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# Baltimore hopes to make latest World Cup soccer cut

**Baltimore Business Journal - by [Ryan Sharrow](#) Staff**

Baltimore will find out Tuesday if it made the latest round of cuts to host World Cup soccer games in 2018 or 2022.

The USA Bid Committee will unveil the list of 18 cities — down from 27 — at a 3:30 p.m. press conference Tuesday in New York. The 18 cities will be included in the official U.S. bid package due to FIFA, the international governing body of soccer, by May 14, 2010.

For Baltimore for sports business leaders, the decision will cap months of campaigning. The 71,000-seat M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, as well as FedEx Field in Landover, are both still in contention.

The USA Bid Committee will find out in December whether it has been awarded the 2018 or 2022 games, one of the world's largest sporting events. If selected, 12 cities will host soccer matches.

“We’re kind of at the mercy of the USA Bid Committee right now,” said Terry Hasseltine, director of Maryland’s Sports Marketing Office, in an interview Monday. “We’re biting our nails and tapping our toes until 3:30 tomorrow.”

Baltimore’s bid committee plans on meeting for the announcement at a to-be determined Inner Harbor location. The committee includes [Baltimore Ravens](#) President Dick Cass and Visit Baltimore CEO Tom Noonan.

“My gut tells me it’s going to be a positive day for Baltimore,” Hasseltine said of Tuesday’s announcement.

City and state leaders were making a last-minute push for public support, asking local residents to sign an online petition in favor of Baltimore.

Hasseltine said Baltimore received 5,200 signatures, up from nearly 2,800 a month ago.

A recent study commissioned by the USA Bid Committee showed the World Cup would generate \$5 billion for the U.S.

M&T Bank Stadium has made it from an original list of 70 stadiums.