



No. 21/2022

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the president and the general secretary

Your reference

Your correspondence of

Our reference
RIG/mpt

Date
2 May 2022

UEFA Executive Committee decisions on the impact and consequences resulting from the ongoing suspension of Russian representative teams and clubs in UEFA competitions and other matters

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 28 February 2022, the UEFA Executive Committee (EXCO) decided to suspend all Russian representative teams and clubs from participating in UEFA competition matches until further notice. While this decision is still in force, there was an urgency to address the impact and consequences of this pending suspension on the upcoming UEFA competitions that have not started yet or that will span beyond the current season, such as the UEFA Nations League 2022/23 (UNL) and the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 (WEURO), in order to ensure the smooth staging of said competitions in a safe and secure environment for all those concerned.

In this regard, several UEFA national associations, including the host association of the WEURO (i.e. the English FA) as well as others which have been drawn in the same group as Russia for a specific competition stage, have publicly voiced their intention not to participate in matches against teams from the Football Union of Russia (FUR), which puts these competitions in disrepute and seriously affect their integrity.

Apart from the national associations, the majority of the governments of European countries have condemned the actions taken by Russia in an unprecedentedly strong and united fashion, not limited to the United Kingdom and the European Union, which have further imposed severe sanctions on a number of Russian individuals. Additionally, the general public's reaction, with protests organised in the majority of European cities against the actions taken by Russia, is causing serious concerns about the ability to ensure the safety and security for the team delegations, supporters and anyone else involved in the preparation and staging of the relevant UEFA competition matches. Furthermore, the travelling constraints caused by the war of Russia in Ukraine, are putting the smooth continuation of the competitions at a high risk.

Therefore, on 2 May 2022, the UEFA EXCO took the following decisions:

1. UEFA Nations League (UNL) 2022/23

- With regards to Group 2 of League B, only the three remaining teams of said Group (i.e. Iceland, Israel and Albania) will be competing against each other. Russia will therefore automatically be ranked fourth in this group and, consequently, be relegated at the end of the UNL group phase. Furthermore, Russia will be ranked in 16th and consequently last place of League B. In this regard, Article 19.02 of the relevant competition regulations shall apply for the overall ranking of League B.

2. UEFA Women's EURO (WEURO) 2022 (final tournament)

- In application of the sporting principle adopted in other similar cases, Russia will be replaced in Group C of the final tournament with Portugal, the latter having been defeated by Russia in the play-offs of this competition. Group C is therefore composed of the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal.

3. European Qualification to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023

- With regards to Group E, as the Russian representative team will no longer participate in the remaining matches of this competition, all their results until now are to be considered as null and void. Consequently, Group E will continue as a group of five teams, i.e. Denmark, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Malta and Azerbaijan.

4. 2021-23 European Under 21 Championship

- With regards to Group C, as the Russian representative team will no longer participate in the remaining matches of this competition, all their results until now are to be considered as null and void. Consequently, Group C will continue as a group of five teams, i.e. Spain, Slovakia, Malta, Lithuania, Northern Ireland.

5. 2022/23 UEFA club competitions

UEFA Champions League (UCL), UEFA Europa League (UEL), UEFA Europa Conference League (UECL), UEFA Women's Champions League (UWCL) and UEFA Youth League (UYL)

- As Russia will have no affiliated clubs participating in UEFA club competitions in the 2022/23 season, the respective access lists of the club competitions for the coming season will be adapted accordingly, taking into account the non-participation of the Russian clubs by applying the rebalancing principles set out in the competition regulations (see enclosed rebalanced access lists for UCL/UEL/UECL and UWCL). Furthermore, with regards to the coefficient points calculation for the 2022/23 season, Russia will be assigned with the lowest amount of coefficient points they have earned over the last five seasons, i.e. 4.333 points for the men's association club coefficient and 1.750 for the women's association club coefficient.

6. Futsal Competitions

UEFA Women's Futsal EURO 2022 (final tournament)

- Russia will be replaced with Hungary in the final tournament, the latter having finished second in Group 1 of the Main Round won by Russia. The four teams participating in the final tournament will therefore be Portugal, Spain, Ukraine and Hungary.

2022/23 UEFA Women's Futsal EURO

- In the Main Round, where it had been drawn in Group 4, Russia will be replaced with the second best-ranked runner-up of the Preliminary Round.

2022/23 UEFA Futsal Champions League

- As Russia will have no affiliated clubs participating in the UEFA Futsal Champions League in the 2022/23 season and as the association ranking is based on the national team coefficient ranking (whose system provides for a freezing of points for a team which does not play matches), no coefficient points will be assigned to Russia for the 2022/23 season.

European Qualifications to the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2024

- In the Main Round group phase draw, Russia will be replaced with Norway, which was the best third-ranked team of the Preliminary Round.

7. 2022/23 Youth competitions

- Regarding the 2022/23 Under-17 championship Qualifying Round, Group 11 will be played without Russia. Therefore, Serbia, Gibraltar and Cyprus will play in the form of a mini-tournament with three teams. With respect to the 2022/23 Under-19 championship Qualifying Round, Group 7 will be played without Russia. Therefore, Spain, Albania and Belgium will play in the form of a mini-tournament with three teams. As far as the 2022/23 Women's Under-17 and Under-19 Championships are concerned, which are due to commence in August 2022, as none of the relevant Russian teams will participate in any of these competitions, there will be one more three-team mini-tournament in each case.

8. 2022/23 UEFA Regions' Cup

- With respect to Group 1 of the Intermediate Round, Russia will be replaced with the runner-up of the Preliminary Round.

EURO 2028/32 Bid procedure

In addition to the above-mentioned matters which are directly affecting the organisation and staging of the relevant UEFA competition matches, the FUR has submitted a declaration of interest to bid to host the UEFA EURO 2028 or the UEFA EURO 2032. In accordance with Article 12.03 of the *Bid Regulations UEFA Finals and Final Phases* ("the Bid Regulations"), UEFA had to review the list of UEFA member associations that have declared an interest and decide on their eligibility.

In this respect, Article 16.02 of the Bid Regulations states that "[e]ach bidder shall ensure that it does not act in a manner that could bring UEFA, the UEFA final or UEFA final phase, any other bidder (or any employee, officer or representative of any of the foregoing), the bidding procedure or European football into disrepute." In this regard, the contemplated bid submitted by the FUR has already provoked a strong reaction reflected in the media of the vast majority of the European countries.

Moreover, as communicated in Circular Letter no. 87/2021, "[t]he automatic qualification of the host team(s) shall be guaranteed (...) for a single host (...)". Therefore, given the uncertainty as to when the suspension will be lifted and/or whether even more impacting difficulties will arise, the acceptance of a bid from the FUR goes against the decision of the UEFA EXCO of 28 February 2022, suspending all Russian representative teams and clubs from participating in UEFA competition matches until further notice.

Therefore, it was decided to declare the bid of the FUR as not eligible, since it does not only bring the bidding procedure and European football in its entirety into disrepute but is further in direct contradiction with the decision of the UEFA EXCO of 28 February 2022, if an association, whose teams are currently suspended from participating in any UEFA competition, is allowed to bid for a tournament to be hosted on its territory.

The UEFA administration remains at your disposal in case of any questions.

Yours faithfully,

UEFA



Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

Enclosures

- Adapted access list for the 2022/23 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League
- Adapted access list for the 2022/23 UEFA Women's Champions League

cc (with enclosures)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- UEFA honorary members
- FIFA, Zurich