

COPA UNIVISION RULES OF PLAY

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

Team participants in the Copa Univisión 5v5 tournament will be aligned with FIFA age regulations in a birth year format. Players will be placed in categories based on year of birth rather than any other format established by state youth or children's soccer associations. There may be specific men's categories in some cities. Players can play in higher divisions if they wish. Playing in lower divisions is strictly prohibited. In Coed categories, girls do not have a grace year to play. Coed boys and girls must be born in the same year. Youth players in the older categories are not permitted to play down if participating in adult divisions. Any player or team found participating in lower divisions may result in immediate disqualification from the tournament.

GENERAL

- The Tournament Director, the referees, Univision, the organizers, and/or sponsors will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team due to the cancellation, partial or total, of the tournament, due to weather conditions, teams, or participants that do not respect the rules of the sports complex or cancellation by law enforcement authorities.
- The Tournament Director has the final say on the interpretation of the rules.
- The Tournament Committee, composed of the Tournament Director, the Referee Coordinator, and the Registration Manager, reserves the right to make final decisions on all tournament matters.

REGISTRATION / CANCELLATION:

- Registration costs for children's and adult categories vary depending on the city.
- Team registrations are available at copaunivision.com
- No refunds will be given for any reason, including cancellations due to weather conditions. Teams that withdraw from the tournament after having registered and been scheduled to play will NOT receive a refund.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

- Players will be considered eligible if they meet the following requirements:
 - The player is in the correct age category.
 - The player is on the team's official roster.
 - The player has the liability release form signed (must be signed by a legal guardian if the player is under 18).
- Players will not be considered eligible for any of the following reasons:
 - The player is older than the category where he is playing.
 - The player is competing on more than one team.
 - The player is not on the team's official roster.
 - The player does not have proper identification for registration or age verification.
 - The player does not have a participant bracelet before the start of any match.
 - The player is disqualified from the tournament by any member of the Tournament Committee or a referee.

REGISTRATION ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT:

- Teams should plan to register at least **90 minutes** before their first game. Teams arriving late will not be guaranteed quick registration and could risk losing their first match.
- To receive a participant bracelet, teams must submit signed waivers with the final roster of a maximum of 8 players where players **MUST** show proof of age with one of the following:
 - **2023/2024 or 2024/2025** player passes sanctioned by USSF, USYS, US Club Soccer or any State Youth Soccer Association.
 - Photo ID or state-issued passport
 - Photo ID **AND** birth certificate (e.g., current school ID).
- Each team must appoint a coach over 18 years of age who is not one of the 8 players on the roster. An active player on the roster cannot be a coach.
- There will be no roster substitutions at any time during the tournament.
- Players must keep their IDs on during each game.
- Players cannot register or play with more than one team.
- Each player (or legal guardian of a player if the participant is under 18 years of age) must complete and sign the waiver, as well as provide an emergency contact. A coach will NOT be considered a legal guardian without providing documentation that he or she is the parent of some of the participating players.
- Coaches must provide a cell phone number for communication during the tournament.
- Teams, coaches, or players who violate any of the rules herein, including submitting ineligible or falsified waivers, may be subject to removal from the tournament without a refund.

PLAYING FIELD:

- 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.
- The Tournament Director reserves the right to adjust the field, penalty box, and/or goal size as necessary without prior notice.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

- All players must wear a jersey or t-shirt during the game, and each team must have a light and dark color. If both teams wear the same color, a coin toss by the referee will determine which team will change uniforms. Numbered uniforms are not mandatory.
- Appropriate cleats and shin guards are required. Taquetes with irons are strictly prohibited. The referee will check the equipment at the beginning of each match.
- Goalkeepers must wear a different color than the opposing team, their team, and the referee.
- No jewelry of any kind is allowed.
- All casts or braces must be approved by the referee before the start of the match.
- If a player does not have the required equipment, he may be disqualified.

SOCCER BALLS:

- Soccer ball size four (4) for 2015, 2014, 2013,

- Size five (5) soccer balls for the 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009 and 2008 categories, as well as both adult categories.
- The referee will provide a ball for each match. Team coaches are responsible for providing two soccer balls per game.

REFEREES:

- Referee decisions, including, but not limited to, fouls, penalties awarded, cards and goals, are **FINAL** and are not subject to protest or debate.
- The referee has the authority to remove any player, coach, or spectator from a match.
- Each match will be refereed by a field referee. No assistants required.
- Weather or other exceptional circumstances may result in a shortened match without prior notice.

GAME DURATION:

- Each game consists of two (2) fifteen (15) minute halves, with the teams changing sides at halftime.
- There is no stoppage time, and the clock runs at all times.
- There is a standard five (5) minute break at halftime. The duration of halftime may be adjusted at any time by the referee.
- Match length may be shortened at the discretion of the Tournament Director or referee at any time.
- There will be no extra time or penalties during the round matches. If both teams scored the same number of goals, the end of the match will be marked as a draw.
- During playoff games **ONLY**, if there is a tie after regulation time, there will be a three (3) penalty shootout. If the game is still tied, each team will shoot penalties until one team wins, with one (1) shot per player until the entire team has shot.

START OF MATCH:

- Games will begin at the time they are scheduled. There will be a five (5) minute grace period for teams that arrive late. If a team does not take the field or does not have a minimum of four (4) players, including one (1) goalkeeper, at the end of the grace period, the game will end, and the opposing team fully present will win and receive a score of 3-0 on the losing team.
- Any extension of 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 double forfeit.
- Referees have the ability to determine the sides of the field for teams and spectators at the beginning of each match.
- Maximum of 5 players on the field, 4 field players and 1 goalkeeper.

BALLS IN AND OUT OF PLAY AND SUBSTITUTIONS:

- All restarts, except penalties, are indirect free kicks.
- All kickoffs are free kicks taken from the center of the field.
- Substitutions can be made in any set-piece 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 while the game is underway, regardless of team possession.
- Goalkeepers must be used for all games.

PASS VIOLATIONS:

- There are no offsides.
- Goalkeepers cannot pass 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 crosses the midfield line. The ball is allowed to bounce or roll over the halfway line.
- Goalkeepers cannot catch the ball outside the penalty area. Any violation of this will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team.
- A deliberate "handball" outside the penalty area by any player, even to prevent a goal, will result in an immediate red card.
- Players cannot receive a pass while standing inside the penalty area. Passing inside the penalty area is only allowed when another player has taken possession of the ball inside the area.
- Balls can also be played in the penalty area after a change of possession or a deflection.
- The goalkeeper has 6 seconds to get rid of the ball.

FOULS:

- Yellow cards will be given as a warning to any player who disobeys the rules.
- Yellow cards are reset each match, and there are no penalties for extra time.
- Two (2) yellow cards in one (1) match will result in a red card.
- The referees have the right to penalize a player sitting on the bench with a red card for continued disobedience or as a result of an incident that justifies the player's expulsion. The player who receives the card will not be able to play the rest of the game.
- If a player on the field receives a red card, the team must complete the game with one (1) less player on the field. Additionally, players who receive a red card will not be able to play the next match.
- If a team is left with fewer than four (4) players during a match due to red cards or injuries, they will lose the current match by a score of 0-3, regardless of the current score or time of the match.
- In the situation of a red card, the coach of the penalized player must provide the player's name to the referee, and the penalized player must hand the wristband to the referee. If the player's name is incorrect, the team may be disqualified from the tournament.
- It is the coach's responsibility in the case of a red card that the player does not play in the next match. If a player is caught playing in a match from which he is suspended, it may result in his team being disqualified from the tournament.
- The Tournament Director and referees may review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players after a match.
- The final decisions of the Tournament Director cannot be challenged. Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Tournament Director reserves the right to expel a player or team for the remainder of the tournament.

SLIDE TACKLING:

- Sweeps are 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 AND CORNER KICKS:

- All free kicks will be indirect, except for fouls in the penalty area, which will result in a direct penalty.
- No player may be within three (3) yards of the ball during free throws and corner kicks.

PENALTIES:

- The penalty kick will be seven (7) yards from the goal line.
- No player may be closer than three (3) yards from the ball and must be positioned behind the seven (7) yard penalty area line.
- During a penalty kick, the goalkeeper must remain on the goal line until the ball is touched.
- All FIFA rules relating to a penalty kick apply to the match.

THROW-INS:

- There are no throw-ins for sideline balls out-of-bounds.
- All restarts will be kick-ins with no defender closer than 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 the ball is not stationary or on the line, possession will be overturned to the opposing team.

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.

SCORE CARDS:

- Game cards must be reviewed upon completion of each game. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH COACH TO SIGN THE REFEREE'S SCORECARD 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.
- Once scorecards are submitted to the tournament committee with a signature, no changes will be permitted unless a score verification form is submitted.
- If a score is disputed, a score verification form must be completed and submitted to the registration staff within thirty (30) minutes of the score being posted.
- The Tournament Director has the final say in all disputes and score verifications.

NO SHOWS:

- The penalties for a "no show" may be any or all of the following:
 - Forfeiture of the match to the opposing team.
 - Forfeiture of the ability to advance from 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 by referees will not be tolerated and will result in an immediate red card. Abuse by opponents will also result in an immediate red card. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, teams may be eliminated from the tournament for abusive conduct by players, coaches, and/or spectators.
- Players, coaches, and spectators are not permitted to be in the scoring or referee areas, and all questions should be directed to the tournament registration staff. Teams that violate this rule may be eliminated from the tournament by the Tournament Director.

PROTESTING:

- All referee decisions, including but not limited to fouls, penalties awarded, cards, and goals, are final and are **NOT** grounds for protest.
- Protests for a match will **ONLY** be considered if an opposing player is alleged to be ineligible for that match. No other situation is cause for protests.
- **Protests must be submitted in writing to the registration staff no later than 15 minutes after the end of the game in question only by the coach of the protesting team, and only the first two games of the round-robin may be protested. During the third game of the round robin or a game in the finishout round, protests must be made before the halftime whistle. No protests will be accepted under any circumstances after this point.** A \$60 fee will accompany any protest filed. Video is not an acceptable form of evidence for any protest. The Tournament Committee will make a decision within 30 minutes of submitting the protest form. No protests will be reviewed until the fee is paid and the appropriate paperwork is completed. If the Tournament Committee rules in favor of the team that presented the protest, the fee paid will be returned. All decisions made by the Tournament Committee are final and are not subject to appeal.

DETERMINATION OF WINNERS:

- The first round consists of a round-robin format. Teams are not guaranteed a certain number of games.

- 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.
- In the event of a tie in the standings, the way in which the teams will advance will be resolved as follows and, in the order indicated:
 - Total goal differential.
 - Number of goals scored.
 - Face-to-face results.
 - Penalty kicks or Volado

- In the case of penalty kicks, the order will be determined by a coin toss. The away team chooses heads or tails. A Tournament Committee member will flip the coin.
- The playoffs are single elimination.
- **In some groups, there may be an additional playoff-eligible team with the second-highest point total, known as a wild card team.**

PRIZES:

- The winning team in each division will receive 1 team trophy and 9 medals for 8 players and 1 coach. Winning teams in the adult divisions may also receive a monetary prize.
- The second team in each division will receive 9 medals for 8 players and 1 coach.

EXTERNAL CONDITIONS, WEATHER, ETC.:

- In the event that inclement weather, field conditions, or injuries require the rescheduling or cancellation of games, the Tournament Director will have absolute authority to make these changes in order to best serve the interests of the tournament without prior notice.
- We use local weather detectors and weather apps on all of our fields. If there is a sign of thunder or lightning within 8 miles, there will be a 30-minute delay from the time of the last lightning strike. An air horn will be sounded, and at that moment, the teams must evacuate the area. If after 2 (two) lightning delays, the tournament cannot be resumed, it may be canceled at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- In the event of extreme weather conditions, coaches will be contacted once a decision has been made regarding the continuation, delay, or cancellation of the games and tournament.
- Players and coaches must be present at their scheduled field and ready to play for each game, regardless of weather conditions. Any team not present or prepared to play is subject to forfeiting their match at the discretion of the Tournament Director or referee.

THE FIFA RULES APPLY TO ANY RULES NOT MENTIONED IN THIS DOCUMENT. THE 2022 RULES OF THE GAME CAN BE FOUND ON FIFA.COM. SITUATIONS OR OCCURRENCES NOT MENTIONED IN THESE RULES WILL BE LEFT TO THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.