

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Poland

Silesian Stadium - Chorzow

Thursday 11 October 2018
20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Group A3 - Matchday 3



Portugal

Last updated 27/08/2019 17:23CET



Previous meetings	2
Squad list	4
Head coach	6
Match officials	7
Competition facts	8
Match-by-match lineups	11
Legend	12

Previous meetings

Head to Head

2016 UEFA European Championship

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
30/06/2016	QF	Poland - Portugal	1-1 (aet, 3-5pens)	Marseille	Lewandowski 2; Renato Sanches 33

UEFA EURO 2008

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
08/09/2007	QR (GS)	Portugal - Poland	2-2	Lisbon	Maniche 50, Ronaldo 73; M. Lewandowski 44, Krzynówek 88
11/10/2006	QR (GS)	Poland - Portugal	2-1	Chorzow	Smolarek 9, 18; Nuno Gomes 90+2

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
10/06/2002	GS-FT	Portugal - Poland	4-0	Jeonju	Pauleta 14, 65, 77, Rui Costa 88

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
07/06/1986	GS-FT	Poland - Portugal	1-0	Monterrey	Smolarek 68

1984 UEFA European Championship

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
28/10/1983	PR (GS)	Poland - Portugal	0-1	Wroclaw	Carlos Manuel 32
10/10/1982	PR (GS)	Portugal - Poland	2-1	Lisbon	Nené 2, Fernando Gomes 82; Krol 90

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
29/10/1977	QR (GS)	Poland - Portugal	1-1	Chorzow	Deyna 37; Fernandes 61
16/10/1976	QR (GS)	Portugal - Poland	0-2	Porto	Lato 49, 77

	Qualifying								Final tournament				Total					
	Home				Away													
	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
Total																		
Poland	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	11	3	4	4	10	14

	Qualifying								Final tournament				Total					
	Home				Away													
	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
Portugal	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	11	4	4	3	14	10

Squad list

Poland

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Wojciech Szczyński	18/04/1990	28	Juventus	-			0	0		
12	Bartłomiej Drągowski	19/08/1997	21	Fiorentina	-			0	0		
22	Łukasz Fabiański	18/04/1985	33	West Ham	*			1	0		
Defenders											
3	Artur Jędrzejczyk	04/11/1987	30	Legia	-			0	0		
4	Tomasz Kędziora	11/06/1994	24	Dynamo Kyiv	-			0	0		
5	Jan Bednarek	12/04/1996	22	Southampton	-			1	0		
15	Kamil Glik	03/02/1988	30	Monaco	-			1	0		
18	Bartosz Bereszyński	12/07/1992	26	Sampdoria	-			1	0		
19	Marcin Kamiński	15/01/1992	26	Düsseldorf	-			0	0		
Midfielders											
2	Rafał Pietrzak	30/01/1992	26	Wisła Kraków	-			1	0		
6	Jacek Góralski	21/09/1992	26	Ludogorets	-			0	0		
8	Karol Linetty	02/02/1995	23	Sampdoria	-			1	0		
10	Grzegorz Krychowiak	29/01/1990	28	Lokomotiv Moskva	-			1	0		
11	Kamil Grosicki	08/06/1988	30	Hull	-			0	0		
13	Damian Szymański	16/06/1995	23	Wisła Płock	-			1	0		
14	Mateusz Klich	13/07/1990	28	Leeds	*			1	0		
16	Jakub Błaszczykowski	14/12/1985	32	Wolfsburg	*			1	0		
17	Damian Kądzior	16/06/1992	26	Dinamo Zagreb	-			0	0		
20	Piotr Zieliński	20/05/1994	24	Napoli	-			1	1		
21	Rafał Kurzawa	29/01/1993	25	Amiens	-			1	0		
Forwards											
7	Arkadiusz Milik	28/02/1994	24	Napoli	-			0	0		
9	Robert Lewandowski	21/08/1988	30	Bayern	-			1	0		
23	Krzysztof Piątek	01/07/1995	23	Cracovia	-			0	0		
Coach											
-	Jerzy Brzęczek	18/03/1971	47		-			1	0		

Portugal

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Rui Patrício	15/02/1988	30	Wolves	-			1	0		
12	Cláudio Ramos	16/11/1991	26	Tondela	-			0	0		
22	Beto	01/05/1982	36	Göztepe Izmir	-			0	0		
Defenders											
2	João Cancelo	27/05/1994	24	Juventus	-			1	0		
3	Pepe	26/02/1983	35	Beşiktaş	*			1	0		
4	Luís Neto	26/05/1988	30	Zenit	-			0	0		
5	Kevin Rodrigues	05/03/1994	24	Real Sociedad	-			0	0		
6	Rúben Dias	14/05/1997	21	Benfica	-			1	0		
19	Mário Rui	27/05/1991	27	Napoli	-			1	0		
21	Cédric	31/08/1991	27	Southampton	-			0	0		
Midfielders											
7	Bruma	24/10/1994	23	Leipzig	-			1	0		
8	Renato Sanches	18/08/1997	21	Bayern	-			1	0		
10	Bernardo Silva	10/08/1994	24	Man. City	-			1	0		
13	Danilo	09/09/1991	27	Porto	-			0	0		
14	William Carvalho	07/04/1992	26	Betis	-			1	0		
15	Sérgio Oliveira	02/06/1992	26	Porto	-			1	0		
16	Bruno Fernandes	08/09/1994	24	Sporting CP	-			0	0		
17	Rafa Silva	17/05/1993	25	Benfica	-			0	0		
18	Rúben Neves	13/03/1997	21	Wolves	*			1	0		
20	Pizzi	06/10/1989	29	Benfica	-			1	0		
23	Hélder Costa	12/01/1994	24	Wolves	-			0	0		
Forwards											
9	Éder	22/12/1987	30	Lokomotiv Moskva	-			0	0		
11	André Silva	06/11/1995	22	Sevilla	-			1	1		
Coach											
-	Fernando Santos	10/10/1954	64		-			1	0		

Head coach

Jerzy Brzęczek

Date of birth: 18 March 1971

Nationality: Polish

Playing career: Olimpia Truskolasy (youth), Raków Częstochowa (youth), Olimpia Poznań, Lech Poznań, Górnik Zabrze, GKS Katowice, Tirol Innsbruck, LASK Linz, Maccabi Haifa, Tirol Innsbruck, Sturm Graz, FC Kärnten, Wacker Tirol, Górnik Zabrze, Polonia Bytom

Coaching career: Raków Częstochowa, Lechia Gdańsk, GKS Katowice, Wisła Płock, Poland

- Jerzy Brzęczek enjoyed a prolonged and eventful career as a midfielder. Known for his leadership skills, he was captain of most of the teams he played for. He is the uncle and mentor of Jakub Błaszczykowski, Poland's UEFA EURO 2012 captain who won his 100th cap at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.
- Brzęczek spent several years in Austria with a number of clubs, winning back-to-back Bundesliga titles with Tirol Innsbruck, the second in 2001/02 under Joachim Löw, to go with the 1992/93 Polish title he claimed with Lech Poznań. He amassed more than 500 league appearances in Poland, Austria and Israel.
- Was a key player and captain of the Poland side that won Olympic silver at the 1992 Games in Barcelona, losing narrowly to hosts Spain in the final (2-3) at the conclusion of a captivating, high-scoring campaign.
- Played 42 games for the senior Polish national team, some as captain, but did not take part in any major tournaments. Brzęczek scored four international goals, including one against Brazil in a friendly and one against England at Wembley (1-3) in a UEFA EURO 2000 qualifier.
- Started coaching in 2010 at Raków Częstochowa, where he remained for four years before experiencing his first taste of the Polish top flight with Lechia Gdańsk. He returned to the second division to coach GKS Katowice for two years before his first full season in the Ekstraklasa ended with a creditable fifth-place finish in charge of Wisła Płock – an achievement deemed worthy of promotion to the post of Poland coach in July 2018 to succeed Adam Nawałka.

Fernando Santos

Date of birth: 10 October 1954

Nationality: Portuguese

Playing career: Benfica, Estoril (twice), Marítimo

Coaching career: Estoril, Estrela da Amadora, Porto, AEK Athens (twice), Panathinaikos, Sporting CP, Benfica, PAOK, Greece, Portugal

- A left-back, Santos – who holds a degree in electrical and telecommunications engineering – started his playing days at home-town club Benfica before spending most of his career with Estoril.
- He retired from playing in 1987, going immediately into coaching at Estoril, where he was head coach for six years, guiding the club to two promotions and into the Portuguese top flight.
- Had four seasons with Estrela da Amadora prior to joining Porto in 1998. Led his side to the Liga title in his first term, adding two domestic cups before departing for AEK in 2001. Again made an instant impact, lifting the 2002 Greek Cup. Went to Panathinaikos that summer followed by spells at Sporting, AEK again and Benfica.
- He then revived PAOK's fortunes after taking over in 2007, steering them to runners-up spot in the 2009/10 Super League to earn a place in the UEFA Champions League third qualifying round. Announced his departure in May 2010 and was confirmed as Otto Rehhagel's successor as Greece coach six weeks later, proving an immediate hit as he helped them to the quarter-finals of UEFA EURO 2012.
- Repeated the feat for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, guiding Greece to the last 16, before stepping down. He was appointed by Portugal that September after Paulo Bento's departure following a 1-0 defeat by Albania and led them to UEFA EURO 2016 thanks to seven successive victories. The crowning glory was to come in France, Portugal remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament and defeating the hosts in the St-Denis final thanks to Éder's extra-time goal; two years later, Santos and his team reached the last 16 of the World Cup.

Match officials

Referee	Carlos Del Cerro (ESP)
Assistant referees	Juan Yuste (ESP) , Roberto Alonso (ESP)
Additional assistant referees	Juan Martinez Munuera (ESP) , Santiago Jaime Latre (ESP)
Fourth official	Angel Nevado Rodriguez (ESP)
UEFA Delegate	Luca Zorzi (SUI)
UEFA Referee observer	Sergey Zuev (RUS)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Carlos Del Cerro	13/03/1976	0	23

Carlos Del Cerro Grande

First division: 2011

FIFA badge: 2013

Tournaments: N/A

Finals

N/A

UEFA Nations League matches between the two teams

No such matches refereed

Other matches involving teams from either of the two countries involved in this match

Date	Competition	Stage reached	Home	Away	Result	Venue
10/12/2013	UYL	GS	SL Benfica	Paris Saint-Germain	1-1	Seixal

Competition facts

What is the background to the UEFA Nations League?

The rejuvenation of national team football – and the UEFA Nations League – stems from the desire of UEFA and its 55 member associations to improve the quality and standing of national team football. UEFA and its associations wanted more sporting meaning in national team football, with associations, coaches, players and supporters increasingly of the opinion that friendly matches are not providing adequate competition for national teams.

Extensive consultation and discussions started as far back as the 2011 UEFA Strategy Meeting in Cyprus and continued at a series of Top Executive Programme (TEP) meetings over the following three years. The UEFA Nations League was unanimously adopted at the XXXVIII Ordinary UEFA Congress in Astana on 27 March 2014.

What is the basic format?

The format of the UEFA Nations League features promotion and relegation. The 55 European national teams have been divided into four leagues in accordance with UEFA's national association coefficient rankings on 11 October 2017.

League A includes the top-ranked sides and League D includes the lowest:

League A

Group A1: Germany, France, Netherlands

Group A2: Belgium, Switzerland, Iceland

Group A3: Portugal, Italy, Poland

Group A4: Spain, England, Croatia

Teams have been split into four groups of three, with the group winners then contesting the UEFA Nations League Finals (semi-finals, third-place match and final) in June 2019 to become the UEFA Nations League winners. One host country will be appointed in December 2018 from among the finalist teams.

The four teams that finish bottom of their groups will be relegated to League B for the 2020 edition.

The top four ranked teams that do not qualify for UEFA EURO 2020 will enter a play-off in March 2020, with one final place on offer.

League B

Group B1: Slovakia, Ukraine, Czech Republic

Group B2: Russia, Sweden, Turkey

Group B3: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Northern Ireland

Group B4: Wales, Republic of Ireland, Denmark

Teams have been split into four groups of three.

The four group winners are promoted to League A, with the four sides that finish bottom relegated to League C for the next competition to be played in 2020.

The top four ranked teams that do not qualify for UEFA EURO 2020 will enter a play-off in March 2020, with one final place on offer.

League C

Group C1: Scotland, Albania, Israel

Group C2: Hungary, Greece, Finland, Estonia

Group C3: Slovenia, Norway, Bulgaria, Cyprus

Group C4: Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, Lithuania

Teams have been split into one group of three (containing teams from Pots 1, 2 and 3 only) and three groups of four. Due to winter venue restrictions, a group could contain a maximum of two of these teams: Norway, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania.

The four group winners are promoted to League B, with the four sides that finish bottom relegated to League D for the 2020 edition.

The top four ranked teams that do not qualify for UEFA EURO 2020 will enter a play-off in March 2020, with one final place on offer.

League D

Group D1: Georgia, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Andorra

Group D2: Belarus, Luxembourg, Moldova, San Marino

Group D3: Azerbaijan, Faroe Islands, Malta, Kosovo

Group D4: FYR Macedonia, Armenia, Liechtenstein, Gibraltar

Teams have been split into four groups of four.

Due to excessive travel restrictions, any group could not contain a maximum of one of these pairs: Andorra & Kazakhstan, Faroe Islands & Kazakhstan, Gibraltar & Kazakhstan, Gibraltar & Azerbaijan

The four group winners are promoted to League C for the 2020 edition.

The top four ranked teams that do not qualify for UEFA EURO 2020 will enter a play-off in March 2020, with one final place on offer.

Leagues A and B consist of four groups of three teams

League C comprises one group of three teams and three groups of four sides

League D is formed by four groups of four teams

The League Phase Draw for the UEFA Nations League took place at the SwissTech Convention Centre in Lausanne on 24 January 2018.

In each league, four group winners are promoted (or play in the Finals, see below) and four teams are relegated for the next competition to be played in 2020.

The overall UEFA Nations League rankings will determine the composition of the draw pots for the subsequent European Qualifiers.

In addition, the UEFA Nations League will provide teams with another chance to qualify for the UEFA EURO final tournament, with four sides qualifying through play-off matches which take place in March 2020 (see below).

When will the UEFA Nations League take place?

The UEFA Nations League will take place as follows:

See the full fixture list.

The UEFA Nations League group games are being held over six matchdays, during the 'double-headers' in September, October and November 2018. The UEFA Nations League Finals competition for the teams that win the four groups within the top division is scheduled for June 2019.

For the UEFA Nations League Finals, the group winners of UEFA Nations League A will play in a knockout format (semi-finals, third-place match and final) in June 2019 to become the UEFA Nations League winners. One host country will be formally appointed by the UEFA Executive Committee in December 2018 from one of the nations competing in the final four. Italy, Poland and Portugal (all in Group A3) have expressed interest.

The play-off matches will be staged in March 2020 (see below).

Will qualifying for the UEFA EURO change?

The changes to UEFA EURO qualifying will make it more streamlined. The equation is now simple: ten groups with the top two teams in each group qualifying automatically, and the other four places being awarded to European Qualifiers play-off winners, in which the 16 group winners of the UEFA Nations League will be in contention.

The UEFA EURO 2020 qualifying draw will be made after the completion of the UEFA Nations League and allow for the four UEFA Nations League Finals participants to be drawn into groups of five teams.

But the key principle of the qualifiers remains: that every team can play every team.

The European Qualifiers for UEFA EURO 2020 commence in March 2019. There will be two matchdays in each of March, June, September, October and November 2019. In total, there will be five groups of five teams and five groups of six teams (ten groups in all) playing over ten matchdays (the same number as now). The winner and runner-up in each of the ten groups will qualify automatically for the UEFA EURO 2020 final tournament (June 2020).

The last four EURO places will be won through the European Qualifiers play-offs, which will take place in March 2020 and which will be contested by the 16 UEFA Nations League group winners.

If a group winner has already qualified via the European Qualifiers, then their spot will go to the next best-ranked team in their league. If a league does not have four teams to compete, the remaining slots are allocated to teams from another league, according to the overall UEFA Nations League ranking.

Each league will have a path of its own and each path will feature two single-leg semi-finals and one single-leg final. The winner of each path will win a ticket to UEFA EURO 2020.

How are the overall UEFA Nations League rankings calculated?

Within each league (A, B, C and D), the overall ranking will be calculated based on position in the group then points, goal difference, goals scored, away goals scored, wins, away wins, disciplinary points, coefficient ranking.

What are the advantages for national associations and teams?

National associations and coaches, in consultations with UEFA, revealed that they feel that friendly internationals are not providing adequate sporting competition. The UEFA Nations League creates more meaningful and competitive matches for teams and a dedicated calendar and structure for national team football.

Top teams can also aspire to take part in the UEFA Nations League Finals, a new top-level event.

For middle-ranking and smaller nations, the UEFA Nations League will offer an extra way to qualify for UEFA EURO final tournaments. Lower-tier countries – the bottom 16 in the rankings – are now guaranteed one of the 24 qualifying slots for UEFA EURO.

Lower-ranking teams who have struggled against sides ranked considerably higher than them will now get the chance to take part in balanced matches. Teams do not learn and progress by repeatedly losing; now some sides will start winning.

While the UEFA Nations League will replace most friendly internationals, there will still be space in the calendar for friendlies, especially for top teams who may want to face opposition from outside Europe as they will be in groups of three teams.

Associations and teams benefit from clarity of the fixture calendar, and there is now a clear buffer between the end of the UEFA EURO and FIFA World Cup, and vice versa, as well as stability of income.

What are the advantages for supporters?

Supporters more than most realise that most friendlies fail to deliver competitive and meaningful football. Now they will have the opportunity to see their teams play in more competitive matches, take part in a new competition and get a second chance to qualify for the major tournaments.

In every even year there are World Cup or UEFA EURO champions; now in every odd year there will be a UEFA Nations League winners. Football is about competition and now, just like in club football, there will be a national team champion at the close of every season.

Will this mean more demands on players and clubs?

No: the UEFA Nations League and European Qualifiers will adhere to the existing agreed international match calendar. UEFA is always keen to preserve the balance between club and international football. The new competition should, in fact, reduce demands on players and clubs with less travel envisaged for friendly games while national teams will be playing more consistently at their own level. With double-header matchweeks, players will even go back to their clubs earlier than is currently the case.

Is this just about generating more revenue?

No, finances are not a driver for the new competition. However, the competition will have the same centralised media rights as have recently been introduced for all European Qualifiers so associations will have even more stability in their income.

Will there be no more friendly internationals?

There will certainly be fewer friendly internationals and undoubtedly fewer meaningless friendlies. However, there will still be space in the calendar for friendly internationals – particularly warm-up matches for final tournaments. UEFA is also keen that European teams will still have the chance to play opponents from other confederations.

Match-by-match lineups

Poland

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group A3

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Portugal	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Poland	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Italy	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Matchday 1 (07/09/2018)

Italy 1-1 Poland

Goals: 0-1 Zieliński 40, 1-1 Jorginho 78 (P)

Poland: Fabiański, Reca, Bednarek, Lewandowski, Krychowiak, Klich (55 Szymański), Glik, Błaszczykowski (80 Pietrzak), Bereszyński, Zieliński (66 Linetty), Kurzawa

Matchday 3 (11/10/2018)

Poland-Portugal

Matchday 4 (14/10/2018)

Poland-Italy

Matchday 6 (20/11/2018)

Portugal-Poland

Portugal

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Portugal 1-0 Italy

Goals: 1-0 André Silva 48

Portugal: Rui Patrício, João Cancelo, Pepe, Rúben Dias, Bruma (77 Gelson Martins), André Silva, Bernardo Silva, Rúben Neves, William Carvalho (86 Sérgio Oliveira), Mário Rui, Pizzi (74 Renato Sanches)

Matchday 3 (11/10/2018)

Poland-Portugal

Matchday 5 (17/11/2018)

Italy-Portugal

Matchday 6 (20/11/2018)

Portugal-Poland

Legend

Competitions

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