

# UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



**Armenia**

**Vazgen Sargsyan anvan  
Hanrapetakan Marzadasht - Yerevan**

Thursday 6 September 2018  
18.00CET (20.00 local time)  
Group D4 - Matchday 1



**Liechtenstein**

Last updated 18/03/2019 22:37CET



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## Previous meetings

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## Head to Head

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No UEFA competition matches have been played between these two teams

## Squad list

### Armenia

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
<b>Goalkeepers</b>									
1	Arsen <b>Beglaryan</b>	18/02/1993	25	Liepāja	-			0	0
12	Anatoli <b>Aivazov</b>	08/06/1996	22	Banants	-			0	0
16	Aram <b>Airapetyan</b>	22/11/1986	31	Banants	-			0	0
<b>Defenders</b>									
2	Hayk <b>Ishkhanyan</b>	24/06/1989	29	Gandzasar	-			0	0
3	Varazdat <b>Haroyan</b>	24/08/1992	26	Ural	-			0	0
4	Taron <b>Voskanyan</b>	22/02/1993	25	Alashkert	-			0	0
5	Armen <b>Manucharyan</b>	03/02/1995	23	Pyunik	-			0	0
13	Andre <b>Calisir</b>	13/06/1990	28	Göteborg	-			0	0
17	Artak <b>Edigaryan</b>	18/03/1990	28	Alashkert	-			0	0
19	Hovhannes <b>Hambartsumyan</b>	04/10/1990	27	Paralimni	-			0	0
<b>Midfielders</b>									
6	Karlen <b>Mkrtchyan</b>	25/11/1988	29	Pyunik	-			0	0
7	Edgar <b>Malakyan</b>	22/09/1990	27	Zhetysu	-			0	0
8	Marcos <b>Pizzelli</b>	03/10/1984	33	Aktobe	-			0	0
9	Gor <b>Malakyan</b>	12/06/1994	24	FC Ararat-Armenia	-			0	0
10	Gevorg <b>Ghazaryan</b>	05/04/1988	30	Chaves	-			0	0
15	Erik <b>Vardanyan</b>	07/06/1998	20	Pyunik	-			0	0
18	Henrikh <b>Mkhitaryan</b>	21/01/1989	29	Arsenal	-			0	0
20	Tigran <b>Barseghyan</b>	22/09/1993	24	Vardar	-			0	0
21	Rumyan <b>Hovsepyan</b>	13/11/1991	26	Pyunik	-			0	0
23	Aras <b>Özbiliz</b>	09/03/1990	28	Willem II	-			0	0
<b>Forwards</b>									
11	Artur <b>Sarkisov</b>	01/07/1987	31	Yenisey	-			0	0
14	Ivan <b>Yagan</b>	11/10/1989	28	Eupen	-			0	0
22	Sargis <b>Adamyanyan</b>	23/05/1993	25	Jahn	-			0	0
<b>Coach</b>									
-	Vardan Minasyan	05/01/1974	44		-			0	0

## Liechtenstein

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
<b>Goalkeepers</b>									
1	Benjamin Büchel	04/07/1989	29	Vaduz	-			0	0
12	Thomas Hobi	20/06/1993	25	Hohenems	-			0	0
21	Lorenzo Lo Russo	08/07/1993	25	FC Linth 04	-			0	0
<b>Defenders</b>									
2	Fabian Eberle	27/07/1992	26	VfB Eichstätt	-			0	0
3	Max Göppel	31/08/1997	21	Vaduz	-			0	0
4	Daniel Kaufmann	22/12/1990	27	Balzers	-			0	0
5	Ivan Quintans	15/10/1989	28	Eschen/Mauren	-			0	0
6	Andreas Malin	31/01/1994	24	FC Dornbirn 1913	-			0	0
15	Seyhan Yildiz	30/04/1989	29	Balzers	-			0	0
22	Martin Rechsteiner	15/02/1989	29	Balzers	-			0	0
<b>Midfielders</b>									
8	Aron Sele	02/09/1996	22	Vaduz	-			0	0
10	Sandro Wieser	03/02/1993	25	Vaduz	-			0	0
11	Dennis Salanovic	26/02/1996	22	Thun	-			0	0
13	Vinzenz Flatz	05/07/1994	24	Konolfingen	-			0	0
14	Livio Meier	10/01/1998	20	Eschen/Mauren	-			0	0
16	Mathias Sele	28/05/1992	26	Balzers	-			0	0
17	Marco Wolfinger	18/04/1989	29	Balzers	-			0	0
18	Nicolas Hasler	04/05/1991	27	Chicago Fire	-			0	0
20	Sandro Wolfinger	24/08/1991	27	Eschen/Mauren	-			0	0
23	Michele Polverino	26/09/1984	33	Balzers	-			0	0
<b>Forwards</b>									
7	Philippe Erne	14/12/1986	31	Balzers	-			0	0
9	Simon Kühne	30/04/1994	24	Eschen/Mauren	-			0	0
19	Niklas Kieber	04/03/1993	25	Eschen/Mauren	-			0	0
<b>Coach</b>									
-	Rene Paurtisch	04/02/1964	54		-			0	0

## Head coach

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### Vardan Minasyan

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**Date of birth:** 5 January 1974

**Nationality:** Armenian

**Playing career:** Zangezur, Pyunik (twice), FC Yerevan, Lausanne, Lokomotiv St Petersburg

**Coaching career:** Armenia Under-21, Armenia (assistant), Pyunik, Armenia (twice), Tobol

- A forceful midfielder, he spent the bulk of his playing career with Pyunik (formerly Homenetmen Yerevan), winning six Armenian championships with the club in two spells (1992–97 and 2001–03). Capped 13 times by Armenia between 1996 and 2003.
- Began coaching career as an assistant both with Pyunik and Armenia; stood in as joint-caretaker for the latter following coach Ian Porterfield's death in September 2007 and was in sole charge for the country's final two UEFA EURO 2008 qualifiers.
- Assistant coach since 2005, he took sole command at Pyunik in May 2008 and led the club to an eighth successive Armenian championship; stretched sequence to nine in his first full season at the helm in 2009 and also secured the domestic double with victory in the Armenian Cup, repeating the feat in 2010.
- After previous experience with national team as caretaker, assistant and Under-21 coach, he was handed head role in April 2009 in addition to his day job with Pyunik, replacing Dane Jan Børge Poulsen.
- Led Armenia to their only 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifying win – 2-1 at home to Belgium – five months later and, after missing out on a UEFA EURO 2012 play-off place on the final day of qualifying, stepped down in October 2013. Had a year in charge of Tobol, being sacked in 2015, and returned to the Armenia post three years later.

### René Pauritsch

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**Date of birth:** 4 February 1964

**Nationality:** Austrian

**Playing career:** Voitsberg, Grazer AK (twice), DSV Leoben, Red-White Rankweil, Frohnleiten

**Coaching career:** Eschen/Mauren, Vorarlberg, Austria Lustenau (assistant), Liechtenstein (youth), Liechtenstein

- Had a modest playing career, making a total of 35 Austrian Bundesliga appearances for Grazer AK and Leoben in addition to spending time in the lower leagues with Voitsberg, Rankweil and Frohnleiten.
- His sole top-flight goal was a decisive one – the winner for Leoben in a 2-1 victory against Krems on 3 November 1990.
- Began coaching in Liechtenstein at Eschen/Mauren before returning home to Austria to lead Vorarlberg and, subsequently, work as assistant at second-tier Austria Lustenau under Heinz Fuchsbichler.
- Took charge of Liechtenstein's youth teams in 2008, eventually stepping up to succeed Hans-Peter Zaugg at the helm of the senior national side in late 2012.
- Enjoyed some early success in his new role, guiding Liechtenstein to 1-1 home draws against Latvia and Slovakia in his first two competitive fixtures. Oversaw a 1-0 victory away to Moldova in November 2014 as part of qualifying for UEFA EURO 2016, Liechtenstein's first competitive away success in nine years.

## Match officials

<b>Referee</b>	Enea Jorgji (ALB)
<b>Assistant referees</b>	Ridiger Çokaj (ALB) , Ermal Barushi (ALB)
<b>Additional assistant referees</b>	Juxhin Xhaja (ALB) , Kridens Meta (ALB)
<b>Fourth official</b>	Denis Rexha (ALB)
<b>UEFA Delegate</b>	Mikael Salzer (SWE)
<b>UEFA Referee observer</b>	Aleh Chykun (BLR)

## Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Enea Jorgji	15/08/1984	0	39

## 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
11/07/2013	UEL	1QR	FC Vaduz	FC Chikhura Sachkhere	1-1	Vaduz
12/07/2017	UCL	2QR	FC BATE Borisov	Alashkert FC	1-1	Borisov

## Competition facts

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### What is the background to the UEFA Nations League?

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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?

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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?**

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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?**

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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?**

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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?**

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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?**

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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?**

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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?**

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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?**

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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

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### Armenia

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#### UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

##### Group D4

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
<b>Armenia</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FYR Macedonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gibraltar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

##### **Matchday 1** (06/09/2018)

Armenia-Liechtenstein

##### **Matchday 2** (09/09/2018)

FYR Macedonia-Armenia

##### **Matchday 3** (13/10/2018)

Armenia-Gibraltar

##### **Matchday 4** (16/10/2018)

Armenia-FYR Macedonia

##### **Matchday 5** (16/11/2018)

Gibraltar-Armenia

##### **Matchday 6** (19/11/2018)

Liechtenstein-Armenia

### Liechtenstein

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#### UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

##### **Matchday 1** (06/09/2018)

Armenia-Liechtenstein

##### **Matchday 2** (09/09/2018)

Liechtenstein-Gibraltar

##### **Matchday 3** (13/10/2018)

FYR Macedonia-Liechtenstein

##### **Matchday 4** (16/10/2018)

Gibraltar-Liechtenstein

##### **Matchday 5** (16/11/2018)

Liechtenstein-FYR Macedonia

##### **Matchday 6** (19/11/2018)

Liechtenstein-Armenia

## Legend

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## Competitions

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