No. 55/2026

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		dol/kvad/ski8	11 September 2026

Changes to coaching requirements in UEFA women's club licensing regulations and new framework for female coaches and women's football coaches in UEFA Pro diploma courses

Dear Sir or Madam,

UEFA's Women's Football Strategy 2024–30, Unstoppable, aims to raise standards through UEFA competition frameworks while providing more opportunities and greater access to coach education. With this in mind, and as part of UEFA's commitment to leading and fostering the development of the women's game, UEFA is encouraging its member associations to provide more opportunities on their coaching courses for female coaches, coaches in the women's game and female professional players.

UEFA women's club licensing regulations – coaching requirements from the 2029/30 season

The Women's Football and Club Licensing committees, in consultation with European Football Clubs (EFC), have recommended an **increase in the minimum coaching licence requirements for head coaches and assistant coaches** of clubs participating in UEFA women's club competitions, namely the UEFA Women's Champions League and the UEFA Women's Europa Cup.

These new requirements will come into force from the 2029/30 season, providing sufficient time for coaches who do not yet hold the required qualifications to obtain the necessary licences.

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Head coach	Assistant coach
The head coach must hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications, issued by a UEFA member association in accordance with the UEFA Coaching Convention: • Valid UEFA Pro coaching licence if the licensor (or its UEFA member association) is a signatory of the UEFA Coaching Convention at Pro level; or • Valid UEFA A coaching licence if the licensor (or its UEFA member association) is not a signatory of the UEFA Coaching Convention at Pro level.	The assistant coach must hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications, issued by a UEFA member association in accordance with the UEFA Coaching Convention: • Valid UEFA A coaching licence if the licensor (or its UEFA member association) is a signatory of the UEFA Coaching Convention at Pro level; or • Valid UEFA B coaching licence if the licensor (or its UEFA member association) is not a signatory of the UEFA Coaching Convention at Pro level.
A holder of the required coaching licence is considered a coach who has been issued the UEFA coaching licence or at least started the required UEFA coaching diploma course.	

Building pathways for coaches in women's football and female coaches – new framework for UEFA Pro diploma courses

As part of efforts to ensure improved coaching standards in the women's game, UEFA encourages national associations to reserve places for locally trained female coaches and women's football coaches on their UEFA Pro diploma courses.

Where the capacity of UEFA Pro diploma courses organised before the end of the 2029/30 season is insufficient to serve the **needs of clubs** competing in the **top domestic women's championship**, and **to ensure plentiful opportunities for female coaches**, national associations may submit a well-founded written request to the UEFA Jira Panel for approval of additional candidates or, in exceptional circumstances, for permission to organise an additional UEFA Pro diploma course. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing the maximum number of candidates on a Pro diploma course from 20 to 24, with the additional four places reserved for female coaches and women's football coaches
- Organising additional Pro diploma courses, with at least 50% of places reserved for women's football coaches and priority given to female coaches
- Organising additional Pro diploma courses with increased flexibility for active and former female professional players, for example, UEFA courses for professional players during international breaks
- Organising courses in partnership with one or more national associations

In addition, national associations that commit to making it mandatory for head coaches to hold a valid UEFA Pro licence via their club licensing system for their top domestic women's championship must provide up to four places for women's football coaches on their UEFA Pro diploma courses.

The above framework does not preclude the UEFA Coaching Convention requirement for course organisers to reserve at least 10% of places on coaching courses at all levels for female candidates.

To ensure that the new club licensing requirements can be met and to ensure the continuous development of female coaches, UEFA member associations are asked to assess their current and future needs and use this analysis to develop a strategic plan outlining the pathways for female coaches and coaches working in women's football. The objective is to ensure that both female coaches and coaches in the top domestic women's championships have the opportunity to obtain the required UEFA coaching licence by the start of the 2029/30 season.

This strategy should include clear measures, actions and support mechanisms covering the entire coaching pathway for coaches in women's football, with particular consideration given to the development of female coaches, and should be submitted as part of the UEFA HatTrick annual coach education plan.

To support this process and provide additional guidance, UEFA will host a webinar on Thursday 24 September for representatives of coach education, women's football and club licensing, during which further information will be shared.

UEFA Coach Development Programme for Women

Through the UEFA Coach Development Programme for Women, UEFA supports national associations in their efforts to increase the number of qualified female coaches, including by offering:

- Scholarships for UEFA diploma courses
- Scholarships for UEFA diploma courses for professional players
- Technical support for women-only courses and modules specific to coaching female players
- Scholarships and technical support for female coach educators
- Further education workshops led by UEFA technical instructors
- Technical support and funding for career forums for female coaches
- Mentoring for women holding core and specialist UEFA A and Pro diplomas

If you have any questions about the new coaching licence requirements or the UEFA Coach Development Programme for Women, please contact the Football Development unit at **football.development@uefa.ch**.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to raising standards in women's football and creating greater opportunities for women within the game.

Yours faithfully,

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Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

cc
- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA Women's Football Committee
- UEFA Club Licensing Committee
- UEFA Development and Technical Assistance Committee
- UEFA Jira Panel
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich