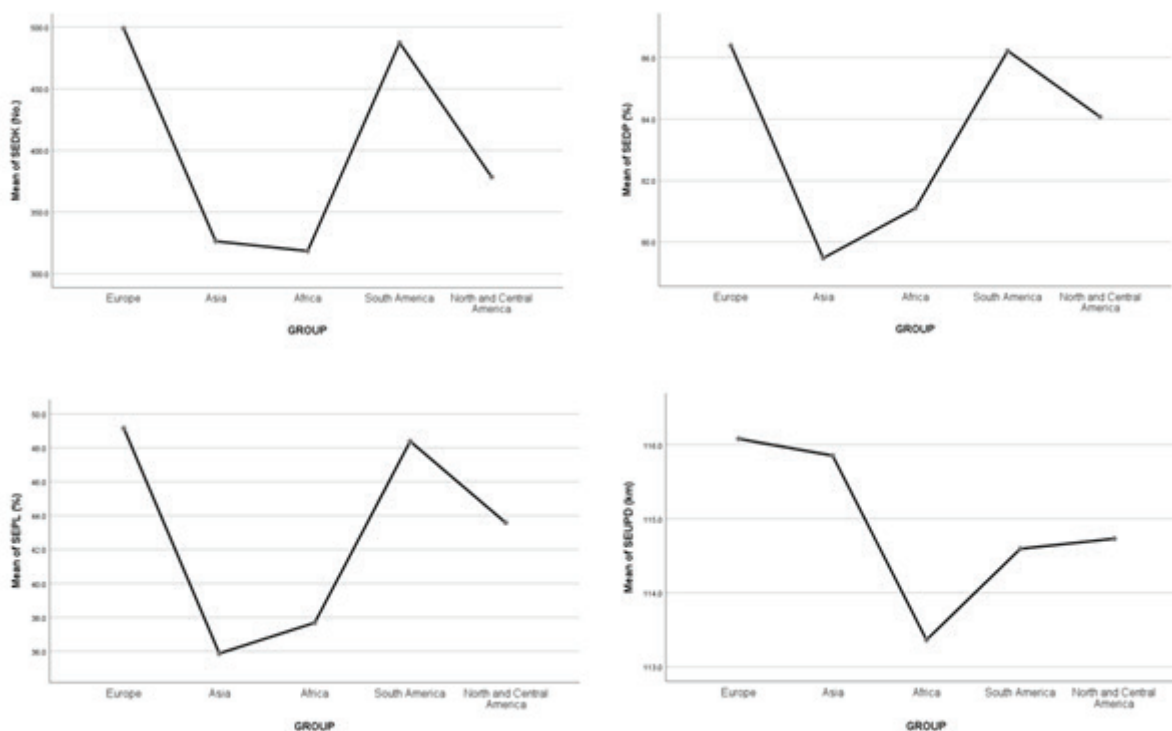


Figure 2. Graphical comparison of technical aspects between continents: a) Passes completed (SEDK); b) Passing accuracy percentage (SEDP); c) Ball possession percentage (SEPL); d) Total distance covered (SEUPD)

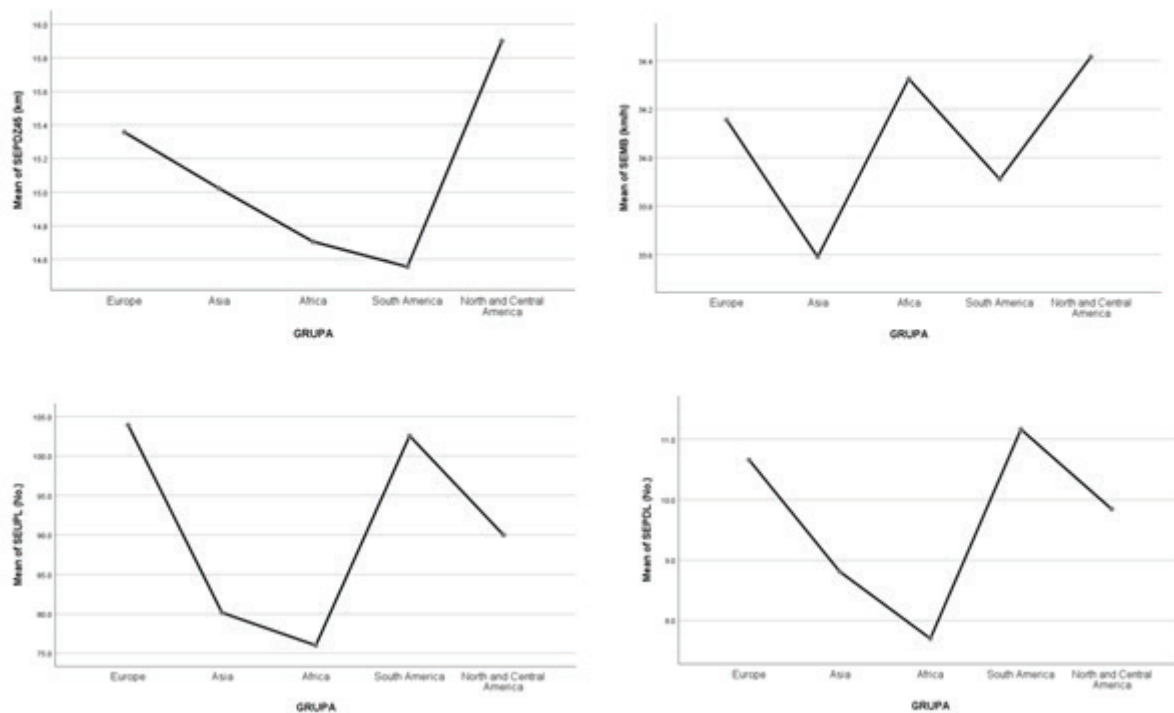


Figure 3. Graphical comparison of technical aspects between continents: a) Total distance covered in high Zones 4 and 5 (SEPDZ45); b) Maximum speed achieved during the match (SEMB); c) Successful breaking through the lines (SEUPL); d) Successful breaking through the opponent's defensive line (SEPDL)

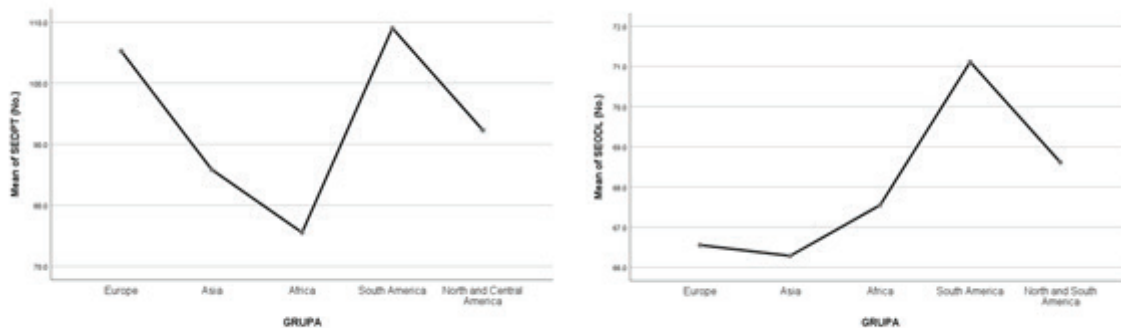


Figure 4. Graphical comparison of technical aspects between continents: a) Touches with the ball in the last third of the field (SEDPT); b) Second balls won (SEODL)

Discussion

The aim of this study was to determine the differences in the technical, tactical and physical performance of football teams from different FIFA confederations at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Overall, the findings indicate that continental differences were primarily reflected in technical-tactical performance, whereas physical performance appeared to be largely comparable across FIFA confederations. This finding supports recent evidence suggesting that technical-tactical characteristics are more likely to distinguish teams from different FIFA confederations than physical performance vari-

ables (de França et al., 2024; Ju et al., 2024).

The most pronounced differences were observed in variables describing game control and attacking organization, including the total number of passes, the number of successfully completed passes, passing accuracy, ball possession, shots, successful line-breaking actions, and receiving the ball in the final third of the field. The highest values were achieved by teams from Europe and South America in these indicators, suggesting a greater ability to control the tempo of the game, maintain ball possession and create attacking opportunities. These findings are consistent with previous studies demon-

strating that greater ball possession, passing success and offensive organization are among the strongest indicators of successful team performance in elite international football (Castellano et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2015; Yi et al., 2019).

Furthermore, these results may reflect the long-established football traditions, greater tactical sophistication and higher competitive standards characteristic of European and South American football. Since many players representing these confederations regularly compete in the world's strongest professional leagues, they are routinely exposed to possession-oriented tactical systems and complex decision-making demands, which may further contribute to superior technical-tactical performance (Bradley et al., 2016; de França et al., 2024). The present findings are also in agreement with the observations of Lepschy et al. (2021) and Ju et al. (2024), who reported that successful national teams in major international tournaments are characterized by greater ball possession, higher passing accuracy and greater efficiency in creating scoring opportunities.

Interestingly, no statistically significant differences in the number of goals scored were observed between the confederations. Although European and South American teams achieved higher values in most attacking indicators, the conversion of scoring opportunities itself did not differ significantly among the groups. This finding confirms the complexity of football performance, in which match outcomes are influenced not only by ball possession and attacking dominance but also by finishing efficiency, opponent quality, tactical organization and situational match context. Similar conclusions have been reported by Rumpf et al. (2017), Vergonis et al. (2019) and Lepschy et al. (2021), who emphasized that match success is determined by the interaction of numerous technical, tactical and contextual factors rather than by superiority in individual match statistics alone.

Regarding physical performance, the results demonstrated no statistically significant differences between the confederations in either total distance covered or high-intensity running distance (zones 4 and 5). These findings are consistent with the current evolution of elite football, in which physical demands have become increasingly standardized at the highest competitive level. Regardless of geographical origin, most elite international players currently compete in professional leagues characterized by similar training methodologies, sports science support and competitive demands. Consequently, differences in physical capacities between confederations appear to be less pronounced than in previous decades (Bradley et al., 2016; Bradley, 2024; Branquinho et al., 2023). Similar observations were reported by Bradley (2024) and Ju et al. (2024), who found no significant differences in high-intensity running performance among confederations during the FIFA World Cup.

Statistically significant differences were found in maximum sprint speed, with teams from North and Central America and Africa achieving slightly higher values than the remaining confederations. One possible explanation is that these teams more frequently adopt direct attacking strategies and rapid offensive transitions, which require players to perform maximal sprint efforts more often during matches.

Similar observations were reported by Tuo et al. (2019), who demonstrated that running profiles differ according to confederation-specific playing styles, while de França et al. (2024) also identified associations between continental playing styles and team performance characteristics. Nevertheless, considering the relatively small differences in arithmetic means, these findings should be interpreted with caution.

The tactical indicators describing successful line-breaking actions and receiving the ball in the final third further confirmed the advantage of European and South American teams in organizing attacking play. A greater frequency of these actions indicates superior spatial organization, more effective decision-making and a greater ability to disrupt the opponent's defensive structure. Such offensive behaviours are characteristic of possession-oriented teams employing coordinated positional play and efficient progression through defensive lines to create high-quality scoring opportunities (de França et al., 2024; Ju et al., 2024; Yi et al., 2019). These characteristics have traditionally been associated with national teams achieving the greatest success in major international competitions (Lepschy et al., 2021).

Overall, the present findings suggest that differences between FIFA confederations are primarily expressed through technical-tactical rather than physical performance. While elite national teams appear to have reached a relatively similar physical standard, tactical organization, ball circulation and attacking efficiency continue to distinguish the most successful football cultures. These findings reinforce previous evidence highlighting the growing importance of collective tactical behaviour and technical efficiency in elite international football (de França et al., 2024; Ju et al., 2024; Lepschy et al., 2021). From a practical perspective, these findings may assist coaches, performance analysts and technical staff in developing opponent-specific tactical strategies when preparing for international tournaments. Understanding continent-specific performance profiles may facilitate more effective scouting, match preparation and training design while also contributing to the development of playing models tailored to the strengths and weaknesses of opponents from different FIFA confederations.

The findings of this study should be interpreted in light of several limitations. First, the analysis was conducted using data from a single FIFA World Cup tournament, limiting the generalizability of the results to other international competitions. Second, the analyses were performed at the team level and therefore did not account for individual player characteristics or positional roles that may also influence match performance. Furthermore, contextual factors such as opponent quality, match status, competition phase, tactical formation and playing strategy were not included, although previous research has shown that these variables substantially influence both technical and physical performance during football matches (Bradley, 2024; da Mota et al., 2016). Future research should therefore include multiple international tournaments and apply more advanced statistical approaches while incorporating contextual variables to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the influence of continental affiliation on elite football performance.

Conclusions

The aim of the research was to determine the differences in the performances of football teams from different continents at the 2022 World Cup. The results of the descriptive analysis for all matches of all groups of teams (continents) at the World Cup were interpreted and the arithmetic means of the teams for the applied variables determined by the one-way analysis of variance - ANOVA were compared. The results obtained are presented in tables and graphs. The research results showed that there are significant differences in the technical and tactical performances of football teams from different FIFA confederations at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. European and South American teams achieved higher values in indicators describing game control, including the number of passes, passing success, ball possession, number of shots on goal and indicators of attacking game organization. Such results indicate a greater ability of these teams to control the course of the game and create a greater number of quality attacking situations. On the other hand, teams from Asia, Africa, and North and Central America achieved similar values in physical indicators, with no statistically significant differences in total distance covered and distance covered at high intensities of movement. These findings confirm that physical fitness at the elite international level is largely uniform regardless of the continental affiliation of the teams. The results obtained suggest that the contemporary differences between the most successful teams are not based primarily on the physical capacities of the players, but above all on the technical-tactical organization of the game, control of ball possession and the ability to create attacking opportunities. The above findings may be useful for coaches, analysts and sports experts in planning training processes and understanding the specific characteristics of teams from different confederations at the largest international competitions.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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