

P&E Players & Events

Comune di Forte dei Marmi

15ª edizione

Under 11

SUNSHINE POWER
UNIVERSAL YOUTH CUP
TORNEO INTERNAZIONALE APUANE
Memorial Dr. Michele Aliboni

Final phase: 26/27/28/29 march 2027

English version



The tournament

Created sixteen years ago in the Municipality of Massa as one of many local tournaments, the project relocated to Versilia after just three years.

Here, thanks to the strategic support of the Municipality of Forte dei Marmi—which strongly believed in the event's potential—and the synergy with other local public administrations, the Universal Youth Cup has grown into the premier and most widely attended international youth tournament for the Under-11 category. Today, it stands as an absolute benchmark, renowned both for the exceptionally high technical level of the competing teams and the extraordinary turnout of athletes and spectators.

The tournament is dedicated to Dr. Michele Aliboni, a respected physician from Forte dei Marmi who distinguished himself throughout his life for his outstanding professional and human qualities, and who passed away prematurely from ALS.

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Distinctive features

Over the years, the tournament has experienced exponential growth, attracting the attention of both local and national media thanks to the profound values it embodies. It is not merely about sports and entertainment, but rather a structured ecosystem focused on:

- **regional promotion**: enhancing the profile of Versilia and its outstanding hospitality tradition by delivering top-tier services;
- **education and culture**: fostering youth development through mutual engagement and cultural exchange;
- **social responsibility**: raising awareness among younger generations regarding core ethical values.

Furthermore, the event serves as a premier showcase for football industry professionals (sports directors, scouts, and player agents), offering them the opportunity to evaluate a concentrated pool of young talent within a specific region and over a short timeframe.



Tournament values

Fun & play:
international-level youth football

Fair play:
respect for the rules and the opponent

Integration:
uniting diverse peoples and cultures

Talent:
a showcase for young prospects

Education:
guiding youth through the values of sport

Team spirit:
shared purpose and group unity

"Winning is only the final part of the game, and it isn't even the best part"

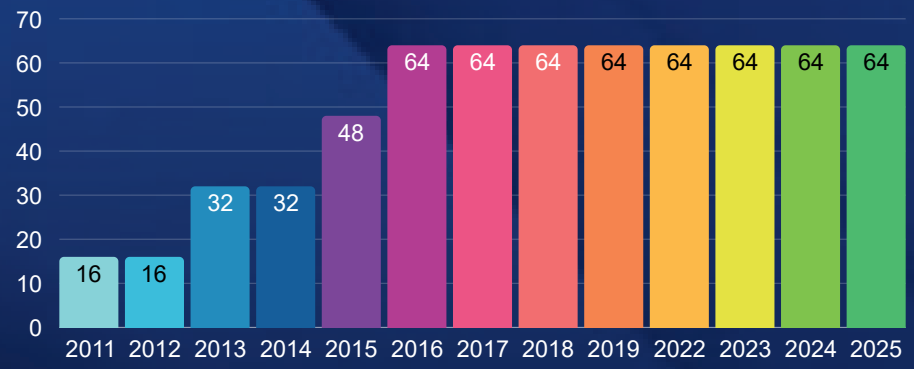
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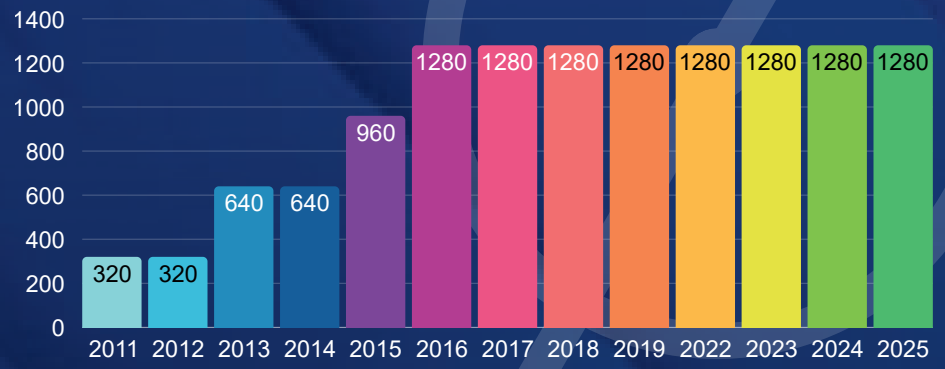


The sporting event

Participating teams



Athletes in the final phase



In just two years (from 2014 to 2016), the number of participating teams and athletes doubled. This extraordinary growth trend has solidified over time, setting the organizational standard for the 2027 edition: a cap of 64 teams and as many as 1,280 athletes in the final phase alone, plus technical staff, club officials, and a huge turnout of accompanying families.

Please Note: due to the Covid-19 emergency, the 2020 and 2021 editions were cancelled.

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Introducing the "Preview" tournaments

Starting with the 2016 edition, a major turning point was introduced: the *Preview* events—genuine qualifying tournaments functioning independently to offer teams a path to the final phase of the competition. These sporting events are organized by local sports associations under the direct oversight and direction of the Central Committee.

Although managing the *Previews* requires a greater organizational effort, it has proven to be a winning strategy. It has significantly boosted our appeal to stakeholders (such as sponsors, media outlets, and public institutions) **by expanding the number of young players involved, broadening the event's geographical reach, and extending the overall tournament timeline**.

Furthermore, these preliminary rounds ensure a higher level of play throughout the main tournament, driven by the merit-based selection process at the heart of the qualifiers.

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2026 *Preview* locations



New for 2026: a total of 9 preliminary tournaments were organized across Italy: **Prato/Versilia** (Tuscany 1 *Preview*), **Andria** (Puglia *Preview*), **San Casciano** (Tuscany 2 *Preview*), **Arezzo** (Tuscany-Umbria *Preview*), **Lignano Sabbiadoro** (Friuli-Venezia Giulia *Preview*), **Seregno** (Lombardy Regional *Preview*), **Zola Predosa** (Emilia-Romagna *Preview*), and **Rome** (Lazio *Preview*). Key highlights for 2026 include the launch of the Campania *Preview* in **Naples** and the Sicily *Preview* in **Avola**.

In addition, international markets have for years shown a strong interest in hosting the event's preliminary stages.
Over time, *Previews* have been held in **France**, **Japan**, **Tunisia**, and **China**. Following the success of the China *Previews* in **Wenzhou** in 2024 and 2025, the 2026 edition took place in **Guangzhou** (Canton)—with all three tournaments achieving resounding success.
Looking ahead to 2027, all 10 stages have been confirmed, and we are currently working on exciting new additions.

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Universal Youth Cup by the numbers

- Over 6,000 participating athletes;
- Over 550 teams;
- 700 matches played;
- 40 days of sport;
- 12 locations (10 in Italy and 2 abroad);
- Over 40,000 spectators*.

**aggregate figure*

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The format

The Universal Youth Cup consists of two distinct stages:

Previews Local qualifying tournaments held from January to March across Italy and abroad. **The winner of each qualifying event secures a spot in the final phase.**

Final phase **Fully managed by the central organizing committee**, featuring top-tier Italian and international clubs alongside the winning teams from every preliminary tournament.

An engaging formula that has allowed us to become one of the most widely attended tournaments nationwide.

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Participating teams

The true flagship feature of the event is undoubtedly its lineup of participating teams, which over the years has consistently expanded to include top-caliber clubs from both the national and international scenes.

Currently, the 64 teams competing in the final phase represent a wide array of European nations, featuring a balanced lineup of:

- **32 professional clubs (both Italian and international);**
- **32 amateur/grassroots clubs.**

A truly global event that continues to expand every year, welcoming nations from all corners of the globe.



The final phase
(March 26–29, 2027 – Forte dei Marmi)

Group stage

The 64 participating teams will be divided into 16 groups of 4 teams each, competing in a single round-robin format to determine the standings for each group.

Knockout stage

The top-ranked teams from each group will advance to the round of 16, quarterfinals, semifinals, and the final to compete for positions 1 through 16. The same format will apply to all other teams finishing 2nd, 3rd, or 4th in their respective groups. ***This format guarantees that every participating team will play seven matches, regardless of their group stage finish.***

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Previous winners

2011	FC Torino	Italy
2012	FC Torino	Italy
2013	Atalanta BC	Italy
2014	AC Milan	Italy
2015	AC Milan	Italy
2016	AC Milan	Italy
2017	AFC Ajax	Netherlands
2018	Atlético de Madrid	Spain
2019	Afrique International	
2022	AC Milan	Italy
2023	Red Star Belgrade	Serbia
2024	AFC Ajax	Netherlands
2025	AC Milan	Italy
2026	Juventus	Italy

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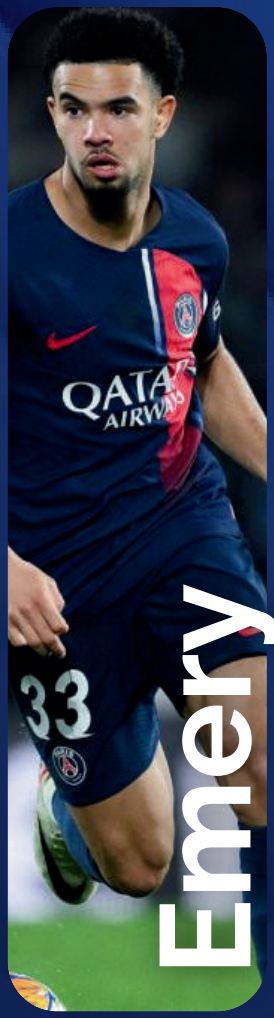
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Top stars who played at the UYC

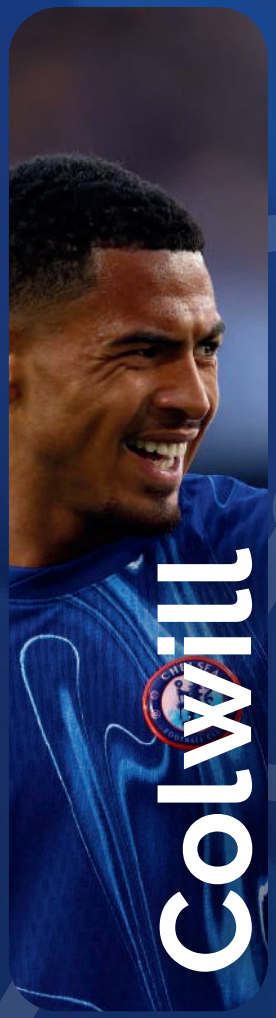












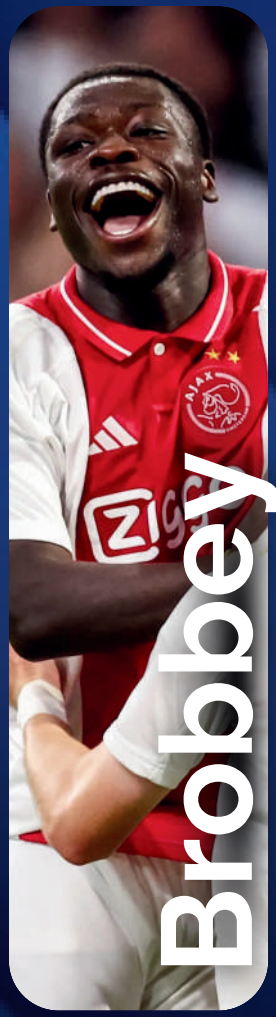


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Top stars who played at the UYC















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Universal Youth Cup's premier clubs

- Juventus FC
- AC Milan
- AS Roma
- ACF Fiorentina
- Atalanta BC
- FC Torino
- Genoa CFC
- Empoli FC
- Cesena FC
- Pisa SC 1909
- Borussia Dortmund
- Paris Saint Germain
- OGC Nice
- Manchester City
- Manchester United
- Chelsea
- Liverpool
- Atlético de Madrid
- Dinamo Zagabria
- AFC Ajax
- Red Star Belgrade

and much more...

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Venues & facilities



The event will take place simultaneously across eight pitches located throughout the main municipalities of the Versilia region.
Currently, the tournament directly spans five municipalities, while generating a broader economic and tourism impact that extends to neighboring areas and towns not hosting matches.

The tournament's centerpiece venue is the "Necchi" stadium in Forte dei Marmi, complemented by the "Aliboni-Cherubini" stadium (**Forte dei Marmi**), the "Benelli" stadium (**Lido di Camaiore**), "La Prinuccia" sports center (**Pietrasanta**), the "Del Freo" sports facility (**Montignoso**), and the "Raffaelli-Magazzeno" sports center (**Lido di Camaiore**).

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2027 event schedule

March 26

The opening match will take place in the afternoon. Following the afternoon fixtures, the **opening ceremony will feature a parade of all 64 participating clubs** through the town center of Forte dei Marmi, concluded by the sportsmanship oath.

March 27

Saturday will feature the remaining group stage matches.

March 28

Sunday will host the round of 16 and quarterfinals for all participating teams, regardless of their position in the standings.

March 29

Easter Monday marks the final showdown, featuring the semifinals and finals.
The award ceremony will take place in the late afternoon, followed by team departures.

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Watch the presentation video!

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