



No. 58/2022

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the president and the general secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		RIG/mpt	31 August 2022

Decision of the UEFA Executive Committee related to the amendments of the UEFA Return to Play Protocol and Special rules due to COVID-19 for UEFA club competitions

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 31 August 2022, the UEFA Executive Committee approved further amendments to the UEFA Return to Play Protocol (the Protocol), resulting in the publication of the eighth edition of this protocol.

The approved amendments to the Protocol, which were thoroughly discussed and evaluated in consultation with the UEFA Protocol Advisory Panel, were proposed to reduce the obligations established in the UEFA Return to Play Protocol in order to respond to the overall developments in the evolution of the pandemic, as well as to better reflect the current measures in place around Europe as well as in the relevant domestic leagues.

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

- Medical principles:
 - With regards to contact tracing, it is no longer an obligation for teams having to implement a rigorous contact tracing programme but rather a recommendation.
- Operational principles:
 - Charter flights may be used by persons outside of the team delegation (e.g. family members, guests, sponsors), with the teams responsible for mitigation and separation measures inside the plane.
 - Obligatory 1.5 metre distancing between team delegation and spectators has been softened to a recommended best practice.
 - Several media rules have further been relaxed, such as the return of "in-person" and "on-site" press conferences and mixed zones, as well as the possibility of the dressing room filming, but with necessary protection measures such as the use of FFP-2 masks by members of the broadcast/media crews at all times during such activities.

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.

In the same moment, the Executive Committee also approved Annexes incorporating special rules due to COVID for the group stage of the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Europa Conference League and UEFA Women's Champions League, as well as for Phase 1 of the UEFA Youth League. The new Annexes follow a structure similar to those applicable in the earlier stages of the 2022/23 season. An additional passage is included for those competitions where charter flights are mandatory (i.e. UCL, UEL, UECL), stipulating that clubs can submit exemption requests in case of particular hardship for the use of such charter flights. The annexes will be available shortly as part of the competition regulations on the UEFA Documents platform: <https://documents.uefa.com/>

The Return to Play Protocol v8 and the relevant competition annexes enter in to force immediately, i.e. on 31 August 2022.

Yours faithfully,

UEFA



Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

Enclosure

- UEFA Return to Play Protocol v8

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