

# **Pilot: Principles and Agreements for the 2025-2026 Season of UEFA, KNVB, Professional Football Clubs (BVOs), Dutch municipalities, and Police Teams where European Football is Played.**

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On July 22, 2025, a second meeting took place between representatives of UEFA and the European Football Working Group. The aim of this meeting was to establish agreements to be laid down in a pilot for the 2025-2026 season.

## **European Football Working Group**

The European Football Working Group operates under the National Steering Committee for Football and Safety. The steering committee includes representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Security, the police, KNVB, the Public Prosecution Service, supporters, and municipalities. The purpose of the steering committee is to coordinate and strengthen the approach to football-related public order disturbances such as violence, racism, use of pyrotechnics, and other forms of misconduct around football matches. Since only a limited number of clubs play European football, a separate European football working group was established in 2024, pursuing the same objectives specifically for European matches.

Previously, the chair of the working group, Mayor Schouten of Alkmaar, presented her proposal regarding the topics for a pilot with UEFA to the local 'Four Corners' (mayor, police chief, public prosecutor, and club) of cities hosting European matches. The representatives of these 'Four Corners' have expressed their support for this proposal.

## **Role of mayors**

An important principle is that the mayor is the only authority within the municipal administration responsible for maintaining public order. In the Netherlands, the final decision regarding whether a football match may take place lies with the mayor. The deployment of police forces for public order issues also falls under the authority of the mayor.

## **Introduction to the pilot**

Clubs, municipalities, police, KNVB (including the clubs) and UEFA all share the same goal: to ensure hospitable and safe football for everyone. Each party has its own tasks, responsibilities

and authorities in this regard. The best football is played with supporters of both the home and away teams. Achieving this requires significant efforts from police, municipalities, and clubs—efforts that are not unlimited. Through careful preparation and additional agreements with UEFA, we aim to collectively ensure that European matches are conducted smoothly, hospitably, and safely.

Football should never serve as an excuse for behaviour that is unacceptable elsewhere: violence, pyrotechnics, offensive chants, or organized confrontations have no place here. Therefore, UEFA, KNVB, clubs, and the local triangle (mayor, police, public prosecutor) jointly express their responsibility to invest in good relations with supporters while also addressing behaviour that undermines hospitable football.

Organizing safe and hospitable football within stadiums is essential. Safety within stadiums is generally well-managed in the Netherlands. However, municipalities and police are often fully occupied with ensuring safety and public order in the city during European matches. There are limits to what is locally feasible and responsible.

A crucial factor is cooperation with UEFA as an equal partner of the local Four Corners. Clear agreements on roles, responsibilities, and authorities are essential. Organizing safe and hospitable football is only possible through mutual understanding, support, and reinforcement—not through obstruction.

To structurally improve cooperation between clubs, municipalities, police, KNVB, and UEFA, we are launching a pilot with concrete agreements. These will be applied during the current playing season (2025-2026) and evaluated afterwards. For Dutch mayors, this is of great importance: European matches require significant police capacity. As with the national competition, the goal is to reduce this pressure without compromising safety or hospitality.

UEFA sees this collaborative approach as a good example and is exploring whether it can be implemented in other countries as well.

All parties emphasize the importance of dialogue and joint commitment.

### **Information Provision**

Having accurate information in advance of an European match is crucial for conducting a proper risk analysis. Currently, information about expected away supporters is gathered in various ways through clubs, municipalities, and the police. A well-organized process will improve the information position and promote the timely exchange of relevant information, enabling an accurate analysis of public order and safety risks during the preparation of European matches.

- UEFA will require clubs to use the 'TIME' system, which must be mandatorily completed. UEFA will ensure that clubs fill out this system fully and on time by introducing mandatory input fields. Information from TIME is available to clubs and the KNVB and can be shared with municipalities through them.
- To conduct a proper risk analysis, information is needed on:
  - The profile of visiting supporters
  - The number of visiting supporters/number of high-risk supporters

- Information on travel movements: where are the supporters coming from and how are they traveling?
- Knowledge of foreign supporter associations
- The behaviour of visiting supporters at away matches across Europe
- Potential rival clubs also playing in European competitions
- Methods to prevent misinformation

Information will be provided to local authorities through club pre-match meetings, TIME, police (NIFP), open sources and in specific cases by UEFA (via the KNVB).

- UEFA will prepare pre- and post-match reports for each European match. These reports will be compiled in the Security Information Desk (SID). Municipalities and police can request SID information via KNVB as needed.
- UEFA is developing a system to document information on rival clubs. Once available, this information will also be accessible to municipalities via KNVB.
- For high-risk matches, municipalities and/or clubs can request UEFA to involve a Security Officer or Advisor in the match preparations earlier. UEFA will appoint such an officer no later than two weeks before matchday (or earlier if necessary).
- When UEFA assigns a security official at the request of a municipality/Four Corners, municipalities will establish contact with this official and involve them in the further preparation of the match. It is important that clubs are well involved in this process.

### **UEFA's Intermediary Role**

Local authorities will use the gathered information to conduct a risk analysis and determine under which conditions the match can be played. The club and police will incorporate these conditions when making arrangements with the visiting club during the pre-match meetings. These conditions should also be reflected in the UEFA system, which is filled in by the clubs. For significant conditions, UEFA will be informed by municipalities through the appointed security officials.

*NB: It is important to mention that certain administrative measures may only prove necessary at the last moment. Even then, the Four Corners will endeavor to inform and involve UEFA as soon as possible.*

- UEFA serves as an authority for clubs. In this role, UEFA can assist local authorities in making and enforcing agreements concerning public order and safety.
- UEFA acts as an intermediary in case of ambiguities or friction between the visiting and hosting clubs regarding conditions imposed by the authorities.
- It is crucial that UEFA is informed in a timely manner about necessary (administrative) conditions, enabling UEFA to understand the necessity of these conditions and to explain and support them towards visiting clubs. This requires consultation before official letters are sent.
- UEFA will work together with the home and visiting clubs in order to ensure early communication and cooperation regarding imposed (administrative) conditions. UEFA

asks that these measures are taken only in extraordinary situations and draws attention on the proportionality of such approach.

- External communication will be coordinated as much as possible.
- During Matchday-1 and Matchday meetings, UEFA will explicitly bring up these agreements. Municipalities and police will routinely attend these meetings.

### **Monitoring Compliance with Public Order and Safety Agreements**

- UEFA will ensure that agreements made with the hosting club are adhered to.
- After each match, evaluations will take place. UEFA will report its findings concerning public order and safety in and around the stadium and, where possible, in city centers to local authorities.

### **European Competition Information Form (CIF)**

- Before the season starts, municipalities, in consultation with clubs, will submit preferred dates/times and dates when matches cannot be played to UEFA. This also applies to potential stadium clashes (e.g., matches in Amsterdam and Alkmaar or in Deventer and Enschede on the same day). It is important that these requests are communicated well in advance. UEFA will accommodate these preferences where possible.

### **To Be Investigated:**

- Municipalities will work on developing a framework to address situations such as:
  - Previous (culpable) public order-related incidents committed by a club in the Netherlands, with that club returning for a match.
  - Previous (culpable and severe) public order incidents committed by a club abroad in European competitions, with that club playing in the Netherlands.
  - Authorities in another European country denying entry to a Dutch club: what are the implications for a potential return leg in the Netherlands?

Possible conditions that municipalities may impose include:

- Mandatory ticket exchange points
- Transport arrangements to and from the stadium
- Locations of fan meeting points/fanzones
- Fewer than the prescribed 5% visiting supporters
- No visiting supporters allowed

This framework will eventually also be discussed with UEFA. It will clarify which measures can be taken in specific situations, making the actions of (local) authorities more predictable and aiding in acceptance.

### **Evaluation**

- After the 2025-2026 European season, parties will evaluate these agreements to assess their effectiveness, continuation, and whether adjustments are needed for the next season.

**Thus agreed upon during the meeting on July 22, 2025, at the Hilton Hotel, Schiphol (Netherlands)**