

## TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1766

Zurich, 13 August 2021

### Updates to the Men's International Match Calendar

Dear Sir or Madam,

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the FIFA Council has had to take several decisions regarding changes to the Men's International Match Calendar (IMC) to facilitate the restart, continuation and, in many cases, recovery of international matches across the world.

As the pandemic has evolved differently across each continent, a tailor-made approach has developed regarding changes to the IMC in this context. As a result, the South American qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup 2022™ that were due to take place in March 2021 had to be postponed in light of the prevailing situation at the time, with a date for the recovery of the two affected matches to be determined at a later stage.

CONMEBOL has since requested that the two affected matches be recovered by having triple matchdays in both September 2021 and October 2021 and adding three additional release days.

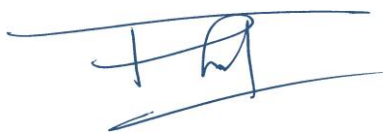
Taking into account the specific circumstances faced as well as the views shared by stakeholders consulted on the details of the proposal, the Bureau of the Council decided exceptionally and only for South America to facilitate the playing of an extra match by adding two additional release days in each of these windows.

The addition of two days was based on a consensus of the need to provide sufficient rest and preparation time between matches, reflecting the longer travel distances both to and within South America relative to other continents, thus safeguarding player welfare by mitigating the negative consequences of this more intense schedule while ensuring a fair competition, as well as enabling the prompter return to their clubs of the players involved following the conclusion of the window.

The updated version of the Men's International Match Calendar reflecting the decisions taken to date is enclosed for your attention. It is also available on [FIFA.com](https://www.fifa.com).

Yours faithfully,

FIFA



Fatma Samoura  
Secretary General

Encl.

- Men'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**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Match details/window type</b>	<b>Max. number of match dates</b>
<b>2020</b>	January	-	-
	February	-	-
	March	-	-
	April	-	-
	May	-	-
	June	-	-
	July	-	-
	August	-	-
	31 August – 8 September	2 (UEFA only)	2
	5-13 October	2 (AFC, CAF & CONMEBOL)	2
	5-14 October	3 (UEFA only)	3
	9-17 November	2 (AFC, CAF & CONMEBOL)	2
	9-18 November	3 (UEFA only)	3
	December	-	-

Year	Dates	Match details/window type	Max. number of match dates
<b>2021</b>	January	-	-
	February	-	-
	22-30 March	2 (AFC, CAF, Concacaf & CONMEBOL)	2
	22-31 March	3 (UEFA only)	3
	April	-	-
	May	-	-
	31 May – 8 June	2 (UEFA & CONMEBOL)	2
	31 May – 15 June	4 (AFC, CAF, Concacaf & OFC)	4
	11 June – 10 July	CONMEBOL Copa América	
	11 June – 11 July	UEFA EURO	
	2 July – 6 July	Concacaf Gold Cup Preliminary Tournament*	
	10 July – 1 August	Concacaf Gold Cup	-
	30 August – 7 September	2 (AFC, CAF & OFC)	2
	30 August – 8 September	3 (UEFA & Concacaf)	3
	30 August – 9 September	3 (CONMEBOL only)	3
	4-12 October	2 (AFC, CAF, OFC & UEFA)	2
	4-13 October	3 (Concacaf only)	3
	4-14 October	3 (CONMEBOL only)	3
	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*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Match details/window type</b>	<b>Max. number of match dates</b>
<b>2022</b>	9 January – 6 February	CAF Africa Cup of Nations	-
	24 January – 1 February	2 (AFC, CONMEBOL & OFC)	2
	24 January – 2 February	3 (Concacaf only)	3
	21-29 March	2 (AFC, CAF, CONMEBOL, OFC & UEFA)	2
	21-30 March	3 (Concacaf only)	3
	April	<b>Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™</b>	-
	30 May – 14 June	4	4
	July	-	-
	August	-	-
	19-27 September	2	2
	October	-	-
	November/December	<b>Release of players for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™</b> 14 November  <b>FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™</b> 21 November – 18 December	-

Year	Dates	Match details/window type	Max. number of match dates
<b>2023</b>	January	-	-
	February	-	-
	20-28 March	2	2
	April	-	-
	May	-	-
	12-20 June	2	2
	June – July	CAF Africa Cup of Nations	-
	16 June – 16 July	AFC Asian Cup	
	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
<b>2024</b>	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	-	-