

Fixture list procedure for the 2024/25 UEFA Nations League league phase

Starting points

UEFA is responsible for the establishment of the fixture list of the league phase of the 2024/25 UEFA Nations League ('UNL'), based on article 20.02 of the *2024/25 UNL competition regulations* and article 2.02 of the *2022-28 Commercial Regulations governing the European Qualifiers, UEFA Nations League and friendly matches*.

UEFA will issue the *2024/25 UEFA Nations League Fixture List* with the dates and kick-off times of all 156 league phase matches, on the morning after the draw, on 9 February 2024 (section E).

The fixture list procedure describes the principles and processes that guide UEFA when deciding on the league phase fixtures. The aim is to issue a schedule that is fair for the participating teams, fulfils the expectations of our commercial partners and ensures with a high degree of probability that the fixtures can take place as scheduled.

The teams in League D, which are drawn into groups of three teams, will play two friendly matches each, on the dates that remain free of competition matches. The procedure to schedule these friendly matches is described in the present document (section F).

The UNL knock-out stage and play-off draw will be held after the conclusion of the league phase in November 2024. A separate fixture list procedure will be issued for these matches.

Guiding principles

A. Week of Football

As for the previous three UNL editions, the league phase of the 2024/25 UNL will be played according to the 'week of football' concept. Matches take place every day between Thursday and Tuesday of the dates issued by FIFA for international A-team matches in September, October and November 2024.

The fixtures will therefore be scheduled on the following dates:

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| Matchday 1 | 5-7 September 2024 |
| Matchday 2 | 8-10 September 2024 |
| Matchday 3 | 10-12 October 2024 |
| Matchday 4 | 13-15 October 2024 |
| Matchday 5 | 14-16 November 2024 |
| Matchday 6 | 17-19 November 2024 |

As a rule, a minimum of two rest days between two matches played by each team within the same international match week needs to be respected.

Within the same week of football, teams will therefore generally play double headers either on Thursday and Sunday, on Friday and Monday, or on Saturday and Tuesday.

| Double headers during the week of football | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | Tue |
| 1 st MD | 1 st MD | 1 st MD | 2 nd MD | 2 nd MD | 2 nd MD |

UEFA will strive to implement a match-day rotation for the teams which aims at a fair distribution of weekend days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) and week days (Thursday, Monday, Tuesday).

Teams in the same group shall play on the same day.

Deviations from the above rules are possible, for example if one or several groups cumulate a high number of conditions (section C).

B. Home and away sequences

UEFA strives to respect that each team shall start and finish the competition with a home-away or away-home sequence. Deviations will occur for two teams in a group of four teams, which either start or finish their match sequence with two home or two away matches.

Teams shall not play more than two home and two away matches in a row.

The 1st-leg matches shall be completed before the 2nd leg matches starts.

Back-to-back home and away matches between the same two teams in the same window shall be avoided.

C. Standard conditions

Several conditions are defined to ensure the competition can be organised in a sportingly fair manner, and within the approved commercial framework. The enforcement of these conditions depends on the outcome of the draw.

Conditions can therefore only be given a general order of priority.



C1. Winter venues

Nine national associations are identified as 'winter venues' based on requests submitted to the UEFA administration by the national associations concerned, and/or a risk assessment carried out by the UEFA administration:

| Hard winter venues | Soft winter venues |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Faroe Islands (League C) | Belarus (League C) |
| Iceland (League B) | Estonia (League C) |
| | Finland (League B) |
| | Latvia (League C) |
| | Lithuania (League C or League D) |
| | Norway (League B) |
| | Ukraine (League B) |

'Hard winter venues' shall not host matches in November. If possible, without impacting the home-away sequence and with priority given to the 'hard winter venues', 'soft winter venue' teams shall play as few matches as possible at home in November.

C2. Travel distances

Out of 20 country pairs that have been identified as excessive (applicable both ways, 8 hours or above, based on direct flight times plus 90 minutes ground operations), the below listed pairs may occur, depending on the outcome of the 2024/24 league phase draw and pending the result of the 2022/23 UNL play-out.

| From/To | To/From |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kazakhstan (League B) | (1) England (League B) |
| | (2) Iceland (League B) |
| | (3) Republic of Ireland (League B) |
| | (4) Wales (League B) |

| From/To | To/From |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Iceland (League B) | (5) Georgia (League B) |

| From/To | To/From |
|------------------------------|--|
| Azerbaijan (League C, pot 2) | (6) Gibraltar (League C, pot 4 or League D, pot 1) |

When compiling the fixture list, UEFA will strive to avoid excessive travel for any team in the group between the above destinations, between two matches of the same match week, thus between MD1 and MD2, between MD3 and MD4 and between MD5 and MD6.

C3. Team-specific restrictions

Participating national associations may request to UEFA to consider that they are unable to host a match on certain dates, for example due to national or religious holidays, stadium unavailability or an overlap with another major event in the country. All participating NAs will be requested to submit the “home match restriction form” to the UEFA administration by 8 January 2024. Subject to validation by the UEFA administration and without guarantee that the actual wishes/requests can be fulfilled, the team-specific restrictions are classified in the following categories:

- Stadium unavailability:
- Religious or state holidays:
- Major national or other UEFA events:

C4. Reasonable kick-off times

The standard kick-off times remain at 18:00 CET on Saturdays and Sundays, and 20:45 CET on all days. Selected matches will be scheduled at 15:00 CET on Saturdays and Sundays.

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Thursday | --- | 18.00 CET (exception) | 20.45 CET |
| Friday | --- | 18.00 CET (exception) | 20.45 CET |
| Saturday | 15.00 CET | 18.00 CET | 20.45 CET |
| Sunday | 15.00 CET | 18.00 CET | 20.45 CET |
| Monday | --- | 18.00CET (exception) | 20.45 CET |
| Tuesday | --- | 18.00CET (exception) | 20.45 CET |

Matches shall not kick-off later than 21:45/22:00 local time. Six national associations require an adjustment to respect this condition. As a rule, and except for matches in Kazakhstan, matches in these countries take place at 18:00 CET.

- a) Countries with an early kick-off adjustment on all matchdays:

| Country | Time Zone | Kick-off Time |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Armenia | CET +2 (MD 1-6), CET +3 (MD5&6) | 18:00 CET or 15:00 CET on Saturday or Sunday |
| Azerbaijan | CET +2 (MD 1-4), CET +3 (MD5&6) | 18:00 CET or 15:00 CET on Saturday or Sunday |
| Georgia | CET +2 (MD 1-4), CET +3 (MD5&6) | 18:00 CET or 15:00 CET on Saturday or Sunday |
| Kazakhstan (Astana) | CET +4 (MD 1-4), CET +5 (MD5&6) | Preferably 16:00 CET, or 15:00 CET on Saturday or Sunday |

- b) Countries with an early kick-off adjustment in November only, as they are part of the CET+1 time zone during matchdays 1-4:

| Country | Time Zone | Kick-off Time |
|----------|---------------|--|
| Belarus* | CET+2 (MD5&6) | 18:00 CET or 15:00 CET on Saturday or Sunday |
| Türkiye | CET+2 (MD5&6) | 18:00 CET or 15:00 CET on Saturday or Sunday |

*Based on a decision by the UEFA Executive Committee, Belarus is currently obliged to organise its home matches on neutral ground.

C5. Additional standard conditions

Top markets

The teams of England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain will, if possible, be distributed across the available matchdays. Some of these teams may play in the same group due to the draw seeding.

Late kick-off preference

The teams of France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain will preferably be allocated to a late kick-off slot.

Regional zones

Matches of teams from the same region shall, if possible, be played on different dates and/or at different kick-off times.

| UK + IRL | Scandinavia | Balkan | Baltic |
|----------|-------------|--------|--------|
| ENG | DEN | ALB | EST |
| IRL | FIN | BIH | LTU |
| NIR | NOR | CRO | LVA |
| SCO | SWE | KOS | |
| WAL | | MKD | |
| | | MNE | |
| | | SRB | |
| | | SVN | |

Equal distribution of matches and kick-off times

Matches are distributed as much as possible over the available match dates and the standard kick-off time slots. The distribution of matches will not always be perfectly equal due to the need to fulfil, as much as possible, the defined fixture list conditions.

D. Possible manual adjustments

It will be impossible to respect all fixture list conditions. The extent of conditions disregarded will depend on the draw outcome, for example when several conditions cumulate within the same group.

Best efforts will be applied in all cases. In certain cases of conditions not respected by the computer-assisted procedure, and only when possible in the general interest of the competition, the UEFA administration is entitled to make manual adjustments, if necessary, in consultation with the NAs concerned, in particular related to home-away match sequences which will be broken or moving matches one day back or forward.

If necessary, such manual adjustments shall be validated by the Chairman of the National Team Competitions Committee (or for neutrality reasons, either by the Deputy Chairman or the Deputy Chairwoman).

E. Distribution and publication

The fixture list for the UNL 2024/25 league phase will be distributed electronically to a maximum of two dedicated email addresses from the national associations on the morning after the draw (Friday, 9 February at 09:00 CET at the earliest).

The two addresses shall be communicated to the UEFA administration together with the submission of the “home match restriction form”.

The fixture list will be released to the media 30 minutes after the electronic distribution to the NAs.

The delivered fixture list is final. In principle, no changes may be requested by the national associations.

As an exception and similar to the fixture list procedure for the European Qualifiers 2022-24 group stage, CET+1 countries may submit requests to UEFA for 18:00 CET kick-offs for matches on Thursdays, Fridays, Mondays and Tuesdays, under the condition that the visiting team agrees.

UEFA will review such requests and provide a final decision, considering the contractual obligations with the relevant broadcasters and in the interest of maintaining a balanced distribution of matches per kick-off slot.

F. Friendly matches

Based on the *Regulations for the UEFA Nations League 2024/25* (in particular paragraph 5.01 k) as well as article 21), and the *2022-28 Commercial Regulations governing the European Qualifiers, UEFA Nations League and friendly matches*, the six teams in League D will arrange friendly matches on the dates that remain free from league phase matches.

The two associations involved in a friendly match shall reach a bilateral agreement, and UEFA shall assist upon request.

Friendly match consolidation procedure

For the friendly matches to be scheduled during the league phase, the procedure is organised according to the following steps:

1. As soon as the draw has been made and the fixture list is published, the concerned national associations proceed to conclude the bilateral agreements, with the UEFA administration required to validate the friendly match fixtures.
2. The concerned associations have time to finalise their friendly match arrangements by 3 May 2024, while keeping the UEFA administration duly informed.
3. Associations that by 3 May 2024 still need to finalise their arrangements must attend the “Friendly Match Consolidation Day” at UEFA headquarters in Nyon on 7 May 2024. The list of available teams and solutions will be shared with all associations concerned.

4. On the “Friendly Match Consolidation Day”, the associations will be asked to confirm if solutions have been found. If necessary, the UEFA administration will apply the “first pick”-procedure* according to the UEFA Nations League 2022/23 overall ranking. If required and as the conclusive step of the procedure, the UEFA administration holds a draw for the last teams with no friendly match.
5. Following the “Friendly Match Consolidation Day”, UEFA will publish the complete list of friendly fixtures to be played during the European Qualifiers period from September to November 2024.

*Notes on “first-pick procedure”:

- The highest ranked team will have the right to first make a proposal of friendly fixture to the available teams. The offer can be accepted or refused by the teams in question.
- Available teams = UEFA and non-UEFA teams at disposal
- If the highest ranked team has concluded an agreement, respectively if all available teams have refused its proposal, then the right to make an offer is given to the next highest ranked team.
- This process is continued until all fixtures have been decided, respectively all teams have made an offer.