

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



**Serbia**

**Stadion FK Partizan - Belgrade**

Monday 10 September 2018  
20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Group C4 - Matchday 2



**Romania**

Last updated 10/09/2018 12:26CET



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## Previous meetings

### Head to Head

#### FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
10/10/2009	QR (GS)	<b>Serbia</b> - Romania	5-0	Belgrade	Žigić 36, Pantelić 50, Kuzmanović 77, Jovanović 87, 90+3
28/03/2009	QR (GS)	Romania - <b>Serbia</b>	2-3	Constanta	Marica 50, Stoica 74; Jovanović 18, Stoica 44 (og), Ivanović 59

#### 1980 UEFA European Championship

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
31/10/1979	PR (GS)	<b>Yugoslavia</b> - Romania	2-1	Kosovska-Mitrovica	Z. Vujović 48, Sliskovic 50; Raducanu 79
25/10/1978	PR (GS)	<b>Romania</b> - Yugoslavia	3-2	Bucharest	Sameş 62, 68, Iordănescu 75 (P); Petrović 22 (P), Desnica 90

#### FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
13/11/1977	QR (GS)	Romania - <b>Serbia</b>	4-6	Bucharest	Vigu 2, Iordănescu 40, Bölöni 43, Georgescu 67; Sušić 13, 50, 61, Mužinić 16, Trifunovic 79, Filipović 83
08/05/1977	QR (GS)	<b>Serbia</b> - Romania	0-2	Zagreb	Georgescu 37, Iordănescu 44

#### FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
17/11/1957	QR (GS)	<b>Serbia</b> - Romania	2-0	Belgrade	Milutinović 52, 78
29/09/1957	QR (GS)	Romania - <b>Serbia</b>	1-1	Bucharest	Ene 78; Mujić 52

#### FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
29/04/1934	QR (GS)	<b>Romania</b> - Serbia	2-1	Bucharest	Schwartz 38, Dobay 74; Kragić 70

	Qualifying								Final tournament				Total					
	Home				Away													
	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
<b>Total</b>																		
Serbia	4	3	0	1	5	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	46	20	6	20	77	68
Romania	5	2	1	2	4	1	0	3	-	-	-	-	46	20	6	20	68	77

## Squad list

### Serbia

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
<b>Goalkeepers</b>									
1	Marko <b>Dmitrović</b>	24/01/1992	26	Eibar	-			1	0
12	Predrag <b>Rajković</b>	31/10/1995	22	M. Tel-Aviv	-			0	0
23	Nikola <b>Vasiljević</b>	24/06/1996	22	Radnik Surdulica	-			0	0
<b>Defenders</b>									
2	Antonio <b>Rukavina</b>	26/01/1984	34	Astana	-			1	0
3	Milan <b>Rodić</b>	02/04/1991	27	Crvena zvezda	*			1	0
4	Nikola <b>Milenković</b>	12/10/1997	20	Fiorentina	-			1	0
5	Uroš <b>Spajić</b>	13/02/1993	25	Krasnodar	-			0	0
11	Aleksandar <b>Kolarov</b>	10/11/1985	32	Roma	-			1	0
13	Miloš <b>Veljković</b>	26/09/1995	22	Bremen	-			1	0
15	Jagoš <b>Vuković</b>	10/06/1988	30	Olympiacos	-			0	0
<b>Midfielders</b>									
6	Nemanja <b>Maksimović</b>	26/01/1995	23	Getafe	*			1	0
7	Andrija <b>Živković</b>	11/07/1996	22	Benfica	-			1	0
14	Saša <b>Lukić</b>	13/08/1996	22	Torino	-			1	0
16	Nenad <b>Krstić</b>	03/07/1990	28	Crvena zvezda	-			0	0
17	Filip <b>Kostić</b>	01/11/1992	25	Frankfurt	-			1	0
20	Sergej <b>Milinković-Savić</b>	27/02/1995	23	Lazio	-			0	0
21	Nemanja <b>Matić</b>	01/08/1988	30	Man. United	-			1	0
22	Adem <b>Ljajić</b>	29/09/1991	26	Beşiktaş	-			0	0
<b>Forwards</b>									
8	Aleksandar <b>Prijović</b>	21/04/1990	28	PAOK	-			0	0
9	Aleksandar <b>Mitrović</b>	16/09/1994	23	Fulham	-			1	0
10	Dušan <b>Tadić</b>	20/11/1988	29	Ajax	-			1	1
18	Nemanja <b>Radonjić</b>	15/02/1996	22	Marseille	-			1	0
<b>Coach</b>									
-	Mladen Krstajić	04/03/1974	44		-			1	0

## Romania

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

## Head coach

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### Mladen Krstajić

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**Date of birth:** 4 March 1974

**Nationality:** Serbian

**Playing career:** Čelik, Senta, Kikinda, Partizan (twice), Werder Bremen, Schalke

**Coaching career:** Serbia

- A tall, left-footed defender, Krstajić's career began in the youth sector of Bosnian club Čelik from his home town of Zenica. He moved to Serbia in 1992 during the Yugoslav civil war, playing for unheralded Senta and Kikinda before being snapped up in 1996 by Belgrade giants Partizan.
- Rapidly became a Partizan regular, starting out at left-back before moving into central defence. He helped the Black-and-Whites to three championship titles (1995/96, 1996/97, 1998/99) and one national cup (1997/98) during his four-year stay.
- In the summer of 2000 Krstajić moved to Werder Bremen, where he performed with distinction for a further four seasons, climaxing in 2003/04 as he helped the club win the German Bundesliga/DFB Pokal double. He then left for a five-year stint at Schalke, where he was appointed as captain and established himself as one of the Bundesliga's foremost defenders.
- He played 59 senior international matches for his country, from 1999 to 2008, notably featuring as one of the 'Famous Four' alongside Nemanja Vidić, Goran Gavrančić and Ivica Dragutinović in the Serbia and Montenegro defence that qualified for the 2006 FIFA World Cup with the concession of just one goal. He also started all three matches at the finals in Germany.
- He returned to Belgrade to end his career back at Partizan, winning two more titles, before being appointed as the club's sports director. He later helped Serbia qualify for the 2018 World Cup as assistant coach to Slavoljub Muslin before replacing him, initially as caretaker, and leading the side at the finals in Russia, where they were eliminated at the group stage.

### Cosmin Contra

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**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

<b>Referee</b>	Vladislav Bezborodov (RUS)
<b>Assistant referees</b>	Valeri Danchenko (RUS) , Maksim Gavrilin (RUS)
<b>Additional assistant referees</b>	Aleksei Eskov (RUS) , Kirill Levnikov (RUS)
<b>Fourth official</b>	Dmitri Mosyakin (RUS)
<b>UEFA Delegate</b>	José Luis Astiazarán Iriondo (ESP)

## Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Vladislav Bezborodov	15/01/1973	0	63

## 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
27/04/2007	RCUP	IR	Ticino	Belgrade	0-0	Baku
29/04/2007	RCUP	IR	Belgrade	Regional Team Tbilisi (GEO)	2-0	Baku
10/10/2009	U19	QR	Scotland	Romania	3-0	St. Veit an der Glan
18/09/2014	UEL	GS	FCSB	Aalborg BK	6-0	Bucharest
08/10/2016	WC	QR	Armenia	Romania	0-5	Yerevan

## 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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### Serbia

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

##### Group C4

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
<b>Serbia</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Romania</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Montenegro	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lithuania	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

##### Matchday 1 (07/09/2018)

###### Lithuania 0-1 Serbia

Goals: 0-1 Tadić 38 (P)

**Serbia:** Dmitrović, Rukavina, Rodić (77 Kolarov), Milenković, Maksimović, A. Živković, A. Mitrović, Tadić, Veljković, Kostić (90 Radonjić), Matić (82 Lukić)

##### Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Serbia-Romania

##### Matchday 3 (11/10/2018)

Montenegro-Serbia

##### Matchday 4 (14/10/2018)

Romania-Serbia

##### Matchday 5 (17/11/2018)

Serbia-Montenegro

##### Matchday 6 (20/11/2018)

Serbia-Lithuania

### Romania

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#### 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-Romania

##### 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

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### Competitions

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