



Enclosure 4

2021/22 UEFA Youth League

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In the context of your preparations for the upcoming 2021/22 UEFA Youth League, we would like to give you additional information regarding the format established for the competition, the official registration procedure, and the eligibility and registration of players.

1. **Competition format**

The format gives more youth players experience of international football and assists in their transition from the youth team to professional football. The competition has two paths, as indicated below.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PATH

The 32 clubs playing the UEFA Champions League are also entitled to take part in the UEFA Youth League, in a group stage where they play the same opponents as in the UEFA Champions League.

DOMESTIC CHAMPIONS PATH

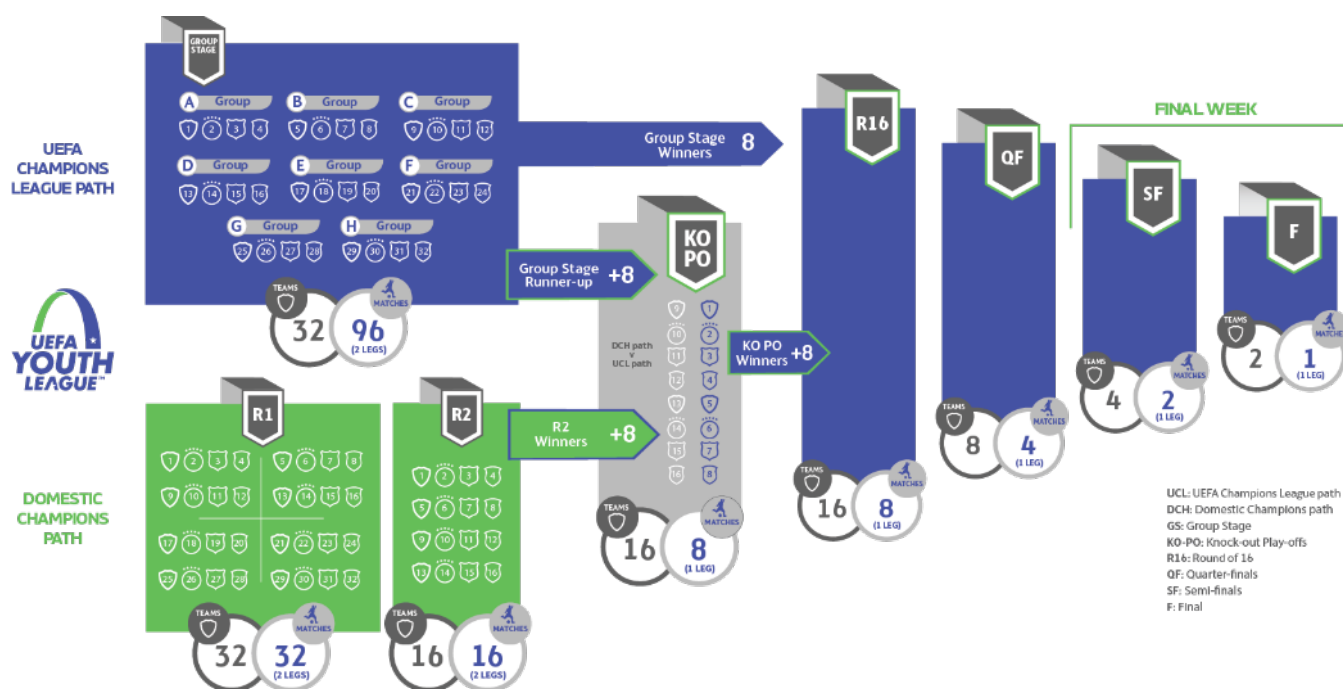
The 32 best-ranked associations according to the access list (see Enclosure A of the Regulations of the UEFA Youth League 2021/22) have the opportunity to enter their domestic youth champions in a distinct knockout path, from which eight teams will qualify to play in the knockout phase against teams qualified from the UEFA Champions League path.

If a domestic youth champion club has also qualified for the competition via the UEFA Champions League, its youth team will participate in the UEFA Champions League path and the first place vacated in the domestic champions path will be filled by the UEFA Youth League titleholder if it does not qualify for the competition. Any additional vacancy will be filled by the domestic youth champion of the next association in the rankings whose domestic youth champion has not already qualified (see Annex A of the UEFA Youth League regulations). This makes it possible for associations ranked lower than 32 to also enter a team.

For further information on the competition format, please refer to Chapter II of the Regulations of the UEFA Youth League.

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2. Competition registration procedure

For detailed further information on the official registration procedure, **please refer to Enclosure 1 of this circular letter.**

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PATH

On entering the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League (through the submission of the official entry form by the relevant national association), participating clubs agree, if qualified for the group stage of that competition, to take part in the 2021/22 UEFA Youth League (UEFA Champions League path) with one of their youth teams in accordance with the regulations governing this competition (see Articles 3 and 4 of the Regulations of the UEFA Youth League 2021/22 and Article 6.01(o) of the Regulations of the UEFA Champions League 2021/22).

DOMESTIC CHAMPIONS PATH

The 32 best-ranked associations according to the access list (see Enclosure A of the Regulations of the UEFA Youth League 2021/22) also have the opportunity to enter their domestic youth champions in the UEFA Youth League. The associations in question must submit the relevant admission criteria form and a duly signed entry form on which the relevant club is indicated.

AGE CATEGORY OF THE DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIP

As per the Club Competition Committee decision national associations retain the freedom to determine the age category of their domestic championships that give access to the UEFA Youth League. However, the national associations' choice for season 2021/22 applies for the entire three-year cycle (2021/24).

The deadlines have been set as follows:

UEFA Youth League registration

All national associations are requested to inform the UEFA administration (by email to entry@uefa.ch) no later than **11 May 2021** which of its domestic youth championships (i.e. which age category) will offer access to the UEFA Youth League. If this domestic youth championship will not be finished before **1 June 2021**, please inform the UEFA administration immediately (also by email to entry@uefa.ch).

Online UEFA Youth League venue announcement form

To be completed online by the national association in the stadium venue announcement section on the TIME platform for all clubs that could potentially qualify for the UEFA Youth League: **31 May 2021**.

Stadiums and security

(Stadium questionnaire, safety certificate, floodlighting certificate, football (artificial) turf certificate)

For all clubs that could potentially qualify for the UEFA Youth League: **30 July 2021**.

3. Player eligibility, registration, and other new key amendments

Information relating to player eligibility and registration for the UEFA Youth League can be found in Articles 35 and 36 of the Regulations of the UEFA Youth League 2021/22.

The UEFA Youth League will continue to be an Under-19 competition. Therefore, a player is eligible for inclusion on the 2021/22 UEFA Youth League player list if he was born on or after 1 January 2003. Additionally, a maximum of **five** club-trained U20 players (born on or after 1 January 2002) can be included in the overall list of 40 players available for the competition, provided that certain criteria are fulfilled (see Article 36.04 of the Regulations of the UEFA Youth League).

Each club will be invited to register a list of **40 players** at the start of the season in the player registration section in TIME. This list must be submitted by the club to its respective national association and then forwarded to UEFA, as explained in the Enclosure 3 of this circular letter and Article 36.01 of the Regulations of the UEFA Youth League.

For each match in the competition, each participating club must enter a **shortlist of 20 players** in the TIME platform the day before the match (see Article 36.05 of the Regulations of the UEFA Youth League).

As a minimum, **14 places** on that 20-player shortlist are reserved exclusively for players who have been eligible to play for the club concerned without interruption for the two years immediately preceding 14 September 2021, or have been eligible to play for the club concerned for two of the three years immediately preceding 14 September 2021 and registered with a maximum of one other club from the same association for an uninterrupted period of up to one year for the other one.

With regards to the match procedures, please be informed that a maximum of **five substitutes** listed on each team's match sheet to take part in the match. Each team however, may make their substitutions on

no more than three separate occasions during the match. A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.

In relation to disciplinary matters, please be informed that exceptionally, **all yellow cards expire on completion of the quarter-finals**. They are not carried forward to the semi-finals.

4. Contact

Cooperation between associations and clubs has been a key factor in the competition's success so far. We are counting on you, once again, to keep creating and maintaining a great platform and experience for your youth players.

To optimise communication between the various parties concerned, each club will be asked, in due course, to provide details of a UEFA Youth League contact person who speaks fluent English.

Should you have any questions or need more information concerning the UEFA Youth League, please feel free to contact UYLMatchOps@uefa.ch