



Union des associations européennes de football



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## ***Referee appointed for UEFA Champions League final***

The UEFA Referees Committee today announced the referee for the final of the 2007/08 UEFA Champions League between Manchester United FC and Chelsea FC to be played at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow on Wednesday 21 May, kicking-off at 20.45 CET (22.45 local time in Moscow).

The match will be handled by Slovakian referee Lubos Michel, who celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday last Friday. Born in Stropkov, he made his refereeing debut at a 6<sup>th</sup>-category match between FK Duplin and FK Strocin in 1987. By 1993, he had graduated to the top division and, in the November of that year, made his international debut at a match involving England – a European Under-21 Championship fixture against San Marino.

Lubos Michel was at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and handled the Brazil v Argentina final of the 2005 FIFA Confederations Cup (Carlos Tévez was 72<sup>nd</sup>-minute sub). He had become the first referee from the independent Slovakia to officiate at a FIFA World Cup match (the Paraguay v South Africa fixture in 2002). At the 2006 finals he refereed the Portugal v Mexico game (Paulo Ferreira and Ricardo Carvalho played; Cristiano Ronaldo was on the bench), plus the Brazil v Ghana match (Michael Essien unused) and the Argentina v Germany game that featured Michael Ballack and Carlos Tévez.

Lubos Michel was referee of the 2003 UEFA Cup final in Seville between FC Porto and Celtic FC. At EURO 2004, he handled the Greece v Spain, Switzerland v France and Sweden v Netherlands games. He made his UEFA Champions League debut in 1998 and is the best-placed among the currently-active referees to become the second, after Denmark's Kim Milton Nielsen, to reach the milestone of 50 appearances in the competition. He was the referee of the Liverpool FC v Chelsea FC semi-final in 2005

In Moscow, Lubos Michel will be backed by the assistant referees who have accompanied him at his major tournaments: Roman Slysko (34) and Martin Balko (36). The 4<sup>th</sup> Official will be Vladimir Hrinak (44), also of Slovakia.

The finalists have announced their **media activities** at the Luzhniki Stadium on Tuesday 20 May. Manchester United FC will hold their Press Conference at 18.00 local time and will train from 18.30. Chelsea FC's Press Conference will start at 19.15 and they will train at 20.00.

**For further information:**  
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