

LA Firpo (SLV) vs. Alajuelense (CRC)

GROUP B

Estadio Nacional Jorge Mágico González, El Salvador

7-AGO

They will face each other for the first time in the Central American Cup.

They have previously met 4 times in the Concacaf Champions Cup, where Luis Ángel Firpo achieved two wins, one draw, and one loss. The last three matches between the two clubs ended with two wins for the Salvadoran club and one draw. The last match was a 3-2 victory in the 1998 Champions Cup on May 14, 1998, on Matchday 5 of the 2nd round in Group II.

The only time LD Alajuelense defeated Luis Ángel Firpo in an official match was more than 32 years ago in the 1992 edition of the Concacaf Champions Cup, where they won the two-match series (home and away) in the 3rd round of Group 1 of the North & Central American zone on June 10, 1992, with a 1-0 victory thanks to a goal by Honduran Richardson Smith.

Results:

- Alajuelense 1-0 LA Firpo (Richard Smith), Third Round (First leg) - Concacaf Champions Cup 1992, Alejandro Morera Soto Stadium, Alajuela (June 10, 1992).
- LA Firpo 2-1 (3-5) Alajuelense (Nildeson Silva de Mello and Miguel Estrada; Víctor Badilla), Third Round (Second leg) - Concacaf Champions Cup 1992, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles (June 24, 1992).
- Alajuelense 1-1 LA Firpo (Josef Miso; Israel Franco), Group B - Concacaf Champions Cup 1998, Alejandro Morera Soto Stadium, Alajuela (April 15, 1998).
- LA Firpo 3-2 Alajuelense (Celio Rodríguez, Mauricio Montero own goal, and Nenei; Rodinei Martins and Richard Smith), Group B - Concacaf Champions Cup 1998, Usulután (May 14, 1998).



CD LA Firpo (SLV)

LA Firpo drew 1-1 in their tournament debut against Comunicaciones. 75% of their 12 shots were on target, 3 were off-target shots.

With the draw, CD Luis Ángel Firpo becomes the first Salvadoran club not to lose their "debut" match in the history of the tournament. Similarly, they matched CD Águila as the only two Salvadoran clubs that have not lost a game in the tournament. Águila won 1-0 against

Diriangén FC (NCA) with a goal from Darwin Cerén (SLV) and Firpo drew 1-1 against Comunicaciones FC (GUA), with a goal from Carlos Mejía (GUA) for Comunicaciones and Gustavo Moura (BRA) for Firpo.

Their last victory in a Concacaf club tournament was against CD Victoria of La Ceiba, Honduras in the 2013/14 Champions Cup (Group 7 - Matchday 6): 1-4 (Darixon Vuelto scored for CD Victoria; Xavier García, Anel Canales x2, and Medardo Guevara for Firpo).

Scorers in the CCAC: Gustavo Souza (BRA) 1.

Assists in the CCAC: Mauricio Cerritos (SLV) 1.

Saves: Wilberth Hernández (SLV) 3.

Players to watch:

- **Gustavo Souza (BRA)**. Scored the equalizing goal for Luis Ángel Firpo against Comunicaciones and made two shots (50% accuracy).
- **Styven Vásquez (SLV)**. Was the leader in shots with (5), 4 of those shots were on target.
- **Lizandro Claros (SLV)**. Was the player with the most ball recoveries (3) against Comunicaciones, along with 2 clearances and 22 passes.



LD Alajuelense (CRC)

The defending champion began the defense of the crown with a 3-1 victory against debutant CD Marathon on August 1 at the Alejandro Morera Soto Stadium. The visiting Hondurans took the lead in the 30th minute with a goal from Kenny Bodden. Ardeson Cardoso started the comeback by equalizing the game in the 45th minute, and then Diego Campos sealed the victory with a double in the 70th and 71st minutes.

With the victory over CD Marathon, LD Alajuelense reached 7 wins in the tournament, cementing itself as the club with the most victories in the history of the two editions and becoming the first team in the history of the tournament to reach 11 matches.

LD Alajuelense is unbeaten in the Central American Cup after 11 matches (W-8 D-3) and was champion in 2023. It is the only club that has scored goals in every match of the tournament in its two editions.

The defending champion won 4 of their last 5 away matches, scoring 12 goals and conceding 3, keeping a clean sheet in 3 of the 5 away matches.

LD Alajuelense was the team with the most points (24), goals scored (24), wins (7), and passes (4155) in the inaugural edition in 2023. The Lions had a perfect record in the group stage and finished the tournament unbeaten.

Scorers in the CCAC: Aarón Suárez (CRC) 4, Johan Venegas (CRC) 3, Michael Barrantes (CRC) 3, Joshua Navarro (CRC) 3, Freddy Góndola (PAN) 3, Joel Campbell (CRC) 3, Alexander López (HON) 2, Diego Campos (CRC) 2.

Assists in the CCAC: Carlos Mora (CRC) 4, Joshua Navarro (CRC) 4, Johan Venegas (CRC) 2, Aarón Suárez (CRC) 2.

Players with the most appearances in the CCAC: Celso Borges (11 matches), Joshua Navarro, Alexander López (10), Aarón Suárez, Leonel Moreira, Joel Campbell, Giancarlo González, Michael Barrantes (9).

Saves: Leonel Moreira (CRC) 35, Miguel Ajú (CRC) 6.

Biggest win: 5-1 vs. Motagua (Joshua Navarro x2, Doryan Rodríguez, Michael Barrantes, Johan Venegas; Agustín Auzmendi), Group D (Matchday 5) - Alejandro Morera Soto Stadium, Alajuela (August 31, 2023).

Scorers in the CCAC 2024: Diego Campos (CRC) 2, Anderson Cardoso (BRA) 1.

Assists in 2024: Aarón Suárez (CRC) 2, Iago Falqué (ESP) 1.

Players to watch:

- **Diego Campos (CRC).** Scored two goals in the victory against CD Marathon in addition to three shots.

- **Aarón Suárez (CRC).** Was effective, providing 2 assists and 4 shots after coming on as a substitute against CD Marathon.

- **Anderson Cardoso (BRA).** Scored the crucial equalizer at the end of the first half against Marathon that started the comeback. Along with Aarón Suárez, he had the most shots with 4.