



No. 33/2021

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	10 May 2021

Specific rules applicable to the UEFA EURO 2020 final tournament due to COVID-19

Dear Sir or Madam,

In view of the upcoming EURO 2020 final tournament and in order to ensure an as safe environment as possible for all those involved, the UEFA Return to Play Protocol ("UEFA Protocol") - including the rigorous testing programme established therein – will be applicable to the final tournament. Despite the strict measures foreseen in the UEFA Protocol to minimise the possibility of transmission of the virus, there is a risk that individuals may still test positive for COVID-19 from tests conducted in accordance with the UEFA Protocol, which may result in groups of players or entire teams being placed into quarantine following a decision of a competent national/local authority ("the authority"). Therefore, in order to guarantee the smooth running and continuity of the EURO 2020 final tournament, the UEFA Executive Committee decided, on 3 May 2021, to adopt several amendments to the Regulations of the UEFA European Football Championship 2018-20 ("competition regulations"), and to implement specific COVID-19 rules as already established and applied to other UEFA national team competitions (see circular letter no. 66/2020).

1. Increase of the player list from 23 to 26 players

To mitigate the risks of teams facing a shortage of available players for certain matches due to possible positive COVID-19 test results and subsequent quarantine measures ordered by competent authorities, the player list of participating teams ("PNAs") will be increased from 23 to 26 players. The list remains to be completed online by all teams by 1 June 2021, 23:59 CET. However, 23 players remains the maximum number permitted on the match sheet for each individual match (Art. 43.01 of the competition regulations in connection with Law 3 of the IFAB Laws of the Game permitting a maximum of 12 substitutes to be named for A-national team matches), including three goalkeepers.

National associations must make their own arrangements to accommodate the players not included on the match sheet within their delegation, without any financial or organisational impact for UEFA. The different access quotas are as follows:

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- In terms of stadium access, UEFA will provide the necessary accreditations so that the players not included on the match sheet can access the relevant competition area, however the total number of accreditations provided to the team (75) is not changed.
 - Number of UEFA testing pool: 75 (unchanged). To be agreed with the UEFA testing service provider if additional persons can be tested at the PNA's own costs.
 - Seats available at the stadium: 64 (unchanged, composed of 12 substitute players, 11 officials on bench/technical seats plus 11 additional team seats and 20 additional delegation seats, as well as 10 VIP seats for the 10 PNA executives). During the match, players not included on the match sheet can either sit on one of the 11 additional team seats or on one of the 20 additional delegation seats (not on the technical seats).
 - Zone 10 access quota: 48 (increased from 45).
 - Temporary Zone 10 access until start of warm-up and after the match: unchanged up to 4 persons, i.e. 2 PNA executives (e.g. President and/or General Secretary/CEO) and 2 operational staff (e.g. press officers).

Related amendments to the competition regulations [new text hereinafter in bold]:

Art. 47.01

*"Each association must provide the UEFA administration with a list of maximum **26 23** players (surnames, first names, club and date of birth) as well as the surnames, first names and date of birth of the head coach and assistant coach, mentioning their coaching qualifications. Three of these **26 23** players must be goalkeepers."*

Art. 47.03

*"For the final tournament, the list of **26 23** players must be completed online at least 10 full days before the opening match. A signed copy of this list must also be sent to the UEFA administration by the same deadline."*

Art. 56.01

*"Players must be allocated numbers between 1 and **26 23**. If the number 1 is used, it must be worn by a goalkeeper. The numbers on the back of the shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the match sheet."*

Art. 65.02

*"Teams must cooperate to the fullest extent possible with access and interview requests from UEFA media platforms before, during and after the competition. Each team must provide UEFA with access to all **26 23** players in their squad, the head coach and the assistant coach for a squad media day, in order for UEFA to gather content for host broadcaster operations and UEFA media platforms. Each team's squad media day takes place no later than three days before the team's first match in the final tournament, unless alternative arrangements are agreed by the team and UEFA. The precise format and requirements are defined and communicated by UEFA."*

2. Player list replacements

Once the player list has been submitted on 1 June 2021, Art. 47.04 of the competition regulations allows unlimited replacements on the said list in case of serious injury or illness before the first match, provided that the replacements are medically certified.

As a new rule, goalkeepers may also be replaced before each match in case of physical incapacity, even if one or two goalkeepers from the player list are still available.

In any event, three of the 23 players on the match sheet must be goalkeepers from the player list, as would have been the case with the original 23-player list.

To ensure the integrity of the competition, a player who has been replaced on the player list cannot be readmitted to the list.

Related amendments to the competition regulations [new text hereinafter in bold]:

Art. 43.01

*"Before each match, each team shall indicate in the relevant match sheet the numbers, full names, dates of birth and, if applicable, shirt names of the 23 players in the squad **including three goalkeepers from the player list**, together with the full names of the officials seated on the substitutes' bench and on the additional technical seats. The match sheet must be validated by the competent association official."*

Art. 47.04

*"Should ~~a~~ listed players become seriously injured or ill ~~before his team's first match in the final tournament~~, ~~he~~ **they** may only be substituted if a doctor from the UEFA Medical Committee and team doctor concerned both confirm that the injury or illness is sufficiently serious to prevent the players from taking part in the final tournament. Subject to the final approval of the UEFA administration, ~~this~~ the injured or ill players may be replaced on the list of ~~23~~ **26** players registered for participation in the final tournament, **as follows**:*

- a) outfield players and goalkeepers may be replaced before their team's first match in the final tournament,***
- b) goalkeepers only may also be replaced before each match of their team in the final tournament.***

A player who has been replaced on the list of 26 players under the above rules cannot return on to the list."

Players who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have been declared as "close contacts" of a positive COVID-19 tested person – and therefore put in isolation - by way of an authorities' decision are considered cases of serious illness according to Art. 47.04 and can therefore be replaced before the first match, as well as goalkeepers before each match, with the approval of the UEFA administration.

3. Standard COVID-rules

As previously implemented for UEFA national team competition matches (see circular letter no. 66/2020), the following specific COVID-19 rules were adopted for the EURO 2020 final tournament, in order to guarantee the continuity of the tournament:

1. Should a group of players of a team be placed into mandatory quarantine or self-isolation following a decision of a competent national/local authority, the match will go ahead as scheduled as long as the team has at least 13 players available (including at least one goalkeeper), irrespective of any other provision of the relevant competition regulations (including the deadline for the submission of the list of players), provided that all players are eligible to represent the national team in accordance with Art. 46 of the competition regulations and have been tested negative as required by the UEFA Protocol. Any additional player called up to meet the minimum of 13 players requires that an equivalent number of quarantined players are definitively withdrawn from the 26 players list.
2. If a national association is not in a position to field a team with the above-mentioned minimum number of players (i.e. 13 including at least one goalkeeper), the match may, if possible (i.e. subject to viable rescheduling options being available), be rescheduled within the next 48 hours of the date of the relevant match by the UEFA administration, which shall also have the power to assign the rescheduled match to an alternative venue.
3. If the match cannot be rescheduled, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body (CEDB) will take a decision on the matter. The national association that is responsible for the match not taking place will be declared by the UEFA CEDB to have forfeited the match and will be considered to have lost the match 3-0.
4. If any member of the appointed referee team for a match tests positive for COVID-19, UEFA may exceptionally appoint replacement match officials who may be of the same nationality as one of the national associations concerned and/or may not be on the FIFA list.

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