

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Latvia

Daugava - Riga

Thursday 6 September 2018
20.45CET (21.45 local time)

Group D1 - Matchday 1



Andorra

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Previous meetings	2
Squad list	3
Head coach	5
Match officials	6
Competition facts	7
Match-by-match lineups	10
Legend	11

Previous meetings

Head to Head

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
10/10/2017	QR (GS)	Latvia - Andorra	4-0	Riga	D. Ikaunieks 11, Šabala 19, 59, Tarasovs 63
06/09/2016	QR (GS)	Andorra - Latvia	0-1	Andorra la Vella	Šabala 48

	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																		
Latvia	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	5	5	0	0	14	1
Andorra	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	5	0	0	5	1	14

Squad list

Latvia

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers									
1	Andris Vaņins	30/04/1980	38	Zürich	-			0	0
12	Kaspars Ikstens	05/06/1988	30	Rīgas FS	-			0	0
23	Pāvels Šteinbors	21/09/1985	32	Arka	-			0	0
Defenders									
2	Vitālijs Maksimenko	08/12/1990	27	Olimpija Ljubljana	-			0	0
3	Gints Freimanis	09/05/1985	33	Spartaks Jūrmala	-			0	0
4	Kaspars Dubra	20/12/1990	27	Rīgas FS	-			0	0
5	Aleksandrs Solovjovs	25/02/1988	30	Rīgas FS	-			0	0
6	Vladislavs Gabovs	13/07/1987	31	Riga	-			0	0
13	Vjačeslavs Isajevs	27/08/1993	25	Rīgas FS	-			0	0
19	Vitālijs Jagodinskis	28/02/1992	26	Ventspils	-			0	0
Midfielders									
7	Ritvars Rugins	17/10/1989	28	Ventspils	-			0	0
8	Aleksandrs Fertovs	16/06/1987	31	Rīgas FS	-			0	0
14	Aleksejs Višņakovs	03/02/1984	34	Spartaks Jūrmala	-			0	0
17	Cristián Torres	18/06/1985	33	Liepāja	-			0	0
18	Roberts Savaļņieks	04/02/1993	25	Rīgas FS	-			0	0
20	Roberts Uldriķis	03/04/1998	20	Sion	-			0	0
21	Glebs Kļuškins	01/10/1992	25	Rīgas FS	-			0	0
Forwards									
9	Dāvis Ikaunieks	07/01/1994	24	Jablonec	-			0	0
10	Valērijs Šabala	12/10/1994	23	Podbeskidzie	-			0	0
11	Artūrs Karašausks	29/01/1992	26	Akzhayik	-			0	0
15	Deniss Rakels	20/08/1992	26	Riga	-			0	0
16	Ivans Lukjanovs	24/01/1987	31	Riga	-			0	0
22	Vladislavs Gutkovskis	02/04/1995	23	Nieciecza	-			0	0
Coach									
-	Mixu Paatelainen	03/02/1967	51		-			0	0

Andorra

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Josep Gomes	03/12/1985	32	Villaverde San Andrés	-			0	0		
12	Victor Silverio	15/04/1997	21	Lusitans	-			0	0		
13	Ferran Pol	28/02/1983	35	FC Andorra	-			0	0		
Defenders											
5	Emili Garcia	11/01/1989	29	Andorra	-			0	0		
6	Ildefons Lima	10/12/1979	38	FC Santa Coloma	-			0	0		
15	Moisés San Nicolás	17/09/1993	24	FC Santa Coloma	-			0	0		
16	Chus Rubio	09/09/1994	23	FC Andorra	-			0	0		
17	Joan Cervós	24/02/1998	20	FC Andorra	-			0	0		
20	Max Llovera	08/01/1997	21	UA Horta	-			0	0		
21	Marc Garcia	21/03/1988	30	EC Granollers	-			0	0		
23	Jordi Rubio	01/11/1987	30	UE Santa Coloma	-			0	0		
Midfielders											
3	Marc Vales	04/04/1990	28	Sandefjord	-			0	0		
4	Marc Rebés	03/07/1994	24	FC Santa Coloma	-			0	0		
8	Marcio Vieira	10/10/1984	33	Monzón	-			0	0		
11	Sergi Moreno	25/11/1987	30	Inter Escaldes	-			0	0		
14	Jordi Aláez	23/01/1998	20	FC Andorra	-			0	0		
18	Marc Ferré	11/01/1994	24	FC Andorra	-			0	0		
22	Victor Rodríguez	07/09/1987	30	FC Santa Coloma	-			0	0		
Forwards											
2	Cristian Martínez	16/10/1989	28	FC Andorra	-			0	0		
7	Ludovic Clemente	09/05/1986	32	FC Andorra	-			0	0		
9	Luigi San Nicolas	28/06/1992	26	Engordany	-			0	0		
10	Juli Sánchez	20/06/1978	40	FC Santa Coloma	-			0	0		
19	Sebastià Gómez	01/11/1983	34	Engordany	-			0	0		
Coach											
-	Koldo Alvarez	04/09/1970	48		-			0	0		

Head coach

Mixu Paatelainen

Date of birth: 3 February 1967

Nationality: Finnish

Playing career: Valkeakosken Haka, Dundee United, Aberdeen, Bolton, Wolves, Hibernian (twice), Strasbourg, Saint Johnstone, Saint Mirren

Coaching career: Cowdenbeath, TPS Turku, Hibernian, Kilmarnock, Finland, Dundee United, Ubon UMT United, Latvia

- The son of Finnish international forward Matti Paatelainen, Mixu began his playing career at Haka in Valkeakoski before starting a long association with Scotland in 1987, joining Dundee United. A powerful striker who never considered himself a target man despite being much used in the role, Paatelainen spent five years with United and two at Aberdeen before heading south to England in 1994, signing for Bolton.
- Helped the club to promotion to the Premier League and the English League Cup final in his first term. Although relegation followed a year later, Paatelainen won another promotion before leaving for a single season at Wolves in 1997/98.
- Headed back to Scotland and Hibernian in 1998, breaking for a short and injury-plagued spell at Strasbourg in 2001/02. The final campaign of his playing days, which also featured 18 goals in 70 games for Finland, was at St Mirren in 2004/05, when he also worked as the club's assistant manager.
- Took charge of Cowdenbeath in 2005, securing the side's first divisional title in 67 years in his only full season. Also a success during a solitary campaign at TPS, in January 2008 he earned his first top-flight assignment with Hibernian. Left Easter Road in May 2009, later returning to management at Kilmarnock before being appointed Finland coach in March 2011.
- Having missed out on the 2014 FIFA World Cup with Finland, Paatelainen was sacked in June 2015; returned to Scotland and Dundee United that October but unable to prevent the club's relegation at the end of the campaign, prompting his departure. After a short spell in Thailand, appointed Latvia coach in May 2018.

Koldo Alvarez

Date of birth: 4 September 1970

Nationality: Andorran

Playing career: Aurrerá Vitória, Atlético Madrid, Toledo (loan), Salamanca, FC Andorra (twice), Balaguer

Coaching career: Andorra

- A reserve goalkeeper at Atlético, Koldo came through the club's youth ranks and lifted the Copa del Rey with the Spanish side in 1990/91.
- Leaving the capital in search of first-team football, Koldo played for Toledo before winning promotion to the Spanish second division with Salamanca in 1993/94.
- Signed for FC Andorra in the summer of 1994, dividing his time between playing for the club's first team and acting as a youth coach with the national Under-17, U19 and U21 sides.
- Capped 78 times by Andorra before his retirement following a 6-0 loss to England at Wembley in June 2009 having been named his country's best player of the last 50 years by the Andorran Football Federation (FAF) six years earlier.
- Took over as coach of the national team in February 2010, his side finishing bottom of their qualifying groups for UEFA EURO 2012 and the 2014 FIFA World Cup. That was again the case in the UEFA EURO 2016 preliminaries, although Andorra did score four goals – setting a new best mark for the competition – and overcame Hungary in June 2017 in 2018 World Cup qualifying, their first competitive win since 2004.

Match officials

Referee	Keith Kennedy (NIR)
Assistant referees	Paul Robinson (NIR) , Stephen Donaldson (NIR)
Additional assistant referees	Ian McNabb (NIR) , Tim Marshall (NIR)
Fourth official	Stephen Bell (NIR)
UEFA Delegate	Eamon Naughton (IRL)
UEFA Referee observer	Kristinn Jakobsson (ISL)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Keith Kennedy	27/06/1991	0	9

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
06/07/2017	UEL	1QR	NK Osijek	UE Santa Coloma	4-0	Osijek

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

Latvia

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group D1

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Andorra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Matchday 1 (06/09/2018)

Latvia-Andorra

Matchday 2 (09/09/2018)

Georgia-Latvia

Matchday 3 (13/10/2018)

Latvia-Kazakhstan

Matchday 4 (16/10/2018)

Latvia-Georgia

Matchday 5 (15/11/2018)

Kazakhstan-Latvia

Matchday 6 (19/11/2018)

Andorra-Latvia

Andorra

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 1 (06/09/2018)

Latvia-Andorra

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Andorra-Kazakhstan

Matchday 3 (13/10/2018)

Georgia-Andorra

Matchday 4 (16/10/2018)

Kazakhstan-Andorra

Matchday 5 (15/11/2018)

Andorra-Georgia

Matchday 6 (19/11/2018)

Andorra-Latvia

Legend

Competitions

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