

GUIDE TO THE

COSAFA QUALIFIERS FOR TOTAL U-20 AFCON

[MAURITANIA 2021]



Nelson Mandela Bay

December 3-13, 2020



POWERED BY



MESSAGE FROM COSAFA PRESIDENT **DR PHILLIP CHIYANGWA**



IT GIVES US GREAT PLEASURE to

be able to host the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship in Nelson Mandela Bay this year, the first time this beautiful city has staged our boys event in this age-group.

It is the continuation of a wonderful partnership with the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality that has already seen us host our COSAFA Women's Championship tournament in the Friendly City for the last three years, the Women's Under-20 and Under-17 competitions in 2019 and 2020 respectively, and most recently the COSAFA Men's Under-17 Championship.

This will be the fourth tournament in a period of around six weeks, which has created a great logistical puzzle, but as ever we have been up for the challenge and I have no doubt our team will deliver another world-class event.

Of course, we are just delighted to be staging any competitions at all in this most difficult of years which has seen the COVID-19 pandemic wreak havoc with our football calendar.

It is a testament to the willingness and foresight of our partners in the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality, and the hard work of our team of organisers, that we will have staged four of our six tournaments by the end of December, when just a few months ago it looked as though we might have none.

Much planning has gone into these events, with strict COVID-19 measures in place to safeguard the players, technical teams, match officials and administrators. These measures are all part of the 'new normal' that we now live with.

This 2020 COSAFA Men's Under-20 tournament will have added significance of course as it serves as a zonal qualifier for the 2021 CAF Africa Under-20 Cup of Nations that is scheduled for Mauritania.

The coveted regional trophy is enough of a prize to fight for, but there will now be the added carrot of continental qualification as well, with the two teams that reach the final able to celebrate this success.

We wish all the teams well in this regard and know that whoever does go on to represent this region at the Afcon finals will do so with pride.



It is also pleasing to see that we are able to host our age-group tournaments annually now, giving junior players a vital chance to test themselves at the international level against their peers.

After a period when this tournament was hosted sporadically, this will be the fifth year in a row it has been staged, in South Africa in 2016, and then Zambia from 2017-2019.

Our mandate at COSAFA is to develop the game on and off the pitch and this experience for players, coaches, match officials and administrators will be invaluable in helping them gain knowledge and expertise.

It is by hosting and organising tournaments such as these that we see skills improve in all areas, as there is nothing better than hands-on experience to gain knowledge.

It will be fascinating to see who can claim the trophy this year with a fantastic field of teams, including defending champions Zambia.

I am sure the football will be entertaining and it is always exciting to catch a glimpse of the stars of tomorrow.

We must extend our gratitude to the South African Football Association, who will be our excellent hosts in Nelson Mandela Bay.

Safa has played a big role in helping us put on these four tournaments and we remain grateful for their assistance in all aspects, including implementing their world-class COVID-19 safety measures. ●

[MESSAGES]



MESSAGE FROM SAFA PRESIDENT DR DANNY JORDAAN

THE COSAFA MEN'S UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIP that will run from December 3-13 is a vital competition on the CAF calendar.

The tournament will now run as a zonal qualifier for the CAF Under-20 Cup of Nations tournament.

The Nelson Mandela Bay has of late become the hub of most important football activities and the U20 competition is the last of four COSAFA events held in the city since the start of November.

As we welcome the region

to the Nelson Mandela Bay once more, I would like to urge all countries to seize this opportunity and build solid junior sides to compete, not only on the continent but to make African teams global giants again.

Of late, Africa has lagged behind in almost all of the national teams and this was underscored by all of the five nations at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia being eliminated in the first round.

We need to do some soul searching as a continent and the starting point definitely is the

junior tournaments.

Once you have the basics right, the rest will take care of themselves.

It is time Africa dominate the game and it starts with development sides.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone including those running the competition.

I would also like to thank the NMB for their continued support of the game because without willing partners, the game won't progress to where we want it to be.

Good luck!



MESSAGE FROM NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY INTERIM EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR THSONONO BUYEYE

Without question, we regard the COSAFA as a crucial portal for exposure and an opportunity to raise our public relations bar a notch higher.

It is indeed an opportunity for all of us to increase our awareness of the magnitude of junior soccer and knowledge of this event, whilst instilling confidence and building positive images to our public and the world.

As the Nelson Mandela Bay, we are honoured to welcome the COSAFA and all the participating SADC nations to the city. We urge you to spread the message to your home public that we in the Nelson Mandela Bay are most welcoming to our African brothers and sisters.

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE to welcome the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship to the City of Nelson Mandela Bay.

We express our appreciation to the COSAFA, SAFA and partners for choosing the Nelson Mandela Bay as host city for this exciting championships', and for the hard work in making it a reality at a time when the world is devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the fact that we are resuming all activities after such a big gap that we had to take in our sports, we do not take lightly to the fact that by competing you still put your lives at risk every time you meet with people.

HOW TO FOLLOW THE 2020 COSAFA ACTION!

There are a number of ways you can keep up with the action in the 2020 COSAFA tournaments, be it live action, news, views or videos!



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- ❖ Follow us on **Twitter:** [@COSAFAMEDIA](https://twitter.com/COSAFAMEDIA)
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- ❖ Check us out on **TikTok:** [@cosafamedia](https://www.tiktok.com/@cosafamedia)
- ❖ Head to **COSAFA TV:** www.cosafa.tv



HISTORY OF THE COSAFA MEN'S UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIP



THE 2020 COSAFA MEN'S UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS will be the latest installment of the vital regional tournament that has been a breeding ground for so much Southern African talent down the years.

The competition will also act as a zonal qualifier for the 2021 Africa Under-20 Cup of Nations, with the two finalists set to advance to the continental showpiece that is scheduled for Mauritania.

Zambia will be retain the title they won last year on home soil, as fans get to see potentially a new batch of young stars from the Southern African region.

In that regard, the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship is vital and has played its part in developing some of the brightest stars from the region in its many guises down the years.

Running through the list of past stars to grace the finals, it reads like a Who's Who of Southern African football and all will have

benefitted from the exposure they got to top level competition.

From a South African perspective, the likes of Itumeleng Khune, Lerato Chabangu, Daine Klate, Elrio van Heerden and Lebohang Mokoena all represented their country at this level and gone on to forge successful club and international careers.

Other young stars such as Clifford Mulenga and Isaac Chansa (both Zambia), Tinashe Nengomasha and Onismor Bhasera (both Zimbabwe), as well as Jimmy Zakazaka (Malawi), have used the tournament to persuade clubs outside of their country that they have a bright future in the game.

The tournament was first played in 1983, but was a little-recognised get-together of a few of the stalwarts of the region, including Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Botswana.

The Apartheid practices of South Africa at the time meant they were excluded, and the

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1983	Zambia
1985	Zimbabwe
1986	Zambia
1988	Zimbabwe
1990	Zimbabwe
1993	Zambia
1995	Zambia
1997	Zambia
1999	Zambia
2000	South Africa
2001	Zimbabwe
2002	Zimbabwe
2003	Zambia
2004	South Africa
2005	Madagascar
2006	South Africa
2007	Zimbabwe
2008	South Africa
2009	South Africa
2010	Zambia
2011	Zambia
2013	South Africa
2016	Zambia
2017	South Africa
2018	South Africa
2019	Zambia

MOST WINS

11

Zambia

8

South Africa

6

Zimbabwe

1

Madagascar



country only entered the fray for the first time in 1993.

Those early years were dominated by the 'Two Zs', with Zambia winning six and Zimbabwe three of the first nine tournaments held.

South Africa were the first team to break the mould when they triumphed in 2000, having been losing finalists in 1995 and 1999.

A year earlier, in 1999, they had taken over the hosting of the event, which before then had been spread around the region. Each tournament up until 2009 was held in the Rainbow Nation, but the winners were less easy to predict.

Madagascar became only the fourth country to win the event when they surprisingly triumphed in 2005, beating shock finalists Lesotho 1-0 in the final.

Before Lesotho three years ago, the previous two installments, in 2010 and 2011, were hosted by Botswana, with Zambia

extending their winning streak to three with success in both.

They added an 11th title in 2016 when they romped through the competition, defeating hosts South Africa 2-1 in the final.

South Africa regained the trophy in 2017 though after Zambia surprisingly exited in the pool stages.

And they won again in 2018, this time defeated Zimbabwe in the final after a tense penalty shoot-out.

But Zambia are always in contention and they fairly romped to the title on home soil in 2019, defeating old enemy South Africa 3-0 in the decider to complete an excellent tournament.

But more than lifting the trophy, the competition is about developing the talent of tomorrow and giving young players the chance to tackle their peers in a highly-competitive environment that should help to prepare them for the challenges of senior international football. ●



TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE TO THE COSAFA **MEN'S UNDER-20** CHAMPIONSHIP

There are 11 exciting sides that will take part in the 2020 COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa from December 3-13.

[Here is a brief guide to all of them!](#)





ANGOLA

Angola will be hoping to make history when they compete at the 2020 COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships.

The country have never tasted success in the junior version of the regional championship, this despite some excellent success in the COSAFA Cup senior competition.

They have appeared in four finals though, losing three in a row between 2000 and 2002, and then again in 2011 when they went down 2-1 to Zambia.

After finishing fourth in 2016, Angola disappointed by their own high standards in 2017 when they picked up just a single point from their three games to finish bottom of Group C.

They finished third in 2018, reaching the semifinals as runners-up in Group C, but then lost 1-0 to eventual winners South Africa in the semifinals.

The team claimed the bronze medal though with a 2-1 success over home side Zambia.

And it would be a repeat in 2019 as they waltzed through their group with three wins, including 8-0 versus Seychelles, but lost 3-0 to Zambia in the semifinals. The consolation was a 5-1 victory over Madagascar in the bronze medal match.

Angola have always been known as a fine producer of young talent, many of whom

make their way to Portugal and other parts of Europe.

They have appeared at the finals of the African Under-20 Championships on six previous occasions and were champions in 2001 when they defeated Ghana in the finals that were played in Ethiopia.

That team had the likes of Gilberto and Mantorras, who would go on to have stellar senior careers.

Their other five appearances at the continental showpiece have been less successful, all ending in exits before the knockout stages. Their last appearance was all the way back in 2005.

FINISHES IN LAST 21 YEARS

1999	Did not enter
2000	Runners-up
2001	Runners-up
2002	Runners-up
2003	Group stages
2004	Fourth
2005	Group stages
2006	Group stages
2007	Group stages
2008	Third
2009	Group stages
2010	Group stages
2011	Runners-up
2013	Third
2016	Fourth
2017	Group stages
2018	Third
2019	Third



BOTSWANA

The Young Zebras have been regular participants in the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships despite missing the tournament in 2017 and still seek a first ever trip to the final.

Botswana's best finishes in this competition came in 2009 and 2011 when they managed third place.

First they beat Madagascar 3-2 on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the bronze-medal play-off in 2009. The Young Zebras had made it through their pool, but lost 3-0 to South Africa in the semifinals.

They then hosted in 2011 and this time lost to Zambia in the semifinals before beating Malawi to bronze.

In 2016 the side lost all three of their pool games without scoring a goal, while in 2018 they claimed four points from three games with a victory over Lesotho, a draw with Angola and defeat to Zimbabwe.

It was the same in 2019,

where a 5-0 loss to hosts and eventual champions Zambia was followed by a draw with Malawi (2-2) and a win over Comoros (2-1).

The side have never qualified for the Africa Under-20 Championships, which will be a target of theirs in the coming years.

FINISHES IN LAST 21 YEARS

1999	Group stages
2000	Group stages
2001	Group stages
2002	Group stages
2003	Group stages
2004	Group stages
2005	Group stages
2006	Group stages
2007	Group stages
2008	Group stages
2009	Third
2010	Group stages
2011	Third
2013	Group stages
2016	Group stages
2017	Did not enter
2018	Group stages
2019	Group stages



COMOROS ISLANDS

Comoros Islands made a return to the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship last year for the first time since 2016, and now celebrate 13 years since their debut at this age-group level.

The team made their bow in 2007 when they exited in the first round, and were set to play in 2009, but withdrew from the event.

It was a similar story in 2010 when the side did not participate, and it was only in 2016 when they made their return to the competition.

They made a comeback in Zambia last year, but lost all three games to Malawi (4-0), Zambia (2-0) and Botswana (2-1).

They have never before qualified for the Africa Under-20 Championships, no doubt a target for them in the near future.

FINISHES IN LAST 21 YEARS

1999	Did not enter
2000	Did not enter
2001	Did not enter
2002	Did not enter
2003	Did not enter
2004	Did not enter
2005	Did not enter
2006	Did not enter
2007	Group stages
2008	Group stages
2009	Did not enter
2010	Did not enter
2011	Did not enter
2013	Group stages
2016	Group stages
2017	Did not enter
2018	Did not enter
2019	Group stages



ESWATINI

Eswatini will be hoping to make a big impression at this year's COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships having exited the competition in the first round for the last 14 tournaments.

They came close last year, earning six points in their pool, but not enough to see them through as the best runner-up behind winners Angola.

A 2-0 in over Mozambique was followed by success against Seychelles by the same scoreline. But a 4-1 defeat at the hands of Angola meant they missed out on the semifinals, even if their performances were vastly improved.

In fact, they did not win a match at the COSAFA Under-20 Championships between 2004 and 2016, a record they finally put right when they beat Botswana 2-0 four years ago.

That was still not enough to advance to the knockout stages though as they suffered defeats to South Africa and Lesotho later on in the competition.

They also did not manage a win in 2017, with a draw against East African guest nation Uganda sandwiched by defeats to Malawi and hosts Zambia.

It was a similar story in 2018 when they played in a shortened three-team group, but successive 4-0 losses to Mauritius and South Africa saw them exit in the first round.

Their best finish was third place all the way back in 1985 when the country hosted the competition.

They made it to within touching distance of the Last 8 in the 1983 African Under-20 Championships, but withdrew after losing the first leg 5-1 to Zimbabwe.

FINISHES IN LAST 21 YEARS

1999	Group stages
2000	Group stages
2001	Group stages
2002	Quarterfinals
2003	Group stages
2004	Group stages
2005	Group stages
2006	Group stages
2007	Group stages
2008	Group stages
2009	Group stages
2010	Group stages
2011	Group stages
2013	Group stages
2016	Group stages
2017	Group stages
2018	Group stages
2019	Group stages



LESOTHO

Lesotho's Under-20 side have excelled in the past having qualified for the African Youth Championships in 2011, just their second ever appearance at the tournament.

And they did not disgrace themselves at the continental showpiece event in South Africa either, claiming a draw against eventual semifinalists Mali and losing narrowly to South Africa and Egypt.

Lesotho narrowly missed out on the knockout stages in the 2016 COSAFA Under-20 Championships after two wins and a loss in the pool phase meant they finished second in their group.

But they did much better in 2017, topping Group C and beating East African guest nation Uganda in the semifinals, before narrowly going down 2-1 to South Africa in the decider.

They found the going tougher in 2018 when they managed just a point from their three games after losses to Zimbabwe and Botswana, having opened with a draw against Angola.

It was the same story in 2019 as losses to Madagascar (3-0) and South Africa (4-0) came either side of a 2-2 draw with Mauritius.

Lesotho have also made the final of the COSAFA Under-20 Championships before, in 2005, when they lost 1-0 to Madagascar.

They are a nation that often punches above their weight and also finished second in the 1990 COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship, as well as third (1995, 1999) and fourth (2003).

Lesotho also reached the quarterfinals of the Africa Under-20 Championship in 1989, to go with their group stages exits in 2005 and 2011.

FINISHES IN LAST 21 YEARS

1999	Third
2000	Quarterfinals
2001	Group stages
2002	Group stages
2003	Fourth
2004	Group stages
2005	Runners-up
2006	Group stages
2007	Group stages
2008	Group stages
2009	Group stages
2010	Group stages
2011	Group stages
2013	Group stages
2016	Group stages
2017	Runners-up
2018	Group stages
2019	Group stages



MALAWI

Malawi finished a credible fourth in the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships tournament in Botswana in 2011 having not played in the previous two installments of the competition, and then did not appear again in 2013.

They returned in 2016, but could not make it past the first round, as a draw and a loss meant they finished second in their three-team pool.

They came closer in 2017, gaining five points, but missing out on top spot in their pool on goal-difference to Uganda.

There was more frustration in 2018 as the side finished bottom of their pool with just a single point from three games after losses to Zambia and DR Congo, and a draw with Mozambique.

They improved in Zambia in 2019, beating Comoros (4-0) in their opener, but a draw with Botswana (2-2) and a loss to the hosts (2-1) meant they did not advance.

Malawi have yet to win the regional showpiece competition, but did reach the final in 2003 when they lost out to Zambia in the decider.

The side last made it out of their group nine years ago, but lost 4-2 to Angola in the semifinals and were then beaten 1-0 by hosts Botswana in the third-place play-off. They did manage third in 1986.

Malawi have qualified for the African Under-20 Championships on one occasion, finishing in the group stages in Ethiopia in 1999 when they lost all three games.

FINISHES IN LAST 21 YEARS

1999	Group stages
2000	Fourth
2001	Quarterfinals
2002	Quarterfinals
2003	Runners-up
2004	Group stages
2005	Group stages
2006	Fourth
2007	Group stages
2008	Group stages
2009	Did not enter
2010	Did not enter
2011	Fourth
2013	Did not enter
2016	Group stages
2017	Group stages
2018	Group stages
2019	Group stages



MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique are still searching for their first-ever COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships title having been beaten finalists in 2008.

They lost to then hosts South Africa on that occasion but will be hoping to go one better this time round after disappointingly losing out in the first round of the event in the last eight installments.

They did narrowly miss the semifinals in Botswana in 2011, the hosts just pipping them on goal-difference in a three-team pool that also included Eswatini.

And in 2016 they finished their three-team pool with two draws and so lost out to Central African guest nation DR Congo for a place in the knockout stages.

In 2017 they returned home early with a single win and two defeats, though they were in a tough pool with eventual champions South Africa and North African guest nation Egypt.

They were unbeaten in 2018 with a victory over DR Congo, and draws with Malawi and Zambia, but there five points were not enough to put them into the next round.

They managed a single win

over Seychelles (3-2) in 2019, to go with losses to Eswatini (2-0) and Angola (1-0).

Mozambique may well feel that with their pool of talent back home, which has always been substantial, they should have won the competition by now – or at least advanced past the pool stages on more occasions.

They reached the quarterfinals of the African Under-20 Championship in 1989, but have not played in the competition proper since.

FINISHES IN LAST 21 YEARS

1999	Group stages
2000	Quarterfinals
2001	Quarterfinals
2002	Quarterfinals
2003	Group stages
2004	Group stages
2005	Group stages
2006	Group stages
2007	Group stages
2008	Runners-up
2009	Group stages
2010	Group stages
2011	Group stages
2013	Group stages
2016	Group stages
2017	Group stages
2018	Group stages
2019	Group stages



NAMIBIA

Namibia were in many ways the surprise-package of the 2010 COSAFA Under-20 Championships, making it all the way to the final before losing out to Zambia.

Some of the football that they displayed was simply outstanding and players such as captain Sydney Urikhob have gone on to play in South Africa's PSL.

It was their best ever result in the tournament, beating their semifinal showing in 2007, but they could not repeat the feat when they competed in 2013.

There they managed five points from a possible nine to finish second in their first round pool behind the powerful South Africans.

Namibia did not compete in the last COSAFA Under-20 Championships held in South Africa in 2016, nor in 2018 and 2019.

Their previous showing was in the 2017 competition when they beat Angola 1-0 in their opener, but then lost to Lesotho (2-1) and drew with Zimbabwe (0-0) to exit in the first round.

FINISHES IN LAST 21 YEARS

1999	Group stages
2000	Quarterfinals
2001	Quarterfinals
2002	Quarterfinals
2003	Group stages
2004	Group stages
2005	Group stages
2006	Group stages
2007	Fourth
2008	Group stages
2009	Group stages
2010	Runners-up
2011	Group stages
2013	Group stages
2016	Did not enter
2017	Group stages
2018	Did not enter
2019	Did not enter



SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa have traditionally been one of the powerhouses in the region in Under-20 football and will be looking to regain the crown they lost to Zambia in 2019.

They have claimed the competition eight times in all, with their first title coming in 2000. They also hosted the tournament for 11 consecutive years between 1999 and 2009.

They went all the way to the final on home soil in 2016, playing some scintillating football, but lost out to Zambia in the decider with a 2-1 defeat.

That was seen as a major disappointment, but they atoned

for that with a run all the way to the gold medal in 2017.

After topping their pool with a full haul of nine points, 'Amajita' edged North African guest nation Egypt 1-0 in the semifinals.

That set up a decider with Lesotho and South African emerged as 2-1 winners to take home the trophy.

They repeated that triumph in 2018, topping their shortened pool with victories over Mauritius and Eswatini, before a 1-0 win over Angola in the semifinals.

That set up a final with old foes Zimbabwe and after the match finished 1-1, South Africa claimed the penalty shoot-out 4-3.

They could not make it a hat-trick of titles though as they lost 3-0 in the 2019 final to Zambia.

They managed seven points in their first round pool and then edged Madagascar 5-4 on penalties in the semifinals following a 2-2 draw. They had also drawn 1-1 with the Malagasy in pool play.

The side have qualified for the Africa Under-20 Championships on eight previous occasions, winning the silver medal in 1997. They finished third in 2019, and also have two fourth-place finishes (2009 and 2017).

FINISHES IN LAST 21 YEARS

1999	Runners-up
2000	Winners
2001	Fourth
2002	Third
2003	Third
2004	Winners
2005	Fourth
2006	Winners
2007	Runners-up
2008	Winners
2009	Winners
2010	Group stages
2011	Group stages
2013	Winners
2016	Runners-up
2017	Winners
2018	Winners
2019	Runners-up



ZAMBIA

Zambia are the most successful nation in the COSAFA Under-20 Championship competition with 11 victories in all, their last win coming on home soil in 2019.

It was a commanding performance from the side, who claimed a full haul of nine points in the pool stages, before seeing off Angola 3-0 in the semifinals.

That was followed by victory against old foe South Africa by the same comprehensive margin in the decider.

Zambia were also rampant in 2016 as they stormed through that competition and inflicted a 2-1 defeat on their hosts South Africa in the decider.

They went on to claim the 2017 Africa Under-20 Championships title on home soil, and also excelled at the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in South Korea in May last year.

But the side disappointed in the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship on home soil in 2017, bowing out in the first round after a defeat to East African guest nation Uganda was followed by a draw with Malawi and a win over Eswatini.

They did make the semifinals on home soil in 2018, but lost

2-1 to Zimbabwe and were then beaten 2-1 by Angola in the bronze-medal match.

They will now seek to extend their record tally of 11 regional titles, three more than South Africa, and perhaps set a path to another Africa Under-20 Championship appearance.

They have appeared at the tournament on seven previous occasions and apart from their gold medal in 2017, they also finished fourth in 1991, 1999 and 2007.

FINISHES IN LAST 21 YEARS

1999	Winners
2000	Quarterfinals
2001	Third
2002	Fourth
2003	Winners
2004	Runners-up
2005	Third
2006	Runners-up
2007	Group stages
2008	Group stages
2009	Runners-up
2010	Winners
2011	Winners
2013	Group stages
2016	Winners
2017	Group stages
2018	Fourth
2019	Winners



ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe will make a return to the COSAFA Under-20 Championships in 2019 having established themselves as a regional powerhouse down the years.

The Young Warriors side has been amongst the most successful teams in the history of the competition with six wins in all, the last coming in 2007 when they beat hosts South Africa 3-0 to record a comprehensive final win.

They surprisingly did not fare well in South Africa in 2016 though, going out in the first round with 5-1 loss to Zambia, followed by a 0-0 draw with Malawi. They missed out on the semifinals in 2017 based on goals scored, with 0-0 draws against Lesotho and Namibia either side of a win over Angola.

But as Lesotho had scored one more goal than them in the pool stages, they advanced as the top team in the pool.

Zimbabwe fared much better in 2018 though, they finished top of their pool with six points from a possible nine, and then surprised Zambia 2-1 in the semifinals.

They met South Africa in the decider, but lost 4-3 on penalties after a 0-0 draw.

The carrots being dangled in front of the Zimbabwean players are the number of scouts from mostly South African clubs who will be at the tournament to look out for new talent from a country that has a long history of sending quality players to play in the South African league. ●

FINISHES IN LAST 21 YEARS

1999	Third
2000	Third
2001	Winners
2002	Winners
2003	Group stages
2004	Third
2005	Group stages
2006	Third
2007	Winners
2008	Fourth
2009	Group stages
2010	Third
2011	Group stages
2013	Fourth
2016	Group stages
2017	Group stages
2018	Runners-up
2019	Did not enter

2020 COSAFA MEN'S UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NUMBERS

AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL HOSTING OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE TOURNAMENT MOVES AWAY FROM ZAMBIA, BUT HERE ARE SOME NUMBERS AROUND THE COMPETITION THAT HAS A RICH 37-YEAR HISTORY.

0 – NO NATION FROM THE COSAFA REGION

has managed to lift the African Under-17 Championship in the past.

1 – ZAMBIA WERE THE TOP SIDE IN 2019 as they defeated

South Africa 3-0 in the decider, a handsome and well-deserved victory.

2 – The highest finish for any GUEST NATION WAS THE SILVER MEDAL KENYA won in 2013 when they lost 2-0 to South Africa in the final.

3 – ANGOLA LOST THREE FINALS IN A ROW between 2000 and 2002. They made the deciding match in 2011 but lost once more. They have yet to win the regional title.

3 – This year's COSAFA Under-20 Championships will KICK-OFF ON DECEMBER 3, with the final to be staged 10 days later on the 13th.

4 – ZAMBIA HAVE WON FOUR OF THE LAST SEVEN COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships played, with only South Africa breaking their run in 2013, 2017 and 2018.

4 – ONLY FOUR NATIONS HAVE WON THE COSAFA UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS – Zambia (11 times), South Africa (8), Zimbabwe (6) and Madagascar (1).

4 – Zambia hold the record for the MOST TITLE WINS IN A ROW, four, in the championship that were played between 1993 and 1999.

6 – Angola's AMBROSINI SALVADOR FINISHED TOP-SCORER at the 2019 COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships with six goals.

8 – The BIGGEST VICTORY in last year's competition was an 8-0 success for Angola over Seychelles.

11 – THE NUMBER OF TITLES WON BY ZAMBIA, the most successful nation in the history of the COSAFA Under-20 Championships.

11 – The NUMBER OF YEARS IN A ROW that South Africa hosted the event between 1999 and 2009.

11 – THE NUMBER OF TEAMS WHO WILL COMPETE in this year's COSAFA Under-20 Championships – Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

19 – THE NUMBER OF MATCHES that will be played at this year's COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships.

81 – The number of goals scored at the 2019 COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships in 22 games, almost four per match! ●



9

The most NUMBER OF GOALS SCORED IN A SINGLE FINAL

– South Africa defeated Zambia 5-4 in 2004!

COSAFA MEN'S UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIP STARTS JOURNEY TO WORLD CUP



ONE EXCITING FEATURE of this year's COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship will be the fact that it doubles up as a zonal qualifier for the 2021 Africa Under-20 Cup of Nations that is scheduled to be hosted in Mauritania.

Previously teams have used the regional Under-20 championship to fine-tune for qualifiers for the continental showpiece, but now it will take up that status on its own, with the two finalists both earning a place in the competition.

The Under-20 Cup of Nations will in turn provide qualification for the 2021 FIFA Under-20 World Cup, meaning the COSAFA even this year is the beginning of that journey.

It is no surprise that South Africa's success in reaching the last two FIFA Under-20 World Cups in 2017 and 2019 is off the back of them winning the COSAFA title in 2017 and 2018.

Nine of the 14 COSAFA nations have qualified for the continental finals in the past, with Angola (2001) and Zambia (2017) the only ones to win gold.

South Africa were runners-up in 1997 and also won the bronze medal in 2019, the only other Southern African side to finish in the top three.

The four semi-finalists at the Under-20 Cup of Nations in Mauritania will book a place in the World Cup.

Here is a rundown of how the COSAFA teams have fared at the Africa Under-20 Cup of Nations, taking into account it was played as a knockout competition until 1991:



ANGOLA

Qualified (6): 1983, 1985, 1989, 1999, 2001, 2005
Best finish: Winners (2001)



ESWATINI

Qualified (1): 1983
Best finish: First round (1983)

LESOTHO

Qualified (3): 1989, 2005, 2011
Best finish: Group Stages (2005, 2011)

MALAWI

Qualified (1): 1999
Best finish: Group Stages (1999)

MAURITIUS

Qualified (3): 1979, 1993, 1995
Best finish: Group Stages (1993, 1995)

MOZAMBIQUE

Qualified (1): 1987
Best finish: Quarterfinals (1987)

SOUTH AFRICA

Qualified (8): 1997, 2001, 2003, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2019
Best finish: Runners-up (1997)

ZAMBIA

Qualified (9): 1985, 1987, 1991, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2007, 2015, 2017
Best finish: Winners (2017)

ZIMBABWE

Qualified (3): 1981, 1983, 1985
Best finish: Quarterfinals (1983, 1985)

FOLLOW THE COSAFA MEN'S UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIP

LIVE ON COSAFA.TV!

Fans are in for treat with the news that the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship will be streamed live from Nelson Mandela Bay when the tournament is played from **December 3-13!**

Those from around the world who want to follow the action will be able to do so live on COSAFA.TV, where they will be able to stream the matches on their Phones, Tablets and Computers.



It means the tournament will be available across the globe for fans and scouts to view the best of the up-and-coming talent in the COSAFA region, as eight teams try to lift the trophy in this age-group.

The match action will be available at www.cosafa.tv or via www.cosafa.com, where you can check the homepage or click on the COSAFA.TV tab.

COSAFA TV is an important part of our offering to ensure that fans always have access to not only live matches, but news snippets, interviews and highlights.

Matches can also be followed via live text coverage on our Twitter account [@COSAFAMEDIA](#)

WHO HAVE BEEN THE TOP SIDES IN RECENT COSAFA UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS?

THE COSAFA MEN'S UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS have been played annually over the last four years, which is enough time to give us a sizeable sample of who have been the top performing teams in the competition since 2016.

Since then, there have been two trophy wins each for South Africa and Zambia, so it is not surprising then to see them top of the 'table' for results in this time.

South Africa have 14 wins to 13 for Zambia, but have played a game more, while they also lead the way on goals scored with 47, comfortably the most in the competition.

Zambia are next with 38 goals and Angola 32, the only teams to have passed the 30-mark.

South Africa have the highest win percentage at 73.68, with Zambia (72.22) next and Angola (44.44) third of teams who have played more than one tournament. Zimbabwe (40.00) are in fourth.

Teams who will want to work on this statistic include Malawi (16.67), Mauritius (18.18), Lesotho (21.43) and Mozambique (25.00).

South Africa have only lost two matches in the competition since 2016, last year's final when they were thumped 3-0 by Zambia, and the 2016 decider when they lost 2-1 to the same opposition.

Overall, there have been 231 goals scored in the 87 matches played, a healthy average of 2.66 goals per game.

The 11 sides who will contest

the 2020 competition are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In all there have been 18 different competitors in the last four years, including all 14 members of COSAFA, as well as guest nations Egypt, DR Congo, Uganda and Sudan. ●



COMBINED TEAM RECORDS FROM THE LAST FOUR COSAFA UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS

The table is calculated on the number of wins, then the number of draws and finally goal-difference.

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
South Africa	19	14	3	2	47	11	36
Zambia	18	13	2	3	38	11	27
Angola	18	8	5	5	32	17	15
Zimbabwe	10	4	4	2	12	12	0
Lesotho	14	3	5	6	9	21	-12
DR Congo*	8	3	2	3	8	7	1
Egypt*	5	3	0	2	7	4	3
Mozambique	12	3	4	5	10	13	-3
Eswatini	11	3	1	7	12	22	-10
Malawi	12	2	5	5	13	15	-2
Mauritius	11	2	3	6	11	25	-14
Botswana	9	2	2	5	4	18	-14
Madagascar	5	2	2	1	9	9	0
Uganda*	5	1	3	1	6	6	0
Sudan*	3	1	1	1	6	2	4
Namibia	3	1	1	1	2	2	0
Comoros	5	0	1	4	3	12	-9
Seychelles	6	0	0	6	2	24	-22

*Invited guests

PAST COSAFA UNDER-20 STARS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championship has been played every year since 2016 after a period when it was on and off the football calendar.

It continues to churn out a steady stream of new stars for the senior national teams, as evidenced by the leading scorers from the past four editions.

We take a look at where they are now ahead of the 2020 edition.



2016

Luther Singh

South Africa

5 goals

Singh could not fire South Africa to the title in 2016 but has made good progress in his career and is now an established part of the Bafana Bafana squad.

At the time he was at Swedish second-tier side GAIS, but has since moved to Sporting Braga in the Portuguese league.

He has only played for the 'B' side to date there, but has had successful loan spells at top-flight sides Chaves, Moreirense and this season Paços de Ferreira, where he is a regular.

Now 23, he has a bright fixture in the game and will hope to help South Africa to the next Africa Cup of Nations finals.



2017

Muhammad Shaban

Uganda

4 goals

Shaban is also now a full Uganda international and also had a spell at top Moroccan side Raja Casablanca in the 2018-19 season.

To be fair, he had already been named 2016 FUFA Footballer of the Year before his arrival at the COSAFA tournament for the guest nation, so it was perhaps no surprise that he excelled.

He is currently with Vipers in Uganda, and was previously also linked with top South African club Orlando Pirates.



2018

Lyle Foster

South Africa

Delic Murimba

Zimbabwe

5 goals

Foster is another star on the rise and currently plies his trade with Vitoria Guimaraes in the Portuguese league, who he joined from French Ligue 1 Monaco ahead of the campaign.

The 20-year-old is also spent last season on loan at Belgium club Cercle Brugge, and featured for Monaco's first team. He is also a part of the new generation coming through at Bafana Bafana.

Murimba is perhaps surprisingly still in Zimbabwe with Triangle United, though he did have trials with top South African side Mamelodi Sundowns last year. He has also attracted interest from China.



2019

Ambrosini

Salvador

Angola

6 goals

Viewed as the next wonderkid from the region, striker Salvador was the subject of a bid from Brazilian side Gremio recently that was quickly batted away by current club Primeiro de Agosto.

Primeiro have placed a US\$5-million release clause in the contract of the 18-year-old, who is surely destined for big things and could return to represent Angola in this year's COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships. ●



2020 COSAFA MEN'S UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIP

FIXTURES

POOL STAGES				
DATE	KO	GROUP	Fixture	VENUE
03-Dec	12h30	A	Mozambique vs Lesotho	Wolfson Stadium
03-Dec	15h30	A	South Africa vs Zimbabwe	Wolfson Stadium
04-Dec	12h30	B	Malawi vs Comoros	Wolfson Stadium
04-Dec	15h30	B	Zambia vs Namibia	Wolfson Stadium
04-Dec	15h30	C	Angola vs Eswatini	Gelvandale Stadium
06-Dec	12h30	A	Mozambique vs Zimbabwe	Wolfson Stadium
06-Dec	15h30	A	Lesotho vs South Africa	Wolfson Stadium
06-Dec	15h30	C	Botswana vs Angola	Gelvandale Stadium
07-Dec	12h30	B	Comoros vs Zambia	Wolfson Stadium
07-Dec	15h30	B	Namibia vs Malawi	Wolfson Stadium
08-Dec	12h30	C	Eswatini vs Botswana	Wolfson Stadium
08-Dec	15h30	A	South Africa vs Mozambique	Wolfson Stadium
08-Dec	15h30	A	Zimbabwe vs Lesotho	Gelvandale Stadium
09-Dec	15h30	B	Zambia vs Malawi	Wolfson Stadium
09-Dec	15h30	B	Namibia vs Comoros	Gelvandale Stadium
SEMIFINALS				
11-Dec	12h00	16	Winner Grp B vs Best Runner-up	Wolfson Stadium
11-Dec	15h30	17	Winner Grp A vs Winner Grp C	Wolfson Stadium
THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF				
13-Dec	12h00	18	Loser M19 vs Loser M20	Wolfson Stadium
FINAL				
13 December 2020 15h00 Match 19				
Winner Match 16 vs Winner Match 17				
Wolfson Stadium				

