



N° 72/2022

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference NDIV/zla/mgg	Date 15 November 2022
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2021/22 club competitions – solidarity scheme supporting clubs' youth development

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that the solidarity payments resulting from the 2021/22 UEFA club competitions are now available. These will be paid to UEFA member associations in the course of the 2022/23 season, for distribution to clubs in support of youth development.

National associations are responsible for distributing these solidarity payments to clubs in their country. Member associations are also responsible for deciding on the criteria governing that distribution (which should nevertheless be consistent with the guidelines set out in this circular letter) and should inform UEFA of the specific criteria applied.

The money earmarked for this solidarity scheme represents 4% of the total gross revenue of the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League (UCL), the 2021/22 UEFA Europa League (UEL) and UEFA Europa Conference League (UECL). In accordance with circular letter 35/2021, before considering the COVID-19 impact deductions, a forecasted total of €140m is available to be distributed to national associations for their non-participating clubs. After the COVID 19 impact deductions, the amount available to non-participating clubs in the 2021/22 season is €134.5m.

In addition, the UEFA Executive Committee decided that 30% of the net surplus, (i.e. revenue available to participating clubs after netting of qualifying rounds, non-participating clubs and UEFA shares) available in any season of the 2021/24 cycle would also be allocated to solidarity for non-participating clubs, up to a maximum of €35m.

The UEFA Executive Committee had approved the following additional principles regarding the distribution mechanism for solidarity payments to non-participating clubs:

- The top five associations (England, Spain, Italy, Germany and France) will receive €25m based on equal shares of the initial 4%. These associations may, however, receive a higher share of amounts sourced through the surplus.
- Of the amounts reserved for associations outside the top five, those with clubs participating in the UCL group stage will receive 45% and those without will receive 55%. In both cases, 90% of the available amounts will be distributed based on the associations' positions in the UEFA Access list and the remaining 10% as market shares.

In compliance with the above said and based on a final overall gross revenue of **€3.614bn**, a total of **€172.1m** will be available for **solidarity to non-participating clubs**. These amounts will be distributed for the season 2021/22 to the associations as follows:

- a) The top five associations (England, Spain Italy, Germany and France) will each receive €5m plus 50% of the additional amounts from the net surplus. Therefore, each of the top five associations will receive **€8.3m**.
- b) For the associations outside the top five, a total amount of **€130.6m** will be distributed as follows: **€58.8m** (45%) to **associations with participants** in the UCL group stage and **€71.8m** (55%) to **associations without participants** in the UCL group stage of the 2021/22 season.

As mentioned above, a total of 10% of the available amount will be distributed according to the TV market value of each association in the UCL ("market pool share"), with the remaining 90% being distributed according to the position of the respective associations in the access list of the 2021/22 season ("access list share").

- I. For associations with participants in the group stage of UCL, the "access list share" is based on an arithmetic equal increase for each rank in the access list with a minimum share of €4.7m for the association with the lowest ranking in the access list of all associations with participants in the UCL group stage.
- II. Associations without participants in the UCL group stage are clustered in blocks of five following the ranking of the access list. A minimum share of €900k for associations is allocated to the lowest block of the access list with a progressive increase for each block of five associations. Due to its specific situation (no domestic league and no teams in UCL), Liechtenstein is included in the lowest block of the access list.

All details regarding the exact amounts for each national association can be found in the enclosures.

Only clubs that did not participate in the group stage of either the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and/or the UEFA Europa Conference League are entitled to these solidarity payments.

Please note the following important information:

a) Distribution criteria:

- I. In principle, the money given to national associations should be distributed in equal shares between all top-division clubs that were not involved in the group stage of the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and/or UEFA Europa Conference League.
- II. If a national association wishes to apply a different distribution system, as many currently do, it should submit a reasoned request to the UEFA administration. The UEFA Club Competitions Committee will be responsible for approving such requests.
- III. Requests will, in principle, be considered admissible if a national association proposes to extend its solidarity scheme to include lower-division clubs or if distribution is linked to established and publicly accessible criteria relating to the quality of clubs' youth academies.
- IV. Any approved distribution system shall be valid maximum until the end of the current UEFA Club competitions cycle i.e., season 2023-2024.

b) Destination of payments:

- I. This money should only be used for clubs' youth development activities and local community programmes.
- II. All clubs receiving funding must, as a minimum, have an approved youth development programme in accordance with the applicable national club licensing regulations based on the latest UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Sustainability Regulations (Sporting Criteria, Article 19-Youth Development Programme).

c) Payment procedure:

- I. Payments will be made by UEFA to the national associations, for distribution to the relevant clubs (as defined above) **from January 2023 onwards**.
- II. Each national association must then immediately transfer the full amount to the relevant clubs, without retaining or earmarking any of that money for other purposes.

d) Records:

- I. National associations must keep a record of all clubs that receive funding. Records must include the amount that is distributed, and any other relevant information detailed in this circular letter.

The UEFA Club Competitions Committee is responsible for submitting recommendations for future amendments to the above criteria to the UEFA Executive Committee.

Application process

To receive the relevant payment, the following must be emailed to the attention of Marios Georgiou, senior national association services manager at NAServices@uefa.ch, until **28 February 2023**:

- a) A copy of a decision by the national association's competent body in one of UEFA's three official languages (English, French or German), specifying the planned distribution method (equal shares or quality-related criteria, categories of club involved, etc.) and the period of validity of that decision, e.g. current season only or multiple seasons;
- b) Confirmation that all the ultimate recipients will be clubs that, as a minimum, have an approved youth development programme in accordance with the applicable national club licensing regulations based on the latest UEFA Club Licensing and & Financial Sustainability Regulations.
- c) A payment request from the national association indicating the relevant amount in euros, together with the name, position and signature of the competent person at the national association
- d) Information on the precise distribution of solidarity payments, with as a minimum: names of recipient clubs, divisions that clubs play in, and amount per club; and as a courtesy: indication of total youth budget for each club.

In addition to details of the *planned* distribution of the 2021/22 solidarity payments (see enclosure 4), information regarding the *actual* distribution of the 2020/21 solidarity payments should also be provided (see enclosure 3) if it differs from the information provided in the equivalent form last year.

Please adhere to the above deadline so that the UEFA administration has sufficient time to approve all requests before the end of the 2022/23 season. If your submission is not approved by the UEFA administration by 30 May 2023, the funds in question may cease to be available.

Furthermore, when distributing this money to their clubs, national associations should properly acknowledge the source of that funding. It is suggested that the following wording be included in any letter or communication accompanying payments to individual clubs:

- *"This payment is made as part of a solidarity scheme linked to UEFA club competitions. Its purpose is to support youth development activities in professional football and supplements other UEFA initiatives such as club licensing and rules on locally trained ('home-grown') players."*

National associations must be able, on request at any time, to provide the UEFA administration with evidence that this money has been transferred to the proper clubs and used appropriately.

Please note that we may wish to quote the success of this solidarity mechanism in public documents (e.g. by listing the clubs that have benefited from payments in UEFA publications) using information you have sent us.

Should you have any questions relating to this matter, please feel free to contact Marios Georgiou at the email address indicated above.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important initiative, through which revenue generated by UEFA club competitions supports youth development activities at your clubs.

Yours faithfully,

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Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

Enclosures

- Payments to associations with UEFA Champions League participants (enclosure 1)
- Payments to associations without UEFA Champions League participants (enclosure 2)
- Information on last year's and this year's payments (enclosures 3 and 4)

cc (with enclosures)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- Professional Football Strategy Council
- UEFA Club Competitions Committee
- UEFA National Associations Committee
- UEFA Development and Technical Assistance Committee
- UEFA Club Licensing Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA
- European Club Association
- European Leagues