



UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2021/22

Annex I

Special rules applicable for the qualifying phase and play-offs of the competition due to COVID-19

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NB: If there is any discrepancy between the rules of this Annex and the provisions to be found in the present regulations or in any other sets of rules adopted by the Executive Committee, the rules below prevail.

I.1 Travel requirements

All teams participating in the qualifying phase and/or play-offs are required to travel by charter flight and/or by private buses.

I.2 Venue and country restrictions

I.2.1 All clubs participating in the qualifying phase and/or play-offs must ensure that matches can be played at the UEFA approved venues in accordance with the published calendar and shall cooperate with their national association in order to obtain from the relevant authorities exemptions from existing travel restrictions, such as border closures and quarantine requirements, for the match to take place as scheduled.

I.2.2 If, nonetheless, such an exemption cannot be obtained, the club in question shall confirm in writing to the UEFA administration any travel restrictions that would impact the staging of, or travelling to/from, one of the qualifying phase and/or play-offs matches by the following deadlines:

- UEFA Europa Conference League 1st qualifying round: at the latest on 29 June 2021 (12:00 CET)
- UEFA Europa Conference League 2nd qualifying round: at the latest on 12 July 2021 (12:00 CET)
- UEFA Europa Conference League 3rd qualifying round: at the latest on 26 July 2021 (12:00 CET)
- UEFA Europa Conference League play-offs: at the latest on 9 August 2021 (12:00 CET)

Clubs must immediately inform UEFA of any change to travel restrictions or exemptions secured after the above-mentioned deadlines.

I.2.3 As a rule, matches are played at the UEFA approved venue of the home club. If restrictions imposed by the national/local authorities could result in the match not taking place as scheduled, the following applies:

- (i) If restrictions imposed by the national/local authorities of the home club's country apply to the visiting club, the home club must propose a suitable alternative venue within 24 hours of the relevant deadline stipulated under Paragraph I.2.2, which may be in a neutral country (within the territory of a UEFA member association) that would allow the match to take place without any restrictions for both clubs. The home club will remain responsible for the organisation of the match and all related costs. If the home club fails to propose such suitable alternative venue by the aforementioned deadline and a reorganisation of the match at an alternative venue and/or date is not possible, the club in question will be held responsible for the match not taking place

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and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by the home club, which will be considered to have lost it by 3-0.

- (ii) If restrictions imposed by the national/local authorities of the visiting club's country apply to the visiting club's travel to play the match or its return home after the match, the home club must propose a suitable alternative venue within 24 hours of the relevant deadline stipulated under Paragraph 1.2.2, which may be in a neutral country (within the territory of a UEFA member association) that would allow the match to take place and would not cause the visiting club any restrictions in either travel direction. If the home club fails to propose such suitable alternative venue within the aforementioned deadline, the UEFA administration will take a final decision on the match venue and/or match date. The home club will remain responsible for the organisation of the match and both clubs will share the related costs in equal measure. Furthermore, an amount equal to 50 % of the fixed contribution per round (€ 50k) (in accordance with Paragraph 61.05 of the present regulations) will be deducted from the payments due to the visiting club and paid to the home club as a compensation. If either club refuses to take part in the match, it will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by such club. Moreover, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body may take any further disciplinary measures in accordance with Paragraph 28.01 of the present regulations.

I.2.4 As an alternative venue, clubs should where possible either select a venue from the list of available stadiums proposed by UEFA for the relevant round of the competition, or should propose a different UEFA-approved venue already used in a UEFA club competition in the current or previous season by another club. UEFA reserves the right to consider the proposed alternative venue as not suitable and take a final decision on the match venue and/or match date. All clubs participating in the qualifying phase and play-offs shall use best endeavours to make their UEFA approved venue available, whenever possible, as a neutral venue for other matches in the competition.

I.2.5 In all cases, the clubs may agree - subject to UEFA's approval - on a venue reversal or on a neutral venue (within the territory of a UEFA member association and in compliance with Paragraph 1.2.3), provided that no restrictions apply and no city or stadium clash is caused with other UEFA fixtures.

I.2.6 If, in the opinion of the UEFA administration, the information provided by the clubs on restrictions imposed by their national/local authorities (in accordance with Paragraph 1.2.2) is not accurate or is insufficient or received too late, or the restrictions are not sufficient to require the reorganisation of the match in a neutral country (within the territory of a UEFA member association), the UEFA administration will take a final decision on the match venue and/or match date as well as on which club has to bear the costs related to the reorganisation of the match. In any case, the home club will remain responsible for the organisation of the match. If either club refuses to take part in the match, it will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by such club. Moreover, the UEFA Control, Ethics

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and Disciplinary Body may take any further disciplinary measures in accordance with Paragraph 28.01 of the present regulations.

- I.2.7 If a club fails to inform the UEFA administration of any existing restrictions that affect the organisation of a match and as a consequence the match cannot take place or be rescheduled, the club in question will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by the club in question. Moreover, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body may take any further disciplinary measures in accordance with Paragraph 28.01 of the present regulations.
- I.2.8 In all cases, the venue of a match must be approved by the UEFA administration, which has the right to assign an alternative venue for any particular match or even to decide that either or both legs of the relevant round to be rescheduled (in accordance with Paragraph I.4.1) and/or played in a neutral country (within the territory of a UEFA member association) and/or organised as a single-leg. These decisions are final. In any event, the home club will remain responsible for the organisation of the match and all related costs.

I.3 Testing and player eligibility

- I.3.1 If one or more players or officials of a club test positive for COVID-19 in the tests required by the UEFA Return to Play Protocol, the match will take place as scheduled unless the national/local authorities of one or both clubs involved or of where the match will take place (in case of a neutral country) require a large group of players or the entire team to go into quarantine. If at least 13 players registered on the A list (including at least one goalkeeper) are available, the match must go ahead on the scheduled date. If less than 13 players registered on the A list or no registered goalkeeper are available, UEFA may allow a rescheduling of the match, if the relevant national/local authority seeks new tests to allow a sufficient number of players (at least 13 including at least one goalkeeper) to participate in the match. Alternatively, the club may field players who have not been registered with UEFA within the deadlines stipulated in the present regulations, provided that these players (i) are duly registered with their national association as playing for the club concerned in accordance with the association's own rules and those of FIFA and (ii) are tested negative in accordance with the UEFA Return to Play Protocol. If it is not possible to reschedule the match within the final deadline set out in Paragraph I.4.1, the club that cannot play the match will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by the club, which will be considered to have lost it by 3-0. Moreover, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body may take further disciplinary measures if the circumstances so justify.

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- I.3.2 If any member of the appointed referee team for a match tests positive for COVID-19, UEFA may exceptionally appoint replacement match officials who (i) may be of the same nationality as one of the clubs, and/or (ii) may not be on the FIFA list.

I.4 Completion of the qualifying phase and play-offs

I.4.1 In any case, the UEFA administration may reschedule matches if this ensures a match is played and allows the qualifying phase and play-offs to be completed accordingly. This should not jeopardise the schedule of any forthcoming rounds in the competition or other UEFA competitions. Such decisions of the UEFA administration are final. The rescheduling of matches is subject to the following deadlines for the different rounds of the present competition:

- UEFA Europa Conference League 1st qualifying round: by 17 July 2021
- UEFA Europa Conference League 2nd qualifying round: by 31 July 2021
- UEFA Europa Conference League 3rd qualifying round: by 14 August 2021
- UEFA Europa Conference League play-offs: by 27 August 2021

I.4.2 If, for any reason, any tie in the qualifying phase and play-offs cannot be completed in accordance with this Annex I, the UEFA Executive Committee will decide on the principles for determining the winner.

I.4.3 Any unforeseen circumstances related to this Annex will be dealt with in accordance with Article 83 of the present regulations.

I.5 Deadlines for protests and appeals

- I.5.1 Protests lodged for any reason connected with the application of this Annex and declarations of appeal against a decision made by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body under the rules of this Annex must be lodged in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations, with the exception of the following deadlines:
- a. a protest must reach the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body within 12 hours of the end of the match in question;
 - b. if applicable, a declaration of appeal against a decision by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body must be lodged within 24 hours of notification of the relevant decision with grounds;
 - c. if applicable, the Appellant must file the grounds of appeal within 2 days of the expiry of the time limit for the declaration of appeal.



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