



COSMOS COPA RETURNS FOR THIRD YEAR TO CELEBRATE NYC WORLD SOCCER

*Nation's Preeminent Amateur Adult Soccer Tournament To Unite Diverse Community of New Yorkers Through Sport
"Cosmos Copa City Champion" Title At Stake for 30 Participating Countries This Summer*

April 27, 2011 (New York, NY) – Last night, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York hosted a launch reception for media, dignitaries, team officials and players to announce the return of Cosmos Copa, one of the largest and most competitive amateur men's soccer tournaments in the United States. The tournament brings the city's diverse communities together through the universal sport of soccer, where New York-based "national teams" across 30 countries compete for the *Cosmos Cup*. One team will be crowned "Cosmos Copa City Champion", representing both New York City as well as their country of origin.

Formerly called Copa NYC, the tournament has been acquired by The New York Cosmos and enters its third year under the Cosmos Copa name. Last year, world soccer legend Pelé and NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg came out to present the championship trophy to the NYC Poland team, while also announcing the return of The New York Cosmos. In 2009, the NYC Albania team was named the inaugural champions of the tournament. It is the intention of The New York Cosmos to take the Cosmos Copa property to international cities throughout the world, with London and Las Vegas as current expansion markets.

Tommy Smyth of ESPN served as Master of Ceremonies last night and said to the audience, "I have been with Cosmos Copa since the beginning, and this event has done many great things for New York City. I'm proud to be a part of something that brings a high level of cultural respect and competitive soccer together in one place, while giving sports fans of all ages an entertaining summer event."

"We wanted to give the city a tournament that soccer-loving neighborhoods can call their own – a New York City 'World Cup' of sorts," says Paul Kemsley, Chairman, The New York Cosmos. Adds Joe Fraga, Executive Director, The New York Cosmos, "The teams participating in Cosmos Copa are proud representatives of the game for their communities at home and abroad, which at the grassroots level shares the same values and characteristics of the New York Cosmos mission at large."

The Official 2011 Cosmos Copa Tournament will feature 16 teams – eight of which have pre-qualified based on their performance and participation last year. Those teams are: NYC Ecuador, NYC England, NYC Greece, NYC Haiti, NYC Ireland, NYC Jamaica, NYC Mexico and NYC Poland.

At last night's event, an additional 22 teams were randomly drawn to have the chance to battle for the eight remaining spots available for this year's tournament. Those teams will be narrowed down to eight after the Qualifying Weekend – which takes place on June 18th "One Shot Saturday" (Parade Grounds, Brooklyn) and June 19th "Playoff Sunday" (The College of Staten Island).

On "One Shot Saturday", the following countries will be playing in a single elimination match in order to advance to "Playoff Sunday" – Holland vs. USA, Kosovo vs. Ghana, Sweden vs. Croatia, Uruguay vs. St. Vincent and Grenadines, Paraguay vs. Ivory Coast, El Salvador vs. Albania, France vs. Liberia, Senegal vs. Russia, Portugal vs. Peru and Japan vs. Colombia. Both Italy and Trinidad & Tobago have received a BYE for "One Shot Saturday" and will automatically advance to "Playoff Sunday".

The Official 2011 Cosmos Copa Tournament Dates are as follows (taking place at Fields 8 and 9 at Corona Park in Flushing Meadows, Queens):

- Group Stage: July 9th and 10th
- Quarterfinals: July 17th
- Semifinals: July 23rd
- Finals: July 24th

For more information, go to www.cosmoscopa.com or follow the tournament on Twitter at @CosmosCopa or Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/cosmoscopa>.

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