

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Montenegro

**Gradski Stadion Podgorica -
Podgorica**

Thursday 11 October 2018
20.45CET (20.45 local time)
Group C4 - Matchday 3



Serbia

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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	12

Previous meetings

Head to Head

No UEFA competition matches have been played between these two teams

Squad list

Montenegro

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Danijel Petković	25/05/1993	25	Lorient	-			2	0		
12	Milan Mijatović	26/07/1987	31	Budućnost Podgorica	-			0	0		
13	Damir Ljuljanović	23/02/1992	26	Titograd	-			0	0		
Defenders											
2	Filip Stojković	22/01/1993	25	Crvena zvezda	-			2	0		
3	Risto Radunović	04/05/1992	26	Astra	-			0	0		
5	Boris Kopitović	17/09/1994	24	Čukarički	-			1	0		
6	Žarko Tomašević	22/02/1990	28	Oostende	*			2	0		
7	Marko Vešović	28/08/1991	27	Legia	-			0	0		
21	Emrah Klimenta	13/02/1991	27	Sacramento Republic	-			0	0		
22	Marko Simić	16/06/1987	31	Pakhtakor	-			2	0		
23	Adam Marušić	17/10/1992	25	Lazio	-			0	0		
Midfielders											
4	Nikola Vukčević	13/12/1991	26	Levante	*			2	0		
8	Marko Janković	09/07/1995	23	Partizan	*			1	1		
14	Darko Zorić	12/09/1993	25	Čukarički	-			0	0		
15	Asmir Kajević	15/02/1990	28	Čukarički	-			0	0		
16	Vladimir Jovović	26/10/1994	23	Jablonec	-			2	0		
17	Luka Mirković	01/11/1990	27	Budućnost Podgorica	-			0	0		
18	Nebojša Kosović	24/02/1995	23	Partizan	-			2	0		
19	Aleksandar Ščekić	12/12/1991	26	Partizan	-			2	0		
20	Mirko Ivanić	13/09/1993	25	BATE	-			2	0		
Forwards											
9	Stefan Mugoša	26/02/1992	26	Incheon	-			1	0		
10	Stevan Jovetić	02/11/1989	28	Monaco	-			0	0		
11	Fatos Bećiraj	05/05/1988	30	M. Netanya	-			2	0		
Coach											
-	Ljubiša Tumbaković	02/09/1952	66		-			2	0		

Serbia

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase				
						Pld	Gls			
Goalkeepers										
1	Marko Dmitrović	24/01/1992	26	Eibar	-		2	0		
12	Predrag Rajković	31/10/1995	22	M. Tel-Aviv	-		0	0		
23	Aleksandar Jovanović	06/12/1992	25	Huesca	-		0	0		
Defenders										
2	Antonio Rukavina	26/01/1984	34	Astana	-		2	0		
3	Milan Rodić	02/04/1991	27	Crvena zvezda	*		1	0		
4	Nikola Milenković	12/10/1997	20	Fiorentina	-		1	0		
5	Uroš Spajić	13/02/1993	25	Krasnodar	-		1	0		
13	Miloš Veljković	26/09/1995	23	Bremen	-		2	0		
15	Jagoš Vuković	10/06/1988	30	Olympiacos	-		0	0		
21	Nemanja Miletić	16/01/1991	27	Partizan	-		0	0		
Midfielders										
6	Nemanja Maksimović	26/01/1995	23	Getafe	*		2	0		
7	Andrija Živković	11/07/1996	22	Benfica	-		1	0		
14	Mijat Gaćinović	08/02/1995	23	Frankfurt	-		0	0		
16	Branko Jovičić	18/03/1993	25	Crvena zvezda	-		0	0		
17	Filip Kostić	01/11/1992	25	Frankfurt	-		2	0		
19	Saša Lukić	13/08/1996	22	Torino	-		2	0		
20	Sergej Milinković-Savić	27/02/1995	23	Lazio	-		1	0		
Forwards										
8	Aleksandar Prijović	21/04/1990	28	PAOK	-		1	0		
9	Aleksandar Mitrović	16/09/1994	24	Fulham	-		2	2		
10	Dušan Tadić	20/11/1988	29	Ajax	-		2	1		
18	Nemanja Radonjić	15/02/1996	22	Marseille	-		1	0		
Coach										
-	Mladen Krstajić	04/03/1974	44		-		2	0		

Head coach

Ljubiša Tumbaković

Date of birth: 2 September 1952

Nationality: Serbian

Playing career: Partizan, Vardar (loan), Radnički Sombor (loan)

Coaching career: Radnički Beograd, Obilić, Khaitan, Partizan (youth), Partizan (twice), AEK Athens, Al Nassr, Shandong Luneng, Steel Azin, Wuhan Zall, Montenegro

- Belgrade-born Tumbaković started in the Radnički Beograd academy at the age of ten before moving on to the Partizan youth ranks two years later. He never appeared for the senior Partizan side in a competitive match and most of his professional playing career was spent on loan.
- Tumbaković went on to coach Partizan for nearly a decade in two separate spells, from 1992 to 1999 and 2000 to 2002. He won six league titles and three domestic cups to establish himself as one of the most successful ever Yugoslavian coaches.
- Had a solitary season in charge of AEK Athens either side of his two Partizan stints, leading the capital club to third in the Greek top flight.
- Tumbaković was later at the helm of Chinese sides Shandong Luneng – with whom he won two Super League titles and two domestic cups – and Wuhan Zall, as well as having spells in Saudi Arabia and Iran.
- Appointed Montenegro coach in January 2016 and oversaw a strong start to 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification only for successive defeats against Armenia and Poland to prove crucial, Tumbaković's side missing out on a play-off place after losing their last two fixtures against Denmark and, for a second time, Poland.

Mladen Krstajić

Date of birth: 4 March 1974

Nationality: Serbian

Playing career: Čelik, Senta, Kikinda, Partizan (twice), Werder Bremen, Schalke

Coaching career: Serbia

- A tall, left-footed defender, Krstajić's career began in the youth sector of Bosnian club Čelik from his home town of Zenica. He moved to Serbia in 1992 during the Yugoslav civil war, playing for unheralded Senta and Kikinda before being snapped up in 1996 by Belgrade giants Partizan.
- Rapidly became a Partizan regular, starting out at left-back before moving into central defence. He helped the Black-and-Whites to three championship titles (1995/96, 1996/97, 1998/99) and one national cup (1997/98) during his four-year stay.
- In the summer of 2000 Krstajić moved to Werder Bremen, where he performed with distinction for a further four seasons, climaxing in 2003/04 as he helped the club win the German Bundesliga/DFB Pokal double. He then left for a five-year stint at Schalke, where he was appointed as captain and established himself as one of the Bundesliga's foremost defenders.
- He played 59 senior international matches for his country, from 1999 to 2008, notably featuring as one of the 'Famous Four' alongside Nemanja Vidić, Goran Gavrančić and Ivica Dragutinović in the Serbia and Montenegro defence that qualified for the 2006 FIFA World Cup with the concession of just one goal. He also started all three matches at the finals in Germany.
- He returned to Belgrade to end his career back at Partizan, winning two more titles, before being appointed as the club's sports director. He later helped Serbia qualify for the 2018 World Cup as assistant coach to Slavoljub Muslin before replacing him, initially as caretaker, and leading the side at the finals in Russia, where they were eliminated at the group stage.

Match officials

Referee	Gianluca Rocchi (ITA)
Assistant referees	Elenito Di Liberatore (ITA) , Mauro Tonolini (ITA)
Additional assistant referees	Massimiliano Irrati (ITA) , Paolo Valeri (ITA)
Fourth official	Alberto Tegoni (ITA)
UEFA Delegate	Scott Struthers (SCO)
UEFA Referee observer	Bernardino González Vázquez (ESP)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Gianluca Rocchi	25/08/1973	0	77

Gianluca Rocchi

Referee since: 1989

First division: 2003

FIFA badge: 2008

Tournaments: 2018 FIFA World Cup, 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup, 2013 FIFA U-17 World Cup, 2012 Olympic Games

Finals

2017 UEFA Super Cup

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
29/03/2015	EURO	QR	Portugal	Serbia	2-1	Lisbon

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

Montenegro

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group C4

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Montenegro	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Serbia	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Romania	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Lithuania	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Matchday 1 (07/09/2018)

Romania 0-0 Montenegro

Montenegro: Petković, Stojković, Boljević (80 Bećiraj), N. Vukčević, Tomašević, Mugoša, Savić, Jovović, Šćekić (74 Kosović), Ivanić, Simić

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Montenegro 2-0 Lithuania

Goals: 1-0 Savić 34 (P) , 2-0 Janković 35

Montenegro: Petković, Stojković, N. Vukčević (72 Šćekić), Tomašević, Kosović, Janković (87 Boljević), Bećiraj, Savić (80 Kopitović), Jovović, Ivanić, Simić

Matchday 3 (11/10/2018)

Montenegro-Serbia

Matchday 4 (14/10/2018)

Lithuania-Montenegro

Matchday 5 (17/11/2018)

Serbia-Montenegro

Matchday 6 (20/11/2018)

Montenegro-Romania

Serbia

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 1 (07/09/2018)

Lithuania 0-1 Serbia

Goals: 0-1 Tadić 38 (P)

Serbia: Dmitrović, Rukavina, Rodić (77 Kolarov), Milenković, Maksimović, A. Živković, A. Mitrović, Tadić, Veljković, Kostić (90 Radonjić), Matić (82 Lukić)

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Serbia 2-2 Romania

Goals: 1-0 A. Mitrović 26, 1-1 Stanciu 48 (P) , 2-1 A. Mitrović 63, 2-2 Țucudean 68

Serbia: Dmitrović, Rukavina, Spajić, Maksimović, A. Mitrović, Tadić, Kolarov, Veljković, Lukić (71 Matić), S. Milinković-Savić (63 Kostić), Ljajić (77 Prijović)

Matchday 3 (11/10/2018)

Montenegro-Serbia

Matchday 4 (14/10/2018)

Romania-Serbia

Matchday 5 (17/11/2018)

Serbia-Montenegro

Matchday 6 (20/11/2018)

Serbia-Lithuania

Legend

Competitions

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