

## 10<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE CEE CUP IS POSTPONED TO 2022

Prague, 09 June 2021: **Despite all the best efforts made, the prestigious CEE Cup U19 football tournament that every summer has brought some the top European and International teams together in a one-of-a-kind competition, will once again have to be postponed. The entire staff worked tirelessly to find a way around the lingering problematics brought about by the pandemic, but in the end they had to accept that the conditions simply weren't right.**

Given the precarious situation in South America, particularly Brazil, the organizers decided to opt for a solely European version of the tournament. A couple of top Premier League teams, such as Arsenal, Liverpool, and Manchester United, were ready and willing to participate, as well as other top French League teams, but the governments of the respective teams imposed restrictions that created a logistical problem in terms of getting the teams to Prague while at the same time ensuring everyone's safety and well-being.

The current situation in our country and in the rest of Europe is finally starting to get better, which brings renewed hope that by next year the CEE Cup will be able to return in all its glory, with everyone being able to participate with no restrictions or setbacks.

*"It is with a very heavy heart that I must announce that this year's edition of the tournament will not take place. We worked very hard to bring an unforgettable 10th edition of the CEE Cup; everything was coming together nicely and we were confident that we could get past the last hurdles caused by other governments' restrictions, but in the end these proved simply insurmountable. Thus, we were once again forced to take a break. For the time being, we wish to thank both the Sparta Prague and Slavia Prague football clubs, the Football Association of the Czech Republic, the City of Prague, and everyone else who helped us in the endeavor. We feel confident that, come next summer, we will be able to put on an amazing edition 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 worldwide situation, 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 and one in which we have participated in since its inception. Thanks to this prestigious tournament, Czech football can be seen all over the world and we get to test ourselves against top international teams. Nevertheless, we are all already looking forward to 2022, when we will welcome back the CEE Cup",* said Sparta's Jaroslav Hřebík.

*“We are clearly disappointed by the news that the CEE Cup will not go on as scheduled. The tournament has become an important aspect of our summer training, and the lads are particularly saddened by the prospect of not being able to play. However, we understand that the CEE Cup organizers did everything they could to try to make it happen. All we can do now is hope that next year will present the right conditions for the 10th edition of the CEE Cup to happen”,* said Slavia’s Petr Hurych.

The entire CEE Cup staff shares everyone’s disappointment at yet another postponement. However, this extra year will allow the organizers to put together an even more spectacular event, one that will exalt the tournament and allow for a truly unforgettable 10th jubilee edition in the summer of 2022. In the meantime, everyone can keep up to date with all future developments by visiting the website, [www.ceecup.org](http://www.ceecup.org), or by simply finding us through social media.

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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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