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TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of  
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		F/WF/nke/voz	21 November 2022

### **New women's national team competition system, 2023-25 onwards**

Dear Sir or Madam,

In line with UEFA's Women's Football Strategy: Time for Action and the goal to transform competitions, the UEFA Executive Committee, on 2 November 2022, approved a new national team competition system that ultimately leads to qualification for the UEFA Women's EURO or the FIFA Women's World Cup.

These changes come after extensive work from a national team competitions working group comprising representatives from different national associations and follows a recommendation of the UEFA Women's Football Committee. The new format:

- i. aims to improve competitive balance and gives all teams a chance to qualify for the UEFA Women's EURO or FIFA Women's World Cup;
- ii. crowns a UEFA Nations League winner and serves every four years as the European qualification path for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament;
- iii. encourages all European national associations to take part by giving them all the opportunity to win competitive matches;
- iv. introduces promotion and relegation between the different league stages and competition cycles and with that creates an open, interconnected and dynamic system.

The first time the new format will be played is in the lead up to UEFA Women's EURO 2025, starting in autumn 2023. A summary of the various changes can be found below.

Competition format (as per the attached Provisional League Formation of the 2023-25 Nations League Phase)

The competition will comprise two interconnected phases, the Nations League and the European Qualifiers. Each of these phases will commence with a league stage, with teams split into three leagues. Leagues A and B will each consist of 16 teams drawn into four groups of four and League C will consist of 19 teams drawn into four groups of four and one group of three (note that the actual group

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composition of League C will depend on the final number of participating teams). The team(s) of the UEFA Women's EURO 2025 host(s) will participate in both phases.

To begin the first edition, the teams will be allocated to the three leagues based on the UEFA women's national team coefficient rankings applicable at the time of the draw. However, in future, the league composition will be based solely on performance in the competition. All league stage matches will be played over six matchdays, with each team playing one home match and one away match against all the other teams in their group.

At the end of the league stage of the UEFA Nations League phase:

- Finals: The four group winners in League A will progress to the Nations League finals, which will comprise two single-leg semi-finals, a third-place match and a final, with the matches organised by the teams involved. UEFA will support the hosts with certain services. The Nations League winner will be crowned. The UEFA Executive Committee will decide the amounts of prize money for the participating teams.

Every four years, the Nations League finals will also serve as the qualification path for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament. For 2024, the two finalists will join the Olympic tournament host France as Europe's three representatives (along with the third-placed team in case France reaches the Nations League final).

- Automatic promotion and relegation to establish the starting position of teams in the UEFA European Qualifiers league stage: The first-placed teams in Leagues B and C will be promoted to the next league up, while the fourth-placed teams in Leagues A and B, as well as the lowest-ranked third-placed team in League B, will be relegated to the next league down.
- Promotion and relegation matches to establish the starting position of teams in the UEFA European Qualifiers league stage: The third-placed teams in League A will play the runners-up of League B, with the winners playing in League A and the defeated teams in League B; while the three best third-placed teams in League B will play the three best-ranked League C runners-up, with the winners playing in League B and the defeated teams in League C. All promotion and relegation matches will be played on a home-and-away basis and will take place in parallel with the Nations League finals.

At the end of the league stage of the UEFA European Qualifiers phase:

- Final tournament qualification: The eight top teams from League A will qualify directly for UEFA Women's EURO 2025. If the team of the host association has not qualified automatically, they will be guaranteed a slot. In the case of multiple hosts, this guarantee will cover a maximum of two teams.
- Final tournament play-offs: The remaining slots will be contested over two rounds of home-and-away European Qualifiers play-offs. The play-off pathway may be adjusted to take into account the performance of the team(s) of the host association(s).
- Automatic promotion and relegation to establish the starting position of teams in the next competition edition (Nations League phase): The first-placed teams in Leagues B and C will be promoted to the next league up, while the fourth-placed teams in Leagues A and B, as well as the lowest-ranked third-placed team in League B, will be relegated to the next league down.

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Note that the same format will be used for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027, with the number of teams qualifying directly, as well as the play-off pathway, adjusted due to the different number of slots allocated to Europe for the final tournament.

### Calendar

Subject to final confirmation of the women's international match calendar by FIFA, the competition is planned to be played over two seasons as follows:

- The UEFA Nations League phase will be played from autumn 2023 to spring 2024.
- The UEFA European Qualifiers phase will be played from spring 2024 to autumn 2024.

### Commercial rights

For the first edition of the qualifying competition (related to the UEFA Women's EURO 2025), national associations will retain full ownership of the sponsorship and media rights for both the UEFA Nations League phase as well as the UEFA European Qualifiers phase. However, following a request from various national associations, the commercial approach for future editions will be reassessed in form of a marketing working group comprising different national associations. Under the leadership of the UEFA marketing division, it is envisaged that this working group will hold its first meeting in February 2023. In the meantime, national associations are kindly requested to refrain from committing their rights for matches happening after EURO 2025.

### Branding

A brand is in the process of being developed for each competition phase and all participating national associations will be encouraged to use the assets provided to them to help promote the competition, and its recognisability. TV, digital and stadium assets will be provided to national associations in due course.

For a visual representation of the new women's national team competition system and calendar, please refer to the enclosed overview of changes. More details can also be found on uefa.com [here](#).

The competition regulations for the 2023-25 edition are currently being finalised and entries into the competition will be called for by the end of January 2023. The draw for the league stage of the UEFA Nations League is scheduled for 21 April 2023 and the competition will commence in September 2023.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or require any clarifications, please don't hesitate to contact the UEFA Women's Football unit (✉ [WomensA\\_NationalTeams@uefa.ch](mailto:WomensA_NationalTeams@uefa.ch)).

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Yours faithfully,

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Theodore Theodoridis  
General Secretary

Enclosures

- Nations League and European Qualifiers for UEFA Women's EURO and FIFA Women's World Cup – format (2023-25 onwards)
- 2023-25 Nations League Phase – Provisional League Formation

cc (with enclosures)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA Women's Football Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich