



Specific operational provisions and guidelines regarding UEFA youth football matches

Context

This document sets out the specific provisions for competitive matches of UEFA club youth and national youth teams for men and women (UEFA youth matches) and should be read in conjunction with the UEFA Return to Play Protocol (UEFA Protocol).

The following sections replace relevant parts of chapters 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, except for 3 and 14.2.2 below, which are additions.

3. Scope of application (addition)

This annex sets out specific operational provisions and guidelines for the delivery of UEFA youth matches.

7. Testing

7.3 Identified target groups

The following two identified target groups will be subject to the UEFA testing programme:

Group 1

Teams: All players potentially participating to a UEFA youth match together with the technical and operational staff, such as coaches, assistants, physiotherapists, doctors, main contacts, press officers and match managers. The maximum number of persons that may be screened under the UEFA testing programme will depend on the competition. Teams may request to have additional persons tested at their own expense if agreed with SYNLAB, but only if this does not compromise the test turnaround time. The screening pool may include:

- 20 players
- 15 technical and operational staff, who must include the team medical liaison officer and the protocol compliance officer
- Up to five persons in a team's official delegation

Group 2

- **Referees:** refereeing team, e.g. referee, assistant referees, fourth official
- **UEFA match officers (if appointed):** match delegate, referee observer, security officer, doping control officer, media officer, venue director, venue director assistant
- **UEFA venue team members (if appointed):** project leader, project coordinator, disciplinary member

A third group providing local support for match delivery has also been identified. Any person appointed to a role in this category must at all times when on-site carry a certificate from an accredited test institute confirming a negative SARS-CoV-2-RNA test taken no earlier than MD-3. For single matches and qualifying round tournaments, this group will not be included in the UEFA testing programme unless directly appointed by UEFA; however, UEFA may at any time request a copy of the certificate. In

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the case of UEFA-organised event matches, e.g. final tournaments or single-match finals, UEFA may also organise testing for participants in this third group.

Group 3

- **Local support:** local staff in leading match organisation roles (i.e. match manager/match director, tournament director, tournament coordinator) and relevant local liaison and support staff, e.g. hygiene officer, referee liaison officer (RLO), delegate liaison officer, doping control chaperones, team liaison officers (TLO), etc.
- **Pitchside medical team:** Pitchside emergency doctor and stretcher teams (4-8 stretcher bearers). This target group may already have been tested by the national health authorities.
- **Host broadcaster (HB) team:** camera operators and assistants working in Zone 1 on MD-1 and MD.
- **Supplier staff:** UEFA partners and suppliers working in Zone 1 or with close contact to tested members of groups 1 and 2, e.g. signage.

7.4 Pre-competition screening

To reduce the risk of positive SARS-CoV-2 RNA tests immediately before competition matches, all members of groups 1 and 2 that are not at that time subject to a domestic PCR testing regime are strongly encouraged to undergo at least one round of pre-screening PCR testing between MD-10 and MD-7 prior to their first match in each competition round. These tests must be conducted by each team with an accredited testing institute, and the swab should be taken by independent and expert sample collection nurses.

UEFA may from time to time organise these SARS-CoV-2 RNA tests for some group 2 match participants before competition matches.

7.6.1 Qualifying round tournament testing

In tournament format competition matches, testing for Groups 1, 2 and 3 will take place according to the following schedule:

- All teams are strongly encouraged to conduct pre-competition screening between MD1-10 and MD 1-7 for all those who may travel to the qualifying round match venues.
- All participants (teams, referees, match officers, etc.) will be tested on MD1-3 or MD1-2 before leaving their home country (or home city if travelling within the same country), depending on the time required for sample collection logistics, testing and delivering the results in the country in question. A list of sampling deadlines per country will be shared with all participants. Should a visiting team need to arrive on MD1-2 instead of MD1-1 (fewer flights or other reasons), the test can be on MD1-4; however, in this case an additional test will be required on arrival. In principle, the test results will be available before the team leaves for the host country or host city.
- If required by the local authorities, group 1 and referee teams in group 2 will be tested again in the host country with samples collected on MD1-1. Results will in principle be available at the latest 6 (six) hours prior to kick-off (local time) on the day of the match.
- If required by the local authorities, all other group 2 staff will be tested with samples collected on MD1-2 so that results can be delivered before going to the stadium on MD1-1.

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- Group 3 staff will be tested in time so that results can be available before their first interaction with the tested members of groups 1 and 2, e.g. TLOs and RLOs to be tested in time to receive results before teams and referees arrive on-site.
- In addition, the compulsory SYNLAB tests will be repeated for all teams and participants on the day before the second match and again the day before the third match. Results will in principle be available at the latest 6 (six) hours prior to kick-off (local time) on the day of the match.

7.6.2 Final tournaments organised by UEFA

The testing schedule for groups 1, 2 and 3 will be communicated in due course.

11. International travel procedures

11.2 Team official delegation

The official delegations size referred to in the UEFA Protocol are limited to five persons for UEFA Youth Matches.

13. Hotels

All team members should, if possible, be allocated individual bedrooms.

Ideally, an exclusive hotel, or alternatively an exclusive floor or wing of a hotel, should be reserved for the sole use of each visiting/participating team during their stay. When selecting tournament hotel(s) and allocating teams to hotel(s), hosts must consider the hotel(s)' ability to:

- implement all applicable principles set out in this document and the UEFA Protocol;
- segregate team players/technical staff from other teams.

The visiting team (single matches) or the host LOS (tournaments) must make arrangements to prevent any close contact between the teams and other guests or staff. This should include:

- Private dining area
- Private access routes

The teams themselves are solely responsible for handling team equipment and attire.

The visiting team PCO or the host LOS (as applicable) should conclude a written agreement with the hotel that includes all the necessary hygiene measures, such as:

- Wearing of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) by hotel staff
- Maximising social distancing by staff
- Cleaning regime of rooms and public spaces, such as lifts, etc.
- Meal arrangements
- The hotels' policies regarding staff who have symptoms of infection

Each team's PCO must check that the agreed hygiene measures have been implemented by the hotel upon their team's arrival.

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Immediately before the team checks in, the rooms and other spaces to be used by the team should be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly.

Food should be served by the teams' own staff or as few hotel staff as possible, with food placed on a table and collected by the players/coaches/trainers. When buffets are served, one station per team should be prepared. No clean-up is to take place until the entire delegation has left the dining areas so that the smallest number of hotel staff is present in the dining room during meals.

No team members (whether players or technical staff) may leave the hotel unless under previously agreed and organised conditions and only if this does not involve them coming into contact with anyone outside their testing group. For longer stays, team excursions may be organised, but these must be strictly controlled to ensure social distancing is maintained throughout the excursion or that appropriate PPE is used by all members of the team delegation whenever social distancing is not possible. The team PCO is responsible for ensuring that the standard hygiene measures are adhered to during any team excursion.

For longer stays (tournaments), hosts will also need to make appropriate laundry arrangements with the hotel(s), ensuring that all necessary hygienic measures are taken by the hotel staff. The same applies to any external laundry companies.

14. Stadium operations

14.2.1 Match venue zones

No more than 100 persons may enter Zone 1 for UEFA youth matches.

No more than 60 persons may enter Zone 2 during T1, and 30 persons during T2.

14.2.2 Stadium zoning timings (addition)

For double-headers, Zone 1 must be disinfected immediately after T2.

When setting kick-off times for double-headers in tournaments, hosts must ensure there is enough time between matches so that Zone 1 can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after the first match and before teams arrive for the second match.

14.3 Stadium access and accreditation management

The host is always responsible for stadium access accreditation devices and must also implement a zoning system as described in the UEFA Protocol.

This system will be used to check the number of persons entering the specific zones and ensure the quota of people present is not exceeded in each period i.e. T1, T2 and T3.

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14.4 Team personnel and numbers at the stadium

The number of persons permitted to enter Zone 1 is set per competition. UEFA may reduce or increase this number for each individual round, but this number must include everyone from the team who will need access to Zone 1, which means players, coaches, technical and medical staff, logistics support (kit manager and security) and key operational staff (team main contact/match manager, press officers, etc.). In principle, only this group of persons will be permitted to enter Zone 1.

In addition, the match organiser or host LOS (tournament) may grant five Zone 1 access passes to staff who may need access to this zone for operational reasons but who are not linked to the playing/coaching delegation. This must include the HO, match manager/match director, any stadium facilities staff needed for emergency maintenance, and security staff or stewards who need access to Zone 1. The match organiser or host LOS is responsible for ensuring these persons are all tested before each match.

The team's official delegation of up to five persons (president, directors, etc.) are permitted to come to the stadium. They will be allocated seats in the tribune and will not be allowed to enter Zone 1 at any time, with the exception of the two persons described in section 11.2 of the UEFA Protocol.

14.6.1 Dressing rooms

Dressing room areas for the teams and technical staff must optimise social distancing and ventilation. Depending on the actual size of the dressing room, additional nearby rooms or spaces may therefore also have to be used. Ideally, a room or area should be set aside for the team's technical staff and equipment, which is separate from the player's changing areas.

In addition:

- Any saunas, pools or jacuzzies must be closed or drained.
- Individual ice baths may be used if the water is disinfected, and provided that after each person's use the water is replaced and the typical contact points around the bath edges are wiped down with disinfectant.
- Any fitness equipment must be disinfected before and after use and must be located either within an area of the dressing room that is completely separate from the changing area, or in a different room.
- Any physiotherapy equipment and massage beds must be disinfected before and after use and must be located either within an area of the dressing room that is completely separate from the changing area, or in a different room.

The same principles also apply to the referees' dressing room, and if space is limited then additional rooms or alternative solutions must be found for the referee team.

If additional rooms or alternative solutions cannot be found to ensure social distancing and appropriate ventilation, the teams and referees' team are strongly encouraged to:

- Prepare the match tactics at the hotel;
- Arrive at the stadium already wearing the playing kits;
- Make alternate use of the dressing rooms without going over the maximum capacity;
- After the match, if possible, take the shower at the hotel unless this poses a risk to the players' health due to the climate and temperature.

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Cleaning of dressing rooms, team benches and technical areas

The dressing room areas, team access routes (corridors, door handles, handrails, etc.), team benches and technical seats (including any additional seating used to maintain social distancing) must be thoroughly disinfected before the team arrives on MD-1, between the team training sessions on MD-1 and prior to the match before the arrival of the team or kit manager, should he arrive earlier. Once the dressing rooms have been disinfected prior to team arrivals, no one other than tested team support staff, e.g. team kit staff, may enter until the teams arrive.

Dressing room catering

Teams must agree with the match organiser or host LOS (tournaments) on the supply of food and drinks to the dressing rooms and are responsible for ensuring that any food and drink deliveries adhere to all hygiene requirements and minimise any risk of contamination.

The same applies to food and beverages provided by the host to referees and match officers.

Disposable bottles only must be used. They must each be used by only one person and must be collected and disposed of appropriately.

15. Match operations

15.1 Stadium tour and matchday organisational meeting

Single matches

The normal matchday morning pitch inspection must be replaced by a Zone 1 tour attended by the UEFA MD, the main contacts/team managers of both teams, the HO and the match/venue manager. The tour must review all the relevant access routes, pitchside seating (benches, technical seats and additional tribune seating), pitchside camera positions, etc. The matchday organisational meeting (MDOM) will be held immediately after the Zone 1 tour and attended in person only by the people on the tour. All other participants must attend remotely in a videoconference organised by the host team.

Tournaments

Before the first match, the LOS must organise a tour of all the stadiums used during the qualifying round tournament for the UEFA MD, the match/venue manager and the HO. On request of the visiting team(s), the LOS may also organise a Zone 1 tour for them.

The number of people attending the tournament organisational meeting must be kept to the strict minimum. The UEFA MD, the main contacts of the participating teams, the teams' PCOs and the host's HOs must attend the meetings. All other participants must attend remotely in a videoconference organised by the host.

15.2 Official events

It is not recommended to organise official events, such as receptions (e.g. players party). In any case, the event(s) and the number of participants should be agreed between the host and the teams in advance and due consideration should be given to social distancing. No one who is either part of, or in close contact with, the team's tested pool should attend these events.

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Educational seminars, such as match-fixing prevention presentations, will be held. Teams must ensure all players have access to and participate in these sessions.

If official events are organised, they must adhere strictly to the rules and requirements of the national health authorities.

15.3 Ball children

The host decides which ball recovery and replacement system is to be used. If ball children are involved in the match, 4 to 8 ball children may be deployed in Zone 2 around the pitch behind the pitch perimeter advertising boards.

In addition, 4 to 6 ball children (or groundskeepers) may be positioned in the tribunes (Zone 3), as dictated by the configuration of the stadium.

Ball children must:

- Wear masks;
- Keep the ball on the ground at their feet until needed;
- Disinfect their hands before and after warm-up and before and after each half;
- Maintain at least a 2m distance from the players at all times.

The HO must find out whether parental consent is required and parents must be informed of the entrance checks (questionnaire, temperature measurement) for ball children assignments.

In addition, all match balls must be disinfected at the end of the warm-up (if the same balls are to be used during the match) and during half-time.

If ball children are not deployed, eight balls may be placed around the pitch at a reasonable distance from the touchline, and up to two volunteers should be tasked with ensuring that a sufficient number of balls remain around the pitch during the match.

15.5 Pre-match warm-ups

The time spent in the dressing room should be kept to a minimum. Players may therefore access the pitch to start their pre-match warm-ups earlier than the normal allocated time. Exact timings must be agreed at the latest at the MDOM/tournament organisational meeting in order to avoid any overlap with other activities such as pitch maintenance.



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