



No. 52/2022

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		F/MAC/dal	27 July 2022

Standing Facilities Observer Programme

Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to inform you of the launch of an initiative designed to observe and assess the use of standing facilities at football matches. UEFA regulations only permit seated places to be used in its competitions, except for those competitions where Category 1 stadia may be used. In recent years, clubs and fan groups who regularly use standing facilities at domestic level have expressed increasing interest that UEFA consider extending this use to European matches. Considering the trend during recent years towards an increased use of standing facilities in some domestic competitions, we believe that it is the right moment to conduct an in-depth analysis of the operation of standing tribunes, including safety and security implications.

In December 2021, UEFA commissioned Politecnico di Milano to conduct an independent study to examine the prevalence, domestic regulatory framework, technologies and safety management of existing standing facilities within professional football in Europe. The study noted the widely different approaches in the application and the regulatory framework across countries and sometimes also between regions and cities in the same country. A variety of different technical solutions are also used with significantly different impacts on safety and security management.

Following this report, the UEFA Executive Committee has today approved the "*Standing Facilities Observer Programme 2022-23*" to observe the use of such facilities in domestic as well as international club competition matches. Since it is an observation programme, it will be limited, at least in its introductory season, to clubs from the top five countries in the UEFA ranking where standing is already authorised and implemented at domestic level (i.e. Germany, England and France), in compliance with national and local legislation. The Programme will be carried out during the Group Stage and Knock-Out phases until and including the Semi-Finals of the UEFA men's Club Competitions during the season 2022/23, to the exclusion of the Finals. Matches of the UEFA Women's Champions League 2022/23 that take place in the same stadium as that of a club participating in the Programme shall also be included within the scope.

UEFA will appoint independent experts to analyse the use of standing facilities at both domestic and international club matches in those countries to assess the different dynamics between national and international supporters and the related safety and security implications.

At the end of the season 2022/23, on the basis of the reports submitted by the mandated experts, the UEFA administration will assess the findings of the Programme and submit the results to the UEFA Executive Committee who shall decide upon any continuation and possible extension of the Programme.

Operational details will be shared with the clubs concerned in due course.

Yours faithfully,

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Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

cc

- UEFA Executive Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- UEFA Club Competitions Committee
- UEFA honorary members
- FIFA, Zurich
- ECA, Nyon