



No. 69/2021

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference

Your correspondence of

Our reference

Date

F\MAC\KLL

27 September 2021

Specific rules applicable to the 2020/21 UEFA Nations League finals due to COVID-19

Dear Sir or Madam,

In view of the upcoming UEFA Nations League finals played on 6-10 October 2021, and to ensure an as safe environment as possible for all those involved, the UEFA Return to Play Protocol ("UEFA Protocol") will be applicable to the final phase. Despite the strict measures foreseen in the UEFA Protocol to minimise the possibility of transmission of the virus, there is a risk that individuals may still test positive for COVID-19 from tests required in accordance with the UEFA Protocol, which may result in groups of players or entire teams being placed into quarantine following a decision of a competent national/local authority ("the authority").

Therefore, to guarantee the smooth running and continuity of the UEFA Nations League finals, the UEFA Executive Committee decided on 22 September to adopt amendments to the *Regulations of the UEFA Nations League 2020/21* ("competition regulations"), as well as to implement specific COVID-19 rules as already established and applied for other UEFA national team competitions (see circular letters no. 66/2020 and 33/2021).

The amendments are outlined below and the updated regulations are available on [UEFA Documents](#).

1. Player list replacements

After submission of the list of 23 players, article 43.04 of the competition regulations allows unlimited replacements on the said list in case of serious injury or illness before the first match, provided that the replacements are medically certified.

In line with the UEFA EURO 2020 final tournament, players who have tested positive for COVID-19 in tests conducted before the relevant team's first match in the UEFA Nations League Finals 2021 or who have been declared as "close contacts" of a positive COVID-19 tested person by way of an authorities' decision are considered cases of serious illness according to Article 43.04, and can therefore be replaced before the first match in case the concerned national association decides to do so, and with the approval of the UEFA administration.

2. Specific COVID-19 rules

As previously implemented for UEFA national team competition matches (see circular letters no. 66/2020 and no. 33/2021), the following specific COVID-19 rules are adopted for the UEFA Nations League finals, in order to guarantee the continuity of the tournament.

1. Should a group of players of a team be placed into mandatory quarantine or self-isolation following a decision of a competent national/local authority, the match will go ahead as scheduled as long as the team has at least 13 players available (including at least one goalkeeper), irrespective of any other provision of the relevant competition regulations (including the deadline for the submission of the list of players). Any additional players registered to meet these requirements must be eligible to represent the national team in accordance with Art. 42 of the competition regulations and comply with the requirements set out in the UEFA Protocol. Any additional player called up, in case less than 13 players are available, requires that an equivalent number of quarantined players are definitively withdrawn from the 23 players list.
2. If a national association is not in a position to field a team with the above-mentioned minimum number of players (i.e. 13 including at least one goalkeeper), the match may, if possible (i.e. subject to available viable rescheduling options), be rescheduled within the next 24 hours of the date of the relevant match by the UEFA administration, which shall also have the power to assign the rescheduled match to an alternative venue.
3. If the match cannot be rescheduled, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body (CEDB) will take a decision on the matter. The national association that is responsible for the match not taking place will be declared by the UEFA CEDB to have forfeited the match and will be considered to have lost the match 3-0.
4. If any member of the appointed referee team for a match tests positive for COVID-19, UEFA may exceptionally appoint replacement match officials who may be of the same nationality as one of the national associations concerned and/or may not be on the FIFA list.

We thank you for taking good note of the above decisions.

Yours faithfully,

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Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

cc

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA National Team Competitions Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich