

COPA UNIVISION 2021– RULES OF PLAY

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

This tournament shall be open to all teams comprised of properly registered players. The tournament will be in a 5v5 format. Consisting of 8 players per team roster. For the games 1 goal keeper and 4 field players.

Team entries for the 2021 tournament will align with FIFA age regulations in a birth year format. Players will be placed in age categories based on the year of their birth rather than any other state association age matrix format. There may be male brackets for some specific markets. Players may play up age divisions if desired. Players are strictly forbidden from playing down age divisions. In Coed categories girls do not have a grace year to play. Coed boys and girls must be of born on the same year. Youth players in the older categories are not permitted to play down if participating in male divisions. Any player or team that is found to be participating in younger age divisions may result in an immediate disqualification from the tournament.

Age Chart Birth Year	Age Category
Boys Born in years 2016-2015 round years	Boys 2016-2015
Boys born in years 2012-2011 round years	Boys 2012-2011
Boys born in year 2009 round year	Boys 2009
Boys born in year 2007 round year	Boys 2007
Girls born in year 2004 round year	Girls 2004
Boys born in years 2004-2005 round years	Boys 2004-2005
Boys born in years 2013-2014 round years	Boys 2013-2014
Boys born in year 2010 round year	Boys 2010
Boys born in year 2006 round year	Boys 2006
Boys born in year 2008 round year	Boys 2008
Girls born in year 2008 round year	Girls 2008
Girls born in year 2012 round year	Girls 2012
2003 and older	Adult Women
2003 and older	Adult Men

REGISTRATION/ CANCELLATION:

- Registration fees are \$225 for youth divisions and \$250 for adult divisions.
- Team registrations are available at copaunivision.com at (888) UNI – CUP1
- Absolutely no refunds will be given. Teams that withdraw from the tournament after registering or schedule to play and withdraw will **NOT** be issued a refund.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- Each team must submit copies of their players proof of age documents at the time of check-in. Each player **MUST** show proof of age with one (1) of the following:
 - 2020/2021 or 2021/2022** player passes sanctioned by USSF, USYS, US Club Soccer or any Youth Soccer State association.
 - State issued photo ID
 - Passport
 - Birth certificate **AND** photo ID, Current School ID
- Players will be only considered eligible for the tournament if all of the following guidelines are adhered to:
 - Player is in the correct age category.
 - Player is listed on the official team roster.
 - Player has a completed and signed waiver form (must be signed by a legal guardian if the player is under the age of 18).
 - Player displays proper ID at registration tent on-site and receives a participant wristband after being properly registered.
- Players will be considered ineligible from the tournament for any of the following reasons:
 - Player is too old for their listed age category after reviewing the presented documentation.
 - Player is competing for more than one (1) team regardless of age category.
 - Player is not listed on the official team roster.
 - Player does not have a proper ID for registration or age verification.
 - Player does not have a participant wristband before the starting of the game.
 - Player is otherwise disqualified from the tournament by any member of the Tournament Committee or a referee.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all players on their team are eligible for play.

GENERAL:

- The Tournament Director, referees, Univision, organizers and/or sponsors will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team due to cancellation, in part or in whole, of the tournament. Due to weather conditions, venue restrictions as of teams not following the rules and law enforcement shutting down the tournament.
- The Tournament Director's interpretation of the rules and regulations will be final.
- The Tournament Committee, consisting of the Tournament Director, Referee Coordinator and Registration Manager, reserves the right for final decisions on all tournament matters.

WAIVER

- Every player (or legal guardian of a player if the participant is under eighteen [18]) must complete and sign a waiver. A coach is **NOT** considered a legal guardian to any of the players.
- No player will be allowed to participate without a signed waiver form.
- All players must have an emergency contact listed with a phone number on their waivers form.
- ONCE SIGNED, PLAYERS OR SIGNEE ACCEPTS ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE READ AND WILL OBEY BY THE WAIVER FORM IN ITS ENTIRETY.
- Ineligible or forged waivers may result in immediate ejection for both the player and their team from the tournament without a refund.

ON-SITE CHECK-IN AND REGISTRATION

- At check-in, teams must present signed waivers and photo identification for all players in order for their registration to be accepted. For more information on the required documentation and accepted forms of identification, please review the registration checklist on copaunivision.com.
- Each player must present proof of age documentation the day of the event and must keep their IDs with them during each game. Registration staff will conduct a reasonable certification of the validity of all presented identification to determine a player's eligibility.
- Each team should present copies of their players' identifications at check-in at least ninety (90) minutes prior to their first game on the day of the event. Late arriving teams will not be guaranteed an expedited check-in and could risk forfeiting their first game. A forfeit will be called by the referee if a team is not checked-in and on the field of play five minutes after the scheduled start time.
- Each player must be age verified and wristbanded by registration staff to be allowed to participate.
- Players may not register nor play with more than one (1) team.
- Teams, coaches or players violating any rules listed herein may be subject to elimination from the tournament without refund.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTIONS:

- Maximum roster size of eight (8) players.
- No roster substitutions will be allowed at any time during the tournament.
- Each team must designate a minimum of one (1) coach over the age of eighteen (18).
- Players may not be coaches.
- Minimum of four (4) players on the field at one (1) time-including goalkeeper.
- Goalkeepers must be used for all games.
- Substitutions may be made at any dead ball situation regardless of possession.
- Teams must get the referee's permission before making a substitution and players are to enter and exit at midfield. There are no substitutions on the fly regardless of position.

FIELD OF PLAY:

- Playing field: forty (40) yards (length) by thirty (30) yards (width).
- Penalty box: twelve (12) feet (length) by twenty-four (24) feet (width).
- Goals: six and a half (6.5) feet (height) by twelve (12) feet (width).
- All penalty kicks will be taken from a seven (7) yard mark.
- Tournament Director reserves the right to adjust the field, penalty box and/or goal size as needed without prior notice.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

- Numbered uniforms are not mandatory.
- Appropriate footwear and shin guards are required. Cleats with a front spike are forbidden.
- Goalkeepers must wear different color than opposing team, their own team and the referee.
- No jewelry of any kind is allowed.
- All cast or braces must be approved by the referee.
- Any player that does not have the required player equipment may be disqualified.
- All players must wear jerseys/shirts during play and each team must bring both a light and dark colored jersey/shirt. If both teams are wearing the same color, a coin flip by the referee will determine the team to change uniforms.

SOCCER BALL:

- Size four (4) soccer ball for 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 youth categories.**
- Size five (5) soccer ball for 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004 categories,** as well as both adult categories.
- A minimum of one (1) game ball will be provided for each match by the referee. Team coaches are also responsible to provide 2 soccer balls per match.

REFEREES:

- Referee judgment calls including but not limited to fouls, awarded penalty kicks, cards and goals are absolutely final and are not grounds for nor subject to protest or dispute.
- The referee has the authority to remove any player, coach or spectator from a game.
- No linespersons are required for matches.
- Each match will be refereed by one (1) field referee.
- Referees will check for proper equipment in cleats, shin guards etc.
- Weather or other outstanding circumstances may result in a shortened game without advanced notification.

DURATION OF GAME:

- Each game consists of two (2) fifteen (15) minute halves with the teams changing ends at halftime.
- The match length may be shortened at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- There is a standard one (5) minute break at halftime. The duration of halftime may be adjusted at any time by the referee.
- There is no stoppage time.
- The clock continues to run at all times.
- There are no timeouts.
- During all round robin games, there will be no overtime or shoot-out. Tie games at the completion of a game will be scored as a tie.
- During playoff games, if there is a tie after regulation there will be a three (3) person penalty kick shootout. If the game is still tied, each team will take alternate penalty kicks until one (1) team wins with one (1) shot per player until the entire team has shot.

START OF MATCH:

- Games are set to begin at their scheduled times. There will be a minimum five (5) minute grace period for late arriving teams. If a team does not take the field or does not have a minimum of five (4) players including a goalkeeper at the completion of the grace period, it will forfeit and the other team present will be awarded a 3-0 score over forfeiting team. Any extension to the grace period for a late arriving team is at the discretion of the referee and Tournament Director.
- If neither team takes the field, both teams will be assessed with a loss.
- Referees have the ability to determine the sides of field for teams and spectators alike at the start of each match. Teams will switch ends of play at halftime.

BALLS IN AND OUT OF PLAY:

- All restarts, except for penalty kicks, are indirect kicks.

- All kickoffs are indirect kicks taken from midfield.

PASS VIOLATIONS:

- There is no offsides.
- Goalkeepers cannot propel the ball over the halfway line in the air. Any violation of this rule will result in an indirect free kick at the point where the ball crossed the midfield line. The ball is allowed to bounce or roll across the halfway line.
- Players may not receive a pass while standing inside of the goal box. Passing within the goal box is only allowed after the ball is possessed into the box by a teammate.
- Balls can also be played in the box after a change in possession or deflection.

FOULS AND MISCONDUCTS:

- Yellow cards may be given as a warning to any players disobeying the rules listed herein. Yellow cards are reset for each match and there are no rollover penalties.
- Two (2) yellow cards in one (1) match will result in a red card.
- Referees have the right to eject a player via a red card from the game for continual disobedience or as a result of an incident that warrants sending the player off. The player receiving a red card must sit out the remainder of the game. The team may then continue with their remaining players, however, if the player that received the red card was in the field of play, the team must complete the game with one (1) fewer player on the field. In addition, players receiving a red card must sit out their team's next match.
- Teams that go below the minimum of four (4) active players due to red card(s) or injury(ies) will receive a forfeit for their current match by a score of 0-3 regardless of the current match score or time.
- In the situation of a red card, the disqualified player's coach must provide their name to the referee. If this name is inaccurate, the team may be disqualified from the tournament.
- It is the coach's responsibility in the case of a red card that the player sits out the next match. If a player is caught playing in a match they are suspended for, it may result in their team being disqualified from the tournament.
- Goalkeepers cannot handle the ball outside of the penalty area. Any violation of this will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team.
- Deliberate handling of the ball outside of the penalty area by any player, including to prevent a goal, will result in an immediate red card.
- The Tournament Director has the right to determine if the player's dismissal warrants the suspension of additional matches or the ejection of the player's team from the tournament.

SLIDE TACKLING:

- Slide tackling is strictly prohibited.
- Unintentional slide tackling (one where no other player is affected or the slide is accidental) will result in a yellow card. An intentional slide tackle will result in an automatic red card. The determination of unintentional and intentional is left to the discretion of the referee.
- Goalies are only allowed to dive within the penalty box and in a hands first manner. All slide tackles, feet first dives or slides by goalies may be subject to a yellow or red card.

FREE KICKS:

- All free kicks shall be indirect except for fouls in the penalty area, which will result in a direct penalty kick.
- No defender shall be closer than three (3) yards to the ball during free kicks.

PENALTY KICKS:

- The penalty spot will be seven (7) yards from the goal line.
- All players cannot be closer than three (3) yards from the ball and must be positioned behind the seven (7) yard penalty line.
- During a penalty kick, the goalkeeper must remain on the goal line until the ball is touched.
- All FIFA rules relating to taking a penalty kick apply to the shooter.

THROW-INS:

- There are no throw-ins for sideline balls out-of-bounds.
- All restarts will be kick-ins with no defender closer than three (3) yards from the ball. Opposing players will be given a yellow card if they do not adhere to this rule.
- The ball must be stationary and on the out of bounds line when kicking the ball in.
- If ball is not stationary or on the line, possession will be overturned to the opposing team.

CORNER KICKS:

- No defender shall be closer than three (3) yards to the ball.
- All listed passing rules apply to corner kicks.

HEADING:

- For divisions 2011 and younger, when a player deliberately heads the ball in a game an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play will continue.

GOAL KICKS:

- When the ball crosses the end line after being last touched by a player of the attacking team and it goes outside the field of play, it is put back into play by the goalkeeper or other player with a normal goal kick.
- Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere inside of the penalty box.
- A goal kick cannot go over the halfway line in the air regardless of who takes the kick.
- Goal kicks are subject to the passing rules listed.

GOALKEEPERS:

- May only use their hands in the penalty box.
- Must get rid of the ball within six (6) seconds.
- May not punt, kick or throw the ball in the air over the half line.

SCORE CARDS:

- Game cards must be reviewed for correct scores after completion of a game and prior to the coach signing the game card. Once the game card is signed, the game card cannot be altered.
- IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH COACH TO SIGN THE REFEREE'S SCORE CARD AFTER EACH GAME TO ENSURE ACCURATE SCORES.
- If a coach is unable or refuses to sign the scorecard, the Tournament Director must be notified immediately. The Tournament Director has final say on all score disputes and verifications.
- Once scorecards are turned into tournament headquarters with a signature, no

changes will be allowed unless a score dispute form is filed.

- If disputing a score, a score dispute form must be filled out and submitted to the registration staff within thirty (30) minutes of score being posted.

DELIBERATE NO SHOWS:

- A "deliberate no show" occurs when a team willfully does not participate in a scheduled Copa Univision match. The penalties of such may be any or all of the following:
 - Forfeiture of the match to the opposing team.
 - Forfeiture of the ability to advance out of group play and/or to the next knock-out round
 - Loss of individual or team prizes, including but not limited to trophies and/or medals

FAIR PLAY:

- Players, coaches and spectators are expected to act in the nature of fair play.
- Abuse of the referees will not be tolerated and will result in an immediate red card. Abuse of opponents will also result in an immediate red card. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, teams can be removed from the tournament for abusive conduct by players, coaches and/or spectators.
- Teams may also be disqualified at the referee's discretion for unruly or abusive spectators.
- Players, coaches and spectators are not allowed in the scoring or referee areas and must direct all questions to the tournament registration staff. Teams in violation of this rule may be removed from the tournament by the Tournament Director.

DETERMINATION OF WINNERS:

- The first round consists of a round robin format. Teams are not guaranteed a certain number of matches.
- There is no overtime.
- Standings in a group will be determined by game points as follows:
 - Three (3) points for a win.
 - One (1) point for a tie.
 - Zero (0) points for a loss.
- Should there be a tie in standings, the manner in which teams will advance will be resolved as follows and, in the order, indicated:
 - Total goal differential.
 - Head-to-head results.
 - Number of goals scored.
 - Shut outs.
 - Coin toss.
- In the case of a coin toss, the team whose name as listed on the schedule is first alphabetically will be the home team. Team names beginning with numbers will precede those beginning with letters. The visiting team chooses heads or tails. A Tournament Committee member will flip the coin.
- There is no seeding.
- Playoffs are single elimination.
- In some groups, there may be an additional team eligible for the playoffs with the second highest point total referred to as a wild card team.

DISCIPLINE:

- The Tournament Director and referees may review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players.
- Rulings made by the Tournament Director are based on these rules and match reports submitted by the referee.
- The Tournament Director's final decisions cannot be challenged. Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Tournament Director reserves the right to eject a player or the team for the remainder of the tournament.

PROTESTING:

- All referee judgment calls including but not limited to fouls, awarded penalty kicks, cards and goals are final and are not grounds for any protest.
- Disputes of a matches will ONLY be considered if an opposing player is alleged to be ineligible for that game. No other results and/or situations are grounds for protest.
- Protests must be presented in writing to the registration staff no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the end of the match in question by the coach of the protesting team for the first two (2) round robin matches. For the third-round robin match or a match in the knockout round, protests must be made in advance of the halftime whistle. No protests under any circumstances will be accepted after this point. A fee will accompany any submitted protest. Video is not an acceptable form of evidence for any protest. The Tournament Committee will make a decision within thirty (30) minutes of the protest form being submitted. No protest will be heard until the fee is paid and the appropriate paperwork is completed. If the Tournament Committee rules in favor of the submitting party, the protest fee will be returned. All decisions made by the Tournament Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

PRIZES

- The winning team in each division will receive one (1) team trophy and medals for up to eight (8) players and a coach. Winning teams in the adult divisions may also receive a monetary prize.
- The second team in each division will receive medals for up to eight (8) players and a coach.

EXTERNAL CONDITIONS, WEATHER, ETC.:

- In the event that inclement weather, field conditions or injury necessitate the rescheduling, curtailment or cancellation of games, the Tournament Director shall have absolute authority to make these changes in order to best serve the interests of the tournament without advanced warning.
- Players and coaches must be present at their scheduled field and ready to play for each match regardless of weather conditions. Any team that is not present or prepared to play is subject to forfeit their match at the discretion of the Tournament Director or referee.

FIFA RULES APPLY TO ANY RULES NOT ADDRESSED IN THIS DOCUMENT. THE 2021 LAWS OF THE GAME CAN BE FOUND AT FIFA.COM. SITUATIONS OR OCCURRENCES THAT THESE RULES DO NOT ADDRESS SHALL BE LEFT TO THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.