



Union des associations européennes de football



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UEFA Executive Committee approves changes to UEFA club competitions

UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup revised from 2009 onwards

The UEFA Executive Committee today approved the proposed changes to both the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Cup competitions for the three-year cycle between 2009 and 2012, as from the 2009-10 season, as follows:

UEFA Champions League

- No changes to the main competition, involving 32 teams, split into 8 groups of 4 teams in the group stage, followed by the knockout phase. The 8 teams that finish the groups in third place cross over into the knockout phase of the UEFA Cup.
- Access list changed according to the following principles: 22 teams qualify directly for the group phase instead of 16 (N3 of associations 1 to 3 in the ranking and champions of countries 10 to 12 are added); 10 teams qualify through a double qualification path: one reserved for the champions of the associations ranked 13 to 53 - except Liechtenstein - (5 teams qualify) and one reserved for non-champions of associations ranked 1 to 15 (5 teams qualify).
- Final to be played on a Saturday, same week of the year as today, with kick-off time at 20.45 CET.
- Matches in the first knockout round (last 16) to be split over four weeks instead of two, using dates reserved for the UEFA club competitions (February-March) to maximise live match opportunities.
- Third qualifying round (Q3) to be marketed centrally by UEFA.

UEFA Cup

- Main competition changed according to the following principles: first round (knockout) becomes part of the qualifying phase; the group phase consists of 48 teams, split into 12 groups of 4 teams; the top two in each group qualify for the knockout phase and are joined by the 8 teams that finish the group stage of the UEFA Champions League in third place. The knockout phase, with 32 teams and 4 rounds, will lead to the final, played in a single match at a neutral venue.

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- Access list changed according to the following principles: only the titleholders qualify directly for the group phase; all other clubs have to qualify; UEFA Cup qualifying phase consists of 4 rounds, according to the access list; 37 slots added to the qualifying phase to accommodate clubs that currently qualify for the UEFA Intertoto Cup (associations ranked 9 to 15 and 22 to 51, except Liechtenstein); the losers of the UEFA Champions League second qualifying round (Q2) and third qualifying round (Q3) cross over into to the UEFA Cup, Q4 and group phase respectively.
- Matches to be played on Thursday night (and on Wednesday night during the exclusive UEFA Cup weeks), with two kick-off times, an early one and a late one, in principle at 19.05 and 21.05.
- Final to be played on a Wednesday at 20.45 CET.
- Full centralisation of media rights from the group stage (September); non exclusive presenting sponsor plus centralised match-ball for the group stage and full sponsorship centralisation (as for the UEFA Champions League) from the knockout stage (February).

The **UEFA Intertoto Cup** will be abolished.

Finally, for the **UEFA Super Cup** no changes are made to the format but commercially it will be bundled with the UEFA Champions League.

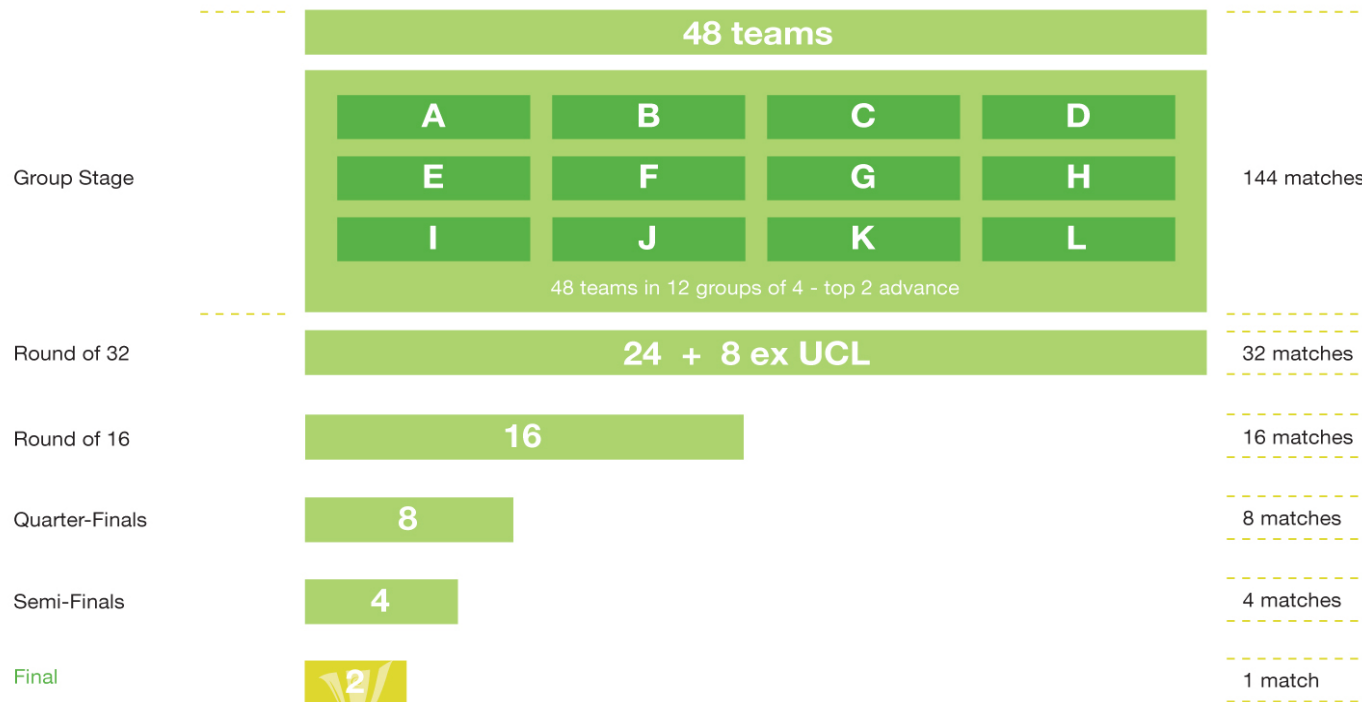
Annexes:

- UCL format & access list
- UCUP format & access list
- Calendar overview

UEFA Cup Format



UEFA Cup (2009/12)



Calendar Overview


Main Competitions


(based on 2009/10)


Match Days / Dates	Tue	Wed	Thu	Sat
1 15-17 Sept.	UCL1	UCL1	Ucup1	
2 29 Sept.-1 Oct.	UCL2	UCL2	Ucup2	
3 20-22 Oct.	UCL3	UCL3	Ucup3	
4 3-5 Nov.	UCL4	UCL4	Ucup4	
5 24-25 Nov.	UCL5	UCL5		
6 2-3 Dec.		Ucup5	Ucup5	
7 8-9 Dec.	UCL6	UCL6		
8 16-17 Dec.		Ucup6	Ucup6	

Winter Break

9 16-18 Feb.	UCL16	UCL16	Ucup32	
10 23-25 Feb.	UCL16	UCL16	Ucup32	
11 9-11 March	UCL16	UCL16	Ucup16	
12 16-18 March	UCL16	UCL16	Ucup16	
13 30 March -1 Apr.	UCLQF	UCLQF	UcupQF	
14 6-8 Apr.	UCLQF	UCLQF	UcupQF	
15 20-22 Apr.	UCLSF	UCLSF	UcupSF	
16 27-29 Apr.	UCLSF	UCLSF	UcupSF	
17 12 May		UcupF		
18 22 May				UCLF

 International date

 Domestic date

 New dates for Round of 16

Calendar Overview

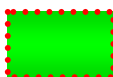
Qualification Phase

(based on 2009/10)

Dates	Tue	Wed	Thu
15-21 June		Ucup1	Ucup1
22-28 June		Ucup1	Ucup1
29 June - 5 July	Prel.	Prel.	Ucup2
6-12 July	Prel.	Prel.	Ucup2
13-19 July	UCL1	UCL1	
20-26 July	UCL1	UCL1	Ucup3
27 July - 02 August	UCL2	UCL2	Ucup3
03-09 August	UCL2	UCL2	
10-16 August	UCL3	UCL3	Ucup4
17-23 August		International	
24-30 August	UCL3	UCL3	Ucup4



Preliminary round



Could also be played on week ends