

PRESS RELEASE

ENEL GENERACIÓN CHILE

COPA ENEL ARRIVES IN ANTOFAGASTA REGION: COPA ENEL LAUNCHES 2019 TOURNAMENT IN CALAMA WITH EVENT FEATURING PAST STARS OF COBRELOA AND COLO COLO

Calama, September 28, 2019 – Chile’s leading youth soccer championship has come of age - and celebrated with its launch in the city of Calama, bringing a new city and region into the fold of its tireless support for Chilean sport. The event was celebrated with a friendly match between former stars players for Cobreloa and Colo Colo, an event featuring Copa Enel Ambassador Iván Zamorano, who has been a part of the tournament since its beginnings in 2001, and kicked off the 2019 championship in Antofagasta Region.

The friendly match and opening of the 2019 Copa Enel took place at Calama’s central arena, the Zorros del Desierto Stadium, home of the top local team; attendees included Mayor of Calama Daniel Augusto Pérez and Copa Enel Ambassador Iván Zamorano, former captain of the Chilean national team and star striker for Real Madrid and Inter Milan.

The stars of Colo Colo and Cobreloa who played in the friendly match, under the watchful eye of former national and international referee Carlos Chandía, include: Rodrigo Pérez, Mario Soto, Víctor Merello, Héctor Puebla, Eduardo Gómez, Mauricio Donoso, and Leonardo Canales for the local side, and Iván Zamorano, Francisco Prieto, Gabriel Mendoza, Francisco Rojas, Marcelo Vega, and Manuel Neira for Colo Colo.

This brought back memories of Iván Zamorano’s final match as a professional player, sixteen years ago, which was also against Cobreloa and refereed by Carlos Chandía, who showed Zamorano a red card.

This year, the tournament for children aged 13 to 15 will for the first time include games held in Calama, a city with a strong soccer pedigree and hometown of major Chilean players such as Víctor Merello, Rodrigo Pérez, and Héctor Puebla. This year thus marks the first time that the Copa Enel will include activities held in four sections of Chile, from the desert north to the verdant south: Antofagasta Region, the Greater Santiago Metropolitan Region, Maule Region, and Biobío Region.

“We at Enel are proud to be able to make a contribution to the development of youth sport. The past seventeen Copa Enel tournaments have cemented the event’s position as the first step on the pathway to a professional soccer career for both male and female players, and we certainly hope to continue with it, particularly now that the tournament is coming of age and growing with each year that passes, particularly in terms of scope, with a new region joining this year - Antofagasta - thus garnering us presence in the north, south, and center of our country,” said Valter Moro, CEO of Enel Generación Chile.

“We see this as an outstanding event and a great opportunity, because this is the star moment for school sports, for sports amongst our children. This year’s Copa Enel has been organized with 24 boys’ clubs and 24 girls’ clubs, showcasing our people’s talent, with civic participation, and promoting sport amongst our young people. Activities like this one incentivize healthy living, the right path to take, and motivation, so they can fight to make their dreams come true,” said Mayor of Calama Daniel Augusto Pérez.

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Copa Enel, cradle of professional athletes

Over the previous 17 annual Copa Enel tournaments, a total of more than 100,000 children have taken part, finding in this contest a platform to launch a professional sporting career.

The children who took part in previous years' tournaments have gone on to become members of the Chilean national team, Olympic medalists, and professional players, with hundreds playing in the youth divisions of major national clubs. These sports stars include:

Name	Current club
Jeison Vargas	Montreal Impact
Pablo Aranguiz	Unión Española
Marcelo Allende	Nexaca
Jaime Carreño	Universidad Católica
Carlos Lobos	Universidad Católica
Zederick Vega	Colo-Colo
Branco Provoste	Colo Colo
Sebastián Valencia	Colo Colo
Nicolás Guerra	Universidad de Chile
Camilo Moya	San Luis
Francisco Valdés	Colo Colo Under 17s
Luis Urrutia	Colo Colo Under 17s
Martin Pastene	Colo Colo Under 14s
Jordhy Thompson	Colo Colo Under 14s
Javier Melendez	Colo Colo Sub Under 15s
Valentina Díaz	Colo Colo
Catalina Moris	Universidad de Chile
Antonia Canales	Universidad Católica
Fernanda Pinilla	Universidad de Chile
Michelle Olivares	Universidad de Chile
Emilia Pastrian	Santiago Morning
Sonya Keefe	Boston College
Constanza Barrientos	Colo Colo

Spirit of Copa Enel

This tournament - created by Enel Distribución - has worked with the Fundación Iván Zamorano, Ministry of Sport, SENDA, and UNICEF to provide the company's social support services to 33 districts where it supplies electricity in Greater Santiago.

The championship is held on 8 sports grounds that were provided with lighting by Enel as part of its Public Space Recuperation Program, which has outfitted over 170 sports grounds in Greater Santiago, part of the company's ongoing efforts to promote sports amongst young people.