



REAL FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE FÚTBOL

Temporada 2014/2015

## CIRCULAR N° 21

### Competiciones de Clubes UEFA – Nuevo Formato

#### Temporadas 2015 a 2018

UEFA comunica el nuevo formato de sus competiciones deportivo y comercial de las competiciones Liga de Campeones de UEFA (UCL) y Liga Europa de EUFE (UEL) para el ciclo completo de tres años 2015-2018.

La nueva estructura de las competiciones de clubes de UEFA tiene por objeto principal mejorar el perfil de la UEL. A continuación se ofrece un resumen de las modificaciones:

#### Campeón UEL en la UCL

- Independientemente de su posición definitiva en la liga nacional, el campeón de la UEL tendrá acceso, como mínimo, a la fase de play-offs de la UCL de la siguiente temporada. El campeón de la UEL podría acceder a la fase de grupos de la UCL, si el campeón de la UCL se clasifica asimismo a la fase de grupos por medio de su liga nacional, ocasionando así una plaza vacante.
- En la fase de grupos de la UCL el número máximo de equipos por asociación aumentará a cinco, en aquellos casos en que ni el campeón de la UCL ni de la UEL se clasifiquen a la UCL por medio de su liga nacional.
- No obstante, en el caso excepcional de que los campeones de la UCL y UEL sean de la misma asociación clasificada en los puestos 1 al 3, y si ninguno de ellos se clasifica a la UCL mediante su posición en la liga nacional, el equipo N4 de dicha asociación pasará a la UEL.

#### Lista de acceso de la UEL

- El número de equipos clasificados directamente a la fase de grupo de la UEL aumentará de 6 a 16 equipos procedentes de las 12 primeras asociaciones como sigue:
  - o Asociaciones 1 a 4: dos equipos (campeón de Copa + N5 ó N4);
  - o Asociaciones 5 a 12: un equipo (campeón de Copa).

- El número máximo de lugares por asociación en la lista de acceso a la UEL se reducirá a tres, es decir, las asociaciones entre los puestos 7 y 9 dispondrán de una plaza menos.
- Si el campeón de copa se clasifica a la UCL, a la UEL se clasificará, en vez del subcampeón de copa, el club mejor ubicado en la clasificación no clasificado mediante el campeonato nacional.

#### Concepto comercial de la UEL

- Todos los derechos de comercialización se centralizarán a partir de la fase de grupos, en forma similar como la UCL.

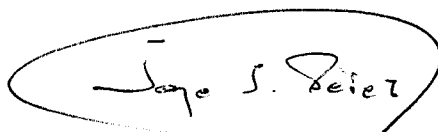
Rogamos noten que todos los cambios en la lista de acceso entran en vigor en la temporada 2015/16, es decir, el campeón de la UEL se clasificará a la UCL en la temporada 2015/16.

Para una información detallada, rogamos se refieran a los documentos adjuntos al presente escrito:

- Circular de UEFA nº 47/2013
- Circular de UEFA nº 38/2014

Las Rozas, 20 octubre de 2014

REAL FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE FÚTBOL



-Jorge J. Pérez Arias-  
Secretario General



No. 47/2013

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of  
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		KPCLC/HES/THT	4 October 2013

### **UEFA club competitions 2015–18**

Dear Sir or Madam,

In a thorough review process involving all stakeholders, the sporting and commercial formats of the UEFA Champions League (UCL) and UEFA Europa League (UEL) have been revisited with the objective of increasing their appeal and value for the 2015–18 cycle.

At its meetings on 22 May and 19 September 2013, the UEFA Executive Committee discussed and approved the proposed changes and the new structure of the UEFA club competitions for the new cycle. The agreed modifications, which will particularly enhance the profile of the UEL, will kick in as of the 2015/16 season and will be valid for a cycle of at least three years (2015–18 cycle).

A summary of these changes is outlined below:

#### UEL titleholder in the UCL

- Irrespective of its final position in the domestic league, the UEL titleholder will be granted access, as a minimum, to the UCL play-offs the following season. The UEL titleholder could even gain direct access to the UCL group stage if the UCL titleholder also qualifies for the UCL group stage via its domestic league, thereby creating a vacancy.
- The maximum number of teams per association in the UCL group stage will be increased to five in cases where the UCL or UEL titleholders do not also qualify to the UCL via their domestic league.
- However, in the exclusive case that the UCL and UEL titleholders belong to the same association ranked 1 to 3 and neither qualifies for the UCL via their domestic league, the N4 team from that association would be moved to the UEL.

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### UEL access list

- The number of teams that qualify directly for the UEL group stage will be increased from currently 6 to 16 teams from the top 12 associations, as follows:
  - o associations 1 to 4: two teams (CW + N5 or N4);
  - o associations 5 to 12: one team (CW).
- The maximum number of spots per association in the UEL access list will be reduced to three, meaning associations ranked 7 to 9 will be given one place less.
- The best-placed non-qualified domestic championship club, instead of the domestic cup runners-up, will qualify for the UEL if the domestic cup winner qualifies for the UCL.

### UEL commercial concept

- All UEL commercial rights will be centralised as from the group stage, similarly to the UCL.

Please note that all changes in the access list will enter into force in the 2015/16 season, i.e. the UEL winner of the 2014/15 season will qualify for the UCL in the 2015/16 season. Accordingly, all other changes having an impact on domestic competitions would also need to be taken into account in the 2014/15 season.

For more detailed information, please refer to the following documents which are attached to this circular letter:

- Summary of changes by competition (Enclosure 1)
- Provisional access list for the 2015–18 UEFA club competitions (Enclosure 2)

Should you have further questions or need more detailed information concerning the approved changes, please feel free to contact Michael Heselschwerdt, Head of Club Competitions, (michael.heselschwerdt@uefa.ch; +41 22 707 28 09), or Tobias Hedtstück, Calendar & Regulations Manager (tobias.hedtstueck@uefa.ch; +41 22 707 2052).

Yours faithfully,

**U E F A**



Gianni Infantino  
General Secretary

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Enclosures

- Enclosure 1: Summary of changes by competition
- Enclosure 2: Provisional access list for the 2015–18 UEFA club competitions

cc (with enclosures)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA Club Competitions Committee
- European members of the FIFA Executive Committee
- FIFA, Zurich
- European Club Association (ECA)
- European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL)



## Enclosure 1

### Summary of changes

## Summary of changes by competition

### **UEFA Champions League (UCL)**

- The UEFA Europa League (UEL) titleholder will be granted access, as a minimum, to the play-offs of the following season's UCL. If the UCL titleholders create a vacancy in the group stage by qualifying also to this competition via their domestic league, this place will be filled by the UEL titleholder. The possible scenarios are listed below:
  - UCL titleholder qualifies for the UCL group stage via domestic league:
    - UEL titleholder enters the UCL group stage
  - UCL titleholder qualifies for the UCL play-offs via domestic league (league path):
    - UEL titleholder enters the UCL play-offs
  - UCL titleholder qualifies for the UCL Q3 via domestic league (league path):
    - UEL titleholder enters the UCL play-offs and the UCL access list is rebalanced accordingly, with N3 of the association ranked 5th starting in UCL Q3 instead of UCL play-offs
  - UCL titleholder does not qualify for UCL via domestic league:
    - UEL titleholder enters the UCL play-offs and the UCL access list is rebalanced accordingly, with N3 of the associations ranked 4th and 5th starting in UCL Q3 instead of UCL play-offs. The UEL access list is also rebalanced accordingly.
  - If the UCL titleholder is from an association ranked 13th to 54th in the access list, the UEL titleholder enters in the UCL play-offs of the champions path and the access list is rebalanced accordingly
- The maximum number of teams per association in the UCL group stage will, exceptionally, be increased to five to accommodate either the UEL or the UCL titleholder if they do not also qualify for the UCL via their domestic league.
  - If both titleholders are from the same association ranked 1 to 3 and neither qualifies for the UCL via their domestic league, the N4 team from that association will be moved to the UEL. In the case of all other associations, both titleholders will qualify for the UCL in addition to the other teams of the access list.

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# Enclosure 1

## Summary of changes

### **UEFA Europa League (UEL)**

- The number of spots for direct qualification in the UEL group stage will be extended from currently 6 to 16. Therefore, the following teams will qualify directly for the UEL group stage:
  - the cup winners of the top twelve best ranked associations;
  - a second team (N5) from the associations ranked 1st to 3rd;
  - a second team (N4) from the association ranked 4th.
- All associations will have a maximum of three spots in the access list of the UEL. As a result, the number of places available to the associations ranked 7th to 9th in the access list will be reduced from four to three to be in line with the above (CW, N3, N4).
- The UEL titleholder will no longer qualify for the UEL group stage, but for the UCL (see UEFA Champions League section above).
- The access list will be rebalanced accordingly (see Enclosure 2 of this circular letter).
- If the domestic cup winner qualifies for the UCL, the association concerned shall enter the club which finishes the top domestic league immediately below the other club or clubs which qualify for the UEL, instead of the domestic cup runner-up.
- All commercial rights as from the group stage of the UEL onwards will be fully centralised, as is the case in the UCL.

### **Entry into force**

- All changes will be effective as of the 2015/16 season.
- All changes to the access list will have an effect on the qualification of teams during the 2014/15 season (2014/15 UEL titleholders qualify for 2015/16 UCL; N5 teams from associations 7 to 9 no longer qualify for UEL etc.)







No. 38/2014

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of  
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		KPCLC/HES/THT	17 July 2014

**UEFA club competitions 2015–18**

Dear Sir or Madam,

With regard to the 2015–18 cycle of the UEFA Champions League (UCL) and UEFA Europa League (UEL), and further to our circular letter No. 47/2013, we would like to remind you about the changes being made to the competition formats.

The agreed modifications, designed, in particular, to raise the profile of the UEL, will take effect as of the 2015/16 season and will be valid for the whole three-year cycle (2015–18) at least.

- The UEL titleholder will be granted access, as a minimum, to the following season's UCL play-offs.
- The maximum number of teams per association in the UCL group stage will increase to five in cases where the UCL or UEL titleholders do not also qualify for the UCL via their domestic league.
- The number of teams that qualify directly for the UEL group stage will increase from the current 6 to 16 teams from the top 12 associations (two teams from each of the associations ranked 1 to 4 and one team from each of the associations ranked 5 to 12).
- The maximum number of spots per association in the UEL access list will go down to three, meaning that the associations ranked 7 to 9 will have one place less.
- Instead of the domestic cup runners-up, the best-placed non-qualified domestic championship club will qualify for the UEL if the domestic cup winner qualifies for the UCL.
- All UEL commercial rights will be centralised as from the group stage, similarly to the UCL.

**For a detailed overview of the changes and the relevant impacts, please refer to the enclosed "Overview of UCL and UEL competition format changes for the 2015–18 cycle" (enclosure 1).**

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Since all changes to the access list will enter into force for the 2015/16 UEFA club competition season, they will have consequences on the 2014/15 domestic and UEFA club competition season.

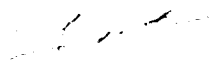
- The 2014/15 UEL winner will qualify for the 2015/16 UCL (play-offs as a minimum). The UCL access list (and in some cases the UEL one) may have to be adapted as explained in the different scenarios.
- 2014/15 domestic cup winners qualifying for the 2015/16 UCL via the 2014/15 domestic championship will be replaced in the 2015/16 UEL by the next best-placed team in the final 2014/15 domestic championship rankings (not by the cup runner-up any more).
- Clubs N4 of associations 7 to 9 (Russia, Netherlands, Ukraine for the 2015/16 season) will not qualify for the 2015/16 UEL.

This reminder, which follows the information provided in circular letter No. 47/2013, is of utmost importance for the organisation of the current season's domestic competitions. We kindly ask you to take good note of this information, **to forward it to all relevant parties in your association, and to make sure that it is shared with and understood by your leagues and clubs.**

Should you have any questions or need more information concerning these changes, please feel free to contact Michael Heselschwerdt, head of club competitions, (✉ michael.heselschwerdt@uefa.ch; ☎ +41 22 707 28 09), or Tobias Hedtstück, calendar and regulations manager (✉ tobias.hedtstueck@uefa.ch; ☎ +41 22 707 2052).

Yours faithfully,

**U E F A**



Gianni Infantino  
General Secretary

Enclosures

- Enclosure 1: Overview of UCL and UEL competition format changes for the 2015–18 cycle
- Enclosure 2: Provisional access list 2015–18

cc (with enclosures)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA Club Competitions Committee
- European members of the FIFA Executive Committee
- FIFA, Zurich
- European Club Association (ECA)
- European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL)



## Overview of UCL and UEL competition format changes for the 2015–18 cycle

### UEFA Champions League (UCL)

1. The UEFA Europa League (UEL) titleholder (TH) will qualify for the following season's UCL. As a minimum, the UEL TH will enter the UCL in the play-offs. Depending on the final domestic championship rankings of the UCL titleholder, which may create a vacancy in the UCL group stage, the UEL titleholder could gain direct access to the UCL group stage.

The different scenarios explained below cover all cases when the UEL TH does not qualify for the UCL via its domestic championship. If the UEL TH qualifies for the UCL group stage via its domestic championship, the access list will not be modified.

Furthermore, in all scenarios, the access list will be rebalanced accordingly if the UEL titleholder qualifies for the first, second, third qualifying round or play-offs of the UCL via its domestic championship.

#### 1.1. Scenario 1

- The UCL TH qualifies for the UCL group stage via its domestic championship
  - A place is left vacant in the UCL group stage
  - The UEL TH fills this vacancy and enters the UCL in the group stage
  - No other changes to the access list

Example\*:

UEFA Champions League				Association	
Group				Rank	
UCL TH	RU	N3	UEL TH		
CH	RU	N3	N4	1	Association
<del>CH</del>	RU	N3	N4	2	Association
CH	RU	N3	N4	3	Association
CH	RU		N3	4	Association
CH	RU		N3	5	Association
CH				6	Association
CH	RU			7	Association
CH				8	Association
CH				9	Association
CH				10	Association
CH				11	Association
CH				12	Association
		CH		13	Association
		CH		14	Association
		CH		15	Association
		CH		16	Association
		CH		17	Association

\* Other situations are possible

# Enclosure 1

## Summary of changes

### 1.2. Scenario 2

- The UCL TH qualifies for the UCL play-offs (PO) via its domestic championship
  - A place is left vacant in the UCL PO
  - The UEL TH fills this vacancy and enters the UCL in the PO
  - No other changes to the access list

Example\*:

UEFA Champions League									
Group			Champions				League		
			PO	Q3	Q2	Q1	PO	Q3	
<b>UCL TH</b>								<b>UEL TH</b>	
CH	RU	N3						N4	
CH	RU	N3						N4	
CH	RU	N3						N4	
CH	RU							<del>X</del>	
CH	RU							N3	
CH	RU								N3
CH									RU
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			CH						RU
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			CH						RU
			CH	CH					RU
			CH	CH					RU

Association	
Rank	
1	Association
2	Association
3	Association
4	Association
5	Association
6	Association
7	Association
8	Association
9	Association
10	Association
11	Association
12	Association
13	Association
14	Association
15	Association
16	Association
17	Association

\* Other situations are possible

# Enclosure 1

## Summary of changes

### 1.3. Scenario 3

- The UCL titleholder qualifies for the UCL third qualifying round (Q3) (league path) via its domestic championship
  - A place is left vacant in the UCL Q3 (league path)
  - The UEL TH enters the UCL in the PO (league path)
  - N3 of the fifth-ranked association enters the UCL in Q3 (league path) to rebalance the access list

Example\*:

UEFA Champions League					
Group			UEFA Europa League		
UCL TH	RU	N3	PO	UEL TH	N3
CH	RU	N3		N4	
CH	RU	N3		N4	
CH	RU	N3		N4	
CH	RU			N3	
CH	RU			→ N3	
CH	RU			N3	
CH				<del>RU</del>	
CH				RU	
CH				RU	
CH				RU	
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CH			CH	RU	
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Association	
Rank	
1	Association
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3	Association
4	Association
5	Association
6	Association
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9	Association
10	Association
11	Association
12	Association
13	Association
14	Association
15	Association
16	Association
17	Association

\* Other situations are possible

# Enclosure 1

## Summary of changes

### 1.4. Scenario 4

- The UCL titleholder does not qualify for the UCL via its domestic championship
  - The UEL TH enters the UCL in the PO (league path)
  - N3 of the fourth and fifth-ranked associations enter the UCL in Q3 (league path) to rebalance the access list
  - Knock-on effects on UEL access list owing to UCL feed (6 teams instead of 5 moving from UCL Q3 to UEL PO) – UEL access list will be rebalanced accordingly

Example:

UEFA Champions League											
Group			Champions				Access				
			PO	Q2	Q3	Q4	UEL TH	N4	N3	N2	Q1
UCL TH							UEL TH				
CH	RU	N3					N4				
CH	RU	N3					N4				
CH	RU	N3					N4				
CH	RU						→	N3			
CH	RU						→	N3			
CH	RU							N3			
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Association	
Rank	
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12	Association
13	Association
14	Association
15	Association
16	Association
17	Association



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## Enclosure 1

### Summary of changes

2. Exceptionally, the maximum number of teams per association in the UCL group stage will be increased to five to accommodate either the UEL or the UCL TH if they do not qualify for the UCL via their domestic championship.
  - If both THs are from the same association in the top three and neither qualifies for the UCL via its domestic league, N4 from that association will be moved to the UEL (into the latest possible round where there is a vacancy). The association concerned is entitled to one additional place in the UEL only in a case both UCL TH and UEL TH are not qualified for UEL via its domestic competitions.
  - In the case of all other associations, both titleholders (if from the same association) will qualify for the UCL in addition to the other teams on the access list.

### **UEFA Europa League (UEL)**

1. The number of teams to qualify directly for the UEL group stage will be increased from the current 6 to 16. Therefore, the following teams will enter the UEL group stage directly:
  - the cup winners of the top 12 associations;
  - a second team (N5) from the top three associations;
  - a second team (N4) from the fourth-ranked association.

The access list has been adapted accordingly (see enclosure 2) and the number of teams entering the different qualifying rounds will be as follows:

Play-offs: No team starts out directly in the UEL play-offs; 15 teams enter the UEL play-offs via the UCL third qualifying round;

Third qualifying round: 25 teams qualify directly for the third qualifying round;

Second qualifying round: 14 teams qualify directly for the second qualifying round;

First qualifying round: 104 teams start the competition in the first qualifying round.

2. All associations will have a maximum of three places in the UEL access list. As a result, the number of places available to the associations ranked between 7th and 9th in the access list will be reduced from four to three to be in line with the above (CW, N3, N4).
3. If the domestic cup winner qualifies for the UCL, the association concerned will enter the club which finishes the top domestic league immediately below the other club or clubs which qualify for the UEL, instead of the domestic cup runner-up.
4. All commercial rights as from the UEL group stage will be fully centralised, similarly to the UCL. Further information about operational implementation will follow in due course.



