

# PUISANO SPORTS

## Fixtures announced for bio-secure 2021 COSAFA Cup



### COSAFA CUP FIXTURES!

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Fixtures for the 2021 COSAFA Cup to be staged in Nelson Mandela Bay are out with the competition to now start a day earlier than originally planned and run from July 6-18. Eswatini and Lesotho will kick-off the tournament at the magnificent Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, before hosts South Africa meet Botswana at the same venue later in the day.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all matches will be played without fans

behind closed doors, while the limit on the number of people that can be on site at the venues means there will be no media present either.

All matches will be live on SuperSport and streamed on COSAFA.TV.

The bio-bubble environment is critical to ensure the safety of the teams and COSAFA, along with valued partners the South African Football Association, have successfully implemented the blueprint for these during the four tournaments that were held in Nelson Mandela Bay towards the end of 2020. Defending champions Zambia will take their bow at this historic 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the COSAFA Cup on July 7 when they play Comoros Islands at the Isaac Wolfson Stadium, while before that Malawi and Madagascar kick-off at the same venue.

Six-time winners Zimbabwe are in action on July 8 against Mozambique at the same venue, and West African guest

nation Senegal enter the fray as well when they debut against Namibia. The group stages will be completed on July 14, with the semifinals for the three group winners and best-placed runner-up to be played two days later at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium.

The winner of Group A, which includes, South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana and Eswatini, will take on the best runner-

up in the semis, with the victors in Groups B (Zambia, Malawi, Comoros, Madagascar) up against the winners of Group C (Senegal, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique). The losing semifinalists will be involved in the bronze-medal match on July 18, with the final to be staged later in the day. Both are at the magnificent 2010 FIFA World Cup venue.

## Mkhalele names squad for COSAFA Cup



**SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

22 June 2021 – Bafana Bafana assistant coach, Helman Mkhalele who will be in charge of the COSAFA Cup tournament, has named a 20-man squad for the upcoming Regional competition to run from 7-18 July in Gqeberha in the Nelson Mandela Bay. South Africa has been drawn in the Group A together with Botswana, Eswatini and Lesotho that is being coached by former u20 coach Thabo Senong.

Mkhalele who will be assisted by u17 head coach, Vela Khumalo has also named four players on standby in case of withdrawals from the current squad. The former Bafana Bafana flying winger who started his Senior Men's National Team coaching career with a bang against Uganda Cranes, will be aiming to take this new-look Bafana Bafana side further in the tournament. Bafana Bafana beat the East Africans 3-2 in a friendly international two weeks ago with a squad comprising mostly youngsters and Mkhalele has retained some of those who did duty against Uganda.

These include Kaizer Chiefs rising goalkeeper Bruce Bvuma, Swallows' Njabulo Ngcobo, Ethan Brooks (TS Galaxy) and Maritzburg United's Bongokuhle Hlongwane. Bafana Bafana goes into camp this week before traveling to Eastern Cape for final preparations and the tournament itself.

Bafana Bafana Squad for the COSAFA Cup in Gqeberha 7-18 July 2021

**Goalkeepers:**

Bruce Bvuma (Kaizer Chiefs FC)  
Sifiso Mlungwana (Golden Arrows FC)

**Defenders:**

Rushine De Reuck (Mamelodi Sundowns FC)  
Denwin Farmer (Baroka FC)  
Siyabonga Ngezana (Kaizer Chiefs FC)  
Njabulo Ngcobo (Moroka Swallows FC)  
Keenan Phillips (Supersport United FC)  
Mashweu Mphahlele (Baroka FC)  
Sifiso Ngobeni (Bloemfontein Celtic FC)  
Bongani Sam (Orlando Pirates FC)

**Midfielders:**

Spehelele Mkhulise (Mamelodi Sundowns FC)  
Ethan Brooks (TS Galaxy FC)  
Siyethemba Sithebe (AmaZulu FC)  
Bongokuhle Hlongwane (Maritzburg United FC)  
Kgaogelo Sekgota (Moroka Swallows FC)  
Tiklas Thutlwa (Black Leopards FC)  
Happy Mashiane (Kaizer Chiefs FC)  
Vincent Pule (Orlando Pirates FC)  
Goodman Mosele (Baroka FC)

**Strikers:**

Tshegofatso Mabasa (Orlando Pirates FC)

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