



No. 05/2023

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of  
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference MAC/baw/mpt	Date 30 January 2023
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### **Discontinuation of the UEFA Return to Play Protocol**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Following the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UEFA Executive Committee, at its meeting on 25 January, decided to discontinue the application of the UEFA Return to Play Protocol (the Protocol).

It was considered to be an appropriate moment to make this step given the current epidemiological situation, including also the rate of vaccination, as well as current overall developments around Europe, and this approach has been discussed and evaluated with the UEFA Protocol Advisory Panel. Due consideration in this regard has been given also to the fact that in most, if not all, countries in Europe, as well as the relevant domestic leagues, the measures they previously had in place in this regard have been completely lifted.

Following the discontinuation of the Protocol, the UEFA administration will, in due course, circulate a "*Best Practice Guide*", which will outline reminders of certain recommendations and sensible hygiene measures, such as distancing in sensitive areas affecting teams. It will be the responsibility of the home team, taking into account the situation in their country as well in due consideration of the stadium configuration, to determine how these practices, or any other relevant measures, are to be put in place in cooperation and discussion with the relevant UEFA match officers.

In line with the discontinuation of the Protocol, it was further decided to no longer continue to update the relevant Annexes containing special rules applicable due to COVID-19, which were included in the UEFA competition regulations, as these rules were linked to the application of the Protocol.

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UEFA will nonetheless continue to closely monitor the evolution of the pandemic, and, in case of a significant change in circumstance, will propose appropriate measures in order to ensure the safety of all those concerned and the smooth running of its competitions, including if necessary, re-implementing any relevant obligations and hygiene measures.

We thank you for taking good note of the above.

Yours faithfully,

**U E F A**



Theodore Theodoridis  
General Secretary

cc

- UEFA Executive Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- UEFA honorary members
- UEFA Medical Committee
- UEFA Club Competitions Committee
- UEFA National Team Competitions Committee
- UEFA Women's Football Committee
- UEFA Futsal & Beach Soccer Committee
- UEFA Youth & Amateur Football Committee
- FIFA, Zurich