



## Enclosure 3

### Player eligibility for the 2021/22 UEFA club competitions

#### Player eligibility for the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League, the 2021/22 UEFA Europa League, the 2021/22 UEFA Europa Conference League and the 2021/22 UEFA Youth League

We would like to provide you with some additional information with regard to the application of the rules on player eligibility for the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Europa Conference League and UEFA Youth League.

Please note that for the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League, all references to the competition regulations relate to Chapter VII, Articles 44 to 46 of the corresponding regulations for the 2021/22 season. For the UEFA Youth League, all player eligibility rules are set out in Chapter VII, Articles 35 and 36 of the Regulations of the UEFA Youth League 2021/22 season.

The only exception to this is in paragraph 9 of this enclosure, where specific reference is made to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

#### 1. Responsibility

As a reminder, in all UEFA club competitions, the national associations and clubs are wholly responsible for observing the player eligibility requirements set out in the above-mentioned provisions and as explained below. Each player must be duly registered with their national association as playing for the club concerned in accordance with the national association's own rules and those of FIFA, notably the *FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players*. Neither the referee nor the UEFA match delegate is responsible for verifying the eligibility of players.

#### 2. Medical examination

Players must undergo a medical examination in accordance with the mandatory criteria set out in the UEFA Medical Regulations (2020 edition). Confirmation that every player has undergone this examination must be recorded on the official player lists and all player lists must be signed by the club doctor. This includes List A, List B, the UEFA Youth League player list, and any players subsequently registered for any of the competitions in question. The club doctor is solely responsible for ensuring that each player's medical examination has been duly performed.

The medical examination is an eligibility criterion, so a player is only eligible to play in the aforementioned UEFA club competitions if the club doctor has confirmed that he has undergone the required medical examination. Provided that the player is included on the relevant official player list by the set deadline, confirmation of the medical examination may be sent after the registration deadline, but the player will only be eligible to play a match if the UEFA administration has been provided with this confirmation at least 24 hours before the match in question. For clarification, in the absence of such confirmation, the player concerned may not be replaced on the player list.

### 3. Player list quotas and guidelines

#### **3.1. List A for UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League – goalkeepers and locally trained players**

Each club may have a maximum of 25 players on List A at any point during the season. Clubs must respect the following rules when registering players on this list and may have to remove players if the requirements are not met:

- Clubs must include at least two goalkeepers on List A (and at least three in total across List A and List B).
- 8 places from the total of 25 are reserved exclusively for “locally trained players” as defined below:
  - A ‘locally trained player’ is either a ‘club-trained player’ or an ‘association-trained player’.
  - A ‘club-trained player’ (‘ACT player’) is a player who, between the ages of 15 (or the start of the season during which he turns 15) and 21 (or the end of the season during which he turns 21), and irrespective of his nationality and age, has been registered with his current club for a period, continuous or not, of three entire seasons (i.e. a period starting with the first official match of the relevant national championship and ending with the last official match of that national championship) or 36 months. In the context of this paragraph, the season immediately preceding a player’s 15th birthday may be counted if his birthday is after the last match of the relevant national championship but before or on 30 June (winter championships) or 31 December (summer championships), and the season immediately following his 21st birthday may be counted if his birthday is on or after 1 July (winter championships) or 1 January (summer championships) but before the first match of the relevant national championship.
  - An ‘association-trained player’ (‘AAT player’) is a player who, between the ages of 15 (or the start of the season during which the player turns 15) and 21 (or the end of the season during which the player turns 21), and irrespective of his nationality and age, has been registered with a club or with other clubs affiliated to the same national association as that of his current club for a period, continuous or not, of three entire seasons or 36 months. In the context of this paragraph, the season immediately preceding a player’s 15th birthday may be counted if his birthday is after the last match of the relevant national championship but before or on 30 June (winter championships) or 31 December (summer championships), and the season immediately following his 21st birthday may be counted if his birthday is on or after 1 July (winter championships) or 1 January (summer championships) but before the first match of the relevant national championship.
- If a club has fewer than eight locally trained players in its squad, the maximum number of players on List A is reduced accordingly. The possible combinations of club and association-trained players are listed in Annex H of the competition regulations.

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The player registration system performs automatic checks on the quota of locally trained players and includes historical information on the status of each player.

- Players who were listed as 'ACT or AAT' in the previous season's player lists and are still with the same club will appear with this option already ticked and will not be editable.
- Players who were listed as 'ACT' or 'AAT' in the previous season's player lists and are now with a different club from the same national association will be editable but the 'AAT' box will already be ticked.
- When listing a new player as 'ACT' or 'AAT', a pop-up window will appear asking you to explain why this player should be considered as an 'ACT' or 'AAT' player. This explanation must include the full details of the player's career between the ages of 15 and 21, including the exact dates of each transfer (dd/mm/yy), to allow us to check whether he qualifies as locally trained under paragraphs 45.04 and 45.05 of the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League or UEFA Europa Conference League regulations as applicable.

On the basis of this information, the UEFA Football Operations Unit will be able to confirm that the player is considered as locally trained and will save him as such in the system for future registrations.

It is important to provide full career information on any new locally trained player, to avoid further correspondence after the submission of the player list.

If a player has been wrongly indicated as 'ACT' or 'AAT' by one of your clubs, please inform us by email and we will modify our records accordingly.

#### **3.2. List B for UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League – youth players**

An unlimited number of youth players who fulfil the conditions set out in the competition regulations may be registered on List B at any stage during the 2021/22 season. A national association must register these players with the UEFA administration by 24:00 CET on the day before the match in question. A player may be registered on List B if he was born on or after 1 January 2000 and has been eligible to play for the club concerned for any uninterrupted period of two years since his 15th birthday by the time he is registered with UEFA, or for a total of three consecutive years with a maximum of one loan period to a club from the same association for a period no longer than one year. Players aged 16 may be registered on List B if they have been registered with the participating club for the previous two years without interruption.

For List B players who have spent a period of time away from the club (and therefore whose 'at club since' date is not sufficient to verify their eligibility to be registered on a B list), full career details, including the exact dates of each transfer and/or loan (dd/mm/yy), must be indicated in the 'notes' field of the player list.

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By way of clarification, a player on List A who fulfils the conditions for List B, or who subsequently becomes eligible for inclusion on List B, may be added to List B in accordance with the above conditions. However, in such instances, the place vacated on List A can only be filled at the next registration date.

As a reminder from paragraph 3.1 above, if List A contains only two goalkeepers, at least one goalkeeper must be registered on List B at all times.

#### 3.3. UEFA Youth League player list

Each club must announce a list of a maximum of 40 players for the entire season by 7 September 2021 (24:00 CET), at least three of whom must be goalkeepers. This list, which must be submitted by the club to the national association for validation and then forwarded to UEFA, may then be amended at any time up until seven days before each match in the competition, always respecting the minimum quota of goalkeepers.

Players are eligible to play in the competition if they were born on or after 1 January 2003. In addition, clubs are allowed to register up to **five** over-age players, provided the following criteria are fulfilled:

- The player was born on or after 1 January 2002.
- The player has been eligible to play for the club concerned without interruption for the two years immediately preceding 14 September 2021, or has 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.
- The player is duly registered on the list of 40 players by 7 September 2021 in accordance with paragraphs 36.01 and 36.02 of the Regulations of the UEFA Youth League 2021/22.
- The player is not replaced on the list of 40 players, except in the event of long-term injury/illness or registration with another club.
- If the player is removed from the list due to long term injury/illness and replaced by another player born on or after 1 January 2002, the original player cannot be re-registered on recovery.

For each match in the competition, a shortlist of 20 players must be submitted online by the club by 24:00 CET on the day before the match. The 20 players must be selected from the list of 40. This list of 20 does not need to be submitted and signed by the national association.

A minimum of **14** places on the 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 ('Youth ACT'), 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. Furthermore, the 20-player shortlist may include a **maximum of three** of the five players born on or after 1 January 2002 who are registered on the list of 40 players in accordance with paragraph 36.04.

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Total players on shortlist (potential)	'Free' players	Club-trained players (Youth ACT)	Total players on shortlist (effective)
20	6	14	<b>20</b>
20	6	13	<b>19</b>
20	6	12	<b>18</b>

Finally, as a reminder, any player who is fielded in three or more 2021/22 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League matches and/or UEFA Europa Conference League – from the group stage of those competitions – ceases to be eligible to play in the UEFA Youth League.

#### 4. 'At club since' date

The 'at club since' date on the player lists can be modified directly by the club or national association. Please note that this date is the most recent date on which the player was registered with the club (not the date on which he was first registered with the club if he has since left and returned).

For example, if a player was registered with Club A on 1 July 2020, then went on loan to Club B for six months, returning to Club A on 1 January 2021, his 'at club since' date on a player list for the 2021/22 season for Club A will be the date on which he returned from the loan – i.e. 1 January 2021.

For players who are registered on a club's B list and who temporarily left the club after the required two-year registration period, the exact dates of registration with the club in question must be provided in the 'notes' field of the player list, so that we can check that this player is eligible for List B.

#### 5. Player registration deadlines

The deadlines for registering players and submitting player lists have been amended in line with the match calendar and can be found in Annex 1 at the end of this enclosure.

For the qualifying phase and play-offs of the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Europa League and the UEFA Europa Conference League, a club may register for each round a maximum of two new eligible players on List A after the relevant round's player registration deadline, provided the quota of locally trained players is respected. Such registrations have to be made by means of the A2 Excel form (and not through the TIME platform) and must be completed by 24:00 CET on the day before the relevant first-leg match. The club's national association must also have confirmed in writing that the new player is eligible to play at domestic level at that time.

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#### 6. Playing for different clubs

##### **6.1. UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League – qualifying rounds**

Application of paragraph 44.06 of the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League regulations.

- This paragraph applies to a player who is fielded in any qualifying match, up to and including the play-offs, of either the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Europa League or the UEFA Europa Conference League.
- A player who is fielded in these rounds is eligible to play for another club from the group stage in either the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Europa League or the UEFA Europa Conference League as long as he is registered with his new club by the deadlines laid down in the competition regulations (2 September 2021 or 2 February 2022).

##### **6.2. UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League – registration of new players on 2 February 2022**

Application of paragraphs 46.01 and 46.02 of the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa league and UEFA Europa Conference League regulations.

As in the past, clubs are entitled to register three new players for the UEFA Champions League round of 16 and the UEFA Europa League knockout round play-offs, as well as the UEFA Europa Conference League knockout round play-offs. The rules related to the registration of these players are as follows:

- All three new players may have been fielded in UEFA club competitions during the same season.
- There is no restriction regarding which competition these players have previously been fielded in, so a player may be fielded in the UEFA Champions League group stage for one club and the UEFA Champions League round of 16 for another club.
- There is no restriction regarding which competitions the clubs are participating in either, so a player may be fielded in the UEFA Champions League group stage for one team and the UEFA Europa League knockout round play-offs for another team, even if his previous team is also participating in the UEFA Europa League knockout round play-offs. Similarly, a player may be fielded in the UEFA Europa League group stage for one team and the UEFA Europa Conference League knockout round play-offs for another team, even if his previous team is also participating in the UEFA Europa Conference League knockout round play-offs

Finally, please note that paragraph 46.01 of the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League regulations relates to the eligibility of players for the UEFA club competitions, irrespective of whether they are already registered with the club for domestic competitions. Therefore, a player who has not been registered with UEFA and who will replace another player on List A will have to be registered as one of the three new eligible players.

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#### 6.3. UEFA Youth League

Paragraph 35.07 of the competition regulations states that a player is eligible to be fielded only for one single club in the UEFA Youth League in the course of the same season. Once a player has been fielded for a club, he cannot be registered for another club during the same season.

Players who have participated in the UEFA Youth League may, however, play for another team in the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Europa League or the UEFA Europa Conference League (subject to the provisions of paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 above if they have also played for the senior team of their last club during the season in question). Similarly, a player who has played in the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Europa League or the UEFA Europa Conference League with one club but who has not been fielded in the UEFA Youth League for that team, may play for his new club in the same season's UEFA Youth League if he played fewer than three times in the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Europa League and/or the UEFA Europa Conference League during the season in question.

#### 7. Replacement of injured or ill goalkeepers

In the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Europa League and the UEFA Europa Conference League, an injured goalkeeper may be replaced on List A in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 46.04 of the corresponding regulations. An illness or injury is considered long-term if, in the opinion of the UEFA Medical Committee, it is expected to last at least 30 days from the day it started/occurred. In the event that an injured goalkeeper is replaced on List A in accordance with this provision but then subsequently recovers before the end of the 30-day period, he cannot be reinstated on the player list in place of his substitute until after the 30 days have elapsed.

#### 8. January transfers and loan agreements

It has been observed that, on occasion, a player is transferred from one club to another in January and then immediately loaned back to the original club for the remainder of the season. For clarification, in such situations, UEFA must be notified of the player's movements. Given that he has officially left his original club, he must be removed from its player lists, and when he is loaned back he is regarded as one of the three new players who can be registered in January.

#### 9. International transfer certificate

In recent years, UEFA has regularly received queries from clubs about how to interpret the rules governing player registration as contained in the UEFA club competition regulations, which actually refer in this respect to the national associations' own rules and to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (more specifically to those laid down in Annexe 3 thereto). We would therefore like to inform you that the UEFA administration has adopted the following approach:

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- a) The player lists to be submitted to the UEFA administration may include a player for whom an international transfer certificate (ITC) has not yet been created by his former association but for whom an ITC was requested during the new association's national registration period and, at the very latest, by the deadline set in the UEFA club competition regulations for the submission of player lists (see paragraph 8.1.2 of Annexe 3 of the FIFA regulations).
- b) A player is, however, not eligible to participate for his new club in a UEFA club competition until the ITC has been created by his former association (see paragraph 8.2.8 of Annexe 3 of the FIFA regulations). UEFA may check in the FIFA Transfer Matching System (TMS) to see whether the ITC has been created by the former association.
- c) Additionally, a player, who is registered by his new association on a provisional basis due to the latter not having received any response by the former association after 7 days as from the relevant ITC request in accordance with paragraph 8.2.6 of Annex 3 to the FIFA regulations, is considered eligible to participate in a UEFA club competition for his new club.

Furthermore, if the FIFA Players' Status Committee decides to authorise the new association to provisionally register the player with his new club (in accordance with paragraph 8.2.7 of Annexe 3 to the FIFA regulations), the player in question is considered eligible to participate in a UEFA club competition for his new club as soon as written confirmation of the decision has been transmitted by the new club to the UEFA administration.

Finally, for clarification, if a club includes on its list – by the set deadline – a player for whom an ITC has been requested but not yet created, this player may not be replaced on the list in the event that the ITC is not subsequently created by the former association.

#### 10. Duty to notify the UEFA administration

During the course of the season, the national associations are required to notify UEFA **immediately** in writing of the departure (i.e. as a result of a transfer or loan) of any players from clubs taking part in its club competitions. This notification must indicate the date of the transfer or loan and the club to which the player has been transferred or loaned. Any player who is transferred or loaned from a participating club must be removed from the relevant player list and a new player can only be added to the list at the next registration date.

Similarly, a player who has been removed from a player list because he has been loaned to another club can only be registered again on the player list at the next registration date.

UEFA must also be notified as soon as possible about any change of head coach or first assistant coach, including details of the coaching qualifications of the new coach.

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#### 11. Squad list updates

As in the past, clubs are able to modify their squad lists directly in the player registration system. Any player who is no longer registered with a club can be removed from the squad list by the club player registration manager. The player's departure date from the club must be entered.

#### 12. List of suspended players

Before the beginning of the season, the UEFA administration will send each national association a list of players and coaches who have pending suspensions to be served during the 2021/22 season. The national association is responsible for forwarding this list to its participating clubs. This list should be consulted if players or coaches are transferred, and UEFA's disciplinary services will be happy to provide you with additional information on this matter if required. As a reminder, for all UEFA club competitions, only players who are duly registered with UEFA can serve pending UEFA suspensions.

#### 13. Contact information

For any questions regarding player eligibility or the player registration system in TIME, please contact the UEFA Football Operations Unit at [players@uefa.ch](mailto:players@uefa.ch).

– Annex 1: Player registration deadlines for the 2021/22 UEFA club competitions



## Enclosure 3 – Annex 1

### Player registration deadlines for the 2021/22 club competitions

#### Player registration deadlines for the 2021/22 club competitions

<b>Competition Stage</b>	<b>Match dates</b>	<b>Deadline for player registration and submission of lists to UEFA</b>
UEFA Champions League <i>Preliminary round</i>	22 June (semi-finals) and 25 June (final) 2021	Friday 18 June 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Champions League <i>First qualifying round</i>	6/7 and 13/14 July 2021	Thursday 1 July 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Europa Conference League <i>First qualifying round</i>	8 and 15 July 2021	Friday 2 July 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Champions League <i>Second qualifying round</i>	20/21 and 27/28 July 2021	Thursday 15 July 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Europa Conference League <i>Second qualifying round</i>	22 and 29 July 2021	Friday 16 July 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Champions League <i>Third qualifying round</i>	3/4 and 10/11 August 2021	Thursday 29 July 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Europa League <i>Third qualifying round</i>	5 and 12 August 2021	Friday 30 July 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Europa Conference League <i>Third qualifying round</i>	5 and 12 August 2021	Friday 30 July 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Champions League <i>Play-off matches</i>	17/18 and 24/25 August 2021	Thursday 12 August 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Europa League <i>Play-off matches</i>	19 and 26 August 2021	Friday 13 August 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Europa Conference League <i>Play-off matches</i>	19 and 26 August 2021	Friday 13 August 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Champions League <i>Group stage</i>	From 14 September 2021	Thursday 2 September 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Europa League <i>Group stage</i>	From 16 September 2021	Thursday 2 September 2021 (24:00CET)
UEFA Europa Conference League <i>Group stage</i>	From 16 September 2021	Thursday 2 September 2021 (24:00CET)

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UEFA Champions League <i>Round of 16 onwards</i>	From 15 February 2022	Wednesday 2 February 2022 (24:00CET)
UEFA Europa League <i>Knockout round play-offs onwards</i>	From 17 February 2022	Wednesday 2 February 2022 (24:00CET)
UEFA Europa Conference League <i>Knockout round play-offs onwards</i>	From 17 February 2022	Wednesday 2 February 2022 (24:00CET)
UEFA Youth League	From 14 September 2021	Tuesday 7 September 2021 (24:00CET)