

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Lithuania

LFF stadionas - Vilnius
Thursday 11 October 2018
20.45CET (21.45 local time)
Group C4 - Matchday 3



Romania

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Previous meetings

Head to Head

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
06/06/2009	QR (GS)	Lithuania - Romania	0-1	Marijampole	Marica 39
06/09/2008	QR (GS)	Romania - Lithuania	0-3	Cluj-Napoca	Stankevičius 31, Mikalajunas 69, Kalonas 87

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
06/06/2001	QR (GS)	Lithuania - Romania	1-2	Kaunas	Fomenko 86; Ilie 31, V Moldovan 49
03/09/2000	QR (GS)	Romania - Lithuania	1-0	Bucharest	I Ganea 88

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
02/04/1997	QR (GS)	Lithuania - Romania	0-1	Vilnius	V Moldovan 72
31/08/1996	QR (GS)	Romania - Lithuania	3-0	Bucharest	V Moldovan 20, Petrescu 65, Gâlcă 77

	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																		
Lithuania	3	0	0	3	3	1	0	2	-	-	-	-	12	1	0	11	6	21
Romania	3	2	0	1	3	3	0	0	-	-	-	-	12	11	0	1	21	6

Squad list

Lithuania

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers									
1	Emilijus Zubas	10/07/1990	28	Bnei Yehuda	-			0	0
12	Dziugas Bartkus	07/11/1989	28	Žalgiris	-			0	0
16	Ernestas Šetkus	25/05/1985	33	H. Haifa	-			2	0
Defenders									
2	Linas Klimavičius	10/04/1989	29	Žalgiris	-			2	0
3	Justinas Januševskis	26/03/1994	24	Trakai	-			0	0
4	Vaidas Slavickas	26/02/1986	32	Sūduva	-			0	0
5	Algis Jankauskas	27/09/1982	36	Sūduva	-			1	0
20	Valdemar Borovskij	02/05/1984	34	Trakai	-			1	0
21	Vaidas Šilėnas	16/07/1985	33	Trakai	-			0	0
23	Rolandas Baravykas	23/08/1995	23	Žalgiris	-			1	0
Midfielders									
6	Povilas Leimonas	16/11/1987	30	Sūduva	-			1	0
7	Artūras Žulpa	10/06/1990	28	Tobol	-			2	0
9	Donatas Kazlauskas	21/03/1994	24	Trakai	-			0	0
11	Arvydas Novikovas	18/12/1990	27	Jagiellonia	*			2	0
13	Domantas Šimkus	10/02/1996	22	Žalgiris	-			0	0
14	Vykintas Slivka	29/04/1995	23	Hibernian	-			2	0
15	Deimantas Petravičius	02/09/1995	23	Falkirk	-			0	0
17	Mantas Kuklys	10/06/1987	31	Zhetysu	-			2	0
18	Modestas Vorobjovas	30/12/1995	22	Trakai	*			2	0
22	Fiodor Černych	21/05/1991	27	Dinamo Moskva	-			2	0
Forwards									
10	Darvydas Šernas	22/07/1984	34	Sogdiana Jizzakh	-			2	0
19	Nerijus Valskis	04/08/1987	31	Ratchaburi Mitr Phol	-			0	0
Coach									
-	Edgaras Jankauskas	12/03/1975	43		-			2	0

Romania

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Costel Pantilimon	01/02/1987	31	Nottm Forest	-			0	0		
12	Ciprian Tătărușanu	09/02/1986	32	Nantes	*			2	0		
16	Florin Niță	03/07/1987	31	Sparta Praha	-			0	0		
Defenders											
2	Romario Benzar	26/03/1992	26	FCSB	-			1	0		
3	Alin Toșca	14/03/1992	26	PAOK	-			0	0		
4	Gabriel Tamaș	09/11/1983	34	H. Haifa	-			0	0		
5	Tudor Băluță	27/03/1999	19	Viitorul	-			0	0		
6	Cristian Manea	09/08/1997	21	CFR Cluj	-			1	0		
7	Alexandru Chipciu	18/05/1989	29	Sparta Praha	*			2	0		
22	Cristian Săpunaru	05/04/1984	34	Kayserispor	-			2	0		
Midfielders											
8	Adrian Stoian	11/02/1991	27	Crotone	-			0	0		
10	Alexandru Maxim	08/07/1990	28	Mainz	-			1	0		
11	Nicusor Bancu	18/09/1992	26	Universitatea Craiova	-			2	0		
15	Paul Anton	10/05/1991	27	Krylya Sovetov	*			2	0		
17	Florin Tănase	30/12/1994	23	FCSB	-			0	0		
18	Răzvan Marin	23/05/1996	22	Standard Liège	-			1	0		
20	Ionuț Mitriță	08/02/1995	23	Universitatea Craiova	-			2	0		
23	Nicolae Stanciu	07/05/1993	25	Sparta Praha	-			2	1		
Forwards											
9	Dorin Rotariu	29/07/1995	23	AZ	-			1	0		
13	Claudiu Keșerü	02/12/1986	31	Ludogorets	-			2	0		
19	George Țucudean	30/04/1991	27	CFR Cluj	-			1	1		
21	Denis Drăguș	06/07/1999	19	Viitorul	-			1	0		
Coach											
-	Cosmin Contra	15/12/1975	42		-			2	0		

Head coach

Edgaras Jankauskas

Date of birth: 12 March 1975

Nationality: Lithuanian

Playing career: Žalgiris Vilnius, CSKA Moskva, Torpedo Moskva, Club Brugge, Real Sociedad, Benfica (loan), Porto, Nice (loan), FBK Kaunas, Hearts (loan), AEK Larnaca, Belenenses, Skonto, REO Vilnius, New England Revolution, Fakel Voronezh

Coaching career: Lokomotiv Moskva (assistant), Hearts (assistant), Trakai, Lithuania

- A hard-working target man, Jankauskas began his career at local club Žalgiris before moving to Russia to play for CSKA and Torpedo. Lifted the league title in Belgium in his first season with Club Brugge.
- Became Lithuania's most expensive player when signing for Real Sociedad for a reported €2.3m in January 2000; then shone on loan at Benfica, yet joined their Portuguese Liga rivals Porto in 2003 and was part of the team that won the UEFA Cup and UEFA Champions League under José Mourinho, though he did not play in either final.
- Later played in France, Scotland, Cyprus, Latvia and the United States, and represented Lithuania regularly for over 13 years, earning 56 caps and scoring ten goals. Also voted Lithuanian player of the year on five occasions.
- Helped out José Couceiro during his spell as Lithuania boss (2008–10) and gathered more experience as assistant coach of Lokomotiv Moskva and Hearts.
- Given sole command of Lithuanian side Trakai in 2014, he was subsequently named Lithuania boss at the start of 2016; oversaw a single win in qualifying for the 2018 FIFA World Cup as his side picked up six points from their ten matches.

Cosmin Contra

Date of birth: 15 December 1975

Nationality: Romanian

Playing career: Politehnica Timișoara (three times), Dinamo București, Alavés, AC Milan, Atlético Madrid, West Brom (loan), Getafe

Coaching career: Politehnica Timișoara, Fuenlabrada, Petrolul Ploiești, Getafe, Guangzhou, Alcorcón, Dinamo București, Romania

- Started and ended his playing career with his home-town club Politehnica Timișoara, heading to Spain in 1999 after a spell in the Romanian capital with Dinamo București.
- A major hit with Alavés, the attacking right-back helped the little-known club to reach the 2000/01 UEFA Cup final in their first season in European competition, scoring three goals and putting in a fine performance in the final – a 5-4 loss to Liverpool after extra time in Dortmund.
- Played for Milan, Atlético and West Brom then, after a spell back at Politehnica, helped Getafe make it to the 2007/08 UEFA Cup quarter-finals. Played in his second UEFA European Championship in summer 2008, and won the last of his 73 Romania caps in 2010, more than 14 years after his international debut.
- Moved from pitch to bench at Timișoara, working briefly as player-coach. After a spell in Spain, led Petrolul to 2012/13 Romanian Cup success, then returned to save Getafe from relegation in 2014 before trying his luck in China.
- Having won the 2016/17 Romanian League Cup with Dinamo București he was hired as Romania coach in September 2017, promptly winning six of his first eight matches in charge.

Match officials

Referee	François Letexier (FRA)
Assistant referees	Cyril Mugnier (FRA) , Mehdi Rahmouni (FRA)
Additional assistant referees	Amaury Delerue (FRA) , Nicolas Rainville (FRA)
Fourth official	Nicolas Danos (FRA)
UEFA Delegate	Alojzije Supraha (CRO)
UEFA Referee observer	Sokol Jareci (ALB)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
François Letexier	23/04/1989	0	11

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
11/09/2018	U21	QR	Romania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2-0	Ovidiu

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

Lithuania

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group C4

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Montenegro	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Serbia	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Romania	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Lithuania	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Matchday 1 (07/09/2018)

Lithuania 0-1 Serbia

Goals: 0-1 Tadić 38 (P)

Lithuania: Šetkus, Klimavičius, A. Jankauskas, Žulpa, Vaitkūnas, Novikovas, Slivka, Kuklys (46 Vorobjovas), Verbickas (72 Šernas), Černych, Baravykas

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Montenegro 2-0 Lithuania

Goals: 1-0 Savić 34 (P) , 2-0 Janković 35

Lithuania: Šetkus, Klimavičius, Vorobjovas, Leimonas (46 Borovskij), Žulpa, Vaitkūnas, Novikovas, Slivka, Lasickas (62 Šernas), Verbickas (46 Kuklys), Černych

Matchday 3 (11/10/2018)

Lithuania-Romania

Matchday 4 (14/10/2018)

Lithuania-Montenegro

Matchday 5 (17/11/2018)

Romania-Lithuania

Matchday 6 (20/11/2018)

Serbia-Lithuania

Romania

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 1 (07/09/2018)

Romania 0-0 Montenegro

Romania: Tătărușanu, Benzar, Chiricheș (31 Bălașa), Chipciu, Pintilii (73 Anton), Maxim, Bancu, Keșerü, Mitriță (67 Budescu), Săpunaru, Stanciu

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Serbia 2-2 Romania

Goals: 1-0 A. Mitrović 26, 1-1 Stanciu 48 (P) , 2-1 A. Mitrović 63, 2-2 Țucudean 68

Romania: Tătărușanu, Manea, Bălașa, Chipciu (93 Rotariu), Bancu, Anton, Marin, Țucudean (82 Keșerü), Drăguș (60 Mitriță), Săpunaru, Stanciu

Matchday 3 (11/10/2018)

Lithuania-Romania

Matchday 4 (14/10/2018)

Romania-Serbia

Matchday 5 (17/11/2018)

Romania-Lithuania

Matchday 6 (20/11/2018)

Montenegro-Romania

Legend

Competitions

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