



No. 43/2021

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference MAC	Date 24 June 2021
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Abolishment of the away goals rule in all UEFA club competitions

Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to inform you that following the recommendation of the UEFA Club Competitions Committee and the UEFA Women's Football Committee, on 24 June 2021 the UEFA Executive Committee decided to remove the so-called away goals rule from all UEFA club competitions (men's, women's and youth) as of the qualifying phases of the 2021/22 competitions.

The so-called away goals rule was applied to determine the winner of a two-legged knockout tie in cases where the two teams had scored the same number of goals on aggregate over the two matches. In such cases, the team which had scored the higher number of goals away from home was considered the winner of the tie and qualified for the next round of the competition. If the two teams had scored the same number of goals at home and away at the end of normal playing time in the second leg, extra time was played, followed by kicks from the penalty mark if no goal was scored.

With the decision to remove this rule, all goals will count equally. If two teams score the same number of goals over two legs, two 15-minute periods of extra time are automatically played at the end of the second leg. If the teams score no goals or the same number of goals during extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine the team which qualifies for the next stage of the competition. As is already the case, extra time is not used to decide the winner of two-legged knockout matches in the UEFA Youth League; kicks from the penalty mark alone determine which team qualifies for the next stage if the score is equal.

Since away goals will no longer be given additional weight to decide a tie, they will also be removed from the criteria used to determine the rankings when two or more teams are equal on points in the group stage, i.e. the criteria applied to matches played by the teams in question. They will not be removed from the additional criteria applied to all group matches if the teams remain equal, in order to retain a maximum number of sporting criteria.

Therefore, the UEFA Executive Committee has approved the following amendments to the regulations of the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League (UCL) Regulations, the 2021/22 UEFA Women's Champions League (UWCL) Regulations, the 2021/22 UEFA Europa League (UEL) Regulations, the 2021/22 UEFA Europa Conference League (UECL) Regulations and the 2021/22 UEFA Youth League (UYL) Regulations (new text in **bold**):

- **Article 20.01 of the UCL Regulations and Article 21.01 of the UWCL Regulations, UEL Regulations & UECL Regulations**

~~"Away goals rule Knockout system, extra time and kicks from the penalty mark~~

*For matches played under the knockout system, if the two teams involved in a tie score the same number of goals over the two legs, ~~the team which scores more away goals qualifies for the next stage. If this procedure does not produce a result, i.e. if both teams score the same number of goals at home and away, two 15-minute periods of extra time are played at the end of the second leg. If both teams score the same number of goals during extra time, away goals count double (i.e. the visiting team qualifies for the next stage).~~ **The team which scores more goals during extra time qualifies for the next stage. If both teams score the same number of goals or no goals are scored during extra time, kicks from the penalty mark determine which team qualifies for the next stage.***

- **Article 19.01 of the UYL Regulations**

~~"Away goals rule Knockout system and kicks from the penalty mark~~

For the first and second rounds of the domestic champions path, which are played under the knockout system, in home and away matches, if the two teams involved in a tie score the same number of goals over the two legs, ~~the team which scores more away goals qualifies for the next stage. If this procedure does not produce a result, i.e. if both teams score the same number of goals at home and away, no extra time is played at the end of the second leg. Kicks from the penalty mark determine which team qualifies for the next stage.~~

- **Article 17.01 of the UCL Regulations, Article 18.01 of the UWCL Regulations, Article 16.01 of the UEL Regulations & UECL Regulations and Article 14.03 of the UYL Regulations**

"If two or more teams are equal on points on completion of the group matches, the following criteria are applied in the order given to determine their rankings:

- a. higher number of points obtained in the group matches played among the teams in question;*
- b. superior goal difference from the group matches played among the teams in question;*
- c. higher number of goals scored in the group matches played among the teams in question;*
- d. ~~higher number of away goals scored in the group matches played among the teams in question;~~*
- d.** if, after having applied criteria a) to ~~d)~~ **c)**, teams still have an equal ranking, criteria a) to ~~d)~~ **c)** are reapplied exclusively to the matches between the remaining teams to determine their final rankings. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, criteria ~~f)~~ **e)** to ~~k)~~ apply in the order given to the two or more teams still equal;*

[...]."

The latest versions of these regulations can be accessed under <https://documents.uefa.com/>.

Yours faithfully,

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Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

cc

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA Club Competitions Committee
- UEFA Women's Football Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich
- European Club Association (ECA)
- European Leagues (EL)