



For Approval by Email:

Special rules applicable for the qualifying phase and play-offs of the 2021/2 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League due to COVID-19

1. Annex I
2. Travelling fans

1. Annex I

Situation Report

Since last year, the covid-19 pandemic has had a very heavy impact on the staging of European competitions due to travel restrictions and the possibility of positive cases detected via the UEFA testing programme, which may result in individuals or groups of people of the team delegations ordered into isolation by the competent authorities. To regulate these matters and to ensure the regular staging of the competitions, the UEFA Executive Committee approved specific competition regulations Annexes: on 3 August 2020 Annex I for the qualifying phase and play-offs, on 24 September 2020 Annex J for the group stage and on 27 January 2021 Annex K for the knock-out stage.

Reasoning

While the developments in Europe with regards to the pandemic are positive, travel restrictions, including quarantine requirements continue to affect Europe. In addition, the UEFA Return to Play Protocol will still be operated in the course of the upcoming season, including the implementation of a testing programme, which may determine the sudden unavailability of large groups of players following the detection of positive cases. In view of this persisting extraordinary context linked to the pandemic, it is necessary to also adopt a new set of special rules for the qualifying phase and play-offs of the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League, in order to guarantee the continuity of the competitions.

The new Annex I, shaped on the same structure as the one adopted at the beginning of the season 2020/21, permits UEFA to put in place a specific and rigorous process to closely monitor existing travel restrictions throughout Europe and sets for the obligations of participating clubs whenever rules imposed by public authorities make the travel of teams to play a match impossible. Furthermore, it establishes the rules and procedures to be followed in case of group quarantine decided by an authority following positive covid-19 test results.

Other Annexes may be proposed at a later stage, as was the case during the course of the season 2020/21, for the subsequent phases of the competitions.

The UEFA Club Competitions Committee recommended Annex I at its meetings held on 28 May 2021.



2. Travelling fans

Situation Report

On 1 October 2020 the UEFA Executive committee decided to abolish a limit on the allowed capacity of stadiums during the pandemic period and to accept that the admission of spectators and the maximum limit permitted in each stadium on the occasions of its competitions be established by the competent national or local authorities, subject to the respect of the UEFA Minimum Health and Hygiene Requirements.

In consideration of the very high number of matches foreseen by the programme of the qualifying phase and play-offs of the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League and the fact that all rounds in the new season will again be played over two legs (while last year they were reduced to a single leg behind closed doors), it seems prudent to propose that travelling fans will not be admitted during the entire qualifying phase and play-offs. With this decision UEFA intends to act responsibly at a time where restrictive measures are still in place in order to avoid the spread of infections, while sporting fairness is preserved as every team will have the possibility to enjoy the support of their public when playing at home, in compliance with the decision of their competent authority.

The situation will be re-examined for the group stage of the three competitions.

The UEFA Club Competitions Committee approved and recommended this measure at its meeting held on 28 May 2021.

Request

The UEFA Executive Committee is invited to take the following decisions:

1. To approve the enclosed *Annex I – Special rules applicable for the qualifying phase and play-offs of the competition due to COVID-19* to the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League regulations.
2. To forbid the exchange of tickets for the fans of visiting teams during the qualifying phase and play-offs of the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Conference League.



UEFA Executive Committee

By Email: Nyon, 14 June 2021

Decision

After having taken note of the above, the UEFA Executive committee approved the request submitted by the UEFA administration as set out above.

Nyon, 14 June 2021

On behalf of the UEFA Executive Committee:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Čeferin', with a horizontal line above the name.

UEFA President
Aleksander Čeferin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theodore Theodoridis', with a horizontal line above the name.

UEFA General Secretary
Theodore Theodoridis

Enclosure

- *Annex I of the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League regulations – Special rules applicable for the qualifying phase and play-offs of the competition due to COVID-19*
- *Annex I of the 2021/22 UEFA Europa League regulations – Special rules applicable for the qualifying phase and play-offs of the competition due to COVID-19*
- *Annex I of the 2021/22 UEFA Europa Conference League regulations – Special rules applicable for the qualifying phase and play-offs of the competition due to COVID-19*