

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1727

Zurich, 18 August 2020

SG

Updates to the Men's and Women's International Match Calendars

Dear Sir or Madam,

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected football competition at all levels across the world. From the onset, FIFA has highlighted health as being the absolute priority and has supported the suspension of domestic and international competition wherever required.

As a result and in order to address the consequences of this exceptional situation, FIFA established the COVID-19 FIFA-Confederations Working Group, which immediately set about working on the updates to the Men's and Women's International Match Calendars necessitated by this disruption. Alongside this, FIFA also regularly consulted with professional football stakeholders, taking into account their views and feedback.

The result of this process has seen the FIFA Council and the Bureau of the Council take several decisions over the past months regarding changes to the Men's and Women's International Match Calendars, the most recent of which were approved by the Bureau of the Council on 14 August 2020. These decisions reflect the fact that the sanitary situation differs between regions, and a one-size-fits-all calendar is therefore not feasible given the differences between each Confederation during this unique period.

Summary of decisions taken regarding the Men's International Match Calendar:

International window of September 2020

- For the AFC, CAF, Concacaf, CONMEBOL and the OFC, the international window of September 2020 is postponed to January 2022 (24 January – 1 February 2022). This means that there is no mandatory release of players for Member Associations from these Confederations in the context of Annexe 1 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players for the international window of September 2020
- For UEFA, the international window of September 2020 is maintained. FIFA is in close contact with UEFA, as the competition organisers for the games planned in September 2020. Should you have any specific questions with regard to the release of players for this window, please contact Ornella Desirée Bellia, Head of Professional Football, at ornelladesiree.bellia@fifa.org

- Based on the above as well as the current sanitary situation, it was also agreed that requests from non-European Member Associations to play friendlies in Europe with European-based players during the international window of September 2020 can unfortunately not be accepted

International windows of October and November 2020

- For UEFA, the international windows of October and November 2020 are exceptionally extended by one additional day, allowing for 3 games to be played instead of 2 games (as an exception to art. 1 par. 4 of Annexe 1 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players)

International window of June 2021

- The international window of June 2021 is extended by 7 additional days for the AFC, CAF, Concacaf and the OFC, allowing for 4 games to be played in this window

International window of January 2022

- This window, which is a result of the postponement of the international window of September 2020, is applicable for the AFC, CAF, Concacaf, CONMEBOL and the OFC but not UEFA. The dates are the following: 24 January – 1 February 2022

Confederation final tournaments

- CAF: inclusion of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in January 2022 (exact dates to be confirmed) with an exemption to Annexe 1, art. 1 par. 6 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of players to allow players to participate in both the AFCON and the FIFA World Cup™ in 2022
- Concacaf: inclusion of the new dates for the Gold Cup of 2 July – 1 August 2021, with the obligatory release period starting on 28 June 2021
- CONMEBOL: inclusion of the new dates for the *Copa América* of 11 June – 11 July 2021
- UEFA: inclusion of the new dates for the EURO of 11 June – 11 July 2021

Summary of decisions taken regarding the Women's International Match Calendar:

All Confederations

- Finalisation of 7-15 June 2021 as the dates for the Type I window
- Inclusion of the new dates for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament of 21 July – 6 August 2021

All Confederations except UEFA

- Cancellation of the 14-22 September 2020 Type I window
- Finalisation of 7-16 June 2021 as the dates for the Type II window
- Extension of Type I window (13-21 September) to include a Type III window of 13-25 September to replace the Type III window originally scheduled for June 2021

UEFA:

- Inclusion of UEFA in the blocked period for final championships of the confederations of 4 July – 7 August 2022

The updated versions of the Men's and Women's International Match Calendars, reflective of the decisions taken to date, are enclosed for your attention. These will also be made available on FIFA.com.

Should you have any questions on the Men's International Match Calendar, please contact Ornella Desirée Bellia, Head of Professional Football, at ornelladesiree.bellia@fifa.org. Should you have any questions on the Women's International Match Calendar, please contact Sara Booth, Head of Women's Football Competitions, at sara.booth@fifa.org.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

Encl.

1. Men's International Match Calendar
2. Women's International Match Calendar

cc:

- FIFA Council
- Confederations
- ECA
- World Leagues Forum
- European Leagues
- FIFPRO

MEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH CALENDAR 2020-2024



FIXED DATES FOR INTERNATIONAL "A" MATCHES

Year	Dates	Match details/window type	Max. number of match dates
2020	January	-	-
	February	-	-
	March	-	-
	April	-	-
	May	-	-
	June	-	-
	July	-	-
	August	-	-
	31 August – 8 September	2 (UEFA only)	2
	5-13 October	2 (all Confederations except UEFA)	2
	5-14 October	3 (UEFA only)	3
	9-17 November	2 (all Confederations except UEFA)	2
9-18 November	3 (UEFA only)	3	
December	-	-	

Year	Dates	Match details/window type	Max. number of match dates
2021	January	-	-
	February	-	-
	22-30 March	2	2
	April	-	-
	May	-	-
	31 May – 8 June	2 (UEFA & CONMEBOL)	2
	31 May – 15 June	4 (AFC, CAF, Concacaf & OFC)	4
	11 June – 11 July	CONMEBOL <i>Copa América</i>	
	11 June – 11 July	UEFA EURO	
	2 July – 1 August	Concacaf Gold Cup *	
	30 August – 7 September	2	2
	4-12 October	2	2
	8-16 November	2	2
	December	-	-

*mandatory release period in the context of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players to begin on 28 June

Year	Dates	Match details/window type	Max. number of match dates
2022	January	CAF Africa Cup of Nations	-
	24 January – 1 February	2 (all Confederations except UEFA)	2
	21-29 March	2	2
	April	Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™	-
	30 May – 14 June	4	4
	July	-	-
	August	-	-
	19-27 September	2	2
	October	-	-
	November/December	Release of players for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ 14 November FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ 21 November – 18 December	-

Year	Dates	Match details/window type	Max. number of match dates
2023	January	-	-
	February	-	-
	20-28 March	2	2
	April	-	-
	May	-	-
	12-20 June	2	2
	June – July	CAF Africa Cup of Nations	-
	26 June – 16 July	Concacaf Gold Cup	-
	July	-	-
	August	-	-
	4-12 September	2	2
	9-17 October	2	2
	13-21 November	2	2
	December	-	-

Year	Dates	Match details/window type	Max. number of match dates
2024	January	-	-
	February	-	-
	18-26 March	2	2
	April	-	-
	May	-	-
	3-11 June	2 (except UEFA)	2
	June – July	UEFA EURO	-
	August	-	-
	2-10 September	2	2
	7-15 October	2	2
	11-19 November	2	2
	December	-	-

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH CALENDAR 2020-2023



FIXED DATES FOR INTERNATIONAL "A" MATCHES

Year	Dates	Match details/window type ¹	Max. number of match dates
2020	27 January – 9 February	Concacaf Women's Olympic Qualifiers	
	3-9 February	AFC Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament	
	2-11 March	Type II	3
	April	-	-
	May	-	-
	June	-	-
	July	-	-
	August	-	-
	14-22 September	Type I (UEFA only)	2
	19-27 October	Type I	2
	or 19-31 October	Type III (Confederation qualification tournaments only, for all Confederations excluding UEFA)	4
	23 November – 1 December	Type I	2

Type I: release of players to national associations: Monday to Tuesday night (following week)

Type II: release of players to national associations: Monday to Wednesday night (following week)

Type III: release of players to national associations: Monday to Saturday night (following week)

Final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament and blocked periods for the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations: Monday morning of the week preceding the week when the relevant final competition starts. Players must be released by the association on the morning of the day after their team's last match in the tournament.

Year	Dates	Match details/window type	Max. number of match dates
2021	January	-	-
	15-24 February	Type II	3
	March	-	-
	5-13 April	Type I	2
	May	-	-
	7-15 June	Type I	2
	or 7-16 June	Type II (all Confederations except UEFA)	3
	21 July – 6 August	Women's Olympic Football Tournament	
	13-21 September	Type I	2
	or 13-25 September	Type III (Confederation qualification tournaments only, for all Confederations except UEFA)	4
	18-26 October	Type I	2
	22-30 November	Type I	2
	or 22 November – 1 December	Type II (non-UEFA)	3

Year	Dates	Match details/window type	Max. number of match dates
2022	January	-	-
	14-23 February	Type II	3
	March	-	-
	4-12 April	Type I	2
	May	-	-
	13-21 June	Type I	2
	4 July – 7 August	BLOCKED PERIOD Final competitions for the championships of the Confederations (including release period)	
	29 August – 6 September	Type I	2
	3-11 October	Type I	2
	31 October – 20 November	BLOCKED PERIOD Final competitions for the championships of the Confederations (including release period), except UEFA	
	7-15 November	Type I	2
	December	-	-

Year	Dates	Match details/window type	Max. number of match dates
2023	January	-	-
	13-22 February	Type II	3
	or 13-25 February	Type III (Confederation qualification tournaments only, for all Confederations excluding UEFA)	4
	March	-	-
	3-11 April	Type I	2
	May	-	-
	June/July *	Type I	2
	10 July – 20 August	BLOCKED PERIOD FIFA Women's World Cup™	
	18-26 September	Type I	2
	23-31 October	Type I	2
	27 November – 5 December	Type I	2
	or 27 November – 6 December	Type II (non-UEFA)	3

* Start of the international window to be aligned with the start of the release period for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™. Dates to be announced via circular at least 18 months in advance.