



No. 66/2021

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the president and the general secretary

Your reference

Your correspondence of

Our reference
RIG/baw/mpt

Date
6 September 2021

Decision of the UEFA Executive Committee related to the amendments of the UEFA Return to Play Protocol

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 6 September 2021, the UEFA Executive Committee approved significant amendments to the UEFA Return to Play Protocol (the Protocol), which therefore sees the publication of the fifth edition of this protocol.

The approved amendments to the Protocol, which were discussed and evaluated in consultation with the UEFA Protocol Advisory Panel concern both the medical and operational parts of the document. With respect to the medical principles, the amendments are a result of the ongoing vaccination campaigns across Europe and the decision of many countries to allow vaccinated and recovered individuals to freely move across borders and attend public events without further testing. With regard to the operational principles, the changes approved have been proposed following the experiences gathered across more than 2'000 UEFA competition matches now successfully played.

The newly approved Protocol, which comes into force on Friday, 10 September 2021, is enclosed with this circular letter, with the main changes being as follows:

1. Testing programme:

- a) It was decided to exclude all individuals which are fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 and/or have recovered from COVID-19 from any further testing for purposes of entering Zone 1 at UEFA matches. However, it is important to note that it remains within the sole responsibility of the team to verify ahead of travelling to any match venue in another country whether all vaccinated and/or recovered individuals of the team are permitted to enter the country and/or the stadium according to any requirements imposed by the competent national/local authorities. This includes checking if the type of vaccination of all individuals of a team delegation is accepted by authorities of the country which they are going to visit for the match. In case any additional entry requirements (e.g. testing upon arrival) are applicable, the team is responsible for complying with

such rules, in order to be able to enter the relevant country and participate in the respective UEFA match.

- b)** All individuals who are not fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 and/or have not recovered from COVID-19 are subject to a mandatory test to enter Zone 1 of the stadium at UEFA matches. This test may be either a:
- SARS-CoV-2 RNA test including PCR (polymerase chain reaction)-based tests or any equivalent clinically validated tests based on nucleic acid amplification technology not earlier than MD-3; or
 - laboratory-based SARS-CoV-2 antigen test not earlier than MD-2.

It is the responsibility of the teams to organise and bear the cost of the sample collection and testing with an accredited testing service provider. If necessary, UEFA may, upon request, provide assistance to the teams with the organisation of the relevant testing using its appointed laboratory diagnostics service provider.

2. Admission of Spectators / Minimum Health & Hygiene Requirements for the Return of Spectators (MHRRS):

Considering the different rules and regulations applicable across the UEFA member association territories, it was decided to no longer apply the MHRRS, but to leave any decision with regards to spectators to the relevant competent authorities. Therefore, the relevant section referring to the admission of spectators in the Protocol has been adapted accordingly (see section 13 of the Protocol).

Moreover, in line with the adaptations to the Protocol, the exchange of tickets for the fans of visiting teams is no longer forbidden. Therefore, standard practices will be reinstated, i.e. 5% of the total allowed stadium capacity will be reserved to fans of the away team, subject to any decision in this respect falling under the responsibility of the relevant competent authorities.

3. Operational Principles:

It was decided to remove the mandatory distancing requirements in outdoor working areas which will allow additional stadium operations to take place and higher numbers of broadcast and media to attend matches.

On the team side, the increase in the team delegation permitted in Zone 1 allows additional operational staff to access the key working areas of the stadium, while a removal of the distancing requirements on team substitute benches enables teams to accommodate more people in the pitchside seating areas taking over less tribune seating areas, thus leaving more seats to ticket holders.

All stadium operations will nonetheless, as always, remain subject to any rules or requirements imposed by the local authorities.

We would like to once again reiterate that the successful continuation of UEFA's competition is dependent on our members cooperation, compliance with, and implementation of the Protocol so that our club and national team competitions can be delivered safely and successfully.

Yours faithfully,

UEFA



Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

Enclosure

- UEFA Return to Play Protocol v5

cc (with enclosure)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- UEFA honorary members
- UEFA Club Competitions Committee
- UEFA National Team Competitions Committee
- UEFA Women's Football Committee
- FIFA, Zurich