



# EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS

## European Qualifiers 2018-20 – Play-off Draw Principles

- Date and time:** Friday, 22 November 2019 at 12:00 CET
- Place:** UEFA Headquarter, Nyon, Switzerland
- Duration:** 20-30 minutes
- Regulations:** UEFA European Football Championship; Articles 16 & 17 / Annex B
- Participants:** 16 teams will be selected based on their results in the UEFA Nations League 2018/19. The sixteen teams will be divided into four separate paths of four teams each.

### **Qualification to UEFA EURO 2020:**

The winners of the four play-off finals qualify for the final tournament.

### **Match system:**

The play-offs are played in single-leg knockout matches.

Once the teams constituting one play-off path have been determined, the four teams are ranked 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> based on the overall UEFA Nations League rankings.

The semi-finals of each play-off path are played as follows:

- a. The team ranked 1<sup>st</sup> plays at home against the team ranked 4<sup>th</sup>.
- b. The team ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> plays at home against the team ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>.

For each play-off final, one of the semi-finals is designated by draw as the future host of the final match.

### **Fixtures:**

The play-off semi-finals are played on Thursday 26 March 2020.

The play-off finals are played on Tuesday 31 March 2020.

The standard kick-off time is 20:45 CET. The same exceptions as in the group stage may apply, in particular related to time zones, and a play-off match could therefore exceptionally be scheduled at 18:00 CET.

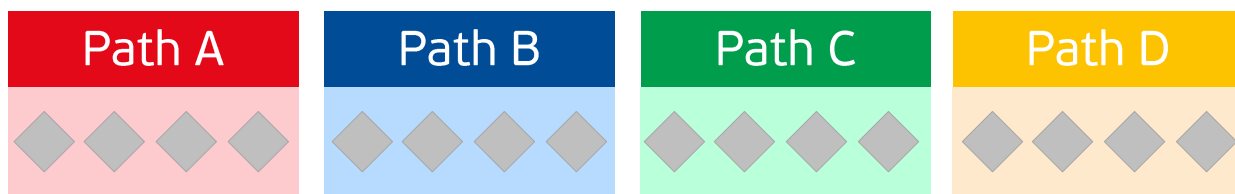
UEFA will issue the fixture list after the draw has been concluded.

## Confirmation of the participants:

The UEFA Nations League took place from September to November 2018 and each group winner is qualified for the play-offs in principle, unless these teams will obtain their qualification at the end of the European Qualifiers group stage. Here are the four paths as they currently stand:



However, only at the conclusion of the European Qualifiers group stage (the last matches are played on Tuesday 19 November), the 16 teams effectively entering the play-offs will be known:



## Final approval

The specificity of this draw is that the procedure can only be finalised once the 16 teams participating in the play-offs are known. The present document describes the general principles that will apply. Should any specific condition apply (as per art. 16.03.c of the competition regulations), the UEFA Emergency Panel will approve it.

## Objectives:

The play-off draw of 22 November 2019 will consist of the following draws:

1. **Composition of the play-off paths:** In several cases the composition is determined following the competition regulations (art. 16). However, depending on the 16 teams qualified for the play-offs, one or several draws may be needed to decide on the composition of the four league paths.
2. **Allocation of the play-off final:** Four draws will be held to decide which teams host the final of each path.



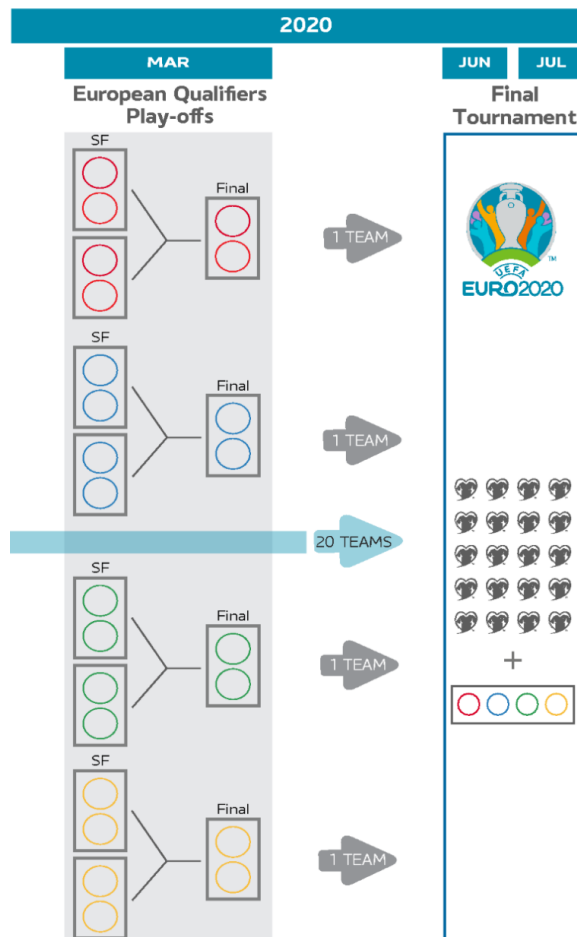
## DRAW 1: COMPOSITION OF THE PLAY-OFF PATHS

### 1a. Principles

The selection of the sixteen teams participating in the play-offs is defined in the competition regulations (article 16.02) and does not require any draw because the following principles apply:

- Four play-off slots are allocated to each league from UEFA Nations League D to UEFA Nations League A.
- The UEFA Nations League group winners enter the play-offs unless they have qualified for the final tournament directly from the qualifying group stage.
- If a UEFA Nations League group winner has directly qualified for the final tournament, the next best-ranked team in the relevant league ranking which has not directly qualified will enter the play-offs.
- If fewer than four teams from one league enter the play-offs, the remaining slots are allocated on the basis of the overall UEFA Nations League rankings to the best-ranked of the teams that have not already qualified for the final tournament, subject to the restriction that group winners cannot be in a play-off path with higher-ranked teams.

The way the sixteen teams are allocated to the four play-off paths may entail one or several draws (article 16.03). Once the sixteen teams are known, the UEFA administration will submit to the UEFA Emergency Panel any additional conditions that may need to apply (according to art. 16.03.c of the regulations).



## 1b. Conditions

The concrete solutions proposed by the UEFA administration must be validated by the UEFA Emergency Panel and may include in particular:

- Competition-related reasons: To give a fair chance to all the hosts to qualify to the Final Tournament, the host teams may be allocated to the different paths.
- Prohibited team clashes: Based on the UEFA Executive Committee decisions valid at the time of the draw, teams that cannot be drawn into the same path shall be separated. If this is not possible, for example because the two teams are group winners and must play in the same path, the conditions to play the match will need to be defined, including staging it on neutral ground and/or behind closed doors.
- Seeding

## 1c. Procedure

The procedure starts with path D and ends with Path A. For each path, the following analysis determines the need for a draw:

- If the four group winners are available → **no draw needed**
- If four teams only are available within the same league → **no draw needed**
- If less than four or more than four teams are available within the same league, the UEFA administration will conduct a draw, whereby the exact procedure and the possible application of conditions will be confirmed once the actual teams involved are known.

## DRAW 2: ALLOCATION OF THE PLAY-OFF FINAL

### 2a: Principles

For each play-off final, the host of this match must be determined by draw among the two semi-finals concerned.

### 2b. Procedure

For each path, two balls will be prepared representing each semi-final pair: Semi-Final 1 and Semi-Final 2. The first ball drawn will determine which semi-final winner will host the final match. Once the semi-final in question has been played, the winner of this match will be certain to organise the final match as a home match against the winner of the other semi-final.

### 2c. Venue announcement and preparations

The associations concerned will have to announce the venues for the semi-final as well as for the final within four weeks of the draw, i.e. by 20 December 2019 at the latest.

The associations that have been awarded with the organisation of the play-off finals, must foresee the option of cancelling the venue at short notice in case of non-qualification for the final or plan to organise a replacement friendly match at the venue which has been reserved.

## **Additional measures in view of the UEFA EURO 2020 final draw**

Once the twenty directly qualified teams and the sixteen play-off teams are known, the UEFA administration will confirm if two additional measures must be implemented in order to facilitate the organisation of the UEFA EURO 2020 final draw on 30 November 2019 in Bucharest and the subsequent publication of the updated final tournament match schedule.

Two additional measures are needed:

1. **Define the hosts' home matches:** If both hosts are directly qualified for the final tournament or both are playing the play-off matches, a draw will be made between the two EURO 2020 host teams to define the one playing three group stage matches at home. At the end of the European Qualifiers group stage, the UEFA administration will confirm for which group such draws apply.
2. **Define the play-offs' winners group allocation:** The four play-off winners must be allocated to a group at the final draw. If one or more host teams participate in the play-offs, one or several draws could be required to determine the order of allocation to the groups to which the respective host belong. At the end of the European Qualifiers group stage, the UEFA administration will submit the exact procedure for approval to the UEFA Emergency Panel.

## **MEASURE 1: DEFINE THE HOSTS' HOME MATCHES**

### **1a. Principles**

If the two host teams assigned to the same final tournament group qualify directly after the group stage, a draw must determine which team plays three matches at home; the other host will play two matches at home.

The need for such a draw also applies, if both host teams are participating in the play-offs.

If one of the host teams is directly qualified and the other host team is in the play-offs, the directly qualified host team will be awarded three group matches at home and the other team, if qualified, would play two matches at home.

If one of the host teams is participating in the play-offs, while the other host team is eliminated, the host team in the play-offs, provided they qualify, would play three group matches at home.

### **1b. Procedure**

For each case, two balls will be prepared containing the names of the two host teams involved. The first ball drawn will determine the host team that will be allocated three home matches.

### **1c. Final tournament match schedule**

A host team participating in the play-offs may be allocated three or two home matches as per the procedure described above. In the case that the host team in question does not qualify from the play-offs, the team that qualifies from the path in question takes the position allocated within the final tournament match schedule and will therefore play three or two matches in the host city of which the host team has not reached the final tournament.

## MEASURE 2: DEFINE THE PLAY-OFFS' WINNERS GROUP ALLOCATION

### 2a. Principles

At the time of the UEFA EURO 2020 final draw, the play-off winners will be drawn into the final tournament groups in the form of place-holders: "Play-off Winner of Path A", "Play-off Winner of Path B", "Play-off Winner of Path C" and "Play-off Winner of Path D". At the end of March 2020, when the actual winners will be known, the relevant teams will automatically take the position within the given group.

Once the 16 play-off teams are known, the UEFA administration will confirm if the allocation of the future play-off winners requires to be defined in advance. Such a pre-defined allocation may be necessary to ensure the final draw execution is not blocked by a cumulation of constraints such as:

- More than one host team is involved in the play-offs, knowing that each host team must be assigned to the group of their host city in order to play a minimum of two group matches at home;
- Teams involved in the play-offs are part of a prohibited team clash towards one of the twenty directly qualified teams and/or towards one of the twelve host cities. This constraint means that the play-off path that includes such a team cannot be freely allocated to the final tournament groups.

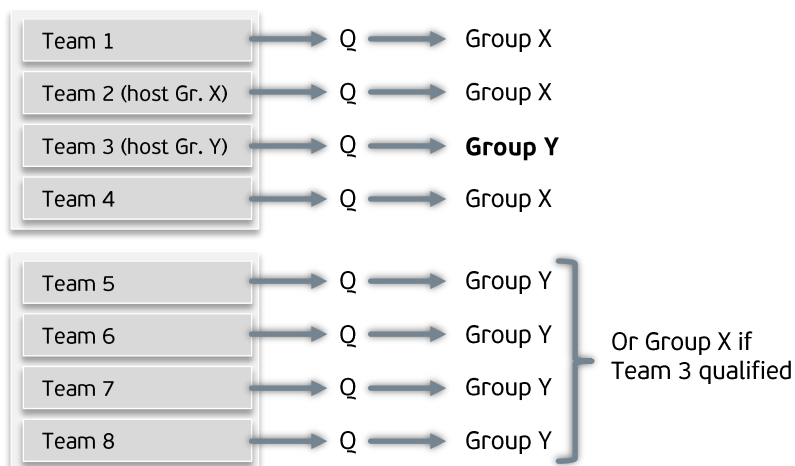
The pre-defined allocation shall aim at restraining the optional group assignment to the four play-off winners only, without encroaching onto the 20 directly qualified teams.

**The potential cumulation of host teams involved in play-offs and/or prohibited clashes makes it impossible to anticipate all possible cases. Occurrences may need to be dealt with, on a case-by-case basis, once the teams directly qualified and those involved in play-offs are known. Concrete solutions will be proposed by the UEFA administration.**

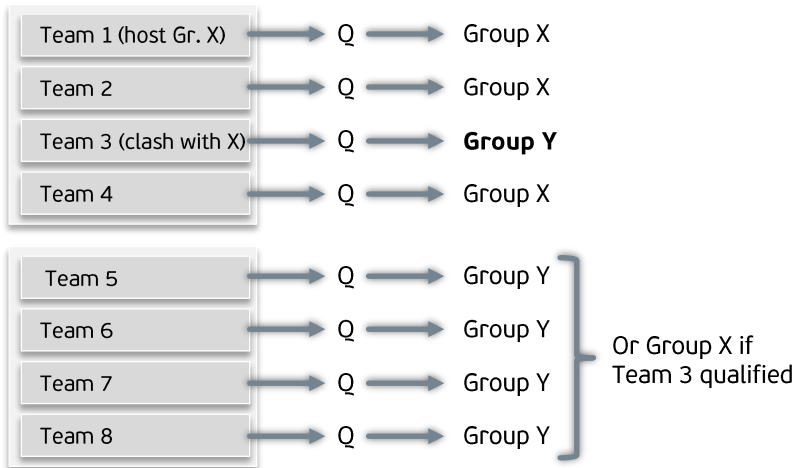
### 2b. Conditions

The concrete solutions proposed by the UEFA administration must be validated by the UEFA Emergency Panel and may include for example:

- If two host teams are involved in the same path, the winner of this path must be assigned to two final tournament groups. In such a case, a second play-off path will need to be paired with the play-off path involving the hosts, so that for each possible qualified team there is a clear scenario.



- If one host is involved in a path together with a team which has a prohibited clash with one of the two host cities in this group, the pairing with another path provides a clear scenario for each possible case.



## 2c. Procedure

The final procedure proposed by the UEFA administration must be validated by the UEFA Emergency Panel.





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