

Fixture List Procedure for the 2022/23 UEFA Nations League

Starting points

Based on the *Regulations of the UEFA Nations League 2022/23* (in particular articles 20-21) and the *2022-28 Commercial Regulations governing the European Qualifiers, UEFA Nations League and friendly matches*, UEFA is responsible for the *2022/23 UEFA Nations League Fixture List*.

The present document describes the principles and processes that guide UEFA when deciding on the fixtures with the aim to issue a schedule that is fair for the participating teams, fulfils the expectations of our commercial partners and ensures with a high degree of probability that the fixture can take place as scheduled.

UEFA will issue the *2022/23 UEFA Nations League Fixture List* with the dates and kick-off times of all 162 league phase matches, on the morning after the draw, on 17 December 2021 (see Section E).

The three teams from League D which are drawn into group D2 will play two friendly matches each, on the dates that remain free of competition matches. The procedure to schedule these six friendly matches is described in the present document (see section F). The corresponding match arrangements must be concluded by 16 February 2022.

The draw for the UNL finals in June 2023 will be held after the conclusion of the league phase, which ends in September 2022 and is done following the appointment of the host. The draw will determine the schedule of the four matches of the finals.

Guiding principles

A. Week of football: match scheduling pattern

The league phase matches of the 2022/23 UEFA Nations League will be played on the following dates:

Matchday 1	2–4 June 2022
Matchday 2	5–8 June 2022
Matchday 3	8–11 June 2022
Matchday 4	12–14 June 2022
Matchday 5	22–24 September 2022
Matchday 6	25–27 September 2022

Matches are generally scheduled between Thursday and Tuesday, including the potential use of Wednesday, 8 June for matches of MD2 and MD3.

Quadruple-header in June 2022												
Thu 2 Jun	Fri 3 Jun	Sat 4 Jun	Sun 5 Jun	Mon 6 Jun	Tue 7 Jun	Wed 8 Jun	Thu 9 Jun	Fri 10 Jun	Sat 11 Jun	Sun 12 Jun	Mon 13 Jun	Tue 14 Jun
UNL MD1			UNL MD2			UNL MD2/3	UNL MD3			UNL MD4		

Double-header in September 2022					
Thu 22 Sep	Fri 23 Sep	Sat 24 Sep	Sun 25 Sep	Mon 26 Sep	Tue 27 Sep
UNL MD5			UNL MD6		

Teams will typically play the following matchday patterns within the same week of football:

- Thursday and Sunday
- Friday and Monday
- Saturday and Tuesday

As a rule, a minimum of two rest days between the two matches played by each team within the same international match week needs to be respected.

As a rule, teams in the same group play on the same day.

Deviations are possible, if one or several groups cumulate a high number of conditions (section C) or due to the specific requirements of the quadruple-header in June 2022 such as the use of the additional Wednesday, 8 June.

B. Home / away sequences

When compiling the fixture list, UEFA strives to respect the following principles:

Each team shall start and finish the competition with a home-away or away-home sequence. Deviations will occur for two teams in a group of 4, which either start or finish their match sequence with two home or two away matches.

Teams do not play more than 2 home or 2 away matches in a row;

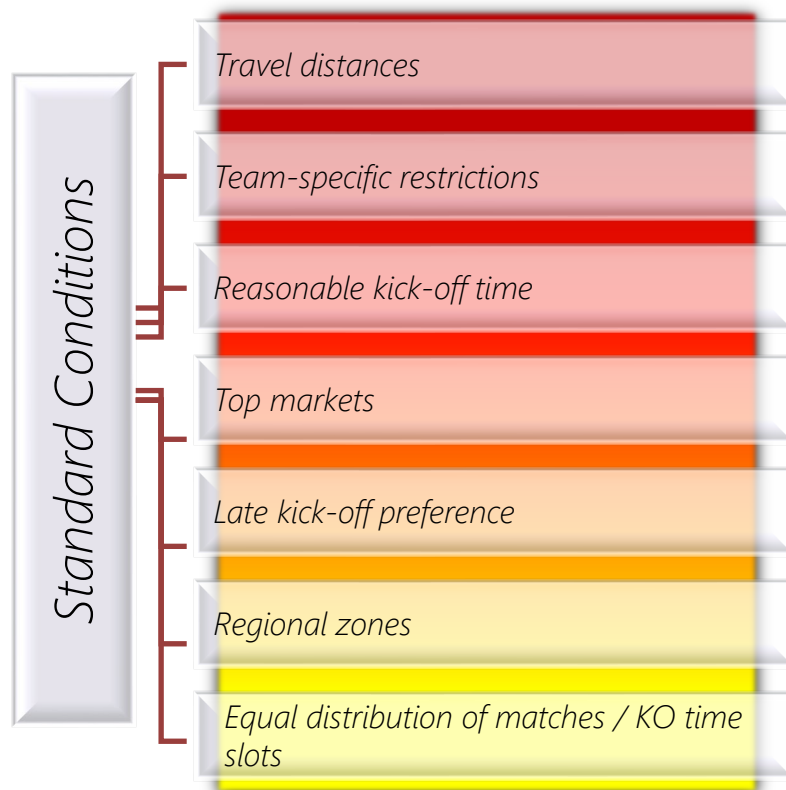
The first round (=1st leg matches) is completed before the second round (=2nd leg matches);

Avoid back-to-back home and away matches between the same two teams on two consecutive match days.

C. Standard conditions

Several conditions have been defined to ensure the competition can be organised in a sportingly fair manner and within the approved commercial framework.

The enforcement of such conditions depends on the outcome of the draw, for this reason, the conditions are only given a general order of priority.



C.1. Travel distances

Six of the excessive travel distance relationships identified (8 hours or above, based on direct flight times plus 90 minutes ground operations) apply for the 2022/23 UNL. The draw conditions specify that a group can include a maximum of one such pair, and UEFA strives to minimise travel distances for all teams that are drawn into a group containing an excessive travel relationship.

From/To		To/From
Kazakhstan (Nur-Sultan, League C or League D)	1	Andorra (Barcelona ESP, League D)
	2	Malta (Valletta, League D)
	3	Northern Ireland (Belfast, League C)
From/To		To/From
Azerbaijan (Baku, League C)	4	Gibraltar (League C)
From/To		To/From
Iceland (Reykjavik, League B)	5	Armenia (Yerevan, League B)
	6	Israel (Tel Aviv, League B)

C.2. Team-specific restrictions

National associations have the possibility to request to UEFA to consider that they will not be able to host a home match on certain dates, for example due to national or religious holidays, stadium unavailability or an overlap with another major national event. The list of team-specific restrictions applicable for the UNL 2022/23 will be known before the draw.

C.3. Reasonable kick-off times (time zones)

The standard kick-off times are 18:00 CET on Saturday/Sunday and 20:45 CET on all days. Selected matches will be scheduled at 15:00 CET on Saturday/Sunday. However, matches shall not be kicked-off later than 21:45/22:00 local time.

Wednesday	---	18.00 CET (exception)	20.45 CET
Thursday	---	18.00 CET (exception)	20.45 CET
Friday	---	18.00 CET (exception)	20.45 CET
Saturday	15.00 CET	18.00 CET	20.45 CET
Sunday	15.00 CET	18.00 CET	20.45 CET
Monday	---	18.00CET (exception)	20.45 CET
Tuesday	---	18.00CET (exception)	20.45 CET

Four countries have been identified where adjustments will be required to respect this condition. As a rule, and except for matches in Kazakhstan, the matches in these countries are played at 18:00 CET.

Countries with a kick-off adjustment:

Country	Time Zone	Kick-off Time
Armenia	CET +2 (MD 1-6)	18:00 CET
Azerbaijan	CET +2 (MD 1-6)	18:00 CET
Georgia	CET +2 (MD 1-6)	18:00 CET
Kazakhstan (Nur-Sultan)	CET +4 (MD 1-6)	Preferably 16:00 CET, or 15:00 CET on Saturday or Sunday

C.4. Additional standard conditions

Top markets

For TV reasons, the teams of England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain will, if possible, be distributed across the matchdays.

It must be noted that depending on the draw seeding and the draw result, it may occur that these teams play in the same group.

Late kick-off preference

For TV reasons, the teams of France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain will be allocated preferably to a late kick-off time slot.

Regional zones

Matches of teams from the same region are played when possible on different dates and/or at different kick-off times. The following teams have been grouped into regional zones as follows:

UK + IRL	Scandinavia	Balkan	Baltic
ENG IRL NIR SCO WAL	DEN FIN NOR SWE	ALB BIH CRO KOS MKD MNE SRB SVN	EST LTU LVA

Equal distribution of matches / KO time slots

Matches are distributed as much as possible over the available match dates and the standard kick-off time slots. The distribution of matches will not always be perfectly equal due to the need to fulfil, as much as possible, the defined fixture list conditions.

D. Possible manual adjustments

It will not be possible to respect all fixture list conditions. The extent of conditions disregarded will depend on the outcome of the draw, which may lead to several conditions (including team-specific restrictions) being cumulated within the same group.

Best efforts will be applied in all cases. In certain cases of conditions not respected by the computer-assisted procedure, and only when possible in the general interest of the competition, the UEFA administration is entitled to make manual adjustments in consultation with the NAs concerned, in particular related to home-away match sequences which will be broken or moving matches one day back or forward.

Such manual adjustments will be validated by the Chairman of the National Team Competitions Committee (or, if necessary for neutrality reasons, by the Deputy Chairman).

E. Distribution and publication

The 2022/23 UEFA Nations League fixture list will be distributed electronically to a maximum of two dedicated email addresses from the national associations on the morning after the draw (Friday, 17 December 2021 at 09:00 CET at the earliest). The fixture list will be released to the media 30 minutes after the electronic distribution to the NAs.

The delivered fixture list is final. In principle, no changes may be requested by the national associations.

As an exception and similar to the fixture list procedure for the European Qualifiers 2020-22 group stage, CET+1 countries may submit requests to UEFA for 18:00 CET kick-offs for matches on Thursdays, Fridays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, under the condition that the visiting team agrees. UEFA will review such requests and provide a final decision, considering the contractual obligations with the relevant broadcasters and in the interest of maintaining a balanced distribution of matches per kick-off slot.

F. Friendly matches

Starting points

Based on the *Regulations for the UEFA Nations League 2022/23* (in particular paragraph 5.01 k) as well as article 21), and the *2018-22 Commercial Regulations governing the European Qualifiers, UEFA Nations League and friendly matches*, the 3 teams drawn into group D2 of League D will arrange friendly matches on the dates that remain free after UEFA has established the *UEFA Nations League Fixture List*.

There will be only one UEFA team free required to play a friendly match on a given UNL matchday. This implies that the opponents for the six friendly matches in question will have to be teams from outside Europe.

Friendly match consolidation procedure

For the friendly matches to be scheduled during the league phase period, the procedure is organised according to the following steps:

1. As soon as the draw has been made and the fixture list is published, the concerned national associations proceed to conclude the bilateral agreements, with the UEFA administration required to validate the friendly match fixtures.
 2. The concerned associations have time to finalise their friendly match arrangements by 16 February 2022, while keeping the UEFA administration duly informed.
- Following that date, UEFA will publish the complete list of friendly fixtures to be played during the league phase.

Financial agreements for friendly matches

Since all opponents will be non-UEFA teams, the two associations involved in a friendly match shall reach a bilateral agreement, and UEFA shall assist upon request.