



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE & UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2020/21

Annex J

Special rules applicable to the group stage
of the competition due to COVID-19

J.1 Venue and country restrictions

- J.1.1 All clubs qualified to the group stage must ensure that matches can be played at the UEFA approved venues in accordance with the published calendar and shall cooperate with their national association in order to obtain from the relevant authorities exemptions from existing travel restrictions, such as border closures and quarantine requirements, for the match to take place as scheduled.
- J.1.2 If, nonetheless, such an exemption cannot be obtained, the club in question shall confirm in writing to the UEFA administration any travel restrictions that would impact the staging of, or travelling to, one of their group stage matches by the following deadlines:
- at the latest on 5 October 2020 (24:00 CET) for the group stage matchdays 1-3;
 - at the latest on 9 November 2020 (24:00 CET) for the group stage matchdays 4-6.

Clubs must immediately inform UEFA of any change to travel restrictions or exemptions secured after the above-mentioned deadlines.

- J.1.3 As a rule, matches are played at the UEFA approved venue of the home club. If restrictions imposed by the national/local authorities could result in the match not taking place as scheduled, the following applies:
- (i) If restrictions imposed by the national/local authorities of the home club's country apply to the visiting club, the home club must propose a suitable alternative venue which may be in a neutral country (within the territory of a UEFA member association) that would allow the match to take place without any restrictions for both clubs. The home club will remain responsible for the organisation of the match and all related costs. If the home club fails to propose such suitable alternative venue and a reorganisation of the match at an alternative venue and/or date is not possible, the club in question will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by the home club, which will be considered to have lost it 3-0.
 - (ii) If restrictions imposed by the national/local authorities of the visiting club's country apply to the visiting club's travel to play the match or its return home after the match, the home club must propose a suitable alternative venue which may be in a neutral country (within the territory of a UEFA member association) that would allow the match to take place and would not cause the visiting club any restrictions in either travel direction. If the home club fails to propose such suitable alternative venue, the UEFA administration will take a final decision on the match venue and/or match date. The home club will remain responsible for the organisation of the match and both clubs will share the related costs in equal measure. Furthermore, an amount equal to 10 % of the fixed starting fee received in the competition (in accordance with Paragraph 61.06 of the UEFA Champions League regulations and Paragraph 58.06 of the UEFA Europa League regulations) will be deducted from the payments due to the visiting club and paid to the home club as a compensation. If either club refuses to take part in the match, it will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by such club, which will be considered to have lost it 3-0.

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- J.1.4 Where possible, clubs should try to use as an alternative venue the UEFA approved venue used in the group stage by another club. UEFA reserves the right to consider the proposed alternative venue as not suitable and take a final decision on the match venue and/or match date. All clubs participating in the group stage shall use best endeavours to make their UEFA approved venue available, whenever possible, as a neutral venue for other matches in the competition.
- J.1.5 In all cases, the clubs may agree - subject to UEFA's approval - on a venue reversal or on a neutral venue (within the territory of a UEFA member association and in compliance with paragraph J.1.3), provided that no restrictions apply and no city or stadium clash is caused with other UEFA fixtures.
- J.1.6 If, in the opinion of the UEFA administration, the information provided by the clubs on restrictions imposed by their national/local authorities (in accordance with paragraph J.1.2) is not accurate or is insufficient or received too late, or the restrictions are not sufficient to require the reorganisation of the match in a neutral country (within the territory of a UEFA member association), the UEFA administration will take a final decision on the match venue and/or match date as well as on which club has to bear the costs related to the reorganisation of the match. In any case, the home club will remain responsible for the organisation of the match. If either club refuses to take part in the match, it will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by such club, which will be considered to have lost it 3-0.
- J.1.7 If a club fails to inform the UEFA administration of any existing restrictions that affect the organisation of a match and as a consequence the match cannot take place or be rescheduled, the club in question will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by the club in question, which will be considered to have lost it 3-0.

J.2 Testing and player eligibility

- J.2.1 If one or more players or officials of a club test positive for COVID-19 in the tests required by the UEFA Return to Play Protocol, the match will take place as scheduled unless the national/local authorities of one or both clubs involved or of where the match will take place (in case of a neutral country) require a large group of players or the entire team to go into quarantine. If at least 13 players registered on the A list (including at least one goalkeeper) are available, the match must go ahead on the scheduled date. If less than 13 players registered on the A list or no registered goalkeeper are available, UEFA may allow a rescheduling of the match, if the relevant national/local authority seeks new tests to allow a sufficient number of players (at least 13 including at least one goalkeeper) to participate in the match. Alternatively, the club may field players who have not been registered with UEFA within the deadlines stipulated in the present regulations, provided that these players (i) are duly registered with their national association as playing for the club concerned in accordance with the association's own rules and those of FIFA and (ii) are tested negative in

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accordance with the UEFA Return to Play Protocol. If it is not possible to reschedule the match within the final deadline set out in paragraph J.3.1, the club that cannot play the match will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by the club, which will be considered to have lost the match 3-0.

- J.2.2 If any member of the appointed referee team for a match tests positive for COVID-19, UEFA may exceptionally appoint replacement match officials who (i) may be of the same nationality as one of the clubs, and/or (ii) may not be on the FIFA list.

J.3 Completion of the group stage

- J.3.1 In any case, the UEFA administration may reschedule matches if this ensures a match is played and allows the group stage to be completed accordingly. This should not jeopardise the schedule of any forthcoming matches in the competition or other UEFA competitions. Such decisions of the UEFA administration are final.

All group stage matches must be finished by 28 January 2021 at the latest.

- J.3.2 If, for any reason, the group stage cannot be completed in accordance with this Annex J, the UEFA Executive Committee will decide on the principles for determining the clubs qualified for the Round of 16 of UEFA Champions League and/or UEFA Europa League Round of 32.



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