

= Recopa Sudamericana =

The Recopa Santander Sudamericana (Portuguese : Recopa Santander Sul @-@ Americana) , known also as the Recopa Sudamericana and simply as the Recopa (Spanish : [reˈkopa] , Portuguese : [ʁɛˈkɔpɐ] ; " Winner 's Cup ") , is an annual international club football competition organized by CONMEBOL since 1988 . It is a match @-@ up between the champions of the previous year 's Copa Libertadores and the Copa Sudamericana , South America 's premier club competitions .

The competition has had several different formats over its lifetime . Initially , the champions of the Copa Libertadores and Supercopa Libertadores contested it . In 1998 , the Supercopa Libertadores was discontinued and the Recopa went into a hiatus . The competition has been disputed with either a presently @-@ used two @-@ legged series or a single match @-@ up at a neutral venue . Together with the aforementioned tournaments , a club has the chance to win the CONMEBOL Treble all in one year or season . (Brazilian teams , however , play either Libertadores or Sudamericana each year , with an exception only when a Brazilian team wins Sudamericana and qualifies for both competitions in the next year .)

The most recent champion of the competition is Argentine club River Plate , after beating San Lorenzo 2 ? 0 on aggregate in the 2015 edition . Argentine club Boca Juniors is the most successful club in the cup history , having won the tournament four times . Brazilian clubs have accumulated the most victories with nine wins while Brazil has the most different winning teams , with seven clubs having won the title . The cup has been won by 16 different clubs and won consecutively by three clubs : Brazil 's São Paulo , Boca Juniors , and Ecuador 's LDU Quito successfully defended the title in 1994 , 2006 , and 2010 , respectively .

= = History = =

When the Supercopa Sudamericana was created in 1988 , a new continental Super Cup competition in South America became viable . CONMEBOL named the new competition Recopa Sudamericana after the defunct Recopa Sudamericana de Clubes played in 1970 and 1971 . The Recopa Sudamericana , disputed between the winners of South America 's two premier club competitions , is not related chronologically to the Recopa Sudamericana , created in 1968 which was contested between former South American winners of the Intercontinental Cup , Recopa Sudamericana de Clubes , disputed among Cup winners of South America . The first edition was played in 1989 and pitted Uruguayan club Nacional and Argentinian side Racing . Played on two legs , Nacional managed to win the trophy after winning 4 ? 1 on points . Due to schedule dilemmas and political issues , the 1990 edition was played in Miami between Atlético Nacional and Boca Juniors with the latter winning 0 ? 1 . Olimpia of Paraguay would win the Recopa Sudamericana without the need to dispute a match as the Decano won both the Copa Libertadores and Supercopa Sudamericana . CONMEBOL declared Olimpia the automatic winners of the 1991 competition .

In 1992 , and from 1994 to 1997 , the competition was played in Japan . Colo @-@ Colo of Chile defeated Cruzeiro 5 ? 4 on penalties after a 0 ? 0 tie in the 1992 final . Staying true to the winning ways of the Paulista 's golden generation , São Paulo won the 1993 and 1994 finals to become the first team to retain the title . Due to schedule congestion , the 1993 finals were played as part of the Campeonato Brasileiro and it also became the first Recopa to feature two teams from the same nation . In a second , consecutive all @-@ Brazilian final , São Paulo successfully defended the trophy against Botafogo . Since São Paulo won both the Copa Libertadores and Supercopa Sudamericana , CONMEBOL had Copa CONMEBOL winners Botafogo dispute the Recopa Sudamericana only to lose 3 ? 1 to the defending champions .

Argentina managed to emulate their northern neighbors with the 1995 edition being an all @-@ Argentinian affair . Independiente , led by Jorge Burruchaga , managed to consecrate themselves winners after defeating Carlos Bianchi 's legendary Vélez Sársfield 1 ? 0 in Tokyo . Independiente participated in a second , consecutive final only to lose the title to Grêmio after being defeated 4 ? 1 . The 1997 edition was won by a Vélez Sársfield team that bowed out from the international limelight

with their last title . Having failed to win the trophy in 1992 and 1993 , Cruzeiro comfortably won the 1998 edition that was played as part of the Copa Mercosur . This final series was played two years after the participating teams won their corresponding qualifying tournaments .

At the end of the 1998 season , CONMEBOL discontinued the Supercopa Sudamericana . As a result of not having an important , secondary tournament , the Recopa Sudamericana went into a hiatus from 1999 until 2002 . However , the introduction of the new Copa Sudamericana revitalized the competition with Olimpia winning the 2003 final in Los Angeles . Played on a neutral venue for the second year in a row , Cienciano defeated Boca Juniors on penalties to win their second international title . From 2005 onwards , the Recopa Sudamericana would be played on a home @-@ and @-@ away basis .

In a rematch of the Copa Libertadores final of 2004 , Boca Juniors avenged that defeat as they beat Once Caldas 4 ? 3 on aggregate . A year later , Boca Juniors faced São Paulo , both two @-@ time winners of the competition , in order to determine who would become the first tricampeon . The Xeneizes won 4 ? 1 on points and successfully defended the title , becoming the first side since Telê Santana 's São Paulo to win consecutive Recopas . Internacional became the first Brazilian side to lift the trophy in nine years . The 2008 competition saw Boca Juniors win their fourth title to become joint leaders for most international titles won by a club in a last hurrah on the international scene . LDU Quito won their second international title as they thumped Internacional 6 ? 0 on points and 4 ? 0 on goal aggregate to win their first ever title . LDU Quito then successfully defended their title in 2010 against Estudiantes . They became the third team to successfully defend the title .

= = Format = =

Unlike most other competitions around the world , the Recopa Sudamericana do not use extra time , an additional period of play specified under the rules of a sport to bring a game to a decision and avoid declaring the match a tie or draw , or away goals , a method of breaking ties in football and other sports when teams play each other twice , once at each team 's home ground , to decide a tie that was level on aggregate .

From 1988 to 1995 , teams would be awarded 2 points for a win , 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss) . From 1995 onwards , the " Three points for a win " standard , a system adopted by FIFA in 1995 that places additional value on wins , was adopted in CONMEBOL , with teams now earning 3 points for a win , 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss . If both teams are level on points after two legs , goal difference would come into play . An immediate winner a penalty shootout , a method used in football to decide which team progresses to the next stage of a tournament (or wins the tournament) following a tied game via kicking penalty kicks , was used to determine a winner if the match was tied on goal difference .

Since the competition takes place in the mid @-@ winter , it 's disputed between the champions of the previous year 's forementioned competitions . Because of this , some count the year of the championship by the qualification year rather than that of the competition itself . Thus , CONMEBOL states that Nacional from Uruguay won the first Recopa of 1989 , whereas the RSSSF refers to that championship as Recopa 1988 .

= = Trophy = =

The Recopa Sudamericana trophy is retained by CONMEBOL at all times . A full @-@ size replica trophy is awarded to the winning club . Thirty gold medals are presented to the winning club and thirty silver medals to the runners @-@ up .

The Recopa Sudamericana trophy has not undergone many changes in its history . The trophy consists of a gold @-@ coated body with a pedestal . The body consists of an Adidas Tango ball , a successful family and brand of association footballs . It was first introduced as the Tango Durlast in 1978 for the 1978 FIFA World Cup in Argentina . The ball is hoisted by a golden , cylindrical body with four quadrilateral edges sticking out of the body at 45 degrees from each other . The pedestal is separated into two parts ; the top part of the pedestal consists of the CONMEBOL emblem . The

bottom part of the pedestal contains a gold badge underneath the CONMEBOL emblem with the phrase , " RECOPA " , imprinted into it . To the left and right , badges of previous winners are placed .

A team which wins 3 times in a row , receives an original copy of the trophy and a special mark of recognition .

= = Match ball = =

The current match ball for the Recopa Sudamericana , manufactured by Nike , is named the Total 90 Omni CSF . It is one of the many balls produced by the American sports equipment maker for CONMEBOL , replacing the Mercurial Veloci Hi @-@ Vis in 2009 . The ball , approved by FIFA and weighing approximately 422 g , has a spherical shape that allows the ball to fly faster , farther , and more accurately . According to Nike , the ball 's geometric precision distributes pressure evenly across panels and around the ball . The compressed polyethylene layer stores energy from impact and releases it at launch , and the 6 @-@ wing carbon @-@ latex air chamber improves acceleration . Another feature of the ball is its rubber layer ; it was designed to allow a better response while retaining the impact energy and releases it in the coup . Its support material of cross @-@ linked nitrogen @-@ expanded foam improves its retention and durability of its shape . Polyester support fabric enhances structure and stability . The asymmetrical high @-@ contrast graphic around the ball creates an optimal flicker as the ball rotates for a more powerful visual signal , allowing the player to more easily identify and track the ball .

= = Sponsorship = =

Like the FIFA World Cup , the Recopa Sudamericana is sponsored by a group of multinational corporations . Unlike the premier football tournament forementioned , the competition uses a single , main sponsor ; it is currently primarily sponsored by Banco Santander , one of the largest banks in the world . The deal running for a period of three years began with the 2012 edition . As the main sponsor of the tournament , the competition will carry the name of the bank . Thus , the competition is known officially as the ' " Copa Santander Libertadores ' " . The first primary sponsor of the competition was Fox Sports Latinoamérica , a Latin American cable television network focusing on sports @-@ related programming including live and pre @-@ recorded event telecasts , sports talk shows , and other original programmings . The sponsorship was only for the 2005 edition of the competition , being known officially as ' " Fox Sports Recopa Sudamericana " ' . The second primary sponsor was Visa , an American multinational financial services corporation . The deal ran for a period of 3 years which began with the 2006 edition . As the main sponsor of the tournament , the competition carried the name of the corporation . Thus , the competition was known officially as ' " Recopa Visa Sudamericana " ' .

However , the competition has had many secondary sponsors that invest in the tournament as well . Many of these sponsors are nationally based but have expanded to other nations . Nike supplies the official match ball , as they do for all other CONMEBOL competitions . Individual clubs may wear jerseys with advertising , even if such sponsors conflict with those of the Recopa Sudamericana .

The tournament 's current secondary sponsors and brands advertised (in italic) are :

= = Records and statistics = =

Argentines Sebastián Battaglia , Neri Cardozo , Rodrigo Palacio , and Jesús Dátolo and Paraguayan Claudio Morel Rodríguez are the only players to have won three Recopa Sudamericana winners ' medals . The overall top goalscorer in Recopa Sudamericana history is Rodrigo Palacio , scorer of five goals . Leandro Damião is second with 3 goals . Rodrigo Palacio and Leandro Damião hold the record for the most goals scored in a single Recopa Sudamericana . Each of their three goals was scored in the 2006 and 2010 finals , respectively . Claudio Morel Rodríguez is the player with most appearances in the competition , 5 editions (winning three finals) , all of them in Boca

Juniors with the exception of 2003 (played for San Lorenzo) . Paraguayan Julio César Cáceres , Argentine Jesús Dátolo and Brazilian André are the only players that won the Recopa Sudamericana with two different teams . Cáceres won in 2003 with Olimpia and 2008 with Boca Juniors , Dátolo won in 2006 and 2008 with Boca and in 2014 with Atlético Mineiro , and André won in 2012 with Santos and 2014 with Atlético Mineiro .

Brazilians Telê Santana and Levir Culpi , Uruguayan Luis Cubilla , and Argentine Alfio Basile are the only head coaches to ever win two Recopa Sudamericana . All Recopa Sudamericana winning head coaches were natives of the country they coached to victory except for Cubilla , Mirko Jozić , Jorge Fossati and Edgardo Bauza . Croatian Jozić , who won the 1992 edition with Chile 's Colo Colo , has the distinction and honor of being the only non @-@ South American coach to win the tournament .

= = = Winners = = =

= = Broadcasters = =

Argentina : El Trece
Paraguay : Telefuturo