



No. 26/2021

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		F\MAC\KLL	27 April 2021

Regulatory updates for UEFA EURO 2020, the UEFA Nations League 2020/21 and the UEFA European Under-21 Championship 2021-23

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. Five substitutions for UEFA EURO 2020, the UEFA Nations League finals 2021 and the 2020/21 UEFA Nations League play-outs

IFAB Circular letter 21 of 18 December 2020 confirms the extension of the temporary amendment introduced to Law 3 of the IFAB Laws of the Game to use up to five substitutions for national team competitions until 31 July 2022.

As the reasons for the five-substitutions rule remain valid against the background of national and international football calendars affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and given that the rule is already in place for the World Cup qualification matches that will run from March 2021 to March 2022, the UEFA Executive Committee has approved at its meeting of 31 March the extension of this amendment to the following competitions and phases:

- UEFA EURO 2020 final tournament in June/July 2021
- 2020/21 UEFA Nations League finals in October 2021
- 2020/21 UEFA Nations League play-outs in March 2022

The corresponding regulatory changes are outlined below and highlighted in bold:

a. Regulations of the UEFA European Football Championship 2018-20

Article 43.04 – Amendment to the addition from 24 September 2020

For the play-offs **and the final tournament**, up to a maximum of five of the substitutes listed on each team's match sheet may take part in the match. Exceptionally, a sixth substitute listed on the match sheet may take part exclusively during extra time. Each team may use a maximum of three stoppages in play to make substitutions (one additional stoppage in extra-time can be used). Substitutions made during half-time, between the end of normal playing time and extra time, and at half-time during extra time do not reduce the number of stoppages in play that can be used. A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.

Article 43.05 – Amendment to the addition from 24 September 2020

After the validated match sheets have been submitted by both teams, and if the match has not yet kicked off, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:

- a. [...]. During the match, three (for the play-offs **and the final tournament**: five) players may still be substituted.
- b. [...]

b. Regulations of the UEFA Nations League 2020/21

Article 39.04 – Amendment to the addition from 24 September 2020

For the remaining league phase matches, **the finals and the play-outs**, up to a maximum of five of the substitutes listed on each team's match sheet may take part in the match. Each team may use a maximum of three stoppages in play to make substitutions. Substitutions made during half-time do not reduce the number of stoppages in play that can be used. A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.

Article 39.05 – Amendment to the addition from 24 September 2020

After the validated match sheets have been submitted no changes are allowed. Before the match has kicked off, the following exceptions are possible:

- a. [...]. During the match, three (for the remaining league phase matches, **the finals and the play-outs**: five) players may still be substituted. [...]

2. Correction of art. 15.02 of the UEFA European Under-21 Championship 2021-23 regulations

A printing error had to be corrected regarding the criteria to determine the best runner-up of the qualifying groups. The corresponding regulatory change is outlined here:

Article 15.02 – Correction

To compare the rankings between the qualifying groups and to determine the best runner-up, **the results of group runners-up against the teams in sixth place are discarded**. The following criteria are applied in the order given:

- a. higher number of points;
- b. superior goal difference;
- c. higher number of goals scored;
- d. higher number of away goals scored;
- e. higher number of wins;
- f. higher number of away wins;
- g. lower disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received by players and team officials in all group matches (red card = 3 points, yellow card = 1 point, expulsion for two yellow cards in one match = 3 points);
- h. higher position in the UEFA Under-21 national team coefficient rankings used for the qualifying group stage draw (see Annex A.1.2 a.).

Yours faithfully,

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Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

cc

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA National Team Competitions Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich