Regulations of the UEFA Youth League
2015/16
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Preamble

The following regulations have been adopted on the basis of Articles 49(2)(c) and 50(1) of the *UEFA Statutes*. 
I – General Provisions

Article 1  Scope of application

1.01 The present regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organisation of the 2015/16 UEFA Youth League (hereinafter the competition).

Article 2  Definitions

2.01 In the context of these regulations, the following definitions apply:

a. commercial rights: any and all commercial rights and opportunities in and in relation to the competition (including all matches), including media rights, marketing rights and data rights;

b. data rights: the right to compile and exploit statistics and other data in relation to the competition;

d. marketing rights: the right to advertise, promote, endorse and market the competition; to conduct public relations activities in relation to the competition; and to exploit all advertising, sponsorship, hospitality, licensing, merchandising, publishing, betting, gaming, retailing, music and franchising opportunities and all other commercial association rights (including through ticket promotions) in relation to the competition;

e. media rights: the right to create, distribute and transmit on a linear and/or on-demand basis for reception on a live and/or delayed basis anywhere in the world by any and all means and in any and all media, whether now known or devised in the future (including all forms of television, radio, mobile, wireless and internet distribution), digital, audiovisual, visual and/or audio coverage of the competition and all associated and/or related rights, including fixed media, download and interactive rights;

f. non-commercial purposes: activities, without any direct or indirect third party association, necessary for (i) a club to advertise its own matches, (ii) internal archiving purposes and (iii) internal library purposes, but excluding commercial rights and any other activity UEFA considers commercial in nature;

g. partner: any party accepted by UEFA under contract to exercise the commercial rights, and thereby participating directly or indirectly in the financing of the competition;

h. technical zone: the technical area as defined in the IFAB Laws of the Game, plus the fourth official’s position, any additional technical seats, the team and referees’ dressing rooms, the players’ tunnel and the route the players and referees take from their dressing rooms to the pitch.

2.02 In the context of these regulations, any phrase introduced by the terms “including”, “include”, “in particular”, “for example” or any similar expression is illustrative and does not limit the sense of the words preceding those terms.
Article 3  Entries for the competition

3.01 The competition is open to the following 64 teams:
   a. the 32 youth teams of the clubs which qualify for the group stage of the 2015/16 UEFA Champions League (UEFA Champions League path);
   b. the domestic youth champions of the 32 best-ranked associations in the 2015/16 UEFA association coefficient rankings (domestic champions path), drawn up in accordance with Annex A. The relevant domestic youth championship is defined by the national association and validated by UEFA.

3.02 If there is a vacancy in the UEFA Champions League path, replacement criteria will be defined by the UEFA administration and communicated in writing.

3.03 A vacancy in the domestic champions path is, in principle, filled by the domestic youth champion of the next best-ranked association in the 2015/16 UEFA association coefficient rankings (see Annex A).

3.04 If a team qualifies for both the UEFA Champions League path and the domestic champions path, it automatically participates in the UEFA Champions League path and the vacancy in the domestic champions path is filled in accordance with Paragraph 3.03.

3.05 The UEFA administration may grant exceptions to ensure that all the groups and pairings are complete.

Article 4  Admission criteria and procedure

4.01 To be eligible to participate in the competition, clubs must:
   a. have qualified for the competition on sporting merit;
   b. fill in the official entry documents (i.e. all documents containing the information deemed necessary by the UEFA administration for ascertaining compliance with the admission criteria), which must reach the UEFA administration within the deadline set by the latter and communicated in due course through a circular letter sent to all associations;
   c. have a youth development programme approved by the UEFA member association to which they are affiliated, in accordance with Article 17 of the UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations;
   d. comply with the rules aimed at ensuring the integrity of the competition as defined in Article 5;
   e. confirm in writing that they themselves, as well as their players and officials, comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game promulgated by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and agree to respect the statutes (including the principles of fair play as defined therein), regulations, directives and decisions of UEFA;
   f. confirm in writing that they themselves, as well as their players and officials, agree to recognise the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, as defined in the relevant provisions of the UEFA Statutes and agree that any proceedings before the CAS concerning admission
to, participation in or exclusion from the competition will be held in an expedited manner in accordance with the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration and with the directions issued by the CAS, including for provisional or super-provisional measures, to the explicit exclusion of any State court;
g. not have been directly and/or indirectly involved, since the entry into force of Article 50(3) of the UEFA Statutes, i.e. 27 April 2007, in any activity aimed at arranging or influencing the outcome of a match at national or international level and confirm this to the UEFA administration in writing.

4.02 If, on the basis of all the factual circumstances and information available to UEFA, UEFA concludes to its comfortable satisfaction that a club has been directly and/or indirectly involved, since the entry into force of Article 50(3) of the UEFA Statutes, i.e. 27 April 2007, in any activity aimed at arranging or influencing the outcome of a match at national or international level, UEFA will declare such club ineligible to participate in the competition. Such ineligibility is effective only for one football season. When taking its decision, UEFA can rely on, but is not bound by, a decision of a national or international sporting body, arbitral tribunal or state court. UEFA can refrain from declaring a club ineligible to participate in the competition if UEFA is comfortably satisfied that the impact of a decision taken in connection with the same factual circumstances by a national or international sporting body, arbitral tribunal or state court has already had the effect to prevent that club from participating in a UEFA club competition.

4.03 In addition to the administrative measure of declaring a club ineligible as provided for in Paragraph 4.02, the UEFA Organs for the Administration of Justice can, if the circumstances so justify, also take disciplinary measures in accordance with the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations.

4.04 The UEFA General Secretary communicates the decisions on admission to the competition to the clubs in writing, with a copy to their associations. Such decisions are final.

4.05 If there is any doubt as to whether a club fulfils the admission criteria defined in Paragraph 4.01(c) and Paragraph 4.01(d), the UEFA General Secretary refers the case to the UEFA Club Financial Control Body, which decides without delay upon the admission in accordance with the Procedural rules governing the UEFA Club Financial Control Body. UEFA may carry out investigations at any time (even after the end of the competition) to ensure that these two admission criteria are or have been met until the end of the competition; if such an investigation reveals that one of these two criteria is or was no longer met in the course of the competition, the club concerned is liable to disciplinary measures in accordance with the Procedural rules governing the UEFA Club Financial Control Body.

4.06 If there is any doubt as to whether a club fulfils other admission criteria than those defined in Paragraph 4.01(c) and Paragraph 4.01(d), the UEFA General Secretary refers the case to the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body, which decides without delay upon the admission in accordance with the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations. UEFA may carry out investigations at any time (even after the end of the competition) to ensure that these other criteria are or have been met until the end of the competition; if such an investigation reveals that one of
these other criteria is or was no longer met in the course of the competition, the
club concerned is liable to disciplinary measures in accordance with the UEFA
Disciplinary Regulations.

4.07 A club which is not admitted to the competition is replaced by the next best-
placed club in the top domestic youth championship of the same association,
provided the new club fulfils the admission criteria. In this case, the access list for
the UEFA club competitions (see Annex A) is adjusted accordingly.

Article 5   Integrity of the competition

5.01 To ensure the integrity of the competition, the following criteria apply:
a. no club participating in the competition may, either directly or indirectly:
i. hold or deal in the securities or shares of any other club participating in
the competition,
ii. be a member of any other club participating in the competition,
iii. be involved in any capacity whatsoever in the management, administration
and/or sporting performance of any other club participating in the
competition, or
iv. have any power whatsoever in the management, administration and/or
sporting performance of any other club participating in the competition;
b. no one may simultaneously be involved, either directly or indirectly, in any
capacity whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting
performance of more than one club participating in the competition;
c. no individual or legal entity may have control or influence over more than one
club participating in the competition, such control or influence being defined
in this context as:
i. holding a majority of the shareholders’ voting rights;
ii. having the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the
administrative, management or supervisory body of the club;
iii. being a shareholder and alone controlling a majority of the shareholders’
voting rights pursuant to an agreement entered into with other
shareholders of the club; or
iv. being able to exercise by any means a decisive influence in the decision-
making of the club.

5.02 If two or more clubs fail to meet the criteria aimed at ensuring the integrity of the
competition, only one of them may be admitted to the competition, in
accordance with the following criteria (applicable in descending order):
a. the club entering the competition in the UEFA Champions League path;
b. the club whose association has the highest association coefficient ranking, as
shown in Annex A.

5.03 Clubs that are not admitted are replaced in accordance with Paragraph 4.07.
Article 6  Duties of the clubs

6.01 On entering the competition, participating clubs agree:
   a. to play in the competition until their elimination and to field their strongest team of the age category throughout the competition;
   b. to stage and play all matches in the competition in accordance with the present regulations;
   c. to comply with all decisions regarding the competition taken by the UEFA Executive Committee, the UEFA administration or any other competent body and communicated appropriately (by UEFA circular letter or by official letter, fax or email);
   d. to observe the *UEFA Safety and Security Regulations* for all matches in the competition;
   e. to stage each match in the competition in a stadium meeting the structural criteria of the stadium category required by Paragraph 25.01;
   f. not to represent UEFA or the competition without UEFA’s prior written approval;
   g. to update the UEFA administration in writing within 14 working days about any facts and information related to the admission criteria (see Paragraph 4.01) that have changed since the admission of the club (including changes affecting the official entry documents);
   h. to inform the UEFA administration about any disciplinary procedure opened against the club and/or its players and/or its officials by its association and/or its professional league for allegedly arranging or influencing the outcome of a match at national level; the same applies for any football-related procedure opened by a state authority against the club and/or its players and/or its officials based on the criminal code.

6.02 The club may use its name and/or logo provided all the following requirements are satisfied:
   a. the name is mentioned in the statutes of the club;
   b. if required by national law, it is registered with the chamber of commerce or equivalent body;
   c. it is registered at its association and used in national competitions;
   d. the name and logo do not refer to the name of a commercial partner.

Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the UEFA administration in case of particular hardship (e.g. long-term existing name, etc.) at the reasoned request of the club concerned.

If so requested, the club must provide the UEFA administration with the necessary evidence.

Article 7  Responsibilities of the associations and clubs

7.01 If necessary, visiting clubs must apply for visas from the diplomatic mission of the host country well in advance of their trip. Upon request, the home club must assist the visiting club as much as possible with the visa formalities.
7.02 The clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out a function at a match on their behalf.

7.03 In conjunction with UEFA, the home club undertakes to make the appropriate arrangements for the staging of the matches it is hosting.

7.04 The home club (or the host association) is responsible for order and security before, during and after the match. The home club (or the host association) may be called to account for incidents of any kind and may be disciplined.

7.05 The club considered the home club must stage its matches in accordance with the instructions of UEFA (or of a third party acting on UEFA’s behalf) and in cooperation with the association concerned. However, the club is considered solely accountable for all of its obligations in this respect.

7.06 Minimum medical requirements concerning the provision of facilities, equipment and personnel by the home club are set out in the *UEFA Medical Regulations*. For the avoidance of doubt, the home club has sole responsibility for the provision and operation of any facilities and equipment required in the above-mentioned regulations.

7.07 Each club indemnifies, defends and holds UEFA, its subsidiaries and all of their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents and other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to any non-compliance by the club or any of its players, officials, employees, representatives or agents with these regulations.

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**Article 8  Anti-doping**

8.01 Doping is forbidden and is a punishable offence. In case of anti-doping rule violations, UEFA will instigate disciplinary proceedings against the perpetrators and take the appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with the *UEFA Disciplinary Regulations* and *UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations*. This may include the imposition of provisional measures.

8.02 UEFA may test any player at any time.

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**Article 9  Fair play**

9.01 All UEFA competition matches must be played in accordance with the principles of fair play as defined in the *UEFA Statutes*.

9.02 Fair play assessments are conducted at all matches in the competition in accordance with the *UEFA Fair Play Regulations*, in order to establish association fair play rankings at the end of each season.
**Article 10  Insurance**

10.01 All persons involved in the competition are responsible for their own insurance cover.

10.02 The participating clubs are responsible for and undertake to conclude all necessary and adequate insurance cover for their delegations, including players and officials, at their own expense for the whole duration of the competition.

10.03 Home clubs staging matches in the competition must conclude appropriate insurance cover with reputable insurers for all of their risks arising under these regulations at their own expense, in accordance with their respective responsibilities, as set out in Article 7 of these regulations. The third-party liability policy must include an appropriate guaranteed sum for damages to persons, objects and property, as well as for pure economic losses corresponding to the specific circumstances of the clubs concerned. Likewise, the policies must fully cover all risks connected with the staging of the matches in question (including, but not limited to, force majeure events). In any case, home clubs must ensure that UEFA is included as co-insured party in all insurance policies as defined in the present paragraph.

10.04 If the home club is not the owner of a stadium used, it must ensure that the stadium owner and/or tenant in question provides a fully comprehensive insurance cover, including third-party liability and property damage. If appropriate insurance policies are not provided by the stadium owner and/or tenant in due time, the home club is required to conclude the necessary additional insurance cover at its own cost, failing which it may be concluded by UEFA at the home club’s expense.

10.05 Claims for damages against UEFA are expressly excluded and anyone involved must hold UEFA harmless from any and all claims for liability arising in relation to the competition. In any case, UEFA may request anyone involved to provide, free of charge, written releases of liability, hold harmless notes, confirmation and/or copies of the policies concerned in one of UEFA’s official languages.

**Article 11  Trophy and medals**

11.01 The Lennart Johansson Trophy, which is used for the official presentation ceremony at the final, remains in UEFA’s keeping and ownership at all times. A full-size replica trophy, the UEFA Youth League winners' trophy, is awarded to the winning club.

11.02 The winning team is presented with thirty gold medals and the runner-up with thirty silver medals. Additional medals may not be produced.
Article 12 Intellectual property rights

12.01 UEFA is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the competition, including any current or future rights in all audio and visual (with or without audio) material of the competition, names, logos, brands, music, mascots, medals, plaques, commemorative items and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written approval of UEFA, and must comply with any conditions imposed by UEFA.

12.02 All rights to the fixture list and match schedule, as well as any data and statistics (including databases in which such data is stored) in relation to the matches of and players’ participation in the competition are the sole and exclusive property of UEFA. No tickets or accreditation may be used by anyone in order to gain access to a venue for the purposes of collecting or gathering such data, and such activities are expressly prohibited. The foregoing prohibition does not apply to the participating clubs, subject to any and all such data collected being used solely for the purposes of instructing their team, players and officials and expressly excluding any other exploitation or use whatsoever.
II – Competition System

Article 13  Competition stages and seeding

13.01 Matches in all stages of the competition are played in conformity with the IFAB Laws of the Game. The half-time interval lasts 15 minutes.

13.02 Each match lasts 2 x 45 minutes.

13.03 As shown in Annex B, the competition consists of:
   a. phase one in two paths:
      – UEFA Champions League path, comprising a group stage (six matchdays)
      – domestic champions path, comprising a first and second round (home and away matches)
   b. phase two in one path (all single-leg ties):
      – knockout round play-offs (hereinafter play-offs)
      – round of 16
      – quarter-finals
      – semi-finals
      – final.

13.04 The ties are determined by means of a draw. For matches over two legs, the club drawn first plays the first leg of the tie at home. For single-leg ties, the club drawn first plays at home.

13.05 The UEFA administration may decide that a tie be played in one leg, if circumstances so require, and will set the principles for determining the winner accordingly.

Article 14  Group formation and match system – UEFA Champions League path group stage

14.01 In principle, the groups drawn for the group stage of the UEFA Champions League (i.e. eight groups of four teams) and the match calendar for that competition are used for the UEFA Champions League path group stage.

14.02 Each club plays one home and one away match against each other club in its group. Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw and none for a defeat.

14.03 If two or more teams are equal on points on completion of the group matches, the following criteria are applied in the order given to determine their rankings:
   a. higher number of points obtained in the group matches played among the teams in question;
   b. superior goal difference from the group matches played among the teams in question;
c. higher number of goals scored in the group matches played among the teams in question;
d. higher number of goals scored away from home in the group matches played among the teams in question;
e. if, after having applied criteria a) to d), teams still have an equal ranking, criteria a) to d) are reapplied exclusively to the matches between the teams in question to determine their final rankings. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, criteria f) to l) apply;
f. superior goal difference in all group matches;
g. higher number of goals scored in all group matches;
h. higher number of away goals scored in all group matches;
i. higher number of wins in all group matches;
j. higher number of away wins in all group matches;
k. lower disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received in all group matches (red card = 3 points, yellow card = 1 point, expulsion for two yellow cards in one match = 3 points);
l. drawing of lots.

14.04 The eight group winners qualify directly for the round of 16 while the eight runners-up qualify for the play-offs.

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**Article 15** Match system – first and second rounds of the domestic champions path

15.01 The first and second round pairings are determined by means of an open draw. For the purposes of the draw, the UEFA administration may form groups and may include geographical conditions that prevent teams from having to travel long distances.

15.02 The first and second rounds are played under the cup (knockout) system, with each club playing each opponent twice, in home and away matches. The team which scores the greater aggregate of goals in the two matches qualifies for the next stage. Otherwise, the stipulations of Article 19 apply.

15.03 The 16 winners of the first round contest the second round.

15.04 The eight winners of the second round qualify for the play-offs.

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**Article 16** Match system – play-offs

16.01 The eight runners-up of the UEFA Champions League path group stage and the eight winners of the second round of the domestic champions path contest the play-offs. The play-off pairings are determined by means of a draw.
The play-offs are played in single-leg knockout matches in accordance with Article 19. The UEFA administration ensures that the following principles are respected:

a. Clubs from the same association cannot be drawn against each other.
b. The eight winners of the second round of the domestic champions path play at home.

The eight winners of the play-offs qualify for the round of 16.

**Article 17** Match system – round of 16

17.01 The eight group winners of the UEFA Champions League path group stage and the eight winners of the play-offs contest the round of 16, for which the pairings are determined by means of a draw. This draw also determines which will be the home teams.

17.02 The round of 16 is played in single-leg knockout matches in accordance with Article 19. The UEFA administration ensures that clubs which have played in the same group cannot be drawn against each other.

17.03 The eight winners of the round of 16 qualify for the quarter-finals.

**Article 18** Match system as from the quarter-finals

18.01 The quarter-final pairings are determined by means of a draw. This draw also determines which will be the home teams.

18.02 The four winners of the quarter-finals contest the semi-finals, which are played at a neutral venue. The semi-final pairings and the teams considered as the home teams are determined by means of a draw. There is no third-place match.

18.03 The two winners of the semi-finals play the final in a single match at a neutral venue, in principle the same venue as for the semi-finals. The team considered the home team is determined by means of a draw.

18.04 The quarter-finals, semi-finals and final are played in single-leg knockout matches in accordance with Article 19.

**Article 19** Away goals rule and kicks from the penalty mark

19.01 For the first and second rounds of the domestic champions path, which are played under the knockout system, in home and away matches, if the two teams involved in a tie score the same number of goals over the two legs, the team which scores more away goals qualifies for the next stage. If this procedure does not produce a result, i.e. if both teams score the same number of goals at home and away, no extra time is played at the end of the second leg. Kicks from the penalty mark determine which team qualifies for the next stage.
19.02 For play-offs, round of 16 matches, quarter-finals, semi-finals and the final, which are all played in single-leg knockout matches, if the two teams involved in a tie score the same number of goals, no extra time is played at the end of normal playing time. Kicks from the penalty mark determine the winning team.

19.03 Kicks from the penalty mark are taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

19.04 The referee decides which goal will be used for the kicks:
   a. If either goal could be used for the kicks, then, in the presence of the two captains, the referee tosses a coin to decide which goal will be used.
   b. For reasons of safety/security, state of the field of play, lighting or other similar reasons, the referee may decide which goal will be used without tossing a coin. Such decisions are final and require no justification.

19.05 To ensure that the procedure is strictly observed, the referee is assisted by his team, who also note down the numbers of the players on each team who have taken kicks from the penalty mark.

19.06 If through the fault of a team, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, the provisions of Article 24 apply.
III – Match Scheduling

Article 20  Match dates and fixtures

20.01 All matches in the competition are played in accordance with Annex C.

20.02 UEFA reserves the right to decide on the date of the semi-finals and final, as well as on the date of matches that are televised (after consultation with the two teams) or on any other match date, if circumstances so require.

20.03 For the UEFA Champions League path group stage, the following principles apply:
   a. Unless the teams and UEFA agree otherwise, in principle matches are played in UEFA Champions League matchweeks (see Annex C), on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.
   b. In principle, the teams play their matches on the same day as the corresponding senior teams in the UEFA Champions League.
   c. If both teams and the UEFA administration agree, matches may also be played on other dates, including the Monday or Thursday of a UEFA Champions League matchweek.

20.04 For the domestic champions path first and second rounds, the following principles apply:
   a. Unless the teams and UEFA agree otherwise, in principle matches are played on Wednesdays (see Annex C).
   b. In principle, the teams play their first-round matches in matchweeks two and three of the UEFA Champions League and their second-round matches in matchweeks four and five of the UEFA Champions League.
   c. If both teams and the UEFA administration agree, matches may also be played on other dates, including the Monday, Tuesday or Thursday of a UEFA Champions League matchweek.

20.05 For phase two of the competition, unless the teams and UEFA agree otherwise, in principle the play-offs, round of 16 matches and quarter-finals are played in the matchweeks indicated in Annex C, on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

20.06 If both teams and the UEFA administration agree, the play-offs, round of 16 matches and quarter-finals may also be played on other dates, provided they are completed before the following dates:
   a. play-offs: 12 February 2016;
   b. round of 16: 26 February 2016;

20.07 Match dates must be announced to opponents and the UEFA administration at least one month prior to the match in question, with the exception of the first two matchdays of the UEFA Champions League path group stage and the first round of the domestic champions path, the match dates for which must be announced the day of the respective draws.
**Article 21  Venues and kick-off times**

21.01 Match venues must be chosen by the home club and announced to its opponents and the UEFA administration by the deadline set by the latter and communicated in writing.

21.02 The home club must ensure that the match venue is easily accessible and located within an acceptable distance of an international airport. For matches in the UEFA Champions League path, the home club must ensure that the match venue is not located more than a 45-minute bus drive from the corresponding UEFA Champions League match venue.

21.03 The home club must assist the visiting club with the selection of its hotel, which should be within a 30-minute bus drive of the selected match venue.

21.04 If a senior team’s UEFA Champions League matches have to be moved to another city and this is communicated before the draw, the corresponding UEFA Youth League matches in the UEFA Champions League path will be played in the city of the UEFA Youth League home team, unless the clubs and the UEFA administration agree otherwise.

21.05 If a senior team’s UEFA Champions League match has to be moved to another city due to unforeseen circumstances and this is communicated after the match dates have been announced in accordance with Paragraph 20.07, the UEFA administration will decide on the venue for the corresponding UEFA Youth League match in the UEFA Champions League path in consultation with the two clubs.

21.06 With the exception of matches that are televised, home teams are free to decide on kick-off times (after consultation with the visiting team).

21.07 UEFA reserves the right to decide on the kick-off times of matches that are televised (after consultation with the two teams).

21.08 Kick-off times must be announced to opponents and the UEFA administration at least one month prior to the match in question, with the exception of the first two matchdays of the UEFA Champions League path group stage and the first round of the domestic champions path, the kick-off times for which must be announced the day of the respective draws.

**Article 22  Match abandoned**

22.01 If there are fewer than seven players on either of the teams, the match is abandoned. In this case, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body decides on the consequences.

22.02 If the referee decides to abandon the match, for example because the field is not fit for play, the remaining match time must, in principle, be played the next day, unless the case is referred to the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body. The date on which the match will be completed must be decided within two hours of
the referee’s decision to abandon the match, in consultation with the two clubs and the associations concerned. In case of dispute, the UEFA administration fixes the venue, date and kick-off time of the match. Its decision is final.

22.03 If the remaining time of a match has to be played the next day or on another date set by the UEFA administration, the following principles apply:

a. The match sheet may contain any of the eligible players who were on the players lists when the match was abandoned, irrespective of whether they were actually on the match sheet for the abandoned match, with the exception of players substituted or sent off during the abandoned match as well as players suspended for the abandoned match. The players who were in play at the time the match was abandoned may not be included on the match sheet as substitutes when the match is resumed.

b. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match.

23.02 If any doubt arises as to the condition of the field of play after the visiting team’s departure from home, the referee decides on the spot whether or not it is fit for play.

23.03 If the match cannot commence for whatever reason (e.g. condition of the field of play), it must be played either the next day or on another date set by the UEFA administration. A decision must be taken within two hours of the decision to
cancel the match, in consultation with the two clubs and the associations concerned. In case of dispute, the UEFA administration fixes the venue, date and kick-off time of the match. Its decision is final.

23.04 If the circumstances require the home club to notify the UEFA administration and the visiting club before their departure from home of a match not being able to be played and if the home club fails to do so, it is responsible for the travel, board and lodging expenses of the visiting club and the referee team.

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**Article 24  Refusal to play and similar cases**

24.01 If a club refuses to play or is responsible for a match not taking place or not being played in full, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body takes a decision in the matter.

24.02 Exceptionally, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body can validate the result as it stood at the moment when the match was abandoned if the match result was to the detriment of the club responsible for the match being abandoned.

24.03 A club which refuses to play or is responsible for a match not taking place or not being played in full loses all rights to payments from UEFA.

24.04 Upon receipt of a reasoned and well-documented request from the aggrieved club(s), the UEFA administration may set an amount of compensation due for financial loss.
IV – Stadium Infrastructure

Article 25  Stadiums

25.01 Unless stipulated otherwise in these regulations, matches in the competition must be played in a stadium which meets the structural criteria of category 1, as defined in the UEFA Stadium Infrastructure Regulations.

25.02 The UEFA administration may set higher requirements to ensure proper TV coverage if need be.

25.03 A stadium used for a UEFA Champions League or UEFA Europa League match can only be used for a UEFA Youth League match with UEFA’s prior approval.

25.04 The UEFA administration may grant an exception to a specific structural criterion for the stadium category in question in cases of particular hardship and upon reasoned request, for instance owing to the current national legislation or if the fulfilment of all the required criteria would force the club to play its home matches on the territory of another association. An exception can be granted for one or more matches in the competition or for the whole duration of the competition. Such decisions are final.

25.05 Each association on whose territory matches are played is responsible for:
   a. inspecting every stadium concerned and returning the corresponding online form to the UEFA administration confirming that the stadiums meet the structural criteria of the required stadium category;
   b. confirming to the UEFA administration that the stadiums, including their facilities (emergency lighting system, first aid facilities, type of protection against intrusion by spectators into the playing area, etc.), have been thoroughly inspected by the competent public authorities and meet all the safety requirements laid down by the applicable national law.

25.06 The UEFA administration makes decisions on stadiums on the basis of the above form and confirmation, and any other information gathered by UEFA. Such decisions are final.

25.07 The UEFA administration and/or UEFA media and marketing partners may carry out stadium inspections at any time before and during the competition to check whether the required structural criteria are met.

Article 26  Pitches

26.01 The home club must make every reasonable effort to ensure that the pitch is in the best possible condition for play. If the pitch is not fit for play, the home club is requested to propose an alternative solution to allow the match to be played in accordance with UEFA’s requirements.
27.01 Matches may be played on artificial turf, in accordance with the *UEFA Stadium Infrastructure Regulations* and provided that such artificial turf meets the FIFA International Artificial Turf Standard. A copy of the relevant FIFA certificate, issued within the 12 months preceding the relevant match, must be provided to the UEFA administration upon request.

27.02 The owner of the artificial turf and the home club are fully responsible for meeting the above requirements, in particular those related to:
   a. maintenance work and ongoing improvement measures; and
   b. safety and environmental measures as set out in the *FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf – Handbook of Requirements* and the *FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf – Handbook of Test Methods*.

27.03 The owner of the artificial turf and the home club must obtain sufficient warranties and/or guarantees related to the material and the installation from the manufacturer and the installer of the artificial turf.

27.04 UEFA cannot be held responsible for any damages to third parties resulting from the use of the artificial turf.

28.01 Matches may be played in daylight or under floodlights.

28.02 Evening matches may only be played at stadiums equipped with floodlighting installations which provide sufficient light. The referee, in cooperation with the UEFA match delegate, takes a final decision in this respect.
V – Match Organisation

Article 29  Match equipment

29.01 The applicable official UEFA Champions League match ball provided by the UEFA administration must be used for all matches in the competition.

29.02 The use of two-sided substitution boards (preferably electronic) is compulsory.

29.03 The UEFA Youth League centre board must be installed at all matches in the competition, in accordance with UEFA’s instructions.

Article 30  Training sessions

30.01 The home club should prepare training facilities for the visiting club if the latter asks to train on-site. These facilities do not necessarily need to be the same as for the match, but they should be of a good standard, with dressing rooms able to accommodate 18 players and six club staff. These facilities should be located no more than a 30-minute bus drive from the visiting club’s hotel.

Article 31  Venue data coordinator

31.01 The home club must ensure that the venue data coordinator (VDC) appointed by UEFA to gather live data during the match is provided with:

a. a commentary position (or an equivalent position) with dedicated broadband internet access, which needs to be in place from the morning of the match until 90 minutes after the final whistle; and

b. an accreditation permitting access to the referees’ dressing room (where not otherwise provided by UEFA).
VI – Match Procedures

Article 32 Match sheet

32.01 Before each match, each team shall indicate in the relevant match sheet the numbers, surnames, first names and dates of birth and, if applicable, shirt names of the 18 players in the squad, together with the surnames and first names of the officials seated on the substitutes’ bench and on the additional technical seats. The match sheet must be validated by the competent club official.

32.02 The 11 players indicated on the match sheet as forming the starting 11 must commence the match. The other seven are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the players’ shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the match sheet. The goalkeepers and team captain must be identified.

32.03 Both clubs must provide the referee with their validated match sheets at least 75 minutes before kick-off.

32.04 Only three of the substitutes listed on the match sheet may take part in the match. A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.

32.05 After the validated match sheets have been provided to the referee by both teams, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:

   a. If any of the 11 players indicated on the match sheet as forming the starting 11 are not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any of the seven substitutes listed on the initial match sheet. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by a registered player (players) not listed on the initial match sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, three players may still be substituted.

   b. If any of the seven substitutes listed on the match sheet are not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by a registered player not listed on the initial match sheet.

   c. If none of the goalkeepers listed on the match sheet are able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may be replaced by registered goalkeepers not listed on the initial match sheet.

The club concerned must, upon request, provide the UEFA administration with the necessary medical certificates.

Article 33 Match protocol

33.01 The UEFA flag and the Respect flag must be flown at the stadium at all matches in the competition.

33.02 At all matches in the competition, the players are invited to shake hands with their opponents and the referee team after the line-up ceremony as well as after the final whistle, as a gesture of fair play.
Article 34  Rules governing the technical area

34.01 Six team officials, one of whom must be a team doctor, and seven substitute players are allowed to sit on the substitutes’ bench, i.e. a total of 13 persons. The names of all these persons and their functions must be listed on the match sheet.

34.02 Smoking is not allowed in the technical area during matches.
VII – Player Registration

Article 35  Player eligibility

35.01 Players are eligible to play in the competition if they fulfil all the player registration conditions throughout the competition, as set out in the present regulations. Only eligible players can serve pending suspensions.

35.02 Players must be duly registered with the association concerned in accordance with the association’s own rules and those of FIFA, notably the *FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players*.

35.03 Each player taking part in the competition must be in possession of a player’s registration licence issued by his association or a valid passport or identity card, each containing his photograph and giving full particulars of his date of birth (day, month, year). The referee may ask to see the passports/identity cards of the players listed on the match sheet.

35.04 Players are eligible to play in the competition if they were born on or after 1 January 1997.

35.05 All players must undergo a medical examination to the extent provided for by the *UEFA Medical Regulations*.

35.06 The club bears the legal consequences for fielding a player who is not named on the player list, or who is otherwise not eligible to play.

35.07 In the course of a season, a player is eligible to play only for one single club in this competition.

35.08 Any player who is fielded in three or more UEFA Champions League or UEFA Europa League matches (as of the group stages of those competitions) in the course of the 2015/16 season ceases to be eligible to play in the UEFA Youth League.

35.09 The UEFA administration decides on questions of player eligibility. Challenged decisions are dealt with by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body.

Article 36  Player lists

36.01 Each club is responsible for submitting a list of a maximum of 40 players for the entire season, duly signed, to its association for verification, validation, signature and forwarding to UEFA. This list must include the surname, first name, date of birth and nationality of all players to be fielded in the competition in question, as well as the surname and first name of the head coach. In addition, the list must include the confirmation by the club’s doctor that all players have undergone the requested medical examination; the club’s doctor is solely responsible for ensuring that the requested players’ medical examination has been duly performed.
36.02 The list of 40 players has to be submitted by 2 September 2015 (24.00CET). No club may have more than 40 players on that list, at least three of whom must be goalkeepers.

36.03 The list of 40 players may be amended at any time up until seven days before each match in the competition. Any new players must be registered in accordance with the requirements set out in Paragraph 36.01 and Paragraph 36.02.

36.04 Exceptionally, up to three players born on or after 1 January 1996 may be included on the list of 40 players, provided the following criteria are fulfilled:
   a. The player has been eligible to play for the club concerned without interruption for the two years immediately preceding 14 September 2015.
   b. The player is duly registered at the beginning of the season in accordance with Paragraph 36.01 to Paragraph 36.02.
   c. The player is not replaced on the list of 40 players, except in the event of long-term injury/illness or registration with another club. An injury or illness is considered long-term if it lasts at least 30 days as of the day the injury or illness occurred. The club must provide UEFA with the necessary medical evidence in one of UEFA’s official languages.

36.05 Each club must submit a shortlist of 20 eligible players from its list of 40 players by 20.00CET the day before each match. No club may have more than 20 players on its shortlist before a match. As a minimum, 12 places on that 20-player shortlist are reserved exclusively for players who have been eligible to play for the club concerned without interruption for the two years immediately preceding 14 September 2015.

36.06 The clubs and their associations are responsible for ensuring that the aforementioned provisions concerning player eligibility and lists of players are observed.
Article 37 Referee team and referee liaison officer

37.01 The General Terms and Conditions for Referees officiating at UEFA Matches apply to the referee teams appointed for the competition.

37.02 The referee team is composed of the referee, two assistant referees, the fourth official and, if appointed, two additional assistant referees.

37.03 The referees are taken care of by a referee liaison officer, who is an official representative of the host association.

37.04 Directly after the match, the referee validates the official match report.

Article 38 Appointment and replacement of referees

38.01 The Referees Committee appoints a referee for each match. Only referees from the official FIFA list of referees are eligible. The rest of the referee team is, in principle, proposed by the association of the referee, in accordance with criteria established by the Referees Committee.

38.02 If a referee or assistant referee becomes unfit before or during a match and is unable to officiate, he is replaced by another member of the referee team in accordance with the principles established by the Referees Committee.

Article 39 Procedure in case of severe injury to players

39.01 In the event of a suspected concussion the referee stops the game to allow the injured player to be assessed by the team doctor, in accordance with Law 5 of the IFAB Laws of the Game. In principle this should take no more than three minutes, unless a serious incident requires the player to be treated on the field of play or immobilised on the field for immediate transfer to hospital (e.g. spinal injury).

39.02 Any player suffering a head injury that requires assessment for potential concussion will only be allowed to continue playing after the assessment, on specific confirmation by the team doctor to the referee of the player's fitness to do so.
Article 40 UEFA Disciplinary Regulations

40.01 The provisions of the *UEFA Disciplinary Regulations* apply for all disciplinary offences committed by clubs, officials, members or other individuals exercising a function at a match on behalf of an association or club, unless the present regulations stipulate otherwise.

Article 41 Yellow and red cards

41.01 As a rule, a player who is sent off the field of play is suspended for the next match in the competition. In case of serious offences, the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body is entitled to augment this punishment, including by extending it to other competitions.

41.02 In case of repeated cautions, a player is suspended for the next competition match after three cautions in three different matches, as well as following any subsequent odd-numbered caution (fifth, seventh, etc.).

41.03 After a team’s elimination, cautions and pending yellow-card suspensions expire and are not carried forward.

41.04 A pending red-card suspension that cannot be served during the current competition is carried forward to the next UEFA club competition match(es) for which the player would be otherwise eligible.

Article 42 Protests

42.01 Participating clubs are entitled to protest against the validity of a match result within 24 hours of the end of the match in question in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *UEFA Disciplinary Regulations*. 
X – Kit

Article 43 Kit approval

43.01 The UEFA Kit Regulations apply to all matches in the competition, unless specified otherwise in these regulations.

43.02 For all matches up to and including the quarter-finals, the domestic kit regulations of the relevant associations apply, provided that the sponsor advertising on the kit complies with Article 32 of the UEFA Kit Regulations and the kit has been approved for and worn in domestic competition matches.

43.03 For the semi-finals and final, sponsor advertising is allowed on players’ shirts in accordance with Articles 32 to 36 of the UEFA Kit Regulations unless the UEFA administration decides otherwise.

43.04 Each club taking part in the competition must submit a signed copy of the official kit approval form by the deadline communicated by the UEFA administration.

43.05 Kit used as of the semi-finals must be approved by the UEFA administration. Clubs must submit samples of their first-choice and second-choice kit, including the goalkeeper’s kit (shirt, shorts and socks) to the UEFA administration before the semi-finals. Kits that have been submitted and approved for use in a UEFA competition by the club’s senior team do not need to be re-submitted or re-approved.

Article 44 Colours

44.01 For all competition matches, the home club has the first choice as to which of its official kits announced on the kit application form it wears for its home matches. The clubs agree on the colours to be worn from the kits announced on their kit application forms. If the clubs are unable to agree on the colours to be worn by their teams, they inform the UEFA administration, who takes a final decision.

44.02 For matches in the UEFA Champions League path group stage, teams are asked, whenever possible, to wear the colours chosen by their senior teams for the corresponding UEFA Champions League match. As of phase two of the competition, the UEFA administration makes proposals for the kits to be worn. The proposals can be changed at the request of the clubs provided the alternative solution does not lead to clashes in any part of the kit. If no agreement can be found, the UEFA administration takes a final decision.

44.03 In any case, if the referee notices on the spot that the colours of the two teams could lead to confusion, he decides on the colours, after consulting the UEFA match delegate and the UEFA administration. As a rule, in such cases it is the home team that has to change colours, for practical reasons.
Article 45  Numbers

45.01 Players must wear numbers between 1 and 99. If the number 1 is used, it must be worn by a goalkeeper.

45.02 A number may also appear on the front of the shorts, on either leg, in any position. This number must be between 10cm and 15cm in height and clearly legible.

Article 46  Badges

46.01 The UEFA Respect badge may be used on the free zone of the left shirt sleeve from the semi-finals onwards.

Article 47  Financial rules up to the quarter-finals

47.01 The home club retains its revenue (revenue from ticket sales, refreshments, concessions, etc.) and pays all match organisation costs (rental of match stadium, floodlighting, rental of training facilities for the visiting team, security and medical arrangements, if applicable, installations for the TV production, etc.).

47.02 The home club assumes the costs of local transport for the visiting club from their arrival in the city where the match is played until their departure, unless agreed otherwise by the clubs.

47.03 The travel and accommodation costs of the visiting team’s delegation (up to 24 persons) will be borne by UEFA on the basis of the reimbursement policy communicated by UEFA at the start of the season. The difference between UEFA’s contribution and the actual travel and accommodation costs will be borne by the visiting club.

Article 48  Financial rules – semi-finals and final

48.01 UEFA ensures the organisation of the semi-finals and final and pays for all related costs (including the transport of the teams on-site).

48.02 The travel and accommodation costs of the four teams (with up to 24 persons in each team) are borne by UEFA on the basis of the reimbursement policy communicated by UEFA prior to the semi-finals. The difference between UEFA’s contribution and the actual travel and accommodation costs will be borne by the clubs.
XII – Exploitation of the Commercial Rights

Article 49 Commercial rights

49.01 UEFA is the exclusive, absolute legal and beneficial owner of the commercial rights.

49.02 UEFA has authorised the clubs to exploit certain media rights and marketing rights in the manner and to the extent set out in the *Media and Marketing Guidelines* issued to the clubs by UEFA.
Article 50  Media access

50.01 No representatives of the written press or audio media are allowed in the playing area or the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators.

50.02 No media representatives are allowed to go on to the field of play before, during or after the match, with the exception of the host broadcaster camera crew covering the team line-ups at the start of the match and up to two host broadcaster camera crews filming the teams after the end of the match.

50.03 Only a limited number of photographers, cameramen and production staff of the audiovisual rights holders – all equipped with the appropriate pitch-access accreditation – are allowed to work in the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators (see Annex D).

50.04 The team dressing rooms are off limits to media representatives before, during and after the match. However, subject to the clubs’ prior agreement, one camera of the host broadcaster may enter the dressing room to film the players’ shirts and equipment.

50.05 Further media requirements may be issued by the UEFA administration at any time during the competition.

Article 51  Matchday media activities

51.01 Interviews are not permitted before or during the match on the field of play itself or in its immediate vicinity. However, subject to the agreement of the club concerned, arrival, half-time and flash interviews can take place according to the following rules:

a. Interviews are allowed with coaches before the match.

b. Half-time interviews may be conducted with one of the listed team officials, subject to the agreement of their team. No players listed on the match sheet, including those on the substitutes’ bench, may be interviewed at half-time.

c. Flash interviews take place immediately after the final whistle in an area between the substitutes’ benches and the dressing rooms.

d. Clubs are also requested to make their head coach and players available, upon request, to other sectors of the media (e.g. written press and radio) after the match. This can be organised in a mixed zone or press conference format.

51.02 Any media equipment and personnel must be positioned in such a way that they do not present any danger for players or the referee team. The field of play itself must always be kept free of cameras, cables and media personnel. Typical media equipment locations are set out in Annex D.
XIV – Closing Provisions

**Article 52 Implementing provisions**

52.01 The UEFA administration is entrusted with the operational management of the competition and is therefore entitled to take the decisions and adopt the detailed provisions and guidelines necessary for implementing these regulations.

**Article 53 Unforeseen circumstances**

53.01 Any matters not provided for in these regulations, such as cases of force majeure, are settled by the UEFA General Secretary, whose decisions are final.

**Article 54 Non-compliance**

54.01 Non-compliance with the obligations set out in these regulations may lead to disciplinary measures in accordance with the *UEFA Statutes*, the *UEFA Disciplinary Regulations* and the *Procedural rules governing the UEFA Club Financial Control Body*.

**Article 55 Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**

55.01 In case of litigation resulting from or in relation to these regulations, the provisions regarding the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) laid down in the *UEFA Statutes* apply.

**Article 56 Annexes**

56.01 All annexes form an integral part of these regulations.

**Article 57 Authoritative version**

57.01 If there is any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English, French or German versions of these regulations, the English version prevails.
Article 58  Adoption and entry into force

58.01 These regulations were adopted by the UEFA Executive Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2015 and come into force on 1 May 2015.

For the UEFA Executive Committee:

Michel Platini  Gianni Infantino
President  General Secretary

Vienna, 23 March 2015
## Annex A – 2015/16 UEFA Youth League Access List

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<tr>
<th>Association</th>
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### UEFA Champions League Path

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### Domestic Youth Champions Path

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N.B.: If the access list needs to be adjusted, it will be announced in writing.
Annex B – UEFA Youth League Competition System
Annex D – Media and TV camera positions

1. Teams pre-match
2. Photographers pre-match
3. Photographers during the match
4. Pitchside halfway camera
5. 20m cameras
6. Hand-held TV camera (pre-match, line-up and post-match)
7. Steadicams during the match
8. Reverse-angle cameras
9. Additional TV cameras (reserved area of minimum 10x2m)
10. Host broadcaster cameras (only remote cameras in front of boards)
11. Substitutes’ bench

Note: Diagram shows standard pitch set-up. All details subject to individual stadium conditions. All pitchside equipment to be positioned so that it does not present any danger to the players, coaches and match officials.
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