

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



San Marino

San Marino Stadium - Serravalle

Tuesday 11 September 2018
20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Group D2 - Matchday 2



Luxembourg

Last updated 11/09/2018 10:06CET



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

No UEFA competition matches have been played between these two teams

Squad list

San Marino

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase			
						Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers									
1	Aldo Simoncini	30/08/1986	32	Tre Fiori	-		0	0	
12	Matteo Zavoli	06/07/1996	22	Libertas	-		0	0	
23	Elia Benedettini	22/06/1995	23	Novara	-		1	0	
Defenders									
2	Davide Cesarini	16/02/1995	23	Tre Penne	-		1	0	
5	Fabio Vitaioli	05/04/1984	34	Libertas	-		0	0	
6	Davide Simoncini	30/08/1986	32	Libertas	*		1	0	
11	Manuel Battistini	22/07/1994	24	Tre Penne	-		1	0	
13	Alex Della Valle	13/06/1990	28	Faetano	-		0	0	
14	Cristian Brolli	28/02/1992	26	Folgore	-		0	0	
17	Juri Biordi	01/01/1995	23	Fiorentino	-		1	0	
18	Mattia Giardi	15/12/1991	26	Faetano	-		1	0	
19	Andrea Grandoni	23/03/1997	21	Juvenes/Dogana	-		0	0	
Midfielders									
3	Mirko Palazzi	21/03/1987	31	Tre Penne	-		1	0	
4	Luca Tosi	04/11/1992	25	Folgore	-		0	0	
8	Alex Gasperoni	30/06/1984	34	Tre Penne	-		1	0	
15	Lorenzo Lunadei	12/07/1997	21	La Fiorita	*		1	0	
16	Danilo Rinaldi	18/04/1986	32	La Fiorita	-		1	0	
21	Enrico Golinucci	16/07/1991	27	Libertas	-		0	0	
Forwards									
7	Matteo Vitaioli	27/10/1989	28	Murata	*		1	0	
9	Nicolo' Angelini	15/03/1992	26	Domagnano	-		0	0	
10	Filippo Berardi	18/05/1997	21	Juve Stabia	-		1	0	
20	José Hirsch	31/01/1986	32	La Fiorita	*		1	0	
22	Fabio Tomassini	05/02/1996	22	Juvenes/Dogana	-		1	0	
Coach									
-	Franco Varrella	25/01/1953	65		-		1	0	

Luxembourg

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Anthony Moris	29/04/1990	28	Mechelen	-			1	0		
12	Ralph Schon	20/01/1990	28	UNA Strassen	-			0	0		
23	Tim Kips	01/11/2000	17	Magdeburg	-			0	0		
Defenders											
2	Maxime Chanot	21/11/1989	28	New York City FC	-			1	0		
3	Enes Mahmutović	22/05/1997	21	Middlesbrough	-			0	0		
4	Kevin Malget	15/01/1991	27	Dudelange	-			1	1		
13	Dirk Carlson	01/04/1998	20	Union Titus Petange	-			1	0		
18	Laurent Jans	05/08/1992	26	Metz	-			1	0		
Midfielders											
5	Florian Bohnert	09/11/1997	20	Schalke	-			0	0		
6	Chris Philipps	08/03/1994	24	Legia	-			0	0		
7	Lars Gerson	05/02/1990	28	Norrköping	-			1	0		
8	Christopher Martins	19/02/1997	21	Lyon	-			1	1		
10	Vincent Thill	04/02/2000	18	Metz	-			0	0		
11	Gerson Rodrigues	20/06/1995	23	Sheriff	*			1	0		
14	Danel Sinani	05/04/1997	21	Dudelange	-			1	1		
15	Olivier Thill	17/12/1996	21	Ufa	-			1	1		
16	Leandro Barreiro Martins	03/01/2000	18	Mainz	-			0	0		
17	Mario Mutsch	03/09/1984	34	Progrès	-			1	0		
19	Mathias Jänisch	27/08/1990	28	Differdange	-			0	0		
Forwards											
9	Daniel Da Mota	11/09/1985	33	Racing Union	-			1	0		
20	David Turpel	19/10/1992	25	Dudelange	-			1	0		
21	Maurice Deville	31/07/1992	26	SV Waldhof Mannheim	-			0	0		
22	Aurélien Joachim	10/08/1986	32	Lierse	-			1	0		
Coach											
-	Luc Holtz	14/06/1969	49		-			1	0		

Head coach

Franco Varrella

Date of birth: 25 January 1953

Nationality: Italian

Playing career: Rimini, Urbino, Montecchio, Jesina

Coaching career: Bellaria, Pietri Carpi, Forli, Brescia, Monza, Casertana, Salernitana, Reggiana, Savoia, Padova, Triestina, Ravenna, San Marino

- A youth player with Juventus for a time, Varrella played at a senior level in the lower leagues in Italy before becoming a games teacher.
- Started coaching with Bellaria and later moved into Serie C2 with Forli in 1986/87, stepping up to Serie B to take charge of Brescia, Salernitana, Reggiana, Savoia and Ravenna.
- Won Serie C2 – the fourth highest division in Italy – with Padova in 2000/01. Hired as San Marino coach in January 2018.
- Worked as Arrigo Sacchi's assistant with Italy from 1995 onwards, culminating in a trip to EURO '96. Varrella continues to teach coaches at the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) technical centre in Coverciano and for UEFA Coach Education Programme.

Luc Holtz

Date of birth: 14 June 1969

Nationality: Luxembourgish

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.

Match officials

Referee	Filip Glova (SVK)
Assistant referees	František Ferenc (SVK) , Peter Kováč (SVK)
Additional assistant referees	Ivan Kružliak (SVK) , Michal Ocenáš (SVK)
Fourth official	Jan Pozor (SVK)
UEFA Delegate	Vasko Dojčinovski (MKD)
UEFA Referee observer	Kevin Azzopardi (MLT)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Filip Glova	15/02/1988	0	14

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
01/08/2018	UEL	2QR	CS Fola Esch	KRC Genk	1-4	Esch-sur-Alzette

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

San Marino

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group D2

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Belarus	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Luxembourg	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Moldova	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
San Marino	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

Matchday 1 (08/09/2018)

Belarus 5-0 San Marino

Goals: 1-0 Stasevich 4, 2-0 Dragun 26, 3-0 Saroka 67 (P) , 4-0 Dragun 87, 5-0 Kovalev 90+1

San Marino: E. Benedettini, Cesarini (81 D. Rinaldi), Palazzi, D. Simoncini, M. Vitaioli (62 Tomassini), A. Gasperoni (63 Hirsch), Berardi, Manuel Battistini, Lunadei, Biordi, Giardi

Matchday 2 (11/09/2018)

San Marino-Luxembourg

Matchday 3 (12/10/2018)

Moldova-San Marino

Matchday 4 (15/10/2018)

Luxembourg-San Marino

Matchday 5 (15/11/2018)

San Marino-Moldova

Matchday 6 (18/11/2018)

San Marino-Belarus

Luxembourg

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 1 (08/09/2018)

Luxembourg 4-0 Moldova

Goals: 1-0 Malget 34, 2-0 O. Thill 60, 3-0 Sinani 75, 4-0 C. Martins 83

Luxembourg: Moris, Chanot, Malget, Gerson, C. Martins, Rodrigues (55 Da Mota), Carlson, Sinani, O. Thill (78 Mutsch), Jans, Turpel (59 Joachim)

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

Legend

Competitions

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