



No 38/2021

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference

Your correspondence of

Our reference
KPCLC

Date
1 June 2021

2021/22 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League – access to the competitions

Dear Sir or Madam,

Following the 2020/21 UEFA Champions League (UCL) and UEFA Europa League (UEL) finals and in accordance with circular letter No. 83/2020, please find enclosed a revised access list for the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and – new this season – UEFA Europa Conference League (UECL).

The specific adjustments made in relation to all competitions are explained below.

UEFA Champions League

In accordance with Paragraph 3.03 of the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League regulations, both the UCL and UEL titleholders are guaranteed a place in the group stage of the UEFA Champions League. This affects access to the UEFA Champions League as described below.

Any knock-on effects on the other two competitions are described below in the sections on the UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League.

UEFA Champions League titleholder

Chelsea FC have direct access to the UCL group stage as UCL titleholders and consequently vacate the place reserved for the club ranked forth (N4) in England's domestic championship.

In accordance with Paragraph 3.04 of the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League regulations, the vacancy created by the **UCL titleholder** in the UCL group stage is filled by the domestic champions of the association ranked 11th in the access list.

Consequently, the domestic champions (CH) of **Turkey** (association ranked 11th) will take the place in the UCL group stage initially reserved for England's club ranked fourth (N4) instead of entering the UCL play-offs of the UCL champions path.

The UCL champions path is rebalanced in accordance with Paragraph 3.04, with priority given to the club of the best-ranked association in the access list for the relevant round:

- The champions (CH) from the association ranked 13th in the access list (**Denmark**) will enter the UCL in the play-offs of the champions path, instead of the third qualifying round.
- The champions (CH) from the association ranked 15th in the access list (**Czech Republic**) will enter the UCL in the third qualifying round of the champions path, instead of the second qualifying round.
- The champions (CH) from the associations ranked 18th and 19th in the access list (**Greece and Serbia**) will enter the UCL in the second qualifying round of the champions path, instead of the first qualifying round.

UEFA Europa League titleholder

Villarreal FC have direct access to the UCL group stage as **UEL titleholders**.

Villarreal FC have not qualified for the UCL group stage via Spain's domestic championship but for the UECL main path play-offs. Therefore, no vacancy is created in the UCL group stage and no other adjustments to the access list are required in relation to the UEFA Champions League. Instead, a vacancy is created in the UECL main path play-offs. The knock-on effects on the UECL are described in the section on the UEFA Europa Conference League.

UEFA Europa League

In accordance with Paragraph 3.09 of the 2021/22 UEFA Europa League regulations, the UECL titleholder is guaranteed a place in the group stage of the UEFA Europa League. This affects the UEL access list as described below.

UEFA Europa Conference League titleholder

As 2021/22 is the first season of the new UEFA Europa Conference League, there is no UECL titleholder as yet. Consequently, the place reserved for the UECL titleholder in the UEL group stage is vacant.

In accordance with Paragraph 3.10 of the 2021/22 UEFA Europa League regulations, the vacancy created by the UECL titleholder in the UEL group stage is filled by the cup winner of the association ranked 7th in the access list (or the club replacing it if it qualifies for the UCL via its domestic championship).

Consequently, the cup winner of **Russia** (or the club replacing it if it qualifies for the UCL via its domestic championship) will take the place in the UEL group stage initially reserved for the UECL titleholder, instead of entering the UEL play-offs.

The UEL play-offs and the UEL third qualifying round of the main path are rebalanced in accordance with Paragraph 3.10, with priority given to the cup winners (or the clubs replacing them if they qualify for the UEFA Champions League) in the main paths of the UEFA Europa League and the UEFA Europa Conference League:

- The cup winner (or the club replacing it if it qualifies for the UCL via its domestic championship) from the association ranked 13th in the access list (**Denmark**) will enter the UEL in the play-offs, instead of the third qualifying round of the main path.
- The cup winner (or the club replacing it if it qualifies for the UCL via its domestic championship) from the association ranked 16th in the access list (**Cyprus**) will enter the UEL in the third qualifying round of the main path, instead of entering the UECL in the second qualifying round (main path).

UEFA Europa Conference League

The above-mentioned rebalancing of the champions and league paths of the UCL has knock-on effects on access to the UECL, as described below.

UEFA Europa League titleholder and UECL main path

As mentioned above, **Villareal FC**, as **UEL titleholders**, have direct access to the UCL group stage and consequently vacate the place in the UECL main path play-offs reserved for the team in sixth place in Spain's domestic championship. (Villareal FC were entitled to this place in the UECL play-offs as the team ranked seventh in the Spanish domestic championship, as Barcelona FC are both the domestic cup winners and ranked third in the Spanish domestic championship.)

As stipulated in Paragraph 3.03 of the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League regulations, if the UEL titleholder qualifies for the UECL via one of its domestic competitions, the number of places to which its association is entitled in the UECL is decreased by one. Therefore, Spain has no team entering and participating in the UEFA Europa Conference League.

Therefore, the UECL main path is rebalanced in accordance with the principles outlined in Paragraph 3.08 and Annex A of the 2021/22 UECL regulations, as follows:

- The cup winners (or the clubs replacing them if they qualify for the UCL via their domestic championships) from the associations ranked 17th and 18th in the access list (**Switzerland and Greece**) will enter the UECL in the third qualifying round of the main path, instead of the second qualifying round.
- The cup winners (or the clubs replacing them if they qualify for the UCL via their domestic championships) from the associations ranked 30th to 35th in the access list (**Slovakia, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Hungary, Luxembourg and Lithuania**) will enter the UECL in the second qualifying round of the main path, instead of the first qualifying round.

UECL champions path

The rebalancing of the UCL champions path would result in 19 teams/pairings (16 teams/pairings from the UCL first qualifying round and 3 from the preliminary round) instead of 20 being fed from the UCL first qualifying round and the UCL preliminary round into the second qualifying round of the UECL champions path.

Since an even number of teams/pairings is required, one of the 16 pairings from the UCL first qualifying round will be directly allocated to the third qualifying round of the UECL champions path. A draw will be held to decide which one. The team that loses that pairing's UCL first qualifying round tie will be fed directly into the third qualifying round of the UECL champions path instead of the second qualifying round.

This draw will be held after the draw for the first qualifying round of the UCL champions path. It will result in 18 teams/pairings being drawn for the second qualifying round of the UECL champions path.

For ease of reference, the revised access list for the 2020/21 UEFA club competitions is enclosed. If you have any questions regarding this new access list, please contact the club competitions unit.

We wish your participants all the best in the 2021/22 UEFA club competitions.

Yours faithfully,

U E F A



Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

Enclosure

- 2021/22 revised access list

cc (with enclosure)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- Club Competitions Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich
- ECA, Nyon
- EL, Nyon