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Ballon d’Or 2026: Kane Won at 67%, and the Price Did Not Move Early

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ABSTRACT

Harry Kane won the 2026 Ballon d’Or after leading Polymarket at 67.1% a week out. Unlike 2024, his price jumped only in the minute of the announcement.

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DATA AVAILABILITY 6 tables and charts are downloadable as CSV and JSON with their sources on the page. **Calculations checked: proof record**.

LIMITATIONS **Method and limits**, below.

67.1%

Harry Kane, 2026 winner price a week out. Polymarket, 12:45 UTC on 19 October 2026. He won on 26 October; Kylian Mbappé was second and Lamine Yamal third

70% → 99%

Kane's price in the minute it jumped. Trades near 69–72% at 22:50:20 UTC on 26 October, at 98–99% from 22:50:24 UTC. No earlier move

−72.0 pts

Vinícius Júnior's fall on the 2024 ceremony day. From 80.5% to 8.5% in 24 minutes, 13:48 to 14:12 UTC on 28 October 2024, eight hours before the award. Rodri won

89.5%, 85.2%, 67.1%

The favourite a week before the ceremony. Vinícius Júnior in 2024, who lost; Ousmane Dembélé in 2025 and Harry Kane in 2026, who won

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The result, and the last pre-ceremony checkpoint

Harry Kane won the 2026 men’s Ballon d’Or at the London ceremony on 26 October, UEFA reported. Kylian Mbappé was second, Lamine Yamal third, Rodri fourth and Lionel Messi fifth. Alexia Putellas won

the women’s award. Polymarket has resolved its men’s winner market to Kane and its women’s market to Putellas.

The market’s favourite won, and unlike 2024 its price did not move early. Kane traded between 54% and 80% through the day of the ceremony. At 22:50:20 UTC trades were still crossing near 69% to 72%; from 22:50:24 UTC they crossed at 98% to 99%. In the retained trade record the move happens in one step, with no build-up in the minutes before. That fits a price that moved when the result was read out, not before; the record does not contain the broadcast clock, so it cannot date the announcement to the second.

The table below is the actual room response preserved on 24 October at 13:43:42 UTC, two days before the ceremony. It records the contract rows available in the men’s winner market at that moment, not the complete official nominee list, and it is not a complete order book or a guarantee that an order could trade at the displayed number.

Men’s winner contract	Price checkpoint, cents
Harry Kane	66.15¢
Kylian Mbappé	23.55¢
Lamine Yamal	8.35¢
Lionel Messi	1.40¢
Rodri	0.35¢
Khvicha Kvaratskhelia	0.25¢
Fabian Ruiz	0.15¢
Ousmane Dembélé	0.05¢
Michael Olise	0.05¢
Vitinha	0.05¢
Erling Haaland	0.05¢
Declan Rice	0.05¢
Jude Bellingham	0.05¢
Vinícius Júnior	0.05¢

Actual room response, 24 October 2026 at 13:43:42 UTC, before the ceremony. Available priced men’s winner contracts; the result is reported separately above.

The short answer

Harry Kane won the 2026 Ballon d'Or. He had led Polymarket's winner market at 67.1% a week before the ceremony in London on 26 October, with Lamine Yamal second at 24.9% and no one else above 4%. Those prices were read at 12:45 UTC on 19 October 2026. Mbappé, at 3.4% to win a week out, finished second.

Three finished markets now show what a favourite's price does and does not mean. In 2024 Vinícius Júnior was 89.5% a week before the ceremony and 92.5% a day before, and Rodri won. That price turned on the afternoon of the ceremony: Vinícius fell from 80.5% to 8.5% in 24 minutes, and Rodri took the lead at 14:01 UTC, 7 hours 45 minutes before Rodri's first recorded 99.9% price. In 2025 Ousmane Dembélé was 85.2% a week out, and he won. In 2026 Kane was 67.1% a week out, and he won.

The 2026 market behaved differently from 2024 on the night. Kane's price stayed between 54% and 80% all day and jumped to 99% only at 22:50:24 UTC. Three markets are too few for a rate, and this page reads the public price record; it is not a forecast.

Ballon d'Or 2026 odds on Polymarket

The 30-player shortlist was published on 8 September 2026. At 12:45 UTC on 19 October, a week before the ceremony, 19 names in Polymarket's winner market had an open market and a recorded price. The table shows the ten highest, with the separate top-three market beside them. These are the prices before the result; Kane won, Mbappé was second and Yamal third.

The two markets answered different questions. Kylian Mbappé was 3.4% to win but 78.5% to finish in the top three, and he finished second. These separate contracts distinguish winning from making the podium; they do not establish a joint finishing order. Lionel Messi was 3.1% to win and 20.5% to make the top three; he finished fifth. The women's award was decided the same night in a much thinner market: Alexia Putellas was 92.8% and Ewa Pajor 5.4%, and Putellas won.

Candidate	Win	Top three finish
Harry Kane	67.1%	97.2%
Lamine Yamal	24.9%	92.2%
Kylian Mbappé	3.4%	78.5%
Lionel Messi	3.1%	20.5%
Khvicha Kvaratskhelia	0.4%	5.9%
Rodri	0.4%	10.5%
Erling Haaland	0.2%	2.1%
Ousmane Dembélé	0.2%	4.5%
Michael Olise	0.2%	4.8%

Candidate	Win	Top three finish
Fabian Ruiz	0.2%	3.9%

Polymarket Yes prices at 12:45 UTC on 19 October 2026, a week before the ceremony: each market's last minute price at or before that time. A price under 1% is not zero; its spread and executable quantity require a separately retained order book.

How the 2026 favourite changed over 13 months

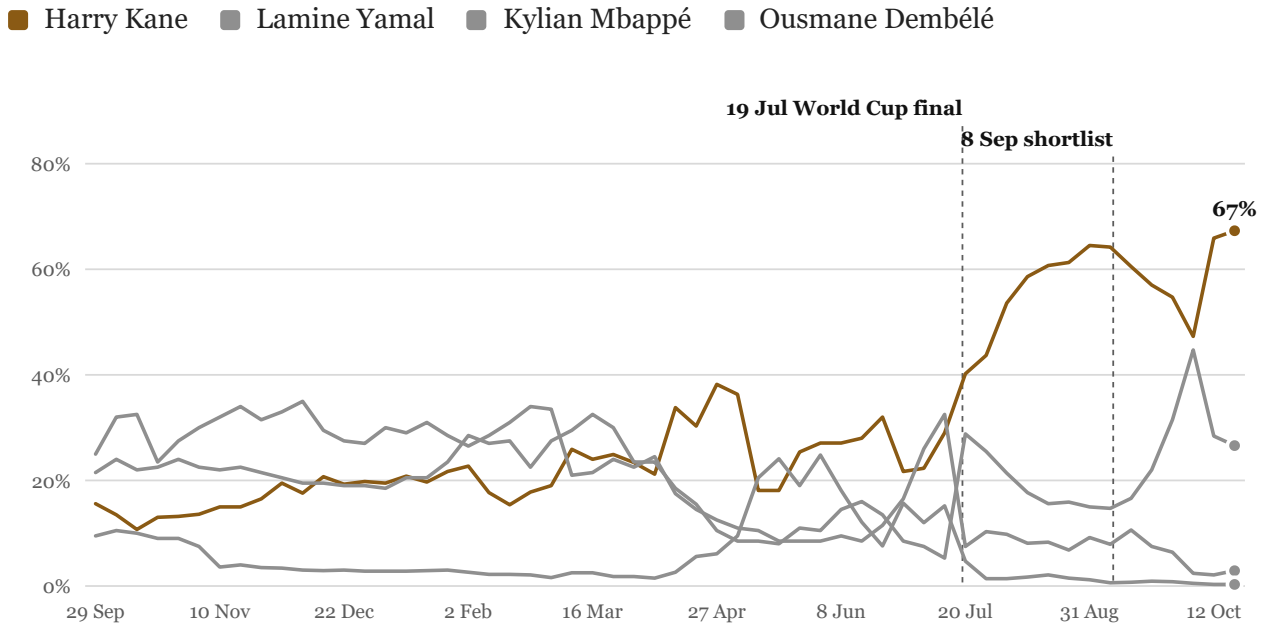
The 2026 market opened on 23 September 2025, the day after the 2025 ceremony. In its daily readings since then the lead has changed hands 22 times. Mbappé led for 169 days, Kane for 156, Yamal for 45, Dembélé for 16 and Messi for 4.

The retained prices swung during World Cup week. These coincident movements do not isolate the effect of a match from other information. On the evening of the first semi-final, 14 July, Mbappé fell from 30.5% at 17:00 UTC to 5.0% at 21:00 UTC, and Kane rose to 38.6%. On the evening of the second, 15 July, Kane fell from 48.8% to 21.4% and Messi rose from 16.7% to 43.8%. Spain beat Argentina 1–0 after extra time in the final on 19 July; by 23:00 UTC Messi was 8.3% and Kane 45.3%.

Kane led on every day from 20 July to the ceremony except six, from 29 September to 4 October, when Yamal was ahead. Kane was 62.5% on 15 October and 67.1% on the 19th. On the day of the ceremony Mbappé rose to 42.2% at 16:06 UTC while Kane fell to 54.1%; by 18:00 UTC Kane was back at 72.5%.

Ballon d'Or 2026 winner price, four leading names

Polymarket, Monday 00:00 UTC readings, 29 September 2025 to 19 October 2026. Percent.



Weekly readings smooth the swings of the World Cup week; the hourly prices are in the text above.

Chart: Vultax Research

▶ Show the numbers

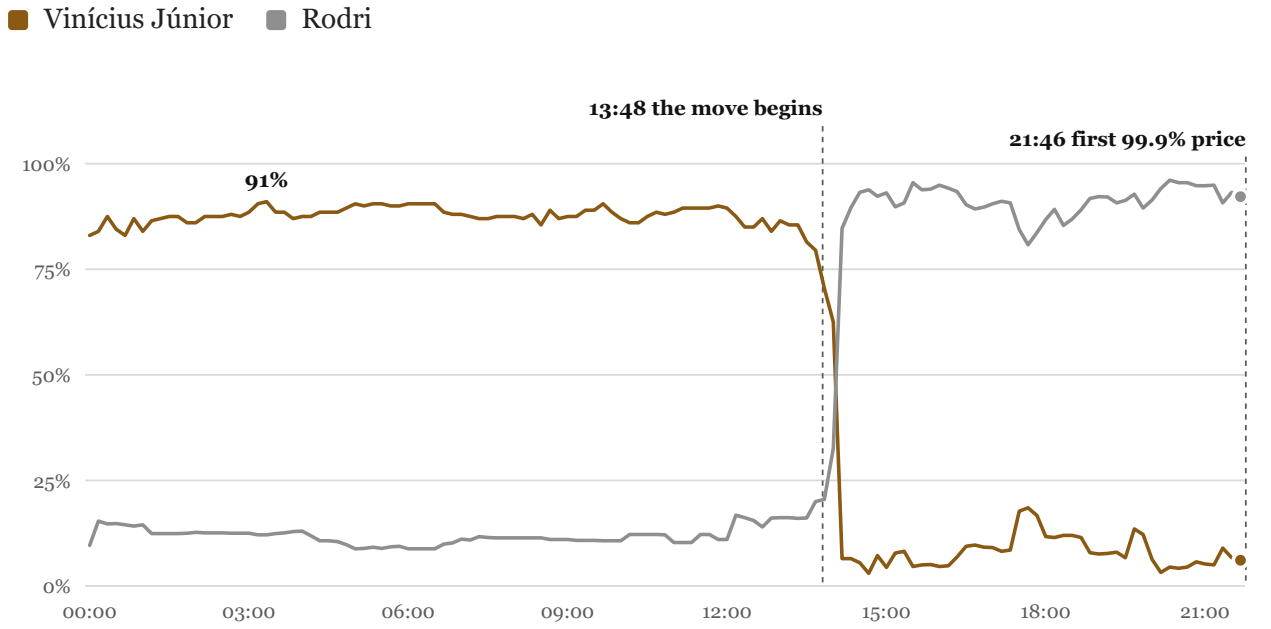
2024: the favourite who lost

Vinícius Júnior led Polymarket's 2024 market on 54 of its 55 days and reached 94.5%. A week before the ceremony he was 89.5% and Rodri 8.3%; a day before, 92.5% against 6.7%.

The move began at 13:48 UTC on 28 October, the afternoon of the ceremony in Paris. By 14:12 UTC Vinícius was 8.5%. Rodri passed him at 14:01 UTC. In the minutes that followed Rodri was at 85% or more nine times in ten, with one dip to 60.5% at 17:23 UTC, until his price reached 99.9% at 21:46 UTC. That day Reuters reported that Real Madrid had called off its trip to the ceremony because the club understood Vinícius would not win.

Vinícius Júnior and Rodri on the day of the 2024 ceremony

Polymarket, every 10 minutes, 00:00 to 21:40 UTC on 28 October 2024. Percent.



The marked times come from the minute series; the minute prices around the move are in the table below.

Chart: Vultax Research

▶ Show the numbers

28 Oct 2024	Vinícius Júnior	Rodri
13:45 UTC	79.0%	20.1%
13:48 UTC	80.5%	19.6%
13:51 UTC	75.0%	20.5%
13:54 UTC	73.0%	22.9%
13:57 UTC	67.5%	56.8%
14:00 UTC	62.5%	32.6%
14:03 UTC	35.0%	62.0%
14:06 UTC	25.5%	66.0%
14:09 UTC	11.5%	83.7%
14:12 UTC	8.5%	90.2%
14:15 UTC	5.5%	90.2%

Polymarket minute prices, every three minutes. The two prices can add to more or less than 100% because each is its own market.

What the 2024 trade record shows

The public trade record shows little early money on Rodri. In the 14 hours before 13:50 UTC on 28 October, takers bought $64,987 of Vinícius from 147 wallets, including one purchase of $10,000 at 92.2% at 11:02 UTC. Over the same hours $3,013 went on Rodri from 57 wallets; the largest single purchase was $400 at 12.5%.

The money came with and after the move. In the 20 minutes from 13:50 UTC, 47 trades worth $5,776 crossed in the Rodri market. This interval is a trade-record observation; the retained record does not establish the official award announcement or platform settlement timestamp.

A trade is counted at its size times its price, and a purchase of Yes is counted together with a sale of No. No wallet is identified here, and the record cannot say why anyone traded.

2025: the favourite who held

Dembélé first led the 2025 market on 7 May 2025 and led on 137 of its 201 days. From 10 July he stayed between 78% and 90%. A week before the ceremony on 22 September he was 85.2%, and a day before 84.7%.

The price wobbled on the night. At 18:52 UTC Dembélé dipped to 60.5% and Yamal rose to 33.3%; by 19:20 UTC Dembélé was back above 80%. His price reached 99.9% at 20:49 UTC.

The favourite's price at the same checkpoints

Three finished markets are not a base rate. They show the range: a favourite near 90% a week out lost once and won once, and a favourite at 67.1% won. An hour before his first 99.9% price Kane was 78.2%. Rodri, at the same point in 2024, was already 95.0%, because that market had moved hours earlier.

Before first 99.9% price	2024 Vinícius Júnior (lost)	2024 Rodri (won)	2025 Ousmane Dembélé (won)	2026 Harry Kane (won)
30 days	88.0%	7.0%	84.7%	57.8%
7 days	89.5%	8.3%	85.2%	67.3%
24 hours	92.5%	6.7%	84.7%	71.0%
1 hour	3.9%	95.0%	79.9%	78.2%
10 minutes	7.1%	92.0%	84.5%	74.6%

Reference point: the first minute the eventual winner's price reached 99.9%, 21:46 UTC on 28 October 2024, 20:49 UTC on 22 September 2025 and 22:51 UTC on 26 October 2026. This is a price-history proxy, not a verified official announcement or platform settlement time. The 30-day and 7-day readings are daily 00:00 UTC values; the others are minute values.

How to read a Ballon d'Or price

The same pattern, a price that moves before a scheduled announcement, is measured across 50 award markets in our **Nobel Peace Prize study**.

- A price is the market's chance, not a ranking of who played best. Kane's 67.1% a week out meant the market expected someone else to win about one time in three; he won.
- The vote is cast before the ceremony. A price can move on reports about the result before it is read out, as it did in 2024 and did not in 2026.
- A price of 0.1% or 0.2% is a very small price, not a zero probability or proof that a candidate is excluded. Without the relevant bid, ask and quantity observations, this record cannot establish its spread or executable cost.
- The winner and top-three markets answer different questions. Mbappé was 3.4% to win and 78.5% to finish in the top three; he finished second.

Method and limits

Prices are Polymarket's Yes prices from its public price-history API: minute values for the last four days of the 2024 and 2025 markets and for 25 to 27 October 2026, hourly values for July 2026 and daily 00:00 UTC values for everything else. The 2026 table reads each open market's last minute price at or before 12:45 UTC on 19 October 2026. A name leads on a day when it has the highest daily price.

Trade dollars come from Polymarket's public trade record for the 2024 Rodri and Vinícius markets, from 21 October 2024 to the close: 2,496 and 3,993 taker trades. The 2026 trade times come from the last 3,000 taker trades in Kane's market, read at 05:40 UTC on 27 October 2026, which reach back to 22:20 UTC on 26 October. Polymarket's listed volume for a market is a different and much larger figure, and this page does not use it to compare candidates.

Three finished markets are too few for a rate of how often the favourite wins. The official result is UEFA's report of 26 October 2026; Polymarket's resolution is a separate record. This page reads public prices; it is not a forecast by Vultax and not advice to trade.

CORRECTIONS AND NOTICES

2026-10-24 Historical price-threshold labels were corrected so they do not imply an official announcement or settlement time, and an unsupported inference about the order of the podium was removed.

REFERENCES

UEFA — Harry Kane wins 2026 men's Ballon d'Or https://www.uefa.com/uefachampionsleague/news/02aa-21ec47378e70-b29defb43769-1000--harry-kane-wins-2026-men-s-ballon-d-or/

26 October 2026: the result and the men's top ten; Putellas won the women's award.

Polymarket — Ballon d'Or Winner 2026 https://polymarket.com/event/ballon-dor-winner-2026

The 2026 market; prices read at 12:45 UTC on 19 October 2026 and minute prices and trades for 25 to 27 October read at 05:40 UTC on 27 October. Resolved to Harry Kane.

Polymarket — Ballon d'Or Top 3 Finish 2026 https://polymarket.com/event/ballon-dor-top-3-finish-2026

Top-three prices in the 2026 table.

Polymarket — Women's Ballon d'Or Winner 2026 https://polymarket.com/event/womens-ballon-dor-winner-2026

Resolved to Alexia Putellas.

Polymarket — Ballon d'Or Winner (2024) https://polymarket.com/event/ballon-dor-winner

13 archived markets for the 28 October 2024 ceremony. Price timestamps and actual platform settlement are distinct.

Polymarket — Ballon d'Or Winner 2025 https://polymarket.com/event/ballon-dor-winner-2025

26 archived markets for the 22 September 2025 ceremony. Price timestamps and actual platform settlement are distinct.

Polymarket API — price history and trades https://docs.polymarket.com/

Minute, hourly and daily Yes prices from the CLOB API; taker trades from the data API. Vultax computed the readings and sums.

Reuters, via Flashscore — Real Madrid will not travel to Ballon d'Or awards https://www.flashscore.com/news/real-madrid-will-not-travel-to-ballon-d-or-awards-with-vinicius-reportedly-set-to-miss-out/6er1Ccoo

28 October 2024 report on the club cancelling its trip.

AFP, via The Peninsula — London to host 2026 Ballon d'Or in October https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/28/05/2026/london-to-host-2026-ballon-dor-in-october-organisers

28 May 2026: ceremony on 26 October in London.

beIN Sports — Kane, Yamal and Mbappe headline 30-man Ballon d'Or shortlist https://www.beinsports.com/en-us/soccer/mls/articles/kane-yamal-and-mbappe-headline-30-man-ballon-dor-shortlist-2026-09-08

The 2026 shortlist, 8 September 2026.

NBC Philadelphia — Spain tops Lionel Messi, Argentina 1-0 to win 2026 World Cup https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/world-cup/spain-argentina-final-messi-yamal-score/4435613/

19 July 2026 final, decided in extra time.

Vultax Ballon room observation https://app.vultax.com/api/rooms/ballon-dor

This article preserves the 24 October 13:43:42 UTC response; the endpoint itself continues updating.

UEFA: ceremony time and location https://support.tickets-ballondor.uefa.com/hc/en-us/articles/29825565046556-When-and-where-will-the-70th-Ballon-d-Or-ceremony-take-place

26 October 2026 at 20:00 GMT.

Selected arithmetic checked in Lean 4.35.0 https://vultax.com/datasets/research-proof-library-2026-10-25/articles/ballon-dor-2026-odds-polymarket.md

Selected exact-rational calculations and displayed-value consistency checks, checked by Lean 4.35.0, Lean kernel replay and Nanoda. Not a proof of the underlying observations, statistical conclusions, legal claims or production code.

Per-article scope records and Lean package https://vultax.com/datasets/research-proof-library-public-2026-10-28/README.md

Historical scope records and selected Lean checks; the complete package is temporarily unavailable.

A reading of public market prices and trades at the stated times, not a forecast by Vultax and not advice to trade. No wallet, account or trader is identified or accused.