



# EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS

Road to UEFA EURO 2020

European Qualifiers 2018-20 – Play-off Draw Procedure

## **European Qualifiers 2018-20 – Play-off Draw Procedure**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Date and time:</b> | Friday, 22 November 2019 at 12:00 CET   |
| <b>Place:</b>         | UEFA Headquarter, Nyon, Switzerland   |
| <b>Duration:</b>      | 20-30 minutes   |
| <b>Regulations:</b>   | UEFA European Football Championship; Articles 16 & 17 / Annex B   |
| <b>Participants:</b>  | 16 teams are selected based on their results in the UEFA Nations League 2018/19. These 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 was entitled to a play-off spot, unless these teams obtained their qualification at the end of the European Qualifiers group stage.

At the conclusion of the European Qualifiers group stage, the 16 teams effectively entering the play-offs are:

| League A  | League B   | League C  | League D  |
|---|--|---|---|
|  Iceland |  Bosnia and Herzegovina |  Scotland  |  Georgia         |
|   |  Slovakia               |  Norway    |  North Macedonia |
|   |  Rep. of Ireland        |  Serbia    |  Kosovo          |
|   |  Northern Ireland      |  Bulgaria |  Belarus        |
|   |  |  Israel  |   |
|   |  |  Hungary |   |
|   |  |  Romania |   |

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

1. **Composition of the play-off paths:** The composition is determined following the competition regulations (art. 17). Therefore, no draw is required for Paths D and B. A draw is needed to decide on the composition of Path C while Path A will be completed with the remaining teams.
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. Procedure

The procedure starts with:

#### Path D.

The four teams composing Path D are confirmed and the semi-finals will be played as follows:

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Semi-final 1 (1 v 4) | Georgia v Belarus        |
| Semi-final 2 (2 v 3) | North Macedonia v Kosovo |

#### Path C

The three teams that are League C group winners are confirmed and will play in the semi-finals in the following positions:

|                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Semi-final 1 (1 v 4) | Scotland v ( <i>team drawn</i> ) |
| Semi-final 2 (2 v 3) | Norway v Serbia                  |

A draw is held among the other four teams from League C – Bulgaria, Israel, Hungary and Romania – to determine the one team that will complete Path C.

#### Path B

The four teams composing Path B are confirmed and the semi-finals will be played as follows:

|                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Semi-final 1 (1 v 4) | Bosnia-Herzegovina v Northern Ireland |
| Semi-final 2 (2 v 3) | Slovakia v Republic of Ireland        |

#### Path A

The one team from League A – Iceland – is confirmed and will play in semi-final 1 in position 1:

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Semi-final 1 (1 v 4) | Iceland v (remaining League C team)                   |
| Semi-final 2 (2 v 3) | (remaining League C team) v (remaining League C team) |

The three remaining teams from League C will be allocated to Path A to complete the semi-final pairings in the order of their ranking:

- The best ranked team out of the three remaining teams will play semi-final 2 in position 2 (home).
- The second-best ranked team out of the three remaining, will play semi-final 2 in position 3 (away).
- The third best-ranked team out of the three remaining, will play semi-final 1 in position 4 (away).

## **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.

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

With the confirmation of the 20 teams directly qualified and the 16 teams qualified for the play-offs, UEFA is in a position to confirm that the procedures established for the play-off draw and the final draw can be fully executed. No additional draw will be required (the draw had been provisionally scheduled for 1 April 2020).

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

#### **1a. Principles**

Denmark and Russia are two UEFA EURO 2020 hosts that are paired in the same group (Group B). Both teams have directly qualified. Therefore, a draw must determine which one of the two teams plays three matches at home; the other host will play two matches at home.

In all other groups, there is no need for a draw. The following hosts will play all three of their group matches at home: Italy in Group A, Netherlands in Group C (Romania can still qualify via the play-offs), England in Group D (Scotland in the play-offs), Spain in Group E (Republic of Ireland in the play-offs) and Germany in Group F (Hungary in the play-offs).

The host teams participating in the play-offs – Hungary, Republic of Ireland, Romania and Scotland – may be allocated two home matches in accordance with the application of measure 2 (see below).

If 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 two matches in the host city of which the host team has not reached the final tournament.

#### **1b. Procedure for Group B**

Two balls will be prepared containing the names of the two paired host teams. The first ball drawn will determine the host team that will be allocated three home matches.

## **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.

Four hosts are in the play-offs: Hungary, Republic of Ireland, Romania and Scotland. Based on the rules determining the composition of each path, the result of the Draw 1 will include one path, either Path C or Path A, with two hosts.

### **2b. Possible scenarios for Draw 1**

For the path with the two hosts, a draw must be carried out to decide on the order of priority for the allocation of this path to the final tournament groups.

Three scenarios are possible:

- Scenario 1: Scotland and Hungary in Path C
- Scenario 2: Scotland and Romania in Path C
- Scenario 3: Hungary and Romania in Path A

### **2c. Pairing with Path D**

The optional allocation of the future play-off winners shall not affect the 20 directly qualified teams. Therefore, Path D which is the only path without host must be paired with the path with the two hosts.

### **2d. Draw procedure**

Following the results of Draw 1, two balls will be prepared containing the names of the two groups in question:

- Scenario 1: Group D and Group F
- Scenario 2: Group D and Group C
- Scenario 3: Group F and Group C

The first ball drawn will determine the group ("priority group") that will be allocated the path in question with the exception of the other host team that will be allocated to the other group ("non-priority group") in case of win.

The optional allocation will result in the following assignments:

- 7 teams are provisionally assigned to the "priority group": the relevant host and the other two teams in its path as well as the Path D teams (Georgia, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Belarus).
- 5 teams are provisionally assigned to the "non-priority group": the relevant host as well as the Path D teams (Georgia, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Belarus).



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