



No. 50/2017

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		vous/gis	15 September 2017

UEFA Medical Regulations, Edition 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

At its meeting on 1 June 2017 in Cardiff, the UEFA Executive Committee approved the 2017 edition of the *UEFA Medical Regulations*. These will come into force on **1 January 2018**.

We are pleased to enclose these new regulations and ask you to forward a copy, via email, to each of your clubs that are taking part in the 2017/18 UEFA club competitions.

The amendments to the regulations concern the pre-competition medical examination (PCME). The PCME was first introduced to the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League competition regulations in 2009. It was incorporated into the first UEFA Medical Regulations in 2013 and remained unchanged when the current regulations came into force in 2014.

The PCME currently applies to players taking part in the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Super Cup and UEFA Youth League, and in the final rounds of all national team competitions and the UEFA Regions Cup. Thus players participating in the UEFA Women's Champions League, UEFA Futsal Cup, and the qualifying rounds of national team competitions (including European Qualifiers) do not currently have to undergo any form of pre-competition screening. Following the advice of the UEFA Medical Committee, the regulations have now been revised to include a basic level of PCME for all players participating in a UEFA competition.

Main changes to regulations

The main changes to the UEFA Medical Regulations are as follows:

- (i) Article 3 Implementation in UEFA competitions: The examinations and tests set out in Articles 4, 5 and 6.1 (i.e. up-to-date medical records, annual medical exam, annual ECG) are now **mandatory for all players participating in UEFA competitions**. The examinations and tests set out in Article 6.2 and Articles 7 and 8 (i.e. echocardiography every two years, annual laboratory tests and annual

orthopaedic exam) are mandatory for the competitions to which the PCME currently applies, and now also for the qualifying matches of the UEFA European Championship.

(ii) Article 6 Special cardiological examinations: This replaces the old Article 7. Article 6.01 now requires all players participating in a UEFA competition to undergo an annual 12-lead ECG. This requirement is clear and unambiguous and is fully in line with recommendations of the European Society for Cardiology and the American Heart Association.

Article 6.02 now requires all players participating in the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA European Championship, UEFA Super Cup, UEFA Youth League, and the final rounds of all other national team competitions, to undergo an echocardiography every two years.

In the other articles, tests and examinations that were previously only recommended have been removed to improve the clarity and focus of the regulations; the mandatory examinations remain substantially unchanged.

Section III of the regulations, which covers minimum medical requirements in UEFA competitions, remains unchanged.

Entry into force

The regulations come into force on 1 January 2018, i.e. in mid-season. Paragraph 3.03 of the regulations states that "All mandatory examinations and tests must be completed before the start of the competition." Therefore, clubs participating in club competitions that will already be underway in January 2018 will not have to implement the new regulations until the start of the 2018-19 season, whereas national teams participating in the final rounds of tournaments in May-July 2018 (as listed in paragraph 3.02b) will have to implement the regulations before those tournaments begin.

Medical care of players at national level

Although these regulations only apply to players participating in UEFA competitions, UEFA strongly recommends that member associations that do not yet have similar requirements at national level introduce them at the earliest opportunity. Furthermore, UEFA also strongly recommends that member associations ensure that a defibrillator is available at all matches played at national level.

If you have any questions about the new regulations, please contact Richard Grisdale (richard.grisdale@uefa.ch) or Marc Vouillamoz (marc.vouillamoz@uefa.ch) in our medical and anti-doping unit.

Yours faithfully,

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Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

Enclosure

- UEFA Medical Regulations, ed. 2017

cc (with enclosure)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA Medical Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich