



WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL

Union des associations européennes de football



No. 30/2012

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of  
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference

Your correspondence of

Our reference

Date

PCLC/hes/mom

06.06.2012

**2012/13 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League – access to the competitions**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to provide you with an adjusted access list for the 2012/13 UEFA club competitions.

Following the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League finals, you will find below the specific adjustments related to both competitions, in accordance with Annex Ia of the 2012/13 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League regulations.

**UEFA Champions League**

Having won the final in Munich, Chelsea FC have direct access to the group stage as title holders. As per article 2.03 a) of the 2012/13 UEFA Champions League regulations, if the title holder comes from an association entitled to four places in the UEFA Champions League and qualifies for the UEFA Europa League through its domestic competitions, the lowest-ranked club of the association's UEFA Champions League representatives is automatically transferred to the UEFA Europa League (into the latest possible round where there is a vacancy). In this case, the number of places to which the title holder's association is entitled in the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Europa League does not change.

The fourth-placed team in England will therefore move from the UEFA Champions League to the UEFA Europa League. As a consequence of this shift and of the vacancy created in the play-off round of the league path, the third-placed team from Portugal and the runners-up from Russia will start in this round. The third qualifying round of the league path will therefore have eight teams and the four winners will meet the six teams that have qualified directly for the play-offs.



## **UEFA Europa League**

Club Atlético de Madrid qualify for the 2012/13 UEFA Europa League via their domestic competitions, as the fifth-placed team in the Spanish domestic league, as well as by winning the 2011/12 UEFA Europa League. In line with paragraph 2.06 of the 2012/13 UEFA Europa League regulations, Club Atlético de Madrid as the title holder can start the competition directly in the group stage rather than in the play-offs. As stipulated in paragraph 2.06 of the 2012/13 UEFA Europa League regulations, the number of places to which a national association is entitled does not change if the title holder qualifies via its domestic competitions at the same time.

According to paragraph 2.04 of the 2012/13 UEFA Europa League regulations, in the event that the winner of the domestic cup qualifies for the UEFA Champions League, the domestic cup runner-up qualifies for the UEFA Europa League at the stage initially reserved for the lowest-ranking top domestic league representative. The access stage initially reserved for the domestic cup winner is reserved for the club that finishes the domestic league in the highest position out of all clubs which qualify for the UEFA Europa League from the association concerned. Spanish cup winners FC Barcelona have qualified directly for the UEFA Champions League. The place reserved for the Spanish cup winners would in theory be given to the fifth-placed team in Spain. However, Club Atlético de Madrid, as title holders of the UEFA Europa League, are already guaranteed a place in the group stage. Therefore, the UEFA Europa League group stage spot initially reserved for the Spanish cup winners is now vacant.

As outlined in appendix Ia of the 2012/13 UEFA Europa League regulations, in the event of adjustments to the access list priority will be given to the winners of the domestic cup. Therefore, the domestic cup winner of the association ranked seventh (Russia), will enter the competition in the group stage instead of the play-off stage. This creates a vacancy in the play-off round, where a second vacancy is created because there are only four clubs dropping down from the third qualifying round of the league path of the UEFA Champions League into the play-off round of the UEFA Europa League (instead of five).

As replacements of vacancies produce cascading effects on previous stages, in order to re-balance the access list, the following changes will be applied in the first three qualifying rounds and play-offs:

- The cup winners from the associations ranked 16th and 17th in the coefficient table (Switzerland and Israel) will enter the competition in the play-off round instead of the third qualifying round.
- The cup winners from the associations ranked 19th and 20th in the coefficient ranking table (Austria and Cyprus) will enter the competition in the third qualifying round instead of the second qualifying round.
- The cup winners from the associations ranked 33rd to 36th in the coefficient ranking table (Moldova, Lithuania, Latvia and Georgia), will enter the competition in the second qualifying round instead of the first qualifying round.



For ease of reference, a revised access list for the 2012/13 UEFA club competitions is enclosed. If you have any questions regarding this new access list, please feel free to contact Saam Momen in the club competitions unit (email: saam.momen@uefa.ch or tel.: +41 22 707 2850).

We wish your participants all the best in the 2012/13 UEFA club competitions.

Yours faithfully,

**U E F A**

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Gianni Infantino'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters being capitalized and prominent.

Gianni Infantino  
General Secretary

Enclosure(s)

- 2012/13 Access List

cc (with enclosures)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- Club Competitions Committee
- European members of the FIFA Executive Committee
- FIFA, Zurich