

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Luxembourg

Stade Josy Barthel - Luxembourg

Saturday 8 September 2018
20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Group D2 - Matchday 1



Moldova

Last updated 08/09/2018 00:33CET



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Previous meetings

Head to Head

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
05/09/2009	QR (GS)	Moldova - Luxembourg	0-0	Chisinau	
15/10/2008	QR (GS)	Luxembourg - Moldova	0-0	Luxembourg	

	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																		
Luxembourg	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	4	0	3	1	1	2
Moldova	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	4	1	3	0	2	1

Squad list

Luxembourg

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	Current season					
						Qual.		FT			
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Anthony Moris	29/04/1990	28	Mechelen	-	0	0	0	0		
12	Ralph Schon	20/01/1990	28	UNA Strassen	-	0	0	0	0		
23	Tim Kips	01/11/2000	17	Magdeburg	-	0	0	0	0		
Defenders											
2	Maxime Chanot	21/11/1989	28	New York City FC	-	0	0	0	0		
3	Enes Mahmutović	22/05/1997	21	Middlesbrough	-	0	0	0	0		
4	Kevin Malget	15/01/1991	27	Dudelange	-	0	0	0	0		
13	Dirk Carlson	01/04/1998	20	Union Titus Petange	-	0	0	0	0		
18	Laurent Jans	05/08/1992	26	Metz	-	0	0	0	0		
Midfielders											
5	Florian Bohnert	09/11/1997	20	Schalke	-	0	0	0	0		
6	Chris Philipps	08/03/1994	24	Legia	-	0	0	0	0		
7	Lars Gerson	05/02/1990	28	Norrköping	-	0	0	0	0		
8	Christopher Martins	19/02/1997	21	Lyon	-	0	0	0	0		
10	Vincent Thill	04/02/2000	18	Metz	-	0	0	0	0		
11	Gerson Rodrigues	20/06/1995	23	Sheriff	-	0	0	0	0		
14	Danel Sinani	05/04/1997	21	Dudelange	-	0	0	0	0		
15	Olivier Thill	17/12/1996	21	Ufa	-	0	0	0	0		
16	Leandro Barreiro Martins	03/01/2000	18	Mainz	-	0	0	0	0		
17	Mario Mutsch	03/09/1984	34	Progrès	-	0	0	0	0		
19	Mathias Jänisch	27/08/1990	28	Differdange	-	0	0	0	0		
Forwards											
9	Daniel Da Mota	11/09/1985	32	Racing Union	-	0	0	0	0		
20	David Turpel	19/10/1992	25	Dudelange	-	0	0	0	0		
21	Maurice Deville	31/07/1992	26	SV Waldhof Mannheim	-	0	0	0	0		
22	Aurélien Joachim	10/08/1986	32	Lierse	-	0	0	0	0		
Coach											
-	Luc Holtz	14/06/1969	49		-	0	0	0	0		

Moldova

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	Current season					
						Qual.		FT			
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Stanislav Namașco	10/11/1986	31	Zeta	-	0	0	0	0		
12	Serghei Pașenco	18/12/1982	35	Sheriff	-	0	0	0	0		
23	Alexei Koșelev	19/11/1993	24	Fortuna Sittard	-	0	0	0	0		
Defenders											
2	Oleg Reabciuk	16/01/1998	20	Porto	-	0	0	0	0		
3	Petru Racu	17/07/1987	31	Sheriff	-	0	0	0	0		
5	Veaceslav Posmac	07/11/1990	27	Sheriff	-	0	0	0	0		
6	Alexandru Epureanu	27/09/1986	31	İstanbul Başakşehir	-	0	0	0	0		
13	Dinu Graur	27/12/1994	23	Milsami	-	0	0	0	0		
15	Ion Jardan	10/01/1990	28	Sheriff	-	0	0	0	0		
Midfielders											
4	Cătălin Carp	20/10/1993	24	Ufa	-	0	0	0	0		
8	Alexandru Gațcan	27/03/1984	34	Rostov	-	0	0	0	0		
9	Eugeniu Cociuc	11/05/1993	25	Žilina	-	0	0	0	0		
10	Alexandru Dedov	26/07/1989	29	Zirä FK	-	0	0	0	0		
14	Andrei Cojocari	21/01/1987	31	Milsami	-	0	0	0	0		
17	Alexandru Antoniu	23/05/1989	29	Milsami	-	0	0	0	0		
18	Gheorghe Anton	27/01/1993	25	Sheriff	-	0	0	0	0		
Forwards											
11	Radu Gînsari	10/12/1991	26	H. Haifa	-	0	0	0	0		
16	Sergiu Platica	05/06/1991	27	Milsami	-	0	0	0	0		
20	Vladimir Ambros	30/12/1993	24	Petrocub	-	0	0	0	0		
21	Vitalie Damașcan	24/01/1999	19	Torino	-	0	0	0	0		
22	Ion Nicolaescu	07/09/1998	20	Zimbru	-	0	0	0	0		
Coach											
-	Alexandru Spiridon	20/07/1960	58		-	0	0	0	0		

Head coach

Luc Holtz

Date of birth: 14 June 1969

Nationality: Luxembourger

Playing career: Red Boys Differdange, Avenir Beggen, Etzella Ettelbruck

Coaching career: Etzella Ettelbruck, Luxembourg Under-21s, Luxembourg

- Holtz started his career with Red Boys Differdange, a club which today is part of leading top-flight outfit Differdange 03.
- A creative playmaker with a keen eye for goal, Holtz moved to Avenir Beggen in 1992 where he went on to win the domestic double in 1993 and 1994. He was chosen as Luxembourg's footballer of the year in 1993.
- Played until 2008 when, aged 38, he finished his career at Etzella having gone there from Beggen in 1999 to take over as player-coach.
- Led Etzella to promotion to the top flight in 1999, his first season in charge. Lifted the cup two years later but was relegated in 2002, only to bounce back immediately. Proceeded to reach the cup final in 2003 and 2004, although both ended in defeat.
- Having earned 55 caps for Luxembourg, he accepted an offer to coach the national U21 side in 2008. He was then handed the reins of the senior team following the resignation of Guy Hellers in August 2010; has achieved some notable results, most recently a goalless draw away to eventual winners France in qualifying for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Alexandru Spiridon

Date of birth: 20 July 1960

Nationality: Moldovan

Playing career: Nistru Chişinău (twice), SKA Kyiv, Zorya Voroshilovgrad, Zaria Bălţi, Zimbru Chişinău, Tiligul Tiraspol

Coaching career: Zimbru Chişinău (twice), Tiligul Tiraspol (twice), Moldova Under-21, Moldova (twice), Unisport Chişinău, Nistru Otaci, Shakhtar Donetsk (assistant), Zenit (assistant)

- Born in Edinet in northern Moldova, the midfielder started his professional career at Nistru Chişinău (now Zimbru). Shortly before he was due to travel to the 1979 FIFA World Youth Championship with the USSR, Spiridon broke his leg in two places – an injury that would hamper his career.
- Played for Ukrainian clubs SKA Kyiv and Zorya Voroshilovgrad (now Zorya Luhansk) in the Soviet second tier before returning to Nistru and later joining Zaria Bălţi. After Moldova gained independence, Spiridon went on to play for Zimbru and Tiligul Tiraspol before hanging up his boots at the age of 37.
- Spiridon won 16 caps and scored twice for Moldova between 1991 and 1995. He won five Moldovan leagues with Zimbru both as player and coach and was voted the country's player of the year in 1992.
- He started coaching in 1992 while still playing for Zimbru – first as assistant coach then, from 1994, as player/head coach. Held the same role at Tiligul before focusing solely on coaching and guiding local clubs Unisport and Nistru. He was on the national team coaching staff between 1994 and 2000, working with the Under-21s, and briefly took charge of the senior side in 2001.
- A new chapter in Spiridon's career kicked off in 2004 as he became Mircea Lucescu's assistant at Shakhtar – a post he held for the next 12 years, during which Shakhtar won eight league titles and the 2008/09 UEFA Cup. Spiridon followed Lucescu to Zenit for the 2016/17 season before being appointed as Moldova's head coach in January 2018.

Match officials

Referee	Rob Harvey (IRL)
Assistant referees	Robert Clarke (IRL) , Wayne McDonnell (IRL)
Additional assistant referees	Neil Doyle (IRL) , Paul Mclaughlin (IRL)
Fourth official	Allen Lynch (IRL)
UEFA Delegate	Bakar Jordania (GEO)
UEFA Referee observer	Erol Ersoy (TUR)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Rob Harvey	09/09/1988	0	16

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

No such matches refereed

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

Luxembourg

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group D2

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Belarus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moldova	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Marino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Matchday 1 (08/09/2018)

Luxembourg-Moldova

Matchday 2 (11/09/2018)

San Marino-Luxembourg

Matchday 3 (12/10/2018)

Belarus-Luxembourg

Matchday 4 (15/10/2018)

Luxembourg-San Marino

Matchday 5 (15/11/2018)

Luxembourg-Belarus

Matchday 6 (18/11/2018)

Moldova-Luxembourg

Moldova

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 1 (08/09/2018)

Luxembourg-Moldova

Matchday 2 (11/09/2018)

Moldova-Belarus

Matchday 3 (12/10/2018)

Moldova-San Marino

Matchday 4 (15/10/2018)

Belarus-Moldova

Matchday 5 (15/11/2018)

San Marino-Moldova

Matchday 6 (18/11/2018)

Moldova-Luxembourg

Legend

Competitions

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