



UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2021/22

Annex K

Special rules applicable to the knockout stage of the competition due to COVID-19

NB: If there is any discrepancy between the rules of this Annex and the provisions to be found in the present regulations or in any other sets of rules adopted by the Executive Committee, the rules below prevail.

K.1 Travel requirements

All teams participating in the knockout stage are required to travel by charter flight and/or by private buses. This rule is applicable to all members of the team delegation travelling to a knockout stage match, regardless if they are travelling altogether or by separate means.

K.2 Venue and country restrictions

K.2.1 All clubs participating in the knockout stage must ensure that matches can be played at the UEFA approved venues in accordance with the published calendar and shall cooperate with their national association in order to obtain from the relevant authorities exemptions from existing travel/accommodation restrictions, such as, but not limited to, border closures and quarantine requirements, for the match to take place as scheduled.

K.2.2 If, nonetheless, such an exemption cannot be obtained, the club in question shall confirm in writing to the UEFA administration any travel/accommodation restrictions that may have an impact on one of its knockout stage matches by the following deadlines:

- Knockout Round Play-Offs: at the latest on 7 February (24:00 CET);
- Round of 16: at the latest on 28 February 2022 (24:00 CET);
- Quarter-finals: at the latest on 28 March 2022 (24:00 CET);
- Semi-finals: at the latest on 18 April 2022 (24:00 CET).

Clubs must immediately inform UEFA of any change to travel/accommodation restrictions or exemptions secured after the above-mentioned deadlines.

K.2.3 As a rule, matches are played at the UEFA approved venue of the home club. However:

- (i) if restrictions imposed by the national/local authorities of the home club's country apply either
- to the entire team delegation of the visiting club, or
 - to five or more players (registered on the A list) vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine not recognised by the home country's relevant authorities,

the home club must propose a suitable alternative venue within 24 hours of the relevant deadline stipulated under Paragraph K.2.2, which may be in a neutral country (within the territory of a UEFA member association) that would allow the match to take place. The home club will remain responsible for the organisation of the match and all related costs. If the home

club fails to propose such suitable alternative venue by the aforementioned deadline and a reorganisation of the match at an alternative venue and/or date is not possible, the club in question will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by the home club. Moreover, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body may take any further disciplinary measures in accordance with Paragraph 28.01 of the present regulations.

- (ii) if the national/local legislation of the visiting club's country imposes mandatory quarantine on its entire team delegation upon return to their country, regardless of their status of vaccination for/recovery from COVID-19, the home club must propose a suitable alternative venue within 24 hours of the relevant deadline stipulated under Paragraph K.2.2, which may be in a neutral country (within the territory of a UEFA member association) that would allow the match to take place. If the home club fails to propose such suitable alternative venue within the aforementioned deadline, the UEFA administration will take a final decision on the match venue and/or match date. The home club will remain responsible for the organisation of the match and both clubs will share the related costs in equal measure. Furthermore, an amount equal to 10 % of the fixed starting fee received in the competition (in accordance with Paragraph 61.05 of the present regulations) will be deducted from the payments due to the visiting club and paid to the home club as a compensation. If either club refuses to take part in the match, it will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by such club. Moreover, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body may take any further disciplinary measures in accordance with *Paragraph 28.01* of the present regulations.

K.2.4 Where possible, clubs should try to use as an alternative venue a UEFA-approved venue used in the competition by another club. UEFA reserves the right to consider the proposed alternative venue as not suitable and take a final decision on the match venue and/or match date. All clubs participating in the knockout stage shall use best endeavours to make their UEFA approved venue available, whenever possible, as a neutral venue for other matches in the competition.

K.2.5 In all cases, the clubs may agree - subject to UEFA's approval - on a venue reversal or on a neutral venue (within the territory of a UEFA member association and in compliance with Paragraph K.2.3), provided that no restrictions apply and no city or stadium clash is caused with other UEFA fixtures.

K.2.6 If, in the opinion of the UEFA administration, the information provided by the clubs on restrictions imposed by their national/local authorities (in accordance with Paragraph K.2.2) is not accurate or is insufficient or received too late, or the restrictions are not sufficient to require the reorganisation of the match in a neutral country (within the territory of a UEFA member association), the UEFA administration will take a final decision on the match venue and/or match date as well as on which club has to bear the costs related to the reorganisation of the match. In any case, the home club will remain responsible for the organisation of the match. If either club refuses to take part in the match, it will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by such club. Moreover, the UEFA Control, Ethics

and Disciplinary Body may take any further disciplinary measures in accordance with Paragraph 28.01 of the present regulations.

K.2.7 If a club fails to inform the UEFA administration of any existing restrictions that affect the organisation of a match and as a consequence the match cannot take place or be rescheduled, the club in question will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by the club in question. Moreover, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body may take any further disciplinary measures in accordance with Paragraph 28.01 of the present regulations.

K.2.8 In all cases, the venue of a match must be approved by the UEFA administration, which, in order to guarantee sporting fairness and/or the regular progress of the competition, has the right to assign an alternative venue (which may be in a neutral country within the territory of a UEFA member association for any particular match or to decide that either or both legs of the relevant round be rescheduled (in accordance with Paragraph K.4.1) and/or played as a single leg. These decisions are final. In any event, the home club will remain responsible for the organisation of the match and all related costs.

K.3 Testing and player eligibility

K.3.1 If one or more players or officials of a club test positive for COVID-19 in the tests required by the UEFA Return to Play Protocol, the match will take place as scheduled unless the national/local authorities of one or both clubs involved or of where the match will take place (in case of a neutral country) require a large group of players or the entire team to go into quarantine. If at least 13 players registered on the A list (including at least one goalkeeper) are available, the match must go ahead on the scheduled date. If less than 13 players registered on the A list or no registered goalkeeper are available, UEFA may allow a rescheduling of the match, if the relevant national/local authority seeks new tests to allow a sufficient number of players (at least 13 including at least one goalkeeper) to participate in the match. Alternatively, the club may field players who have not been registered with UEFA within the deadlines stipulated in the present regulations, provided that these players (i) are duly registered with their national association as playing for the club concerned in accordance with the association's own rules and those of FIFA and (ii) are tested negative in accordance with the UEFA Return to Play Protocol. If it is not possible to reschedule the match within the final deadline set out in Paragraph K.4.1, the club that cannot play the match will be held responsible for the match not taking place and the match will be declared by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body to be forfeited by the club, which will be considered to have lost it by 3-0. Moreover, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body may take further disciplinary measures if the circumstances so justify.

K.3.2 If any member of the appointed referee team for a match tests positive for COVID-19, UEFA may exceptionally appoint replacement match officials who (i) may be of the same nationality as one of the clubs, and/or (ii) may not be on the FIFA list.

K.4 Completion of the knockout stage

K.4.1 In any case, the UEFA administration may reschedule matches if this ensures a match is played and allows the round to be completed accordingly. This should not jeopardise the schedule of any forthcoming rounds in the competition or other UEFA competitions. Such decisions of the UEFA administration are final. The rescheduling of matches is subject to the following deadlines for the different rounds of the competitions:

- a. Knockout Round Play-Offs: 4 March 2022;
- b. Round of 16: 1 April 2022;
- c. Quarter-finals: 22 April 2022;
- d. Semi-finals: 13 May 2022.

K.4.2 If, for any reason, a round in the knockout stage cannot be completed in accordance with this Annex K, the UEFA Executive Committee will decide on the principles for determining the clubs that qualify for the next round in the competition.

K.4.3 Any unforeseen circumstances related to this Annex will be dealt with in accordance with Article 83 of the present regulations.



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