



# Principles set by the UEFA Club Competitions Committee for the 2024/25 season

Stadium and city clashes



## STADIUM AND CITY CLASHES

### 1. General principles

This document defines the principles to be respected in the event of clashes between matches involving clubs which, on the basis of the information provided by the clubs and their respective association, can either not play at home on the same day, or cannot play either on the same day nor on consecutive days, because they play in the same stadium, the same city or in cities within a radius of 50km. It is considered that it must always be possible to play two matches in 48 hours (i.e. Tuesday-Thursday of the same week).

The term “clash” is used to describe situations in which two or more such clubs are drawn to play home matches on the same day or on consecutive days, irrespective of whether these matches would be played in the same stadium or not.

Reference is made to paragraphs 24.02 and 24.03 of the Regulations of the UEFA Champions League 2024/25, the Regulations of the UEFA Europa League 2024/25 and the Regulations of the UEFA Conference League 2024/25, which stipulate under which conditions the results of a draw may have to be modified by the UEFA administration.

UEFA Champions League (UCL) fixtures are in principle played on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, while UEFA Europa League (UEL) and UEFA Conference League (UECL) fixtures are in principle played on Thursdays (with the exception of the exclusive competition match weeks of UCL and UEL in the League Phase when additional days of the week are used).

In accordance with the sporting principles of each competition, UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Conference League knockout phase play-offs and round of 16 matches are, in principle, never reversed.

### 2. Principles for the qualifying rounds and play-offs

To resolve stadium and city clashes, the UEFA administration can order matches to be played on a given day of the week or the order of matches in a tie to be reversed.

In general, when establishing the match calendar and resolving any city and/or stadium clashes for these rounds, the objective is to respect as much as possible the results of the initial draw, while establishing an operational workable calendar. This means in case of a clash between two or more teams, the aim is to maintain the order of the matches, and therefore to move fixtures in the same week before considering reversals. This may not always be possible depending on the nature of the clash in question, the number of teams involved and the possible knock-on effects of moving matches.

Furthermore, whenever possible, due consideration is also given to potential domestic fixtures taking place in the same weeks and to respecting an appropriate number of rest days between matches (meaning that sometimes the other match of a tie may need to be moved to accommodate appropriate rest days between matches).

Changes to the match schedule (changes of dates and fixture reversals) are imposed only to establish a workable match calendar and not to confer any sporting advantage on one team or another.



When resolving stadium and city clashes in the qualifying rounds, the following order of priority between the clubs concerned will be used in determining which match is moved or reversed:

- a) Competition priority (i.e. a fixture in UEL takes priority over UECL)
- b) Domestic competitions achievement from the previous season:
  - i. Domestic champion club
  - ii. Domestic cup winner
  - iii. Next best-ranked team in their domestic league championship (N2, N3, N4, N5, etc.)
  - iv. League cup winner (if applicable)

Irrespective of the above, deviations from this order of priority are justified if they could reduce the number of modified fixtures, or if they could simplify or add more certainty to the establishment of the match calendar.

Changes, or potential changes, to the match schedule are determined after each draw. Once such modifications have been made by the UEFA administration, the teams are free to agree to reschedule the matches (order of ties and match dates) within the relevant competition calendar match dates, provided all the parties involved (i.e. both teams involved in the match in question as well as their respective national associations and UEFA) give their written approval. All relevant deadlines for match announcements must still be respected in this regard.

### **3. Principles for the League Phase**

In principle, stadium and city clashes will be solved via the match calendar to avoid scheduling matches on the same day/on consecutive days according to the information received from the national association.

In the event, however, of three (or more) clubs from the same city all participating across UEFA Europa League and/or UEFA Conference League, the clashes cannot only be managed via the match calendar, as only two clubs can be playing in alternation.

Therefore, depending on the competition match-week configuration and the allocation of the clubs in question between the two competitions, it may be necessary in some weeks to move one fixture of the teams in question to Tuesday or Wednesday.

When this is required, a principle of rotation will, if possible, be applied to the movement of the matches to a different day, to minimise the impact on any one club.

The UEFA administration decides on the kick-off time of any matches moved to a UCL match night, which will in principle be scheduled no later than 16:30 CET to avoid clashes with the UEFA Champions League. If clubs that have announced stadium/city clashes would be unable to fulfil a match scheduled in this way to resolve a clash, these clubs must announce in advance an alternative venue where their home match could be played on the Thursday of the relevant match week without creating any stadium/city clash.



## **4. Principles for the Knock-Out Phase**

### **4.1. Knock-Out Play-Offs and Round of 16**

As the order of the matches in these rounds is stipulated by the competition regulations, no fixture reversals are applied.

#### **4.1.1. UEFA Champions League**

Clubs and their respective associations must make every effort to ensure that matches can be played on consecutive days of the same week.

If there is a clash between two home matches which cannot be played on the same day but can be played on consecutive days, the UEFA administration will schedule one match on Tuesday and one match on Wednesday. There is no order of priority when it comes to the decision on which match is played on Tuesday or Wednesday, and in accordance with the competition regulations, the UEFA administration allocates the matches as it deems fit.

However, if according to the information provided, two clubs are not able to play matches on the same day or on consecutive days, the association and the club are required in advance to identify and announce an alternative stadium for each of the relevant clubs where a match can be played in the given match week. If required, UEFA will provide all necessary support to help identify an alternative venue outside the territory of the association of the clubs concerned.

In such a case, the team with the lower ranking in the league phase must play in the alternative venue. Exceptionally however, in such a case, a team qualified to play the second leg of the knock-out play-offs and/or round of 16 at home may decide, by informing the UEFA administration before the draw in question, to reverse the tie and play the first leg at home instead of playing the second leg in an alternative venue. Such a request must nonetheless be confirmed by the UEFA administration after the draw in question, to ensure such a reversal does not create any additional stadium or city stadium clash.

(For the avoidance of any doubt, this possibility does **not** exist for a stadium or city clash for teams who, on the basis of their league phase rankings, would play the first leg of these rounds at home, in order to preserve the sporting rules of these rounds).

If there is a clash involving more than two teams, the use of one or more alternative venue(s) will be necessary. If two matches can be scheduled on consecutive days then they will be scheduled in this way, and the other match(es) must be played in the alternative venue(s). The match(es) to be moved to the alternative venue will be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

- i. conditions which may determine a particular scheduling that minimises the number of matches needing to be moved to an alternative venue;
- ii. league phase rankings (i.e. the club with the lowest ranking is the first one to be moved to an alternative venue).

In the same way as mentioned above however, should a team due to host a second leg match in these rounds be required to play in an alternative venue, that team exceptionally may instead request in advance of the draw that UEFA reverse their tie – provided such a reversal does not create any further stadium or city clash.



#### **4.1.2. UEFA Europa League and UEFA Conference League**

If there is a clash between two home matches of two teams in the same competition (i.e. both in UEL or both in UECL) the match of the team ranked higher in the league phase will be played on Thursday, and the other match will be played on Wednesday (or, if necessary, Tuesday).

If there is a clash between one team playing in UEFA Europa League and one team playing UEFA Conference League, the match involving the team in the UEFA Europa League is played on Thursday, and the match of the team participating in the UEFA Conference League is played on Wednesday (or, if necessary, Tuesday) of the match week concerned.

If there is a clash between three teams, and in some combination these matches can be scheduled on consecutive days, then they will be scheduled on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The decision on which match should remain on Thursday will be based on the following criteria in the given order:

- i. conditions which may determine a particular order of the matches in question;
  - ii. competition priority (i.e. a UEL match has priority to stay on Thursday over a UECL match);
  - iii. league phase rankings (i.e. the club with the best ranking has priority to stay on Thursday).
- The UEFA administration will allocate the other matches to Tuesday and Wednesday.

To give due consideration to domestic fixtures taking place in the same weeks, and to respect an appropriate number of rest days between matches for players, second leg matches cannot be moved to a Tuesday in order to avoid negatively impacting the first leg fixture of the opponent. Therefore, in the event that two teams involved in a second leg clash cannot play matches on consecutive days, or in case three teams all clash in a second leg fixture, one match must be moved to an alternative venue which must be identified in advance, in the same way as set out above for a clash in UEFA Champions League.

Exceptionally however, in case a team due to host a second leg knockout play-off or round of 16 match would be required, due to a stadium or city clash, to host such a match in an alternative venue due to the above principles, that team may decide, by informing the UEFA administration before the draw in question, to reverse the tie and play the first leg at home instead of playing the second leg in an alternative venue. Such a request must nonetheless be confirmed by the UEFA administration after the draw in question, to ensure such a reversal does not create any additional stadium or city stadium clash.

For UEL or UECL matches scheduled on a UCL match night (i.e. Tuesday or Wednesday) the kick-off time will be set by the UEFA administration in principle no later than 16:30 CET, to avoid clashes with the UEFA Champions League. If clubs that have announced stadium/city clashes would be unable to fulfil a match scheduled in this way to resolve a clash, these clubs must announce in advance an alternative venue where their home match could be played on the Thursday of the relevant match week without creating any stadium/city clash.



## **4.2. Quarter and Semi-Finals**

### **4.2.1. UEFA Champions League**

If there is a clash between two home matches which cannot be played on the same day but can be played on consecutive days, the UEFA administration will schedule one match on Tuesday and one match on Wednesday. No fixture reversal is necessary. There is no order of priority over the choice of Tuesday or Wednesday and in accordance with the competition regulations the UEFA administration will schedule the matches as it deems fit.

If there is a clash in the **first leg** of these rounds between two home matches which cannot be played on the same day nor on consecutive days, the match involving the opponent with the lower ranking from the league phase will be reversed.

If there is a clash in the **second leg** of these rounds between two home matches which cannot be played on the same day nor on consecutive days, the team with the lower ranking from the league phase of the two teams concerned will be reversed.

### **4.2.2. UEFA Europa League and UEFA Conference League**

If there is a clash in the **first leg** of these rounds between the home matches of two teams in the same competition (i.e. both in UEL or both in UECL) which cannot be played on the same day, the match involving the lower ranked opponent in the league phase will be reversed.

If there is a clash in the **second leg** of these rounds between the home matches of two teams in the same competition (i.e. both in UEL or both in UECL) which cannot be played on the same day, the team with the lower ranking in the league phase of the two teams concerned will be reversed.

If there is a clash between the home matches of one team playing in UEFA Europa League and one team playing UEFA Conference League which cannot be played on the same day, the match involving the team in the UEFA Conference League will be reversed.

If there is a clash between the home matches of three teams which all cannot be played on the same day, one match will be played on Thursday, one match will be scheduled on Wednesday (or Tuesday, if necessary) and one match will be reversed. The UEFA administration will decide which match is played on which day, taking into account the principles already set out in the above paragraphs (see in particular section 4.1.2) where possible (deviations to those principles are however justified if the city/stadium clash requires a different sequencing).

To give due consideration to domestic fixtures taking place in the same weeks, and to respect an appropriate number of rest days between matches for players, if a second leg match must be scheduled on Tuesday, the corresponding first leg match may need to be moved to Tuesday or Wednesday accordingly.

## **5. Closing provisions**

The UEFA administration may decide at any time to submit to the UEFA Club Competitions Committee any case not covered by these principles.



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