



No. 53/2020

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		F/FOP/dal	15 July 2020

Executive Committee approval of the UEFA Return to Play Protocol

Dear Sir or Madam,

To ensure that UEFA competitions return to the international football calendar in a safe environment for all parties, including the players, staff and all other stakeholders involved in the delivery of the matches, UEFA needed a comprehensive protocol for safe practices in travel arrangements and stadium operations.

The UEFA Executive Committee approved, on 9 July 2020, the UEFA Return to Play Protocol (Protocol), a copy of which you will find enclosed, that sets out the medical and operational principles and directives for the UEFA matches below. It will apply until further notice but will be adapted as the COVID-19 situation evolves around Europe over the coming months. Competition-specific guidelines that take the various competition levels and standards into account will also be issued.

This Protocol applies to all competitive football matches of men's and women's UEFA senior club and national teams, as well as all the remaining matches of the 2019/20 UEFA Youth League. Further iterations applicable to youth and futsal competitions will be issued in due course.

Please note, in particular, the recommendations for each team to carry out pre-screening tests, as set out in section 7.4 of the Protocol. If not already subject to a regular testing regime, all teams are strongly encouraged to organise at least one round of these tests before taking part in a UEFA competition, as this will help you avoid the risk of positive test results immediately before a match. Please ensure that your clubs participating in UEFA club competitions receive this information and reinforce the suggestion that their team and staff undergo a PCR test within the period specified in the Protocol.

While the Protocol includes specific obligations that all stakeholders must comply with, it also remains subject to the applicable local legislation and requirements. Due to this complexity, UEFA will liaise constantly with its member associations and stakeholders and try to adapt the implementation of the Protocol to the various different situations, including the way tests and testing results are handled.

To assist with the planning of UEFA competition matches and establish a clear line of communication regarding any specific domestic requirements, each national association is asked to appoint a contact person for all questions about hosting matches in your country, as well as for any questions concerning the implementation of the UEFA Return to Play Protocol. We would be grateful if you could choose a competent person with the time to do this, as receiving accurate up to date and timely information on local legislation (hygiene, distancing, test requirements, travel restrictions) will be essential to minimise risks related to the organisation of the UEFA matches, both for clubs and national teams.

Accordingly, please send us the name, function and contact details of this contact in the linked Questback form by **Monday 20 July**:

<https://response.questback.com/uefa/ydqpreozcd>

In addition, please note the officers that each team must appoint in preparation for hosting matches, which include a Medical Liaison Officer and a Protocol Compliance Officer for each team, and a Hygiene Officer for the match organisers. Full details of the role of each of these people are set out in section 5 of the Protocol.

Should you have any questions for now regarding the Protocol, please send them to the appropriate address below.

For any questions related to the **COVID-19 testing programme** contained in the Protocol

- For all competitions: covid19.testing@uefa.ch

For any questions related to the **operational implementation** of the Protocol

- For men's national team matches: NAmatchops@uefa.ch
- For women's national team matches: NAWomensMatchOps@uefa.ch
- For UCL matches: uclmatchops@uefa.ch
- For UEL matches: uelmatchops@uefa.ch
- For UWCL matches: uwclmatchops@uefa.ch
- For UYL matches: uylmatchops@uefa.ch

For any questions regarding the future iterations for youth and futsal competitions

- For men's youth competition matches: YouthMatchOps@uefa.ch
- For women's youth competition matches: NAWomensMatchOps@uefa.ch
- For futsal matches: FutsalMatchOps@uefa.ch

Re-starting UEFA's competitions during this time of limited international travel will be a significant challenge for all of us and we rely on our members complying with and implementing the UEFA Return to Play Protocol so that we can deliver our club and national team competitions safely and successfully.

Yours faithfully,

U E F A



Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

Enclosure

- UEFA Return to Play Protocol

cc (with enclosure)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich