

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Italy

Renato Dall'Ara - Bologna

Friday 7 September 2018
20.45CET (20.45 local time)
Group A3 - Matchday 1



Poland

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Previous meetings

Head to Head

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
30/04/1997	QR (GS)	Italy - Poland	3-0	Naples	Di Matteo 24, Maldini 37, R. Baggio 61
02/04/1997	QR (GS)	Poland - Italy	0-0	Chorzow	

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
08/07/1982	SF	Poland - Italy	0-2	Barcelona	Rossi 22, 73
14/06/1982	GS-FT	Italy - Poland	0-0	Vigo	

1976 UEFA European Championship

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
26/10/1975	PR (GS)	Poland - Italy	0-0	Warsaw	
19/04/1975	PR (GS)	Italy - Poland	0-0	Rome	

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
23/06/1974	GS-FT	Poland - Italy	2-1	Stuttgart	Szarmach 38, Deyna 44; Capello 85

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
01/11/1965	QR (GS)	Italy - Poland	6-1	Rome	Mazzola 5, Barison 25, 65, 87, Rivera 71, Mora 79; Lubanski 84
18/04/1965	QR (GS)	Poland - Italy	0-0	Warsaw	

	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																		
Italy	3	2	1	0	3	0	3	0	3	1	1	1	14	5	6	3	19	9
Poland	3	0	3	0	3	0	1	2	3	1	1	1	14	3	6	5	9	19

Squad list

Italy

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	Current season					
						Qual.		FT			
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Salvatore Sirigu	12/01/1987	31	Torino	-	0	0	0	0		
12	Mattia Perin	10/11/1992	25	Juventus	-	0	0	0	0		
22	Gianluigi Donnarumma	25/02/1999	19	Milan	-	0	0	0	0		
Defenders											
3	Giorgio Chiellini	14/08/1984	34	Juventus	-	0	0	0	0		
4	Domenico Criscito	30/12/1986	31	Genoa	-	0	0	0	0		
6	Alessio Romagnoli	12/01/1995	23	Milan	-	0	0	0	0		
13	Mattia Caldara	05/05/1994	24	Milan	-	0	0	0	0		
15	Cristiano Biraghi	01/09/1992	26	Fiorentina	-	0	0	0	0		
19	Leonardo Bonucci	01/05/1987	31	Juventus	-	0	0	0	0		
21	Davide Zappacosta	11/06/1992	26	Chelsea	-	0	0	0	0		
Midfielders											
2	Nicolò Barella	07/02/1997	21	Cagliari	-	0	0	0	0		
5	Jorginho	20/12/1991	26	Chelsea	-	0	0	0	0		
8	Giacomo Bonaventura	22/08/1989	29	Milan	-	0	0	0	0		
16	Lorenzo Pellegrini	19/06/1996	22	Roma	-	0	0	0	0		
18	Roberto Gagliardini	07/04/1994	24	Internazionale	-	0	0	0	0		
20	Federico Bernardeschi	16/02/1994	24	Juventus	-	0	0	0	0		
23	Marco Benassi	08/09/1994	23	Fiorentina	-	0	0	0	0		
Forwards											
7	Domenico Berardi	01/08/1994	24	Sassuolo	-	0	0	0	0		
9	Mario Balotelli	12/08/1990	28	Nice	-	0	0	0	0		
10	Lorenzo Insigne	04/06/1991	27	Napoli	-	0	0	0	0		
11	Andrea Belotti	20/12/1993	24	Torino	-	0	0	0	0		
14	Federico Chiesa	25/10/1997	20	Fiorentina	-	0	0	0	0		
17	Ciro Immobile	20/02/1990	28	Lazio	-	0	0	0	0		
Coach											
-	Roberto Mancini	27/11/1964	53		-	0	0	0	0		

Poland

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	Current season					
						Qual.		FT			
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Wojciech Szczęśny	18/04/1990	28	Juventus	-	0	0	0	0		
12	Łukasz Skorupski	05/05/1991	27	Bologna	-	0	0	0	0		
22	Łukasz Fabiański	18/04/1985	33	West Ham	-	0	0	0	0		
Defenders											
3	Arkadiusz Reca	17/06/1995	23	Atalanta	-	0	0	0	0		
4	Tomasz Kędziora	11/06/1994	24	Dynamo Kyiv	-	0	0	0	0		
5	Jan Bednarek	12/04/1996	22	Southampton	-	0	0	0	0		
6	Adam Dźwigała	25/09/1995	22	Wisła Płock	-	0	0	0	0		
15	Kamil Glik	03/02/1988	30	Monaco	-	0	0	0	0		
18	Bartosz Bereszyński	12/07/1992	26	Sampdoria	-	0	0	0	0		
19	Marcin Kamiński	15/01/1992	26	Düsseldorf	-	0	0	0	0		
Midfielders											
2	Rafał Pietrzak	30/01/1992	26	Wisła Kraków	-	0	0	0	0		
8	Karol Linetty	02/02/1995	23	Sampdoria	-	0	0	0	0		
10	Grzegorz Krychowiak	29/01/1990	28	Lokomotiv Moskva	-	0	0	0	0		
11	Mateusz Klich	13/07/1990	28	Leeds	-	0	0	0	0		
13	Damian Szymański	16/06/1995	23	Wisła Płock	-	0	0	0	0		
14	Przemysław Frankowski	12/04/1995	23	Jagiellonia	-	0	0	0	0		
16	Jakub Błaszczykowski	14/12/1985	32	Wolfsburg	-	0	0	0	0		
20	Piotr Zieliński	20/05/1994	24	Napoli	-	0	0	0	0		
21	Rafał Kurzawa	29/01/1993	25	Amiens	-	0	0	0	0		
Forwards											
7	Arkadiusz Milik	28/02/1994	24	Napoli	-	0	0	0	0		
9	Robert Lewandowski	21/08/1988	30	Bayern	-	0	0	0	0		
17	Damian Kadzior	16/06/1992	26	Dinamo Zagreb	-	0	0	0	0		
23	Krzysztof Piątek	01/07/1995	23	Cracovia	-	0	0	0	0		
Coach											
-	Jerzy Brzeczek	18/03/1971	47		-	0	0	0	0		

Head coach

Roberto Mancini

Date of birth: 27 November 1964

Nationality: Italian

Playing career: Bologna, Sampdoria, Lazio, Leicester (loan)

Coaching career: Fiorentina, Lazio, Internazionale Milano (twice), Manchester City, Galatasaray, Zenit, Italy

- Spent the majority of his playing career in Italy, winning Serie A titles and UEFA Cup Winners' Cups with both Sampdoria and Lazio as well as six editions of the Coppa Italia, four with Sampdoria and two with Lazio. Capped 36 times by Italy, the forward was a bronze medallist at the 1990 FIFA World Cup.
- Started his coaching career as assistant to Sven-Göran Eriksson at Lazio before replacing Fatih Terim at Fiorentina in 2001. After leading the Viola to the Coppa Italia, he returned to Lazio and repeated that feat as well as steering the Roman club into the UEFA Champions League and to the UEFA Cup semi-finals in 2002/03.
- Became coach of Inter in July 2004, replacing Alberto Zaccheroni one day after terminating his contract with Lazio; led the Nerazzurri to Coppa Italia glory in his debut season, Inter's first domestic honour since the 1989 Scudetto. After Juventus were stripped of their 2005/06 title and AC Milan suffered a points penalty, Inter were finally crowned champions of Italy again. Mancini repeated that success in 2006/07.
- Left Inter in May 2008 despite winning another title and replaced Mark Hughes as manager of Manchester City midway through the 2009/10 Premier League season. City finished fifth in his first campaign, third in his second – when they also lifted the FA Cup – and dramatically won the top flight for the first time in 44 years on the final day of his third.
- City finished second the following season, but Mancini was sacked two days after losing to Wigan in the 2013 FA Cup final. Mancini succeeded Terim again that September at Galatasaray, winning the 2014 Turkish Cup in what proved his only season; returned to Inter for two seasons from 2014 before joining Russian club Zenit in 2017, stepping down the following year to take charge of Italy.

Jerzy Brzęczek

Date of birth: 18 March 1971

Nationality: Polish

Playing career: Olimpia Truskolasy (youth), Raków Częstochowa (youth), Olimpia Poznań, Lech Poznań, Górnik Zabrze, GKS Katowice, Tirol Innsbruck, LASK Linz, Maccabi Haifa, Tirol Innsbruck, Sturm Graz, FC Kärnten, Wacker Tirol, Górnik Zabrze, Polonia Bytom

Coaching career: Raków Częstochowa, Lechia Gdańsk, GKS Katowice, Wisła Płock, Poland

- Jerzy Brzęczek enjoyed a prolonged and eventful career as a midfielder. Known for his leadership skills, he was captain of most of the teams he played for. He is the uncle and mentor of Jakub Błaszczykowski, Poland's UEFA EURO 2012 captain who won his 100th cap at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.
- Brzęczek spent several years in Austria with a number of clubs, winning back-to-back Bundesliga titles with Tirol Innsbruck, the second in 2001/02 under Joachim Löw, to go with the 1992/93 Polish title he claimed with Lech Poznań. He amassed more than 500 league appearances in Poland, Austria and Israel.
- Was a key player and captain of the Poland side that won Olympic silver at the 1992 Games in Barcelona, losing narrowly to hosts Spain in the final (2-3) at the conclusion of a captivating, high-scoring campaign.
- Played 42 games for the senior Polish national team, some as captain, but did not take part in any major tournaments. Brzęczek scored four international goals, including one against Brazil in a friendly and one against England at Wembley (1-3) in a UEFA EURO 2000 qualifier.
- Started coaching in 2010 at Raków Częstochowa, where he remained for four years before experiencing his first taste of the Polish top flight with Lechia Gdańsk. He returned to the second division to coach GKS Katowice for two years before his first full season in the Ekstraklasa ended with a creditable fifth-place finish in charge of Wisła Płock – an achievement deemed worthy of promotion to the post of Poland coach in July 2018 to succeed Adam Nawalka.

Match officials

Referee	Felix Zwayer (GER)
Assistant referees	Thorsten Schiffner (GER) , Marco Achmüller (GER)
Additional assistant referees	Daniel Siebert (GER) , Sascha Stegemann (GER)
Fourth official	Markus Häcker (GER)
UEFA Delegate	Geir Thorsteinsson (ISL)
UEFA Referee observer	Stefan Messner (AUT)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Felix Zwayer	19/05/1981	0	48

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
20/02/2014	UEL	R32	SS Lazio	PFC Ludogorets 1945	0-1	Rome
18/09/2014	UEL	GS	FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk	FC Internazionale Milano	0-1	Kyiv
23/10/2014	UEL	GS	PAOK FC	ACF Fiorentina	0-1	Salonika
18/02/2016	UEL	R32	ACF Fiorentina	Tottenham Hotspur FC	1-1	Florence
23/02/2017	UEL	R32	AS Roma	Villarreal CF	0-1	Rome
13/09/2017	UCL	GS	FC Shakhtar Donetsk	SSC Napoli	2-1	Kharkiv

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

Italy

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group A3

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Matchday 1 (07/09/2018)

Italy-Poland

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Portugal-Italy

Matchday 4 (14/10/2018)

Poland-Italy

Matchday 5 (17/11/2018)

Italy-Portugal

Poland

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 1 (07/09/2018)

Italy-Poland

Matchday 3 (11/10/2018)

Poland-Portugal

Matchday 4 (14/10/2018)

Poland-Italy

Matchday 6 (20/11/2018)

Portugal-Poland

Legend

Competitions

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