



CEE CUP 2022

July 22 - July 26, 2022, Prague, Czech Republic



## PRESS RELEASE

### THE CEE CUP FOR UNDER-19 FOOTBALLERS WILL SEE THE RETURN TO PRAGUE OF THE BRAZILIANS OF PALMEIRAS AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE ENGLISH OF ASTON VILLA

Prague, July 21, 2022: **After a three-year stop due to Covid, one of the most important youth football tournament in the country, the CEE Cup, is returning. The matches between six elite U19 teams will take place at Sparta's training grounds in Strahov, on Admira in Kobylisy and the final, as per tradition, will take place in Vršovice's Ďolíček, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of July.**

*"We are thrilled to finally be able to host the tenth edition in all its glory, with many thanks to all the partners who have supported us", says tournament director, Roberto De Blasio.*

In Group A, Sparta will play defending champions, Palmeiras from Brazil, and the Tigres from Mexico. In Group B, Slavia will face England's Aston Villa and Ukraine's Dynamo Kyiv. The group matches will be played from Friday to Sunday, the first at 3 p.m. and the second 5 p.m., followed by the ranking matches and the final on Tuesday.

*"We are happy that we can return to Prague after three years since the last tournament, which we managed to win. It is a great opportunity to confront players from other continents, in addition to a different culture of life. The technical level will definitely rise again at the tournament", says Joao Paulo Sampaio, SE Palmeiras' youth general manager.*

*"It's one of the biggest tournaments of this category, at least in the Czech Republic, it's one of the best in Europe, and it's great that it's taking place in our capital; hats off to the organizers for bringing such teams and providing the best complete infrastructure for them. I am very happy, for all the fans and coaches, that it is happening again. We will definitely see excellent players who will make a name for themselves in the future", says David Holoubek, coach of the Czech U19 national team, who in previous years led Sparta's selection. In the past, Matěj Pulkrab, Tomáš Souček, Alex Král, Adam Hložek, Antony Gordon or, most recently, Adam Karabec also played at the tournament.*

The tournament has a complete set of perfect facilities, not to mention a promising group of international referees from Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Hungary. Matches will be broadcast live on video stream and final on Czech National TV. The official tournament ball will be adidas's Al-Rihla, the same one that will be used in the World Cup in Qatar. The final program at the Bohemians 1905 stadium will include a number of interesting activities with Tomáš Jun, the former elite scorer of Sparta.

*"We consider it important to support youth football and we are honored to provide our stadium for the final of such an important and top quality tournament. It will certainly be a great inspiration for our young players as well", says Darek Jakubowicz, director of FC*



Bohemians 1905, whose stadium is regularly full for the final.

The proceeds from ticket sales will go towards the purchase of equipment for a hospital in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

*"It is a great honor and opportunity for us to be part of this tournament, where the academies of leading clubs from all over the world will be present. More so at a time when our country is suffering from war and the stadiums are being shelled by Russian rockets; this is how we can support football in Ukraine, to give young footballers the opportunity to grow even in such a difficult time",* says Serhij Mochnyk, Deputy General Director of Dynamo Kyiv.

The CEE Cup 2022, as in previous years, is also supported by the Union of Czech Football Coaches. *"For the coaching profession, international youth tournaments are always a useful platform for direct observations, professional analyzes and comparisons of teams and individual sports performances in matches and in the related training process. And, of course, they are important for cultivating international contacts not only for young players, but also for coaches and other specialists in elite youth football. This is why it is important that the ambassador of the CEE Cup is always the coach of the Czech national team in the U19 category",* reminds us UČFT vice-president, Dr. Ladislav Valášek.

*"I am glad that after the Covid period we can once again build on a long-standing tradition and support the CEE Cup. I consider this youth tournament to be a prestigious event that honors the capital city, Prague, not only here in the Czech Republic but also abroad. I believe that it will be an exciting spectacle with the best sports performances",* adds Vít Šimral, Prague Councilor for Education, Sports, Science and Business Support.

## **CEE Cup 2022 Program**

### Group A - Strahov

22.7. 15.00 AC Sparta Prague – Tigres

23.7. 15.00 Palmeiras SE – Tigres

24.7. 15.00 AC Sparta Prague – Palmeiras SE

### Group B - Strahov

22/7/17.30 SK Slavia Prague – Aston Villa

23/7/17.30 Dynamo Kyiv – Aston Villa

24/7/17.30 SK Slavia Prague – Dynamo Kyiv

### Ranking Games

26/7/9.00 Admira: for 5th place

26/7/11:15 Admira: for 3rd place

26/7/18.00 Bohemians 1905: Final



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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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