

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Faroe Islands

Tórsvøllur - Torshavn
Friday 7 September 2018
20.45CET (19.45 local time)
Group D3 - Matchday 1



Malta

Last updated 07/09/2018 12:05CET



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Previous meetings

Head to Head

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
08/06/1997	QR (GS)	Faroe Islands - Malta	2-1	Toftir	Jónsson 7, 42; G. Agius 48
30/04/1997	QR (GS)	Malta - Faroe Islands	1-2	Ta' Qali	Sultana 8; Ø Hansen 60, Jónsson 89

	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																		
Faroe Islands	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	4	3	0	1	9	7
Malta	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	4	1	0	3	7	9

Squad list

Faroe Islands

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	Current season					
						Qual.		FT			
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Gunnar Nielsen	07/10/1986	31	FH	-	0	0	0	0		
12	Teitur Gestsson	19/08/1992	26	HB	-	0	0	0	0		
23	Kristian Joensen	21/12/1992	25	KÍ	-	0	0	0	0		
Defenders											
3	Viljormur Davidsen	19/07/1991	27	VB	-	0	0	0	0		
4	Atli Gregersen	15/06/1982	36	Vikingur	-	0	0	0	0		
5	Ragnar Nattestad	04/08/1994	24	Horsens	-	0	0	0	0		
13	Alex Mellemgaard	27/11/1991	26	B36	-	0	0	0	0		
15	Odmar Faerø	01/11/1989	28	B36	-	0	0	0	0		
18	Jógvan Rói Davidsen	09/10/1991	26	HB	-	0	0	0	0		
19	Rógvi Baldvinsson	06/12/1989	28	Bryne	-	0	0	0	0		
Midfielders											
2	Magnus Egilsson	19/03/1994	24	HB	-	0	0	0	0		
6	Hallur Hansson	08/07/1992	26	Horsens	-	0	0	0	0		
7	Kaj Bartalsstovu	23/06/1991	27	ÍBV	-	0	0	0	0		
8	Brandur Hendriksson	19/12/1995	22	FH	-	0	0	0	0		
9	Gilli Sørensen	11/08/1992	26	Brann	-	0	0	0	0		
10	Sølvi Vatnhamar	05/05/1986	32	Vikingur	-	0	0	0	0		
11	Heini Vatnsdal	18/10/1991	26	Fremad Amager	-	0	0	0	0		
16	René Joensen	08/02/1993	25	Grindavík	-	0	0	0	0		
17	Gunnar Vatnhamar	29/03/1995	23	Vikingur	-	0	0	0	0		
20	Tróndur Jensen	06/02/1993	25	HB	-	0	0	0	0		
Forwards											
14	Jóan Edmundsson	26/07/1991	27	Arminia	-	0	0	0	0		
21	Klæmint Olsen	17/07/1990	28	NSÍ	-	0	0	0	0		
22	Finnur Justinussen	30/03/1989	29	Næstved	-	0	0	0	0		
Coach											
-	Lars Olsen	02/02/1961	57		-	0	0	0	0		

Malta

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	Current season					
						Qual.		FT			
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Andrew Hogg	02/03/1985	33	Hibernians	-	0	0	0	0		
12	Henry Bonello	13/10/1988	29	Valletta	-	0	0	0	0		
23	Steve Sultana	07/09/1990	28	Balzan	-	0	0	0	0		
Defenders											
2	Michael Johnson	11/05/1994	24	Balzan	-	0	0	0	0		
3	Joseph Zerafa	31/05/1988	30	Valletta	-	0	0	0	0		
4	Steve Borg	15/05/1988	30	Valletta	-	0	0	0	0		
5	Andrei Agius	12/08/1986	32	Hibernians	-	0	0	0	0		
16	Ferdinando Apap	29/07/1992	26	Victoria	-	0	0	0	0		
17	Ryan Camilleri	22/05/1988	30	Valletta	-	0	0	0	0		
Midfielders											
6	Ryan Fenech	20/04/1986	32	Sliema	-	0	0	0	0		
8	Paul Fenech	20/12/1986	31	Birkirkara	-	0	0	0	0		
11	Rowen Muscat	05/06/1991	27	Valletta	-	0	0	0	0		
18	Johan Bezzina	30/05/1994	24	Hibernians	-	0	0	0	0		
21	Roderick Briffa	24/08/1981	37	Gżira	-	0	0	0	0		
22	Zach Muscat	22/08/1993	25	Pistoiese	-	0	0	0	0		
Forwards											
7	Stephen Pisani	07/08/1992	26	Floriana	-	0	0	0	0		
9	Michael Mifsud	17/04/1981	37	Birkirkara	-	0	0	0	0		
10	André Schembri	27/05/1986	32	Apollon	-	0	0	0	0		
13	Joseph Mbong	15/07/1997	21	Hibernians	-	0	0	0	0		
14	Jean Paul Farrugia	21/03/1992	26	Sliema	-	0	0	0	0		
15	Juan Corbolan	03/01/1997	21	Gżira	-	0	0	0	0		
19	Alfred Effiong	29/11/1984	33	Balzan	-	0	0	0	0		
20	Andrew Cohen	13/05/1981	37	Gżira	-	0	0	0	0		
Coach											
-	Raymond Farrugia	01/10/1955	62		-	0	0	0	0		

Head coach

Lars Olsen

Date of birth: 2 February 1961

Nationality: Danish

Playing career: Glostrup, Køge, Brøndby (twice), Trabzonspor, Seraing, Basel

Coaching career: Brøndby (youth/reserves/assistant), Randers, Odense, Faroe Islands

- Enjoyed an illustrious playing career as a central defender, winning five Danish titles in a six-year spell at Brøndby between 1985 and 1991.
- Allegedly drove from Turkey to Scandinavia when he learned of his country's belated call-up to EURO '92. His passion and leadership – he played every minute in Sweden – helped inspire Denmark to the most unlikely of triumphs. He ended his career with 84 caps, a record 69 as captain.
- Learned his coaching craft with Brøndby, taking charge at various youth and reserve levels after finishing his playing days at the club in 1996, before accepting his first senior job with newly formed Randers in 2003. Guided the team into the Danish Super League in 2004 but could not help maintain their elite status, suffering immediate relegation.
- Steered second-division Randers to a surprise 2006 Danish Cup success, beating Esbjerg in the final, while also securing a return to the top flight. Moved to Odense in summer 2007, leading his new side to a fourth-place finish in his first term. Consecutive runners-up spots followed in 2008/09 and 2009/10 before he departed in September 2010.
- Appointed coach of the Faroe Islands in November 2011, his team were unable to register a win as they came bottom of 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying Group C, earning their only point in a 1-1 home draw with Kazakhstan. However, UEFA EURO 2016 qualifying featured two high points in the shape of home and away wins against the 2004 champions Greece, while there were two more victories in the 2018 World Cup preliminaries.

Ray Farrugia

Date of birth: 1 October, 1955

Nationality: Maltese

Playing career: Floriana, Melita Eagles, Naxxar Lions

Coaching career: Naxxar Lions, Malta Under-21 (twice), Pietà Hotspurs, Marxaxlokk, Sliema Wanderers, Malta (assistant), Malta

- A combative midfielder, 'Zazu' made his debut for the senior team of local club Floriana at 16 and remained there for four seasons, winning two league titles and the FA Trophy and also claiming the first of four senior caps for Malta.
- He left for Australia aged just 21, joining top-flight outfit Melita Eagles, where he would spend the next 12 years, winning four State League championships and three Grand Finals and scoring 123 goals in 318 matches. He returned to his homeland in 1990, joining Naxxar Lions, and eventually hung up his boots at the age of 42.
- Started coaching while still playing at Naxxar before moving on to take charge of the Malta Under-21 side from 1998 to 2002. He later returned to club football on the island, serving Pietà Hotspurs, Marsaxlokk and Sliema Wanderers as head coach.
- In 2011 Farrugia was re-appointed as Malta U-21 head coach, remaining in charge until 2014, when he was promoted to the senior side as assistant to Pietro Ghedin.
- On 2 May 2018 he was appointed as Malta's head coach, replacing Tom Saintfiet who had been dismissed after just six months at the helm.

Match officials

Referee	Ville Nevalainen (FIN)
Assistant referees	Jan-Peter Aravirta (FIN) , Mika Lamppu (FIN)
Additional assistant referees	Petri Viljanen (FIN) , Dennis Antamo (FIN)
Fourth official	Jukka Honkanen (FIN)
UEFA Delegate	Tammo Beishuizen (NED)
UEFA Referee observer	Johan Verbist (BEL)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Ville Nevalainen	20/10/1984	0	27

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
09/09/2014	U21	QR	Faroe Islands	Montenegro	1-0	Toftir
07/07/2015	UCL	1QR	The New Saints FC	B36 Tórshavn	4-1	Oswestry
21/07/2016	UEL	2QR	Heart of Midlothian FC	Birkirkara FC	1-2	Edinburgh
18/07/2017	UCL	2QR	Víkingur	FH Hafnarfjörður	0-2	Torshavn

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

Faroe Islands

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group D3

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kosovo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Matchday 1 (07/09/2018)

Faroe Islands-Malta

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Kosovo-Faroe Islands

Matchday 3 (11/10/2018)

Faroe Islands-Azerbaijan

Matchday 4 (14/10/2018)

Faroe Islands-Kosovo

Matchday 5 (17/11/2018)

Azerbaijan-Faroe Islands

Matchday 6 (20/11/2018)

Malta-Faroe Islands

Malta

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 1 (07/09/2018)

Faroe Islands-Malta

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Malta-Azerbaijan

Matchday 3 (11/10/2018)

Kosovo-Malta

Matchday 4 (14/10/2018)

Azerbaijan-Malta

Matchday 5 (17/11/2018)

Malta-Kosovo

Matchday 6 (20/11/2018)

Malta-Faroe Islands

Legend

Competitions

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