



No. 46/2020

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of  
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		CLC/FOP	30 June 2020

**UEFA club competitions - UEFA Champions League (UCL), UEFA Europa League (UEL), UEFA Super Cup (SCUP) and UEFA Youth League (UYL) – 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons – UEFA Executive Committee decisions**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The current unprecedented situation resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic has led to the suspension of virtually all matches and delays in the completion of domestic competitions.

The remaining matches of the 2019/20 UEFA Champions League, the 2019/20 UEFA Europa League, the 2019/20 Youth League and the 2020 Super Cup were therefore suspended.

After a three-months break and thorough consultation with all the football stakeholders, the UEFA Executive Committee decided on 17 June to:

- resume and finish the suspended 2019/20 season of the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Europa League and the UEFA Youth League, with a changed format and calendar to allow all domestic competitions to be completed beforehand;
- adapt the 2020/21 season of the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Super Cup and UEFA Youth league.

You can find a graphic representation of all the changes explained here in the enclosed documentation.

**The updated competition regulations will be made available in due course on our TIME, FAME and UEFA document platforms.**

# 1. Completing 2019/20 season

## 1.1. UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League

### 1.1.1 Competition format

Both competitions' postponed round of 16 second-leg matches will be played in accordance with the current competition regulations. The quarter-finals and semi-finals will be played as single legs (instead of home and away). If the score is tied at the end of normal playing time, the winner will be determined after extra time and penalty kicks. The final will be played as one single match as foreseen in the competition regulations.

The matches of the UEL round of 16, FC Internazionale Milano vs Getafe CF and Sevilla FC vs AS Roma, whose first leg was also postponed, will be played as single legs. If the score is tied at the end of normal playing time, the winner will be determined after extra time and penalty kicks.

### 1.1.2 Match venues

The venues of the postponed round of 16 matches will be determined in due course. These matches will be held either at the club's home ground or as assigned by UEFA and outlined below.

From the quarter-finals, matches are assigned to the following venues:

- The *UCL quarter-finals, semi-finals and final* in Portugal at the Estádio do Sport Lisboa e Benfica and the Estádio José Alvalade.
- The *UEL quarter-finals, semi-finals and final* in Germany at the Stadion Köln in Cologne; MSV Arena in Duisburg; Dusseldorf arena in Düsseldorf; and Arena AufSchalke in Gelsenkirchen. Regardless of the decision on where the six UEL round of 16 second-leg matches are played, the two UEL Round of 16 single-leg matches (FC Internazionale Milano vs Getafe CF and Sevilla FC vs AS Roma) will be held in Germany at two of the venues listed above.

### 1.1.3 Calendar and draw

The calendar is outlined below. All UCL matches will be played at 21:00 CET. All UEL matches will be played at 21:00 CET, with the exception of the four round of 16 matches that will be scheduled at 18:55 CET. The match calendar (dates and kick-off times) will be determined by UEFA after the draw.

<b>Matchday</b>	<b>UEFA Champions League</b>	<b>UEFA Europa League</b>
Round of 16 – 2nd leg matches	7/8 August 2020	5/6 August 2020 (4x 21:00 CET and 4x 18:55 CET)
Round of 16 – Single leg		
Quarter-finals – Single leg	12/13/14/15 August 2020	10/11 August 2020
Semi-final – Single leg	18/19 August 2020	16/17 August 2020
Final – Single leg	23 August 2020	21 August 2020

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The draws for the 2019/20 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League quarter-finals and semi-finals will be held at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon on 10 July 2020 and streamed live.

#### **1.1.4 Players' rules**

The competition regulations will be amended to include the following changes applicable to all remaining matches of both competitions:

- In accordance with the temporary amendment of Law 3 approved by IFAB, teams will be able to make 5 substitutions on three different occasions during these matches. These three occasions do not include changes at half-time, between the end of normal playing time and extra time, and at half-time during extra time. One additional substitution will be allowed during extra time.
- A total of 23 players will be allowed on the match sheet instead of 18.
- Teams will be able to register a maximum of 3 new players on list A, provided that this does not cause the number of players to exceed 25 (in which case the necessary number of players must be removed) and that these players were already registered and eligible to play for the club at domestic level since the last UEFA Club Competitions registration deadline on 3 February 2020.

#### **1.1.5 Clubs' and national associations' coefficients**

For matches originally foreseen in two legs (home and away) and reduced to a single leg, the calculation of coefficient points per match will be adapted as follows:

- 3 points for a win (in regular time or extra time)
- 2 points to each team for a draw (after extra time)
- 1 point for a loss (in regular time or extra time)

### **1.2. UEFA Youth League**

All postponed matches will be played in Nyon on the following dates:

- Remaining round of 16 matches on 16 August 2020
- Quarter-finals on 18/19 August 2020
- Semi-finals on 22 August 2020
- Final on 25 August 2020

The match schedule and kick-off times will be determined by UEFA and communicated in due course. There are no further changes and the 2019/20 UEFA Youth League Regulations will therefore apply for the remaining competition matches.

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## 2. 2020/21 season

### 2.1. UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League – qualifying phase

#### 2.1.1 Access lists and entry deadlines

The access lists for the 2020/21 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Youth League have not changed.

The final deadline for national associations to submit the list of participating clubs for the 2020/21 UCL, UEL and UYL is **3 August**. All national associations that have either finished (i.e. summer leagues) or prematurely terminated their domestic competitions giving access to the 2020/21 season should submit their lists by 13 July 2020.

Details of the admission and entry process as well as all the entry forms will be sent out in a separate circular letter.

#### 2.1.2 Rebalancing rules

As the 2019/20 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League winners will be known only after the 2020/21 qualification phase has started, the potential vacancy created by a winning team already qualified to the UCL group stage through its domestic championship will also be known late. The rebalancing of the access list will then take this specific situation into consideration and will be based on two different scenarios.

##### *UEFA Champions League titleholder*

- The decision on the rebalancing of the access list will be made after the round of 16 and before the draw for UCL Q1.
- If all remaining UCL quarter-final teams qualify for next season's UCL group stage in their domestic league competitions and the vacancy is therefore guaranteed, the same re-balancing as approved by the Club Competitions Committee for previous seasons will be applied.
- If at least one remaining team in the UCL quarter-finals does not qualify for next season's UCL group stage in its domestic league competition and the vacancy is therefore not guaranteed, a late rebalancing will apply, respecting the same principles as the standard rebalancing. The vacancy created by the UCL titleholder in the UCL group stage would therefore be rebalanced as follows:
  - CH of Ass. 11 moved from UCL PO CH-path to UCL GS
  - CH of Ass. 13 & 14 moved from UCL Q3 CH-path to UCL PO CH-path
  - Due to the rebalancing described above, only five (instead of six) teams would be fed from UCL Q3 CH-path to UEL PO CH-path. To compensate for the odd number in the UEL PO-CH-path, two of all the teams qualified for the UEL CH-path Q3 would be drawn randomly and moved from the UEL Q3 CH-path to UEL PO-CH-path.

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- If the UCL titleholder qualifies for the UEL group stage or the UCL/UEL qualifying phase via its domestic competitions, the above principles will be applied accordingly to rebalance the access list.

#### *UEFA Europa League titleholder*

The same approach will be used for rebalancing the access list with regard to the UEL winner.

- The decision to rebalance the access list will be made after the round of 16 and before the draw for PR.
- If all the remaining teams in the UEL quarter-finals qualify for next season's UCL group stage in their domestic league competitions and the vacancy is therefore guaranteed, the same rebalancing as approved by the Club Competitions Committee for previous seasons will be applied.
- If at least one remaining team in the UEL quarter-finals does not qualify for next season's UCL group stage in its domestic league competition and the vacancy is therefore not guaranteed, a late rebalancing will apply, respecting the same principles as the standard rebalancing. The vacancy created by the UEL titleholder in the UCL group stage would therefore be rebalanced as follows:
  - N3 of Ass. 5 moved from UCL Q3 League path to UCL GS
  - N3 of Ass. 6 moved from UCL Q3 League path to UCL PO League path
  - Due to the rebalancing described above, only five (instead of six) teams would be fed from UCL Q3 & PO league path to UEL group stage, creating a vacancy in the UEL group stage. The vacancy is therefore rebalanced accordingly:
    - The CW (or the club replacing it if it qualifies for the UCL in its domestic championship) of Ass. 13 moved from UEL Q3 to UEL GS
    - The CW (or the club replacing it if it qualifies for the UCL in its domestic championship) of Ass. 18 & 19 moved from UEL Q2 to UEL Q3
- If the UEL titleholder qualifies for the UEL group stage or the UCL/UEL qualifying phase via its domestic competitions, the above principles will be applied accordingly to rebalance the access list.

### **2.1.3 Competition format**

To achieve the necessary separation from the final phase of the 2019/20 season and to avoid any impact on the 2020/21 access list and on clubs involved in both competition phases, the 2020/21 UCL/UEL qualification phase will be played in single legs (instead of home and away), except for the UCL play-offs, which will remain in two legs. The UCL preliminary round maintains its mini-tournament format, with the semi-finals and final played at one assigned venue. All matches in the qualification phase (with the exception of the UCL play-offs) will be decided by extra-time and penalty kicks if the score is tied at the end of the regular playing time.

### 2.1.4 Competition calendar

The new calendar dates for the 2020/21 qualifying phase are outlined below. The venues, dates and kick-off times for the matches in the qualifying phase (except UCL play-offs and UCL PR) are fixed by the home clubs in consultation with the away clubs and must be confirmed to UEFA, subject to the new draw principles.

<b>Round</b>	<b>UEFA Champions League</b>	<b>UEFA Europa League</b>
Preliminary round	8 and 11 August 2020	20 August 2020
First qualifying round	18/19 August 2020	27 August 2020
Second qualifying round	25/26 August 2020	17 September 2020
Third qualifying round	15/16 September 2020	24 September 2020
Play-offs	22/23 & 29/30 September 2020	1 October 2020

### 2.1.5 Draw principles

The general principles are as follows:

#### *Seeding system*

With the exception of the UCL preliminary round (seeding based on association coefficient) and UEL champions path (seeding based on entry stage), the seeding system for all qualifying round draws will be based on the clubs' coefficients. The seeded clubs will play against the unseeded clubs.

#### *Home team*

Before each draw, the list of venues that are suitable for a UCL/UEL match will be drawn up in accordance with the UEFA medical protocol. The first team drawn will play the match at home, unless its stadium has not been approved, in which case the match will be played at the venue of the second team drawn. The UEFA administration will make sure that two clubs without an approved stadium are not drawn against each other.

The participating teams will be given further details as usual in the draw procedure established before each draw.

### 2.1.6 Players' registration and kit submission deadlines

The new deadlines for player registrations are outlined below together with the new deadlines for submitting kit samples.

#### Player registration

<b>Round</b>	<b>UEFA Champions League</b>	<b>UEFA Europa League</b>
Preliminary round	3 August 2020	12 August 2020
First qualifying round	12 August 2020	21 August 2020
Second qualifying round	20 August 2020	10 September 2020
Third qualifying round	10 September 2020	18 September 2020
Play-offs	17 September 2020	25 September 2020

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Player kits (samples)

- 10 August for all clubs entering in the group stage and play-offs and UCL third qualifying round.
- 31 August for all teams qualifying for the UCL Q3 via the UCL Q2.
- 28 September for all teams qualifying for the UEL play-offs via the UEL Q3.

### **2.1.7 Coefficient system**

There is no change in the club coefficient calculation. However, the association coefficient system will be adapted to the single leg approach implemented for these matches as follows:

- 1.5 points for a win (in regular time or extra time)
- 1 point for a draw (after extra time)
- 0.5 point for a loss (in regular time or extra time)

### **2.1.8 Fixed amounts paid for qualifying rounds**

The teams in the qualifying rounds will be paid the same fixed amounts as last season (please refer to UEFA circular letter 47/2019).

### **2.1.9 Commercial rights**

As double legs (home and away) will now become single legs, the rules covering the commercial rights of the qualifying rounds will be adapted as follows.

The home club shall retain the commercial rights (including any media rights in match footage which is produced) for exploitation in its country and including all advertising boards surrounding the pitch. The away club will retain the commercial rights (including media rights in any match footage which is produced) for exploitation worldwide (to the exclusion of the country of the home team). The home club shall have the option to perform the host broadcast production of the relevant match and shall (where such option is exercised) facilitate access to the signal and the necessary licences and/or authorisations for the benefit of the away team (or its appointed technical representatives). To the extent the home club does not perform the host broadcast, it shall, upon request of the away club, facilitate all such reasonable and appropriate access to the appointed technical representatives of the away club so as to enable their production of the relevant match footage. It is the responsibility of each participating club to cooperate in order to ensure (where relevant) the production of the relevant match, the provision of access to feeds/signals is sufficiently fair and reasonable and the necessary licences and/or authorisations are granted so as to enable each club to mutually benefit from the commercial rights and activities contemplated under this paragraph.

## 2.2. UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League – group stage onwards

### 2.2.1 Competition format

No change.

### 2.2.2 Competition calendar

The dates of the UCL and UEL group stage have been adapted to the new qualifying phase calendar. The new dates are given below. No change is made to the knock-out stage calendar. The group stage draws for the 2020/21 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League will be held at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre in Athens respectively on 1 and 2 October 2020.

<b>Matchday</b>	<b>UEFA Champions League</b>	<b>UEFA Europa League</b>
MD 1	20/21 October 2020	22 October 2020
MD 2	27/28 October 2020	29 October 2020
MD 3	3/4 November 2020	5 November 2020
MD 4	24/25 November 2020	26 November 2020
MD 5	1/2 December 2020	3 December 2020
MD 6	8/9 December 2020	10 December 2020
Round of 32 (1st leg)		18 February 2021
Round of 32 (2nd leg)		25 February 2021
Round of 16 (1st leg)	16/17 & 23/24 February 2021	11 March 2021
Round of 16 (2nd leg)	9/10 & 16/17 March 2021	18 March 2021
Quarter-finals (1st leg)	6/7 April 2021	8 April 2021
Quarter-finals (2nd leg)	13/14 April 2021	15 April 2021
Semi-finals (1st leg)	27/28 April 2021	29 April 2021
Semi-finals (2nd leg)	4/5 May 2021	6 May 2021
Final	29 May 2021	26 May 2021

## 2.3. UEFA Youth League 2020/21

The new calendar for the 2020/21 UEFA Youth League is given below. There are no changes to the dates of the subsequent rounds.

<b>Matchday</b>	<b>UEFA Champions League path</b>	<b>Domestic champions path</b>
MD 1 / Round 1 – 1st leg	20/21 October 2020	21 October 2020
MD 2	27/28 October 2020	
MD 3 / Round1 – 2nd leg	3/4 November 2020	4 November 2020
MD 4 / Round 2 – 1st leg	24/25 November 2020	25 November 2020
MD 5	1/2 December 2020	
MD 6 / Round 2 – 2nd leg	8/9 December 2020	9 December 2020



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## **2.4. UEFA Super Cup 2020**

The 2020 UEFA Super Cup, which was originally scheduled to be hosted in Porto on 12 August 2020, will now be played at the Puskás Aréna in Budapest at 21:00 CET on 24 September 2020.

## **3. Venues of future finals**

### **3.1. UEFA Champions League**

Istanbul, which was originally appointed to stage the 2020 final will host the 2021 UEFA Champions League final, whereas the venues for subsequent finals have all agreed to host these a year later than originally planned: St Petersburg in 2022, Munich in 2023 and London (Wembley) in 2024.

### **3.2. UEFA Europa League**

Gdańsk, which was originally appointed to stage the 2020 final will host the 2021 UEFA Europa League final, whereas the venues for subsequent finals have all agreed to host these a year later than originally planned: Seville in 2022 and Budapest in 2023.

### **3.3. UEFA Super Cup**

The following editions of the UEFA Super Cup will be held as originally scheduled: Belfast (2021), Helsinki (2022) and Kazan (2023).

## **4. UEFA Covid-19 medical protocol and stadium matters**

The UEFA Executive Committee has also approved the key principles of a UEFA medical protocol. Detailed guidelines for a thorough health plan will be finalised over the next few weeks to protect the health of all participants in UEFA matches when the competitions resume. These guidelines will be made available to all participating teams in due course well in advance of their respective matches.

Please note that, to safeguard the competition and its participants, all teams will be required to travel on charter flights.

In addition, please be aware that when selecting match venues, the UEFA medical protocol requires you to provide sufficient dressing room space for the teams and technical staff to avoid congestion and optimise distancing and air circulation. Depending on the actual size of the dressing room, additional nearby rooms or spaces may therefore also have to be made available. The same applies to the referee dressing room.

UEFA will regularly assess the situation across the continent and will decide at a later stage whether to admit spectators to the stadiums and when.

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We thank you in advance for giving your fullest attention to the information contained in this letter and its enclosures, and for your valuable cooperation and understanding.

Yours faithfully,

**U E F A**



Theodore Theodoridis  
General Secretary

Enclosure

- Summary of changes

cc (with enclosure)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA Club Competitions Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich
- ECA, Nyon
- EL, Nyon