



2015 Official Tournament Guidelines

Every team president must abide by the following tournament rules. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the position and/or team suspension from tournament.

1. Each Cosmos Copa team that plays in the tournament may field a team with a 25 man roster that may be changed by a limit of 5 men if they advance to the round of 16. They would need to submit these changes by the Monday after the group stage weekend.
2. All players must be 18 years and over as of July 1st, 2015 for all teams. A player younger than 18 may play in the tournament but they must have a separate registration form signed by a parent or guardian.
3. Tristate Rule and exemption:
 - a. All players must reside in the Tri-State area (NY/NJ/CT).
 - b. You may use some of your exemption allotment to bring players from your country who reside outside the Tri-state area but cannot exceed 5 players.
4. Heritage:
 - Every player must be, or have parents who are from the country of the participating team.
 - Each player must be able to provide adequate evidence (to be determined at the sole discretion of Cosmos Copa) that they have fulfilled the requirements of the heritage rule*.
 - Each team is allowed 5 exemption players total (heritage or tri-state). In order to fulfill the heritage exemption requirement the player must a) have never been an exemption player for any other Copa team, and b) must be part of the community they wish to play for, and c) their country of heritage is not represented in the 2015 Copa tournament (a proof of this heritage may be asked to be presented when registering this player).
 - Any players who were exemption players for teams in the past will be grandfathered in to play for that team moving forward.
 - If a team violates the spirit of this rule, as deemed by the Presidential Committee, by bringing in a player that fundamentally changes the tone of the game for the team he is playing with the team may be fined, banned or otherwise dealt a punishment deemed appropriate.
 - If a player was granted an exemption for another Copa team they may not play as an exemption player for any other team.
5. Wild Cards:
 - Each team will be allowed a maximum of two (2) players to be added to their roster at least 24 hours before they are scheduled to play their game IF that player has represented his country's national team at the senior level for at least one competitive game.
6. Rosters:
 - NYC team rosters are permanent on a yearly basis.
 - If a player has dual citizenship he may choose between which team he would like to play for.
 - A player may not play for 2 NYC teams in 1 tournament year.
7. All teams, presidents and representatives of the teams must be racially tolerant toward all communities participating in the tournament. Failure to do so may result in disqualification for the rest of the tournament, lifetime ban and/or fine. If a team feels that they have been racially abused they must bring the issue up to the Cosmos Copa Presidential Committee immediately via email and they will decide the punishment. The committee will default to referee report and/or Copa official report.
8. All teams MUST play all matches they are assigned to play. Failure to do so may result in a 1-year ban, disqualification for the rest of the tournament and/or fine.
9. Cosmos Copa official tournament uniforms must be worn by all teams. Sponsor patches may be added on a case by case basis with Cosmos Copa pre-approval in writing before application.
10. Cosmos Copa teams must respect and adhere to all Cosmos Copa deadlines and administrative duties (failure to do so could result in disqualification).

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11. No New York Cosmos, Cosmos Copa, Street Soccer USA employee or intern may participate in the tournament as a player, coach or team official.

12. Matchplay:

- 11-a-side.
- Unlimited substitutions.
- No extra time except for championship match.
- USSF rules apply.
- For all matches, 1 straight red or 2 yellows in one match will result in missing the next match. If red is acquired in the last match of the qualifying round, the player will serve suspension for the first game of the group stage. A straight red card in the semifinal will result in the player missing the final.
- Only the team captain can speak to the lead official, failure to abide by this rule could result in suspension of player(s) and/or team president.
- Only 3 team officials can be in the designated Cosmos Copa playing areas with their teams during qualifying rounds and all stages of the Cosmos Copa 2015 tournament.
- For the group stage home field advantage will be determined by Cosmos Copa staff after the group draw is completed. This will be based on the team's standing on administrative level with Cosmos Copa. For the round of 16 home team advantage will be given to winner of each group. For the quarterfinals, semifinals and championship match a coin toss will take place to determine home team.
- Any protests must be filed with an arbitrator in writing through New York Cosmos.

13. Group Stage (48 games)

- Round Robin 8 teams of 4.
- A random draw will be held to determine groups, with seedings for teams in the order they finished in last year. New teams will get an automatic 4th seed.
- Top two teams from each group advance. Second place tie will be broken using same rules as below.
- 60 minute matches with injury time not to exceed 5 minutes.
- 3 points for win.
- 1 point for draw.
- 0 point for loss.
- If there is a tie in points with any teams in a group at the end of qualifying weekend, Goal Difference, Goals for and Goals against, Head to head, in this order, will decide which team advances.
- If a further tiebreaker is required, a penalty kick between the two teams will determine who advances with a coin toss determining who kicks first.

14. Round of 16 (8 games)

- Eight, 90 minute, knockout games.
- Penalty kicks will decide a tie at the end of 90 minutes.

15. Quarterfinals: (4)

- 90 minute knockout matches.
- If score is tied at end of regulation, penalty kicks decide the winner.

16. Semifinals: (2)

- 90 minute knockout matches.
- If score is tied at end of full time, penalty kicks decide the winner.

17. Championship Match: (1)

- 90 minute match.
- If score is tied at end of full time, penalty kicks decide the winner.

Notes:

* Each player will need to provide a photo ID (preferably a driver's license) for proof of age and residency. They will also need to provide a copy of their passport or parents' passport (when asked). These documents are waived if they are a returning player with all documents in order from a previous year (as deemed "in order" by the Cosmos Copa board).