



No. 59/2021

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of  
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		F/NA/nke/mgg	6 August 2021

**2021/22 UEFA Women's Champions League  
Solidarity payments scheme supporting women's club development**

Dear Sir or Madam,

With reference to UEFA circular nos. 27/2021 and 54/2021, we are pleased to provide you with further information concerning the UEFA Women's Champions League solidarity payments scheme, supporting women's club development.

The solidarity payments scheme is a key component of the new UEFA Women's Champions League financial distribution model, ensuring that money invested into, or generated by, the UEFA Women's Champions League, will benefit all European women's top-division clubs. Of the total estimated amount of €24 million available for distribution in the 2021/22 season, 23% (€5.6 million) has been allocated for the women's club development solidarity scheme, which takes into account the diverse landscape and different stages of development of clubs and national associations across Europe to encourage simultaneous growth and increases in standards everywhere.

**Please note the following important information:**

**1. Distribution criteria**

Under the solidarity payments scheme, each association that has entered at least one club in the 2021/22 UEFA Women's Champions League will receive an amount to be distributed in equal shares between all clubs in the top-division domestic women's championship that were not involved in the 2021/22 UEFA Women's Champions League. The applicable domestic season is the same season from which the solidarity payments are generated, i.e. the 2021/22 season for summer-to-spring leagues or the 2021 season for spring-to-autumn leagues.

The solidarity share that non-participating clubs will receive is directly correlated with the sporting performance of the participating clubs from their country. The further a club progresses in the UEFA Women's Champions League, the higher the solidarity distributions allocated to all non-participating clubs in the top domestic women's championship of that country. Should an association have more than one club in the competition, the club that progresses the farthest will be used for calculation of the

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solidarity payments. Non-participating clubs can expect to receive between €10,000 (top-division clubs from countries of clubs ranked fourth in round 1) and €40,000 (top-division clubs from country of winning club). Please be aware that these amounts are indicative, and not final. They are intended to provide an estimation of the potential amounts paid to clubs but shall not be considered as guaranteed amounts. The exact amounts will be defined following the season conclusion, according to the total number of non-participating clubs from the countries eliminated at each stage of the competition. If possible, UEFA will provide an initial estimated amount per domestic top-division in May 2022.

## **2. Destination of payments**

The solidarity payments are for development purposes, in accordance with specified destination criteria, and may not be used for the fixed and ordinary costs of the club. For clubs with men's and women's sections, the funding may solely be used for the women's section.

The solidarity payments must be used by clubs towards fulfilling or improving one or more of the existing and measurable sporting, infrastructure, and, administrative and personnel criteria as laid down in the *UEFA Club Licencing and Financial Fair Play Regulations, Edition 2018, Annex XIII: Club licencing criteria for the UEFA Women's Champions League*. A summary of the eligible destination of payments is attached, noting also that this list will be aligned with the updated club licensing regulations which come into force in 2022.

Clubs are responsible for deciding on the use of the funds within this given framework, based on their specific club development needs. Clubs who already fulfil these criteria must use the funds to improve in these specified areas.

## **3. Application process**

The national associations will be responsible for managing the application process for the solidarity payment scheme.

As a first and preparatory step, complete and return to the UEFA National Associations Division (Diana.Linero@uefa.ch) the attached 'UEFA Women's Champions League 2021/22 Solidarity Payment Scheme – domestic competitions information form' by 30 September 2021 providing UEFA with the details of the key national association and non-participating clubs contacts, as well as the required information on the women's domestic championship.

For the payment application process, national associations will be requested to complete an online application form and provide details as to how the solidarity payments will be used by each club in question and in accordance to the specified UEFA Women's Champions League club licencing criteria by end of September 2022. This information must be gathered by the national association from the non-participating clubs.

Further details regarding the exact process and the information to be provided, will be communicated in due course to the respective national association key contact.

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Following submission of the necessary documentation, UEFA will evaluate the applications prior to releasing the payments. Note that payments will only be made available upon receipt of all requested information and compliance with the requirements.

#### **4. Payment procedure**

Payments will be made by UEFA to the national associations for distribution to the relevant clubs (as defined above).

Given that the participating clubs' performances in the UEFA Women's Champions League are required to determine the total amount of solidarity funds for each association, payments will be made following the conclusion of the sporting season and following UEFA's financial auditing process. The solidarity payments for the 2021/22 UEFA Women's Champions League season will be made as from October 2022.

Each national association must then immediately transfer the full amount to the relevant clubs, without retaining or earmarking any of that money for other purposes.

Furthermore, when distributing this money to their clubs, national associations should properly acknowledge the source of that funding. It is suggested that the following wording be included in any letter or communication accompanying payments to clubs:

*"This payment is made under the UEFA Women's Champions League 2021/22 Solidarity Payments Scheme. Its purpose is to assist clubs in increasing standards in line with the UEFA Women's Champions League licensing criteria and prepares clubs for future participation in the competition. The scheme provides a framework for clubs to support their own unique development needs, and is aligned to UEFA's, national associations, and clubs' strategic aims of professionalising women's football. Thus, this payment is to be used solely for the purpose that has been stated by the club to the national association in accordance with the Solidarity Payments Scheme."*

It should be noted that the UEFA Women's Champions League solidarity payments to clubs are separate from and do not replace any existing funding streams from the national associations to their clubs.

#### **5. Records**

National associations must keep a record of all clubs that receive funding. Records must include the amount that is distributed, and any other relevant information detailed in this circular letter. Please also note that following the first season, national associations will be requested to provide the UEFA administration with evidence that this money has been transferred to the clubs concerned and has been used by the clubs for the purpose stated in the online application form.

Please also note that we may wish to quote the success of this solidarity mechanism in public documents (e.g. by listing the clubs that have benefited from payments in UEFA publications) using information you have sent us.

Should you have any questions relating to this matter, please feel free to contact the UEFA National Associations Division (Diana.Linero@uefa.ch).

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Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important initiative, through which the revenues and investments in the UEFA Women's Champions League will benefit the entirety of European women's club football, helping to increase standards and professionalise the women's game.

Yours faithfully,

**U E F A**



Theodore Theodoridis  
General Secretary

Enclosures

- UEFA Women's Champions League 2021/22 Solidarity Payments Scheme – List of eligible criteria
- UEFA Women's Champions League 2021/22 Solidarity Payment Scheme – Domestic competitions information form

cc (with enclosures)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA Women's Football Committee
- UEFA National Associations Committee
- UEFA Club Licencing Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich
- ECA, Nyon

## UEFA Women's Champions League 2021/22 Solidarity Payments Scheme

### List of eligible criteria

**Clubs must use the payments to fulfil or improve one or more of the following criteria:**

Sporting	Youth teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth teams within the age range of 12-17, taking part in official competitions</li> </ul>
	Medical care of players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yearly medical examination for senior team in accordance with UEFA Medical Regulations</li> <li>Yearly medical examination for players above age of 12</li> </ul>
Infrastructure	Training facilities – availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training facilities available throughout the year and for use by all teams</li> </ul>
	Stadium infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements to the stadium infrastructure in order to fulfil minimum stadium requirements as defined in the stadium and infrastructure regulations</li> </ul>
Personnel and administrative criteria	Club secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate number of skilled secretarial staff to run daily business</li> </ul>
	Administrative manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed manager responsible for running operative matters linked to women's football</li> </ul>
	Medical doctor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointment of at least one qualified doctor who is responsible for support at trainings and matches</li> </ul>
	Physiotherapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointment of at least one qualified physiotherapist who is responsible for medical treatment and massages of the senior team at matches and trainings</li> </ul>
	Head coach of senior team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointment of UEFA A-licensed head coach (or recognised equivalent)</li> </ul>
	Youth coach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointment of at least one qualified (minimum coaching qualification of the NA) youth coach</li> </ul>

NB: this list of eligible criteria may be updated to be in line with the *Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations, Edition 2022*