

## Summary of media requirements prior to UEFA Champions League matches (taken from the 2025-26 Regulations)

### What are the rules?

#### 1. Pre-match training sessions

- At least **15 minutes** of the training session on the day before the match (i.e., MD-1) must be open to the media.
- The club can film the rest of training session itself, but may have to provide photographs to UEFA for use by the international media.
- The club must provide live broadcast facilities for all MD-1 training sessions.
- If there is no training session on the day before the match, the club must provide UEFA with 15 minutes of footage of its “preparations” (for example, players visiting the stadium before the game, working in the gym, etc).

#### 2. Press conferences

- The club must hold a pre-match press conference the day before the game.
- For home games, this press conference must be held within the stadium or at the training ground. For away games, it must be held at the home team’s stadium.
- Members of the media must have sufficient time to attend the Club’s press conference and that of the opposition. This means the timing of the press conference needs **to be agreed with the opposition well in advance**.
- The club must confirm the timing of the press conference by entering it into UEFA’s TIME system. This must be done by **1100 UK TIME** (1200 Central European time) on the Thursday before the game (i.e. Thursday **of the week before** the match).
- The Head Coach must attend the press conference, along with at least one player.
- The club is responsible for making sure the venue is properly equipped. This includes providing all the necessary technical kit for the press conference.
- A suitably qualified interpreter must attend the press conference. The club must provide all the necessary equipment for simultaneous interpretation.

#### 3. Other interviews

- The Head Coach and one player must give interviews the day before the match.
- They will give **two** interviews – one with the host broadcaster, and one with other broadcasters.
- The names of the players taking part in these interviews must be communicated to UEFA by **1000 (local time)** on the day before the match.
- **The Head Coach and one player** must be available to give a short interview to the host broadcaster immediately before the game. The player giving the interview **must have been named on the teamsheet** for the game.

## Key messages for compliance

### **For coaches**

- a. Make sure press and media are allowed to film/photograph at least 15 minutes of the pre-match training session – and plan the content of those 15 minutes accordingly. If you don't want the world to see what you're working on, don't work on it while the media are present!
- b. Ensure that the Head Coach (or, if they are unavailable in exceptional circumstances, their Assistant) is available for interviews as advised by the Press Department. **Attendance is mandatory** and failure to turn up to can lead to punishments for the Club, so these press events need to be treated as a priority.

### **For the Press Department**

- a. Contact the opposition club's press officer well in advance to coordinate the timing of press conferences. Ideally, timings should be confirmed and submitted by the **end of the day before** the match.
- b. Similarly, **book the interpreter well ahead of time**. Interpreting **is a specialist skill**, and most professionals have a Master's degree in interpreting. For our purposes, they should also have a track record of working in a football environment. The club may want to approach a specialist agency or compile a list of trusted professionals it can use.
- c. Communicate clearly with coaches and give them much notice of their interview/press engagements as you possibly can. It is good practice to **remind them of timings a couple of hours before they are due to appear**.
- d. To reduce the risk of a missed deadline, aim to send the details of player(s) to be interviewed pre-match to UEFA the **night before the match**, rather than at 0955 on the morning of the game.
- e. Finally, when the team arrives at the stadium, check with the coaching staff to make sure that the player selected to give the short interview immediately prior to the game **has actually been named on the teamsheet**.