



**PROSEGUR**  
**SECURITY**

# Security at the Soccer world championship 2026

Intelligence analysis

**Prosegur Research**

June, 2026



# 01

## **Executive Summary**

# 02

## **Introduction to the Soccer world championship**

- 2.1** Introduction to event security
- 2.2** Event location and participants
- 2.3** Event program

# 03

## **Analysis of threats affecting the event**

- 3.1** Social Threats
- 3.2** Technological Threats
- 3.3** Physical Security Threats
- 3.4** Environmental Threats

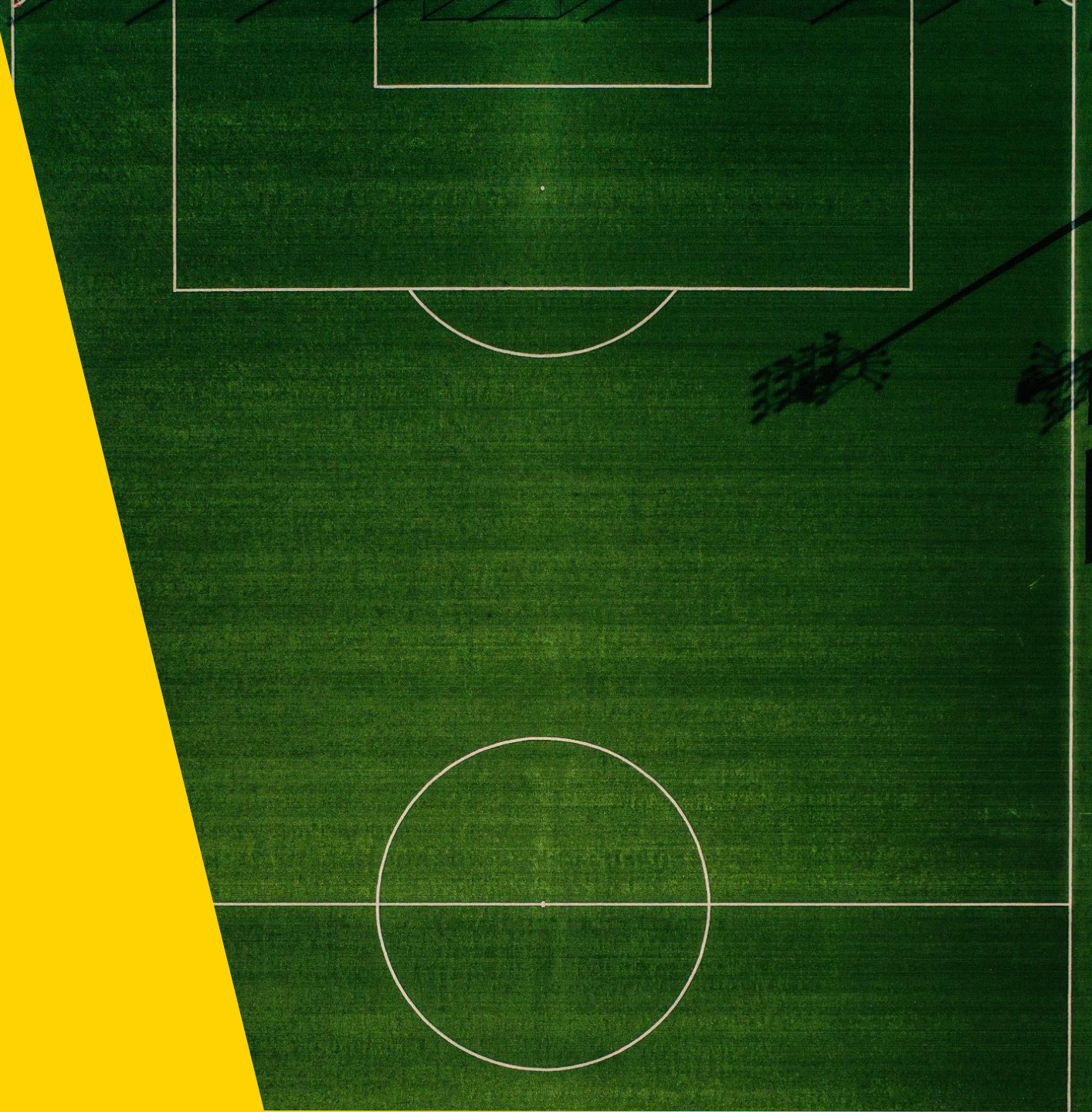
# 04

## **Other use of information for the traveller**



# Executive Summary

# 01





# Security at the Soccer world championship 2026

## 1. Executive Summary

From **June 11 to July 19**, the Soccer world championship 2026 will take place in Mexico, the United States, and Canada, across the 16 host cities designated for the event, which will feature 48 national teams.

During the event, which will draw large crowds to the host cities, there is a high probability of threats related to **crowd management** and **opportunistic crimes** (such as riots, the use of drones, and pickpocketing).

In crowded settings, **travel** is likely to be disrupted, resulting in delays for fans and staff arriving at the stadiums.

There is a high likelihood of an increase in **cyber scams** involving phishing, fraudulent websites, and match piracy, with the aim of stealing money and credentials.

Due to the extensive media and social media coverage of the event, activist groups are likely to carry out **protests and acts of sabotage**, thereby increasing the media reach of their demands

Figure 1

**Soccer world championship Risk Matrix** Source: Prosegur Research, 2026.

CATEGORY	THREAT	PROBABILITY			IMPACT			RISK		
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
SOCIAL THREATS	Crowd management related threats									
	Social unrest									
TECHNOLOGICAL THREATS	Cyber scams									
	Use of drones									
PHYSICAL SECURITY THREATS	Crimes of convenience									
	Travel									
	Sabotage									
	Terrorist attack methodology									
ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS	Weather phenomena									
	Diseases									



Figure 2

## Event Security

Source: Prosegur Research, 2026.

### Travel

Congestion at public transportation hubs and traffic disruptions on the way to stadiums during games.

### Access control

At the entrances to the venue, incidents that disrupt the crowd's behavior—such as arguments or altercations—are common, leading to stampedes in crowded areas. Criminals take advantage of the high density of people to commit opportunistic crimes, such as theft of wallets, cell phones, and credentials.

### Drones

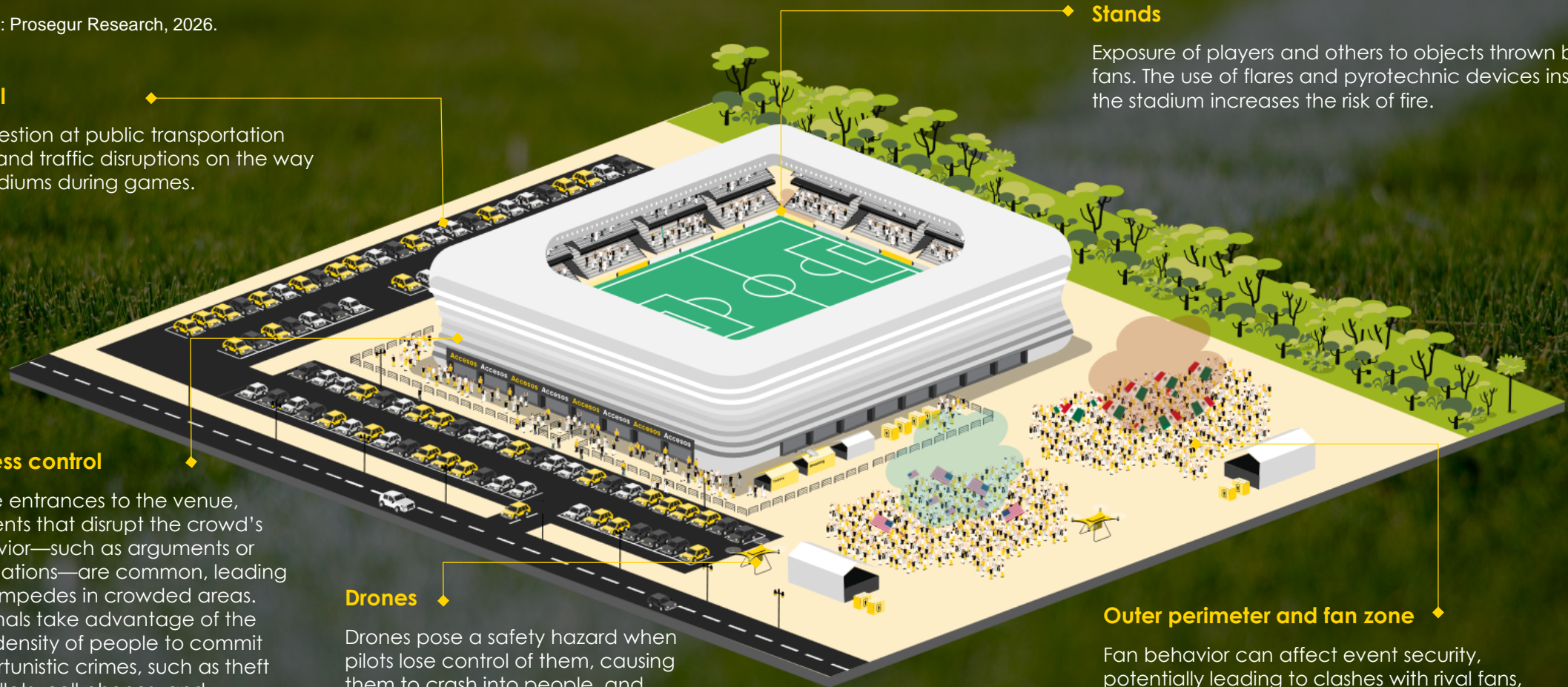
Drones pose a safety hazard when pilots lose control of them, causing them to crash into people, and they can be used for sabotage and armed attacks when equipped with jamming devices and explosives

### Stands

Exposure of players and others to objects thrown by fans. The use of flares and pyrotechnic devices inside the stadium increases the risk of fire.

### Outer perimeter and fan zone

Fan behavior can affect event security, potentially leading to clashes with rival fans, trespassing, or unauthorized entry. Transportation hubs, bars, and restaurants are locations where such incidents frequently occur.





# Introduction to the Soccer world championship

# 02





# Introduction to the Soccer world championship

# 2026



## 2.1 Introduction to event security

The Soccer world championship 2026 will take place from **June 11 to July 19**, with 48 national teams competing against one another. The tournament will be held in three host countries (see Figure 1), namely:

- ▲ Canada
- ▲ The United States (U.S.)
- ▲ Mexico

The Soccer world championship is a major sporting event that **attracts large crowds**; More than 6.5 million fans are expected to attend in the host countries, 1.24 million of whom will travel to the United States, which is hosting the tournament's final.

From the perspective of security at sporting events, security can be compromised by the materialization of threats directly linked to:

- ▲ **The internal security context** of the regions where the event is taking place, such as exposure to extreme weather events
- ▲ **Event-specific characteristics**, such as crowd management at high-attendance events and attendees' vulnerability to theft and scams

Threats **capable of compromising event security** vary in nature and origin, impacting both the **physical and cyber domains**. In this regard, operations conducted through digital channels (such as streaming platforms and/or ticket sales platforms) increase the attack surface, enabling threats originating from this domain. Furthermore, the adoption of technology by society and organized criminal groups gives rise to new emerging threats, characterized by limited historical data and varying impacts.

Furthermore, due to extensive coverage in both traditional and digital media, as well as on social media, **the Championship amplifies the media reach of the impact of threats once they materialize**, resulting in significant reputational damage.

Given these factors, event security must be identified and managed using a **hybrid approach** aimed at anticipating and mitigating threats, with the goal of ensuring the continuity of the event and the safety of people, facilities, and the assets they contain.

With this in mind, **the following document aims to provide an overview of security at the Soccer world championship** before, during, and after the event.







## 2.2 Event location and participants

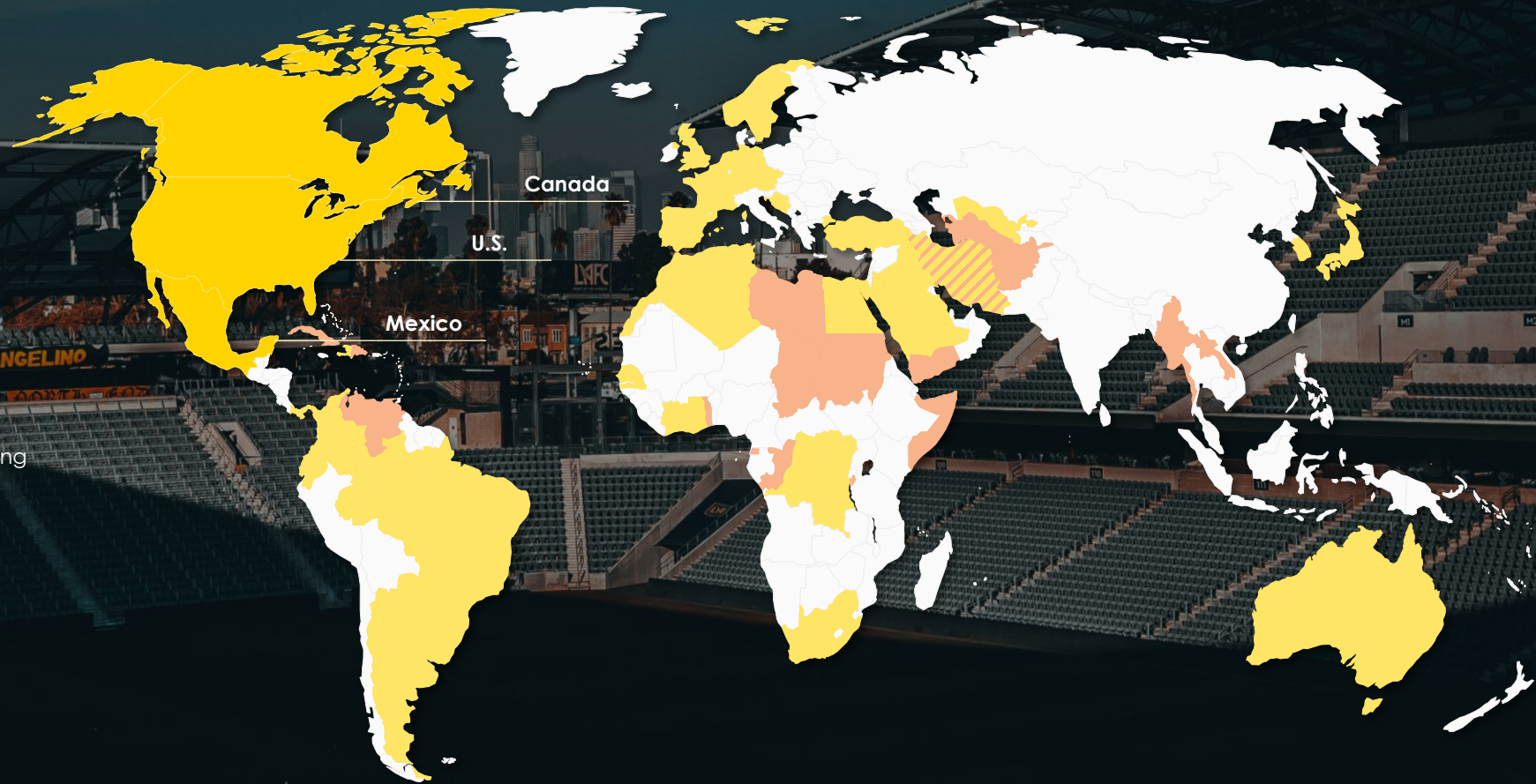
The following list (see Figure 3) identifies the 48 countries participating in the Soccer world championship, including both host and participating nations. Given the international nature of the event, the governments of the host countries have made exceptions to travel restrictions for athletes, coaches, and event staff.

Figure 3

### Countries participating in the Soccer world championship

Source: Prosegur Research, 2026.

-  Host country
-  Participating country
-  Country/territory not participating
-  Country subject to U.S. entry restrictions





# Introduction to the Soccer world championship

Figure 4

## Event locations and points of interest

Source: Prosegur Research, 2026.

- Host city in Mexico
- Host city in the U.S.
- Host city in Canada

- States/provinces where the national teams are staying
- 🏟️ Game stage

### a. Mexico



#### 1 Monterrey

🏟️ Monterrey Stadium

#### 2 Guadalajara

🏟️ Guadalajara Stadium

#### 3 México City (CDMX)

🏟️ CDMX Stadium

#### 4 Seattle

🏟️ Seattle Stadium

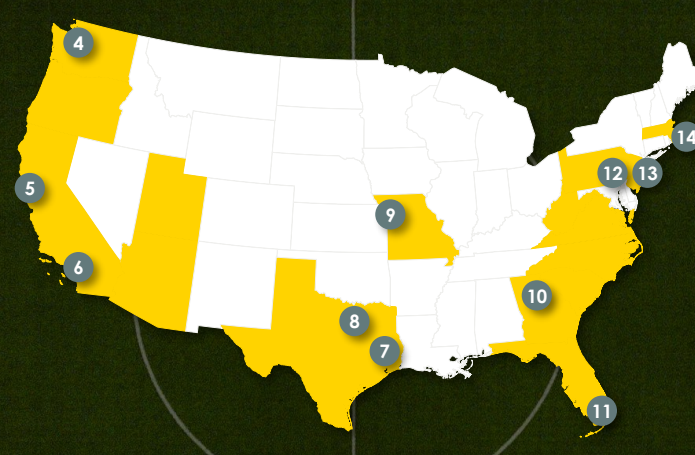
#### 5 San Francisco

🏟️ San Francisco Bay Stadium

#### 6 Los Angeles

🏟️ Los Angeles Stadium

### b. U.S.



#### 7 Houston

🏟️ Houston Stadium

#### 8 Dallas

🏟️ Dallas Stadium

#### 9 Kansas City

🏟️ Kansas City Stadium

#### 10 Atlanta

🏟️ Atlanta Stadium

#### 11 Miami

🏟️ Miami Stadium

#### 12 Philadelphia

🏟️ Philadelphia Stadium

### c. Canada



#### 13 New York / New Jersey

🏟️ New York Stadium

#### 14 Boston

🏟️ Boston Stadium

#### 15 Vancouver

🏟️ Vancouver Stadium

#### 16 Toronto

🏟️ Toronto Stadium



# Analysis of threats affecting the event

# 03





This section analyzes **each of the threats that could directly or indirectly impact the Soccer world championship and affect its operations and security**. Threats are defined as any factors that could affect any of the interests to be protected, namely: people (including fans and employees of all kinds), infrastructure (referring to all facilities), data (which is the primary asset), reputation, and business continuity.

## 3.1 Social threats

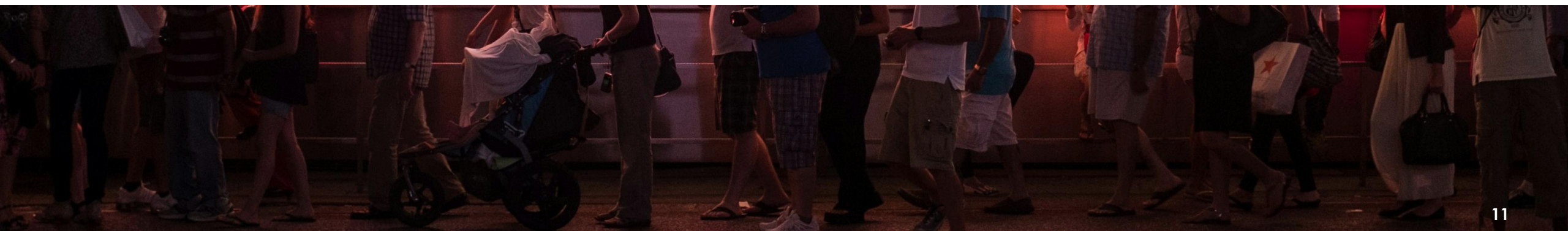
Threats originating in the social sphere are characterized by their potential to create an atmosphere of discontent, polarization, uncertainty, or conflict among the public toward public or private organizations, as well as to lead to incidents related to crowd management, such as stampedes.

### ▲ Threats related to crowd management

Given the expected crowds at the matches, it is likely that **large crowds will gather outside the venue, at access points, and inside the stadiums, driven by events capable of causing public alarm**, such as armed attacks, clashes, terrorist attacks, or violent robberies. **Stampedes pose a high risk to elevated infrastructure** (such as bleachers), whose collapse during a stampede—combined with their inherent vulnerability—exacerbates the impact on human safety..

**Incidents of physical violence, such as riots and clashes between rival fan groups**, frequently occur during sporting events in locations where these groups may come into contact, such as outside stadiums, on public transportation, in bars and restaurants, and in the downtown areas of host cities. These incidents are often fueled by fanaticism and alcohol consumption. These incidents increase the likelihood of stampedes in areas with high crowd density, directly impacting people's safety and causing collateral damage to nearby infrastructure. During these incidents, the **use of fireworks and flares** is common, facilitating the outbreak of fires in flammable materials, such as poles and tents.

When clashes occur inside stadiums, **objects are thrown and attempts are made to storm the field**, bringing the game to a standstill until the disturbances are resolved, a process that can take several minutes.







## 3.2 Technological Threats

Technological threats are characterized by disruptions to activities associated with the use of technology and the vulnerability of systems and structures.

### ▲ Cyber scams

Digital scams are on the rise, with criminals using [fake websites that impersonate the organizing entity's corporate identity](#). By creating the impression that they are selling travel packages, tickets, and merchandise, these criminals seek to **extract personal information—such as bank account numbers and credit card details—from users attempting to purchase these items, with the aim of stealing money.**

Furthermore, the **sale of counterfeit tickets increases the likelihood of intrusions and violent incidents** between buyers and security personnel at stadium entry points when buyers are denied entry.

During the Soccer world championship, the likelihood of **phishing attacks** that mimic legitimate communications from the event increases, due to users' reduced ability to detect them. The access gained allows for financial fraud, the theft of digital tickets, and access to users' personal information for subsequent resale.

Likewise, high demand for broadcasts fuels the proliferation of **websites linked to piracy**, which stream matches live and without a license. This results in significant financial damage associated with the loss of revenue from television rights. On these websites, it is common to encounter fraudulent pop-ups designed to steal users' credentials for later resale.

### ▲ Use of drones

The **use of drones by fans** to record matches creates safety hazards when they enter unauthorized areas or lose control of the drones, which then crash into areas with high concentrations of people and, on occasion, inside stadiums, endangering people's physical safety and temporarily suspending the game.

Given their **high adaptability**, criminal groups use drones for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) tasks, with the aim of detecting movement patterns to prepare for subsequent criminal activities, such as intrusions into restricted areas. Likewise, these groups integrate explosive devices as aerial attack vectors, a practice proliferating primarily in Mexico by actors such as the Sinaloa Cartel.

The **likelihood of drone incidents occurring is moderate**, given both the widespread use of drones by hobbyists and [the attention paid to this issue by host countries](#), which are implementing comprehensive security measures to prevent such incidents.

Figure 6

**Drone-related incidents in soccer matches** Source: Prosecur Research, 2026.

Date	Place	Type of incident	Impact
2026	England	Drone spotted flying over the playing field	Temporary suspension of the match
2025	England	Drone flew over the playing field during recess	Delay in the resumption of the game
2024	Ireland	People flew drones near the stadium	No operational impact



# Threat Analysis

## 3.3 Physical security threats

Physical security threats are characterized by the potential to cause damage to tangible or intangible assets in the event of an incident, whether through physical acts such as theft, vandalism, or physical assault, or through actions targeting intangible assets such as sensitive information, patents, or reputation.

### ▲ Crimes of convenience

In crowded areas, such as outside stadiums, at access points, and in city centers—including bars, plazas, and restaurants—opportunistic crimes are rampant. These crimes are carried out by **organized criminal groups that take advantage of large crowds to make their actions harder to detect, leading to the theft of personal items such as cell phones and wallets.** In addition to affecting individuals, this also poses a threat to businesses if employees' devices are stolen, potentially leading to the leakage of confidential or sensitive corporate information. Furthermore, scams involving the **sale of counterfeit tickets and jerseys** outside stadiums are common, preying on fans' gullibility.

### ▲ Travel

On match days, travel by road is **likely to be disrupted, resulting in delays due to road closures** associated with security measures and the presence of fans in host cities. The areas most likely to experience these disruptions are **the vicinity of stadiums, hotels, and training centers**, as these are the locations with the highest concentration of fans.





## ▲ Terrorist attack methodology

With regard to **terrorism**, the likelihood of armed attacks aimed at instilling fear in the population increases due to the greater media impact these attacks receive as a result of extensive news coverage of the event. However, **the overall probability of such attacks occurring is low**, given the security measures deployed by the host countries. The types of terrorism to which the Soccer world championship is exposed fall into two broad categories, namely:

- ▲ **Domestic terrorism**, carried out by supremacist groups, extremist anti-government militias, and drug cartels
- ▲ **Transnational terrorism** linked to jihadist groups, such as the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda, which, through the dissemination of propaganda via digital media, encourage the commission of attacks to instill terror

**Soft targets** (those that are easily accessible and where large numbers of people gather), such as the areas surrounding stadiums, city centers, or transportation hubs, are the most likely to be the site of attacks. If such attacks occur, jihadist groups typically use knives, firearms, and vehicle-ramming attacks, with anyone at risk of being injured.

## ▲ Sabotage

Sabotage is carried out by activist groups, which **take advantage of the event's extensive media coverage to amplify the reach of their messages**. These acts have a cross-cutting impact on both the physical and digital spheres, given their nature as a hybrid threat.

In the physical realm, activist groups cause **arson, power outages, and interference with drones flying over stadiums, disrupting the power supply and disrupting the continuity of the event**. As critical infrastructure, transportation systems are susceptible to acts of sabotage through the degradation of technical equipment and interference with control and communications systems, causing delays in fans' arrival at stadiums and congestion at transportation hubs.

On the digital front, hacktivist groups carry out **cyberattacks such as denial-of-service attacks and defacement on ticket sales portals and live match-tracking platforms**, paralyzing operations in this area and causing significant reputational damage. The issues most likely to materialize are linked to ongoing armed conflicts, as well as to internal political and electoral matters in the host countries.





# Threat Analysis

## 3.4 Environmental Threats

Environmental threats are characterized by the potential for direct and indirect impacts on infrastructure, employees, and business operations due to events associated with the environment in which the company operates.

### ▲ Extreme weather phenomena

Among the main natural hazards are **extreme heat waves and wildfires**, which are particularly prevalent during the summer months. The areas most at risk are Dallas, Houston, Monterrey, and Vancouver, where these events can lead to an increase in medical emergencies, a decline in air quality, and greater strain on air conditioning systems, power grids, and transportation networks.

Furthermore, the **influence of El Niño [beginning in June/July](#)** increases the likelihood of extreme rainfall, storms, and flooding, particularly in host cities most exposed to the phenomenon, such as Mexico City, Houston, and Dallas, causing travel delays. During periods of heavy rain and flooding, the vulnerability of road infrastructure, due to its inherent characteristics, leads to an increase in road accidents.

### ▲ Disease

Due to the high volume of staff and their mobility, there is likely to be an increase in the incidence of airborne illnesses, such as the flu and seasonal viruses, as well as gastrointestinal illnesses caused by contaminated food. In the event of such an increase, there is likely to be greater demand for healthcare services and an increase in staff absences, with a moderate impact associated with the suspension of operations.





Other useful  
information for  
the traveller

04





## 4. Other information of interest to displaced persons

From the perspective of fans traveling to the host countries of the Soccer world championship, their safety encompasses issues related to planning and preventing incidents that could impact their experience of the event and limit their access to it.

From this individual-centered perspective, travelers should consider the following logistical challenges in order to adapt to an event taking place across multiple countries, each with its own unique characteristics. Specifically:



### Travel

- ▲ On match days, traffic is likely to be disrupted due to high volumes of people and security measures imposed by government authorities, resulting in delays in public transportation services and increased traffic on major urban roads connecting host cities with transportation hubs, such as airports, and other parts of the city.
- ▲ When traveling to host countries, you will need to verify the validity of your permits and visas in order to enter them.



### Customs

- ▲ When planning your trip, you should take into account the different time zones of each host country when traveling between host cities (see [Figure 8](#) for more information).
- ▲ During the event, local restrictions are widespread; for example, restrictions on the consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places have been identified.
- ▲ The event will have its own safety measures and protocols, which can be consulted through official government and the organizing entity channels.



### Digitalization

- ▲ While in the host countries, traveling fans will need access to the local internet network to use essential services, such as online messaging.
- ▲ During matches, the use of drones to capture images of the event will be restricted.
- ▲ There is a high likelihood of an increase in digital scams targeting fans, proliferating on fraudulent websites and through social engineering techniques such as phishing.



# Useful information for the Traveller

Figure 7

## Useful information

Source: Prosegur Research, 2026.

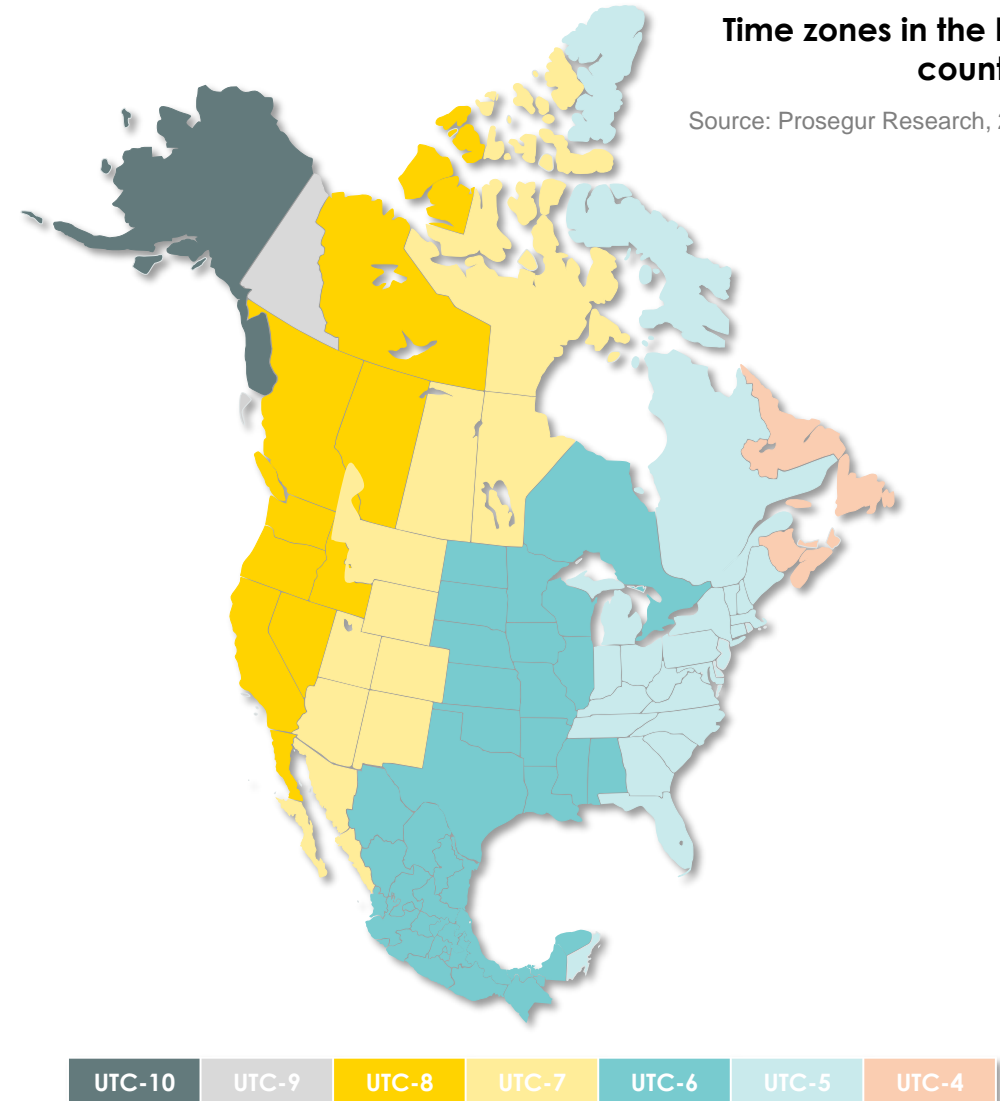


	CANADA	U.S.	MEXICO
<b>Climate</b>	Southern Canada typically experiences temperatures between 20°C and 30°C from June through July, with warm days and occasional thunderstorms	The climate varies greatly by region. In the Northeast and Midwest, temperatures typically range from 25°C to 35°C in June and July, while in the South and Southwest, temperatures exceed 40°C	The climate is variable, but warm temperatures prevail. In northern and central regions, especially in desert areas, temperatures exceed 40°C.
<b>Currency</b>	The country's official currency is the Canadian dollar (CAD)	The country's official currency is the U.S. dollar (USD)	The country's official currency is the Mexican peso (MXN)
<b>Healthcare</b>	Health care is primarily provided through a public system; visitors are not covered by this system, so it is advisable to have health insurance	Healthcare is based on a largely private system with a comprehensive healthcare infrastructure; it is common to have health insurance due to the high costs.	There are private hospitals and clinics in cities and tourist areas; medical care is readily available, so it is recommended that you have health insurance

Figure 8

## Time zones in the host countries

Source: Prosegur Research, 2026.



© 2026 PROSEGUR. All rights reserved. The content, analysis, graphics, and design of this report are the exclusive property of Prosegur or it holds the necessary third-party licenses. Downloading and viewing are permitted for personal use only. Total or partial reproduction, modification, distribution, or commercial exploitation of this material is strictly prohibited without the prior written consent of the copyright holder.

**Disclaimer and Non-Affiliation:** This document constitutes an independent and autonomous report, prepared objectively and exclusively for informational purposes. Prosegur assumes no commitment to update or review its content. Furthermore, it is hereby stated that there is no relationship, sponsorship, alliance, or commercial association with any third-party event, entity, or organization.