

VINICIUS JR

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 · PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

■ BRAZIL · REAL MADRID · #7 · LEFT WINGER




■ FIT FOR WORLD CUP — Named in Ancelotti's 26-man Brazil squad. **Golden Boot favourite. Leads Brazil's attack in Group C. Brazil open vs Morocco, June 13, MetLife Stadium, New Jersey.**

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Brazil enter 2026 as the most star-studded squad in the tournament under Carlo Ancelotti, chasing an historic sixth World Cup title — the Hexa. Get the full breakdown, \$BRACKETS fantasy picks, and tournament previews at Nektr.

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① SHORT BIO

Full name: Vinícius José Paixão de Oliveira Júnior | **Born:** July 12, 2000 — São Gonçalo, Brazil | **Age at WC 2026:** 25 | **Height:** 1.76 m | **Foot:** Right

Vinicius Jr joined Flamengo's academy at age 10 and became the most expensive teenager in Brazilian football history when Real Madrid paid €45M for him in 2018. After a difficult debut season, he has evolved into one of the world's most devastating attackers — two-time **UEFA Champions League winner** under Ancelotti, 2022 UCL final scorer, and **2024 Ballon d'Or winner**. In 2025-26 La Liga he has scored 10 goals and 5 assists, maintaining 0.77 goal involvements per 90 in Spain. His international record has been a persistent talking point — just 6 goals in 39 games for Brazil — but Ancelotti, who knows him better than anyone, has publicly stated Vinicius can shine for Brazil *'without any problem.'* He is the Golden Boot favourite and the player around whom Brazil's entire attacking identity at the 2026 World Cup is built.

- [Real Madrid Official Profile](#)
- [Wikipedia — Vinicius Jr](#)
- [FBref Career Stats](#)

② PROFESSIONAL STATS

10 La Liga Goals · 2025-26	5 La Liga Assists · 2025-26	 Ballon d'Or · 2024	6 Brazil Goals · Career (39 caps)
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Competition	Season	Apps	Goals	Assists	Notes
La Liga	2025-26	~34	10	5	0.77 G+A per 90
La Liga	2024-25	~32	~20	~10	Ballon d'Or season
Champions League	2024-25	~10	~5	~3	UCL winner
La Liga	2023-24	~33	15	6	UCL final scorer
Brazil (Senior)	Career	39+	6	6	WC 2026 talisman
2022 World Cup	Qatar	5	0	2	QF exit vs Croatia

■ FBref.com ■ Transfermarkt ■ Tribuna.com Stats

③ SOCIAL MEDIA & OFFICIAL LINKS

■ Instagram	@vinijr	Primary platform — match moments, anti-racism campaigns, lifestyle
■ X (Twitter)	@vinijr	Match reactions, official announcements, activism posts
■ YouTube	Real Madrid TV	Vinicius highlights & Real Madrid content
■ Club Page	realmadrid.com	Official Real Madrid player profile and stats
■ FIFA WC Hub	FIFA Official	World Cup 2026 squad & tournament hub

④ TOP 3 TRENDING STORIES

1

Golden Boot Favourite — Leading Brazil's Chase for Hexa

Vinicius enters the 2026 World Cup as one of the top favourites for the Golden Boot, backed by his La Liga form (10G/5A in 2025-26) and Ancelotti's total confidence. Brazil are chasing their **sixth World Cup title — the 'Hexa'** — and the national squad's attacking identity revolves entirely around Vini's pace, dribbling and finishing. FootballTransfers notes Brazil's 4-2-4 will see him push high on the left flank alongside Raphinha on the right.

■ Sources: FIFA World Cup News · Football Transfers

2

International Record Under Scrutiny — 6 Goals in 39 Brazil Caps

Vinicius's international output remains a genuine concern — just 6 goals and 6 assists in 39 caps, averaging only 0.4 goal contributions per 90 for Brazil compared to 0.77 at Real Madrid. Sports Mole notes the stark drop-off and warns that unless he improves these figures significantly, Brazil cannot rely on him to beat elite opposition. He himself acknowledged the *'weight of the jersey'* as a factor. The World Cup is his moment to silence the critics.

■ Sources: Sports Mole · World Cup Pass

3

Ancelotti Reunion — Manager Who Knows Him Best Now Coaches Brazil

Carlo Ancelotti took over Brazil in May 2025 after leaving Real Madrid, becoming the first non-Brazilian to coach the Seleção at a World Cup. The Ancelotti–Vinicius relationship is arguably the most important factor in Brazil's campaign — the Italian built Vini into a Ballon d'Or winner and publicly stated he can replicate that form for Brazil. World Soccer Talk reports Ancelotti will go *'all-in'* with Vinicius at the centre of a free-flowing attacking system.

■ Sources: World Soccer Talk · Football Transfers

⑤ STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES

■ STRENGTHS	■■ AREAS TO WATCH
<p>✓ ■ Elite Pace & Dribbling</p> <p>One of the fastest and most direct dribblers on earth — virtually uncontainable in space with his acceleration and close control.</p>	<p>✗ ■ Brazil Form Gap</p> <p>6 goals in 39 international caps vs his Madrid output is a significant and unresolved disparity — a recurring pattern that must change at the WC.</p>
<p>✓ ■ Champions League Pedigree</p> <p>Two UCL titles, 2022 final goal, 2024 Ballon d'Or. No bigger stage than the World Cup — his experience with Real Madrid prepares him perfectly.</p>	<p>✗ ■ Discipline</p> <p>Yellow and red cards have been a recurring issue — provoked by rough treatment, but suspension risk in a knockout tournament is real.</p>
<p>✓ ■ Clinical Finishing</p> <p>10 La Liga goals and 0.77 G+A per 90 in 2025-26 confirms his finishing has matured significantly since his early Madrid years.</p>	<p>✗ ■ Physical Battles</p> <p>When well-marshalled by two compact defenders and denied space, Vinicius can struggle to impose himself — as seen in some La Liga away games.</p>
<p>✓ ■ Ancelotti Relationship</p> <p>Coached by Ancelotti at Real Madrid for years — the tactical familiarity and trust between them is a unique competitive edge for Brazil.</p>	<p>✗ ■ Pressure of Expectation</p> <p>Labelled Brazil's saviour and a Golden Boot favourite — the weight of national expectation at a home-continent World Cup is enormous.</p>