



No. 20/2022

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 20 April 2022
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**Decision of the UEFA Executive Committee related to the amendments of the UEFA Return to Play Protocol**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 19 April 2022, the UEFA Executive Committee approved further amendments to the UEFA Return to Play Protocol (the Protocol), resulting in the publication of the seventh edition of this protocol.

The new approved amendments to the Protocol, which were thoroughly discussed and evaluated in consultation with the UEFA Protocol Advisory Panel, reflect the evolution of the situation in Europe and the relaxing of measures by the relevant authorities, as well as in the majority of the domestic leagues. The new approved changes also allow for a return of some important broadcast, media and sponsor activities that have until now been prohibited.

The newly approved Protocol is enclosed with this circular letter, with the main changes being as follows:

- Medical principles:
  - With regards to the entry requirements to Zone 1, the obligation for teams to present a COVID certification (showing vaccination, recovery or negative test) is removed.
  - All COVID-19 related testing requirements are, apart from team delegation members who are displaying COVID-19 related symptoms. is removed. In this regard, it will be the respective team doctor's responsibility to confirm that only asymptomatic or negative tested players are participating in the relevant UEFA competition match.
  - With regards to face masks, the mandatory use of masks for teams and for all working staff will remain only in closed environments within Zone 1, as well as for working staff in other indoor areas in close proximity to team delegation members (e.g in press conference rooms). Masks will no longer be mandatory in outdoor areas of Zone 1 or in indoor areas in other zones of the stadium. The use of face masks for teams during travel would become only a strong recommendation.

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- Operational principles:
    - Player / referee escorts are now once again permitted, but will only be able to join the players from outside the tunnel to allow a return to some sponsor sole and exclusive activities.
    - Photographers are allowed back in pre-determined pitchside Zone 1 areas before and after the match, with the maximum number of photographers to be agreed in advance. Equally, it was approved to allow mixed zones to be organised again. In any cases, a minimum distance of 1.5m must always be maintained between the team delegation members and media representatives at press conferences and mixed zone interviews.

It is once again important to emphasise 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 v7

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