

## 10<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE CEE CUP IS POSTPONED TO 2021

Prague, 26 May 2020: **In light of the extraordinary measures adopted by individual countries and at the international level to combat the coronavirus pandemic, and also the decisions taken by the football authorities (FACR, UEFA, FIFA), the CEE Cup was forced to be put on hold. As a result of the restrictions, a professional colloquium scheduled for April, prepared in cooperation with the 'Football Association of the Czech Republic' and Charles University's 'Faculty of Physical Education and Sport', had to be canceled.**

The coronavirus pandemic has changed society's rules and has affected cultural and sports events across the globe. We value the health of our loved ones and the safety of everyone around us, whom should be protected at all costs, both on and off the field. As such, the organizers of the prestigious international CEE Cup youth tournament have decided to postpone what was to be this year's 10<sup>th</sup> edition, which was to take place between the 23 and 29 of July, to the summer of 2021.

The current situation in our country and in the rest of Europe is still precarious and we are fully aware of this. Our priority is to ensure the safety of the players, the tournament staff and the football fans.

*"It is with a very heavy heart that I must announce that this year's jubilee edition of the tournament will not take place. It is paramount that we be able to ensure the health of the young players who have a career ahead of them, some of whom might even become stars in adult football, as it has often happened. As such, we do not wish to gamble with their health and we'd rather take a one-year break so as to be able to put on an amazing edition of the CEE Cup at a time when everything will have returned to normal, both at home and abroad. Fans are also important to us, whom deserve to attend a tournament of the highest possible quality and to live a unique experience, seeing as it will be a jubilee edition celebrating the ten years since the founding of the CEE Cup",* said Roberto De Blasio, CEE Cup Director.

The CEE Cup wants to give all parties involved the comfort that the teams and sports fans are used to, and the reality is that the current pandemic measures, despite the gradual easing of restrictions, will not allow this criteria to be met.

The CEE Cup brings together youth academies of famous European clubs and, in recent years, it has also been complemented by renowned Brazilian clubs, which are hatcheries of technically advanced footballers who play the game with "the rhythm of samba". In addition, both Prague "S" teams - Sparta and Slavia - from the top domestic league are regular participants, and they certainly cannot miss out on the jubilee year edition.

*"We were looking forward to celebrating the anniversary of the CEE Cup, which is a very well-known event to the Football Association of the Czech Republic, and thanks to this prestigious tournament, Czech football can be seen all over the world. Nevertheless, we are all already looking forward to 2021, when we will again welcome all the participating clubs",* said Martin Malík, Chairman of the FACR.

Despite the fact that you will not be able to enjoy the CEE Cup this year, please do us a favor - in the coming weeks and months, remember to visit our website, [www.ceecup.org](http://www.ceecup.org), or simply find us through social media, as we will regularly inform you about upcoming news, players from previous years and current ones, as well as offer interesting stories and prize competitions.

CEE Cup Organizing Team

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**Videos and photos for media:**

CEE Cup videos are available for journalistic purposes.

You can embed videos from our YouTube channel <http://youtube.com/CEEcup2012>

You can also use all the photos from the tournament's Facebook page.

**If you have questions, please contact:**

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