



No. 89/2021

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	17 December 2021

**Regulatory amendments to the 2020/21 UEFA Nations League play-outs: removal of away goals rule and special COVID-19 rules**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The decision of the UEFA Executive Committee on 24 June 2021 to remove the away goals rule from all UEFA club competitions as of the qualifying phases of the 2021/22 competitions must be extended to all future UEFA competitions. The UEFA Executive Committee has therefore decided on 16 December 2021 to remove this rule for the 2020/21 UEFA Nations League relegation play-outs ("play-outs").

In addition, and to guarantee the continuity of the 2020/21 UEFA Nations League relegation play-outs, specific COVID-19 rules have been adopted as already established and applied for other UEFA competitions.

The updated regulations of the 2020/21 UEFA Nations League are available on [UEFA Documents](#).

**A) Removal of away goals rule for the UEFA Nations League 2020/21 play-outs**

The play-outs will be played between the four teams ranked fourth in League C on 24 and 29 March 2022 over two legs. The winners of each home-away tie will remain in League C, and the two defeated teams will be relegated to League D.

Based on the decision taken by the Executive Committee on 16 December 2021, the away goals rule no longer applies for this competition phase and the relevant article of the 2020/21 UEFA Nations League regulations is amended.

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### **2020/21 UEFA Nations League regulations (art. 16.06):**

*If the two teams involved in a play-out tie score the same number of goals over the two legs, ~~the winner is the team which has scored more away goals. 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, during extra time, both teams score the same number of goals, away goals count double (i.e. the visiting team is the winner).~~ **The team which scores more goals during extra time is the winner.** If both teams score the same number of goals or no goals are scored during extra time, kicks from the penalty mark determine the winner (see Paragraph 18.04 and Paragraph 18.05).*

### **B) Special COVID rules for the 2020/21 UEFA Nations League play-outs**

To ensure an as safe environment as possible for all those involved, the UEFA Return to Play Protocol ("UEFA Protocol") will be applicable for the play-outs. Despite the 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 play-outs, it is deemed appropriate and necessary to implement specific COVID-19 rules, as already established and applied for other UEFA national team competitions (see circular letters no. 66/2020, 33/2021 and 69/2021).

Following the decision of the UEFA Executive Committee on 16 December 2021, the following specific COVID-19 rules will be added to the competition regulations for the play-outs in March 2022 to ensure the continuity of the competition:

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 competition regulations of the 2020/21 UEFA Nations League (including the deadline for the submission of the list of 23 players in Art. 43.02). 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 48 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.

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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