



Union des associations européennes de football



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## ***UEFA Executive Committee approves changes to UEFA club competitions***

### **UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup revised from 2009 onwards**

The UEFA Executive Committee today approved the proposed changes to both the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Cup competitions for the three-year cycle between 2009 and 2012, as from the 2009-10 season, as follows:

#### **UEFA Champions League**

- No changes to the main competition, involving 32 teams, split into 8 groups of 4 teams in the group stage, followed by the knockout phase. The 8 teams that finish the groups in third place cross over into the knockout phase of the UEFA Cup.
- Access list changed according to the following principles: 22 teams qualify directly for the group phase instead of 16 (N3 of associations 1 to 3 in the ranking and champions of countries 10 to 12 are added); 10 teams qualify through a double qualification path: one reserved for the champions of the associations ranked 13 to 53 - except Liechtenstein - (5 teams qualify) and one reserved for non-champions of associations ranked 1 to 15 (5 teams qualify).
- Final to be played on a Saturday, same week of the year as today, with kick-off time at 20.45 CET.
- Matches in the first knockout round (last 16) to be split over four weeks instead of two, using dates reserved for the UEFA club competitions (February-March) to maximise live match opportunities.
- Third qualifying round (Q3) to be marketed centrally by UEFA.

#### **UEFA Cup**

- Main competition changed according to the following principles: first round (knockout) becomes part of the qualifying phase; the group phase consists of 48 teams, split into 12 groups of 4 teams; the top two in each group qualify for the knockout phase and are joined by the 8 teams that finish the group stage of the UEFA Champions League in third place. The knockout phase, with 32 teams and 4 rounds, will lead to the final, played in a single match at a neutral venue.

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- Access list changed according to the following principles: only the titleholders qualify directly for the group phase; all other clubs have to qualify; UEFA Cup qualifying phase consists of 4 rounds, according to the access list; 37 slots added to the qualifying phase to accommodate clubs that currently qualify for the UEFA Intertoto Cup (associations ranked 9 to 15 and 22 to 51, except Liechtenstein); the losers of the UEFA Champions League second qualifying round (Q2) and third qualifying round (Q3) cross over into to the UEFA Cup, Q4 and group phase respectively.
- Matches to be played on Thursday night (and on Wednesday night during the exclusive UEFA Cup weeks), with two kick-off times, an early one and a late one, in principle at 19.05 and 21.05.
- Final to be played on a Wednesday at 20.45 CET.
- Full centralisation of media rights from the group stage (September); non exclusive presenting sponsor plus centralised match-ball for the group stage and full sponsorship centralisation (as for the UEFA Champions League) from the knockout stage (February).

The **UEFA Intertoto Cup** will be abolished.

Finally, for the **UEFA Super Cup** no changes are made to the format but commercially it will be bundled with the UEFA Champions League.

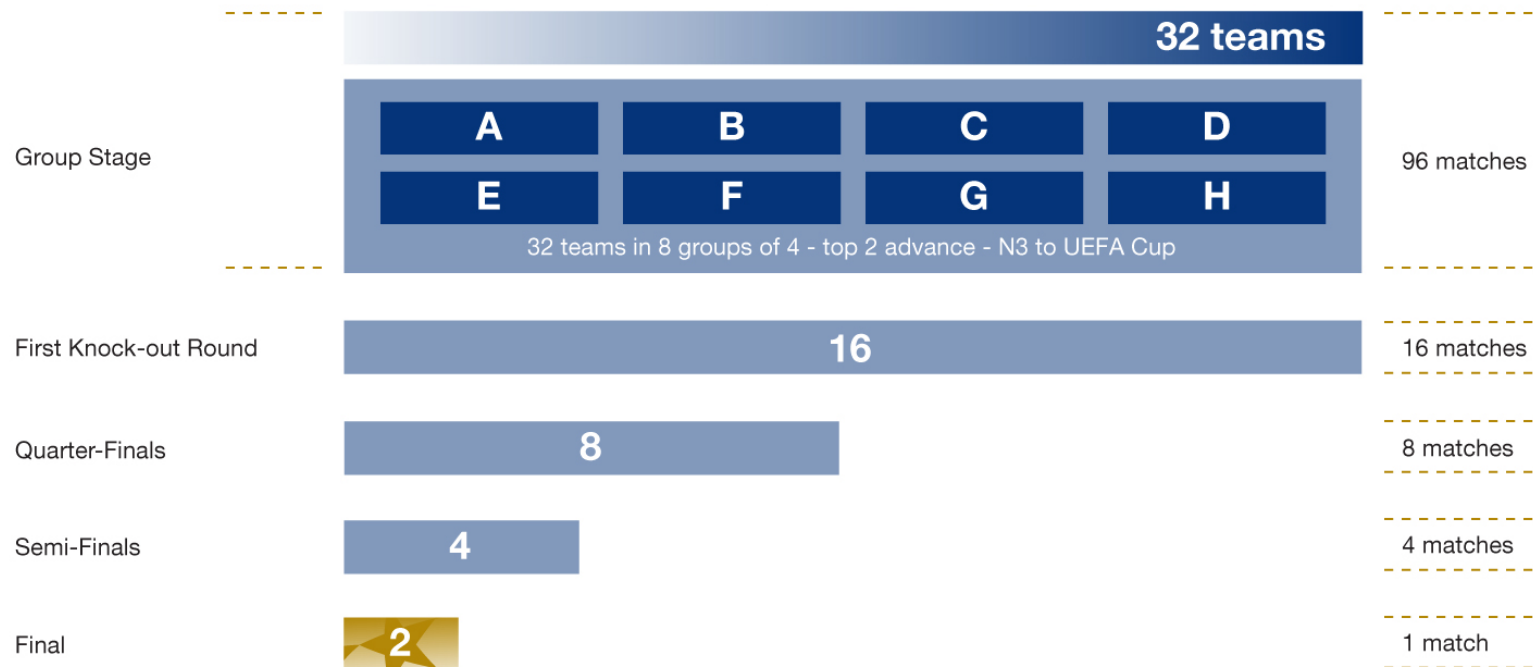
Annexes:

- UCL format & access list
- UCUP format & access list
- Calendar overview

# UEFA Champions League Format



UEFA Champions League (2009/12)

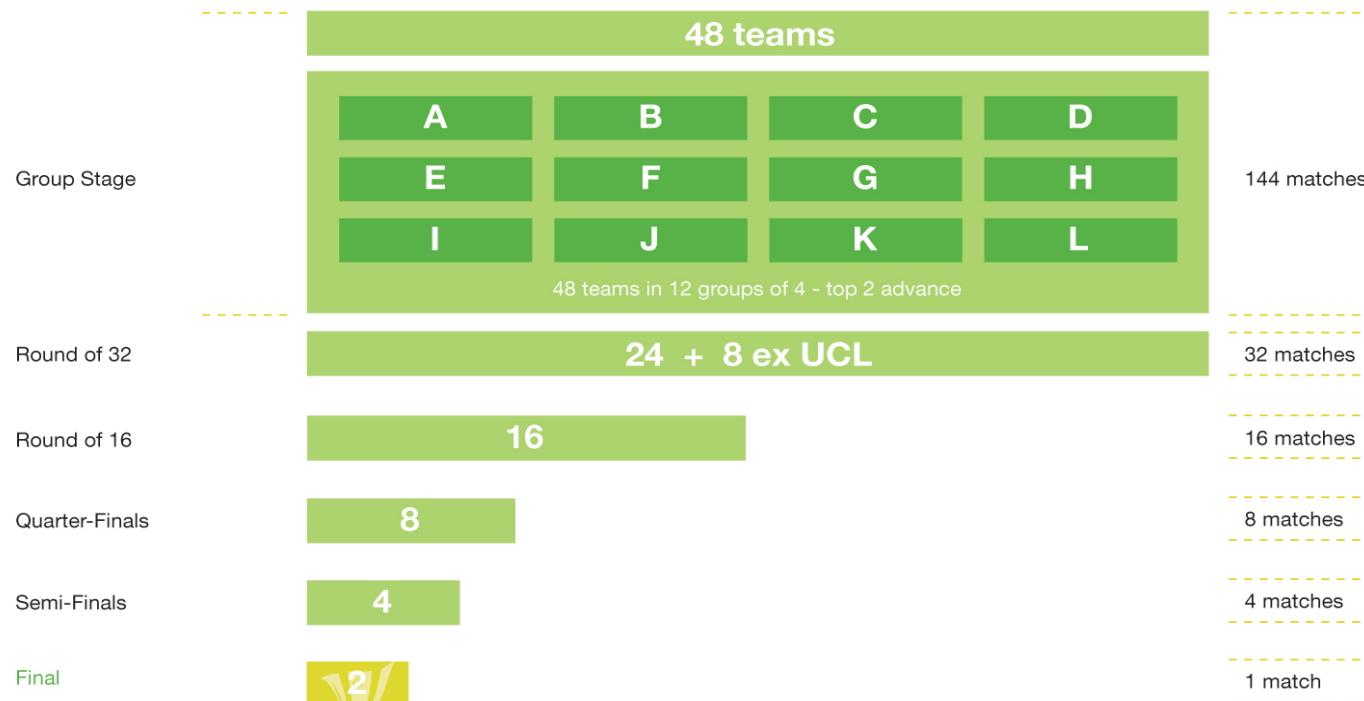




# UEFA Cup Format



UEFA Cup (2009/12)





## Calendar Overview


## Main Competitions


(based on 2009/10)

Match Days / Dates	Tue	Wed	Thu	Sat
1 15-17 Sept.	UCL1	UCL1	Ucup1	
2 29 Sept.-1 Oct.	UCL2	UCL2	Ucup2	
3 20-22 Oct.	UCL3	UCL3	Ucup3	
4 3-5 Nov.	UCL4	UCL4	Ucup4	
5 24-25 Nov.	UCL5	UCL5		
6 2-3 Dec.		Ucup5	Ucup5	
7 8-9 Dec.	UCL6	UCL6		
8 16-17 Dec.		Ucup6	Ucup6	

## Winter Break

9 16-18 Feb.	UCL16	UCL16	Ucup32	
10 23-25 Feb.	UCL16	UCL16	Ucup32	
11 9-11 March	UCL16	UCL16	Ucup16	
12 16-18 March	UCL16	UCL16	Ucup16	
13 30 March -1 Apr.	UCLQF	UCLQF	UcupQF	
14 6-8 Apr.	UCLQF	UCLQF	UcupQF	
15 20-22 Apr.	UCLSF	UCLSF	UcupSF	
16 27-29 Apr.	UCLSF	UCLSF	UcupSF	
17 12 May		UcupF		
18 22 May				UCLF

 International date

 Domestic date

 New dates for Round of 16

# Calendar Overview

## Qualification Phase

(based on 2009/10)

Dates	Tue	Wed	Thu
15-21 June		Ucup1	Ucup1
22-28 June		Ucup1	Ucup1
29 June - 5 July	Prel.	Prel.	Ucup2
6-12 July	Prel.	Prel.	Ucup2
13-19 July	UCL1	UCL1	
20-26 July	UCL1	UCL1	Ucup3
27 July - 02 August	UCL2	UCL2	Ucup3
03-09 August	UCL2	UCL2	
10-16 August	UCL3	UCL3	Ucup4
17-23 August		International	
24-30 August	UCL3	UCL3	Ucup4



Preliminary round



Could also be played on week ends