

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Ukraine

Arena Lviv - Lviv
Sunday 9 September 2018
15.00CET (16.00 local time)
Group B1 - Matchday 2



Slovakia

Last updated 13/11/2018 15:37CET



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Previous meetings

Head to Head

2016 UEFA European Championship

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
08/09/2015	QR (GS)	Slovakia - Ukraine	0-0	Zilina	
08/09/2014	QR (GS)	Ukraine - Slovakia	0-1	Kyiv	Mak 17

	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																		
Ukraine	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	6	2	3	1	7	6
Slovakia	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	6	1	3	2	6	7

Squad list

Ukraine

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Denys Boyko	29/01/1988	30	Dynamo Kyiv	-			0	0		
12	Andriy Pyatov	28/06/1984	34	Shakhtar Donetsk	-			1	0		
23	Andriy Lunin	11/02/1999	19	Leganés	-			0	0		
Defenders											
2	Mykola Matviyenko	02/05/1996	22	Shakhtar Donetsk	-			1	0		
3	Vasyl Kravets	20/08/1997	21	Lugo	-			0	0		
4	Serhiy Kryvtsov	15/03/1991	27	Shakhtar Donetsk	-			1	0		
5	Mykyta Burda	24/03/1995	23	Dynamo Kyiv	-			0	0		
13	Andriy Tsurikov	05/10/1992	25	Olexandriya	-			0	0		
19	Yevhen Makarenko	21/05/1991	27	Anderlecht	-			0	0		
20	Yaroslav Rakitskiy	03/08/1989	29	Shakhtar Donetsk	-			1	0		
Midfielders											
6	Taras Stepanenko	08/08/1989	29	Shakhtar Donetsk	-			1	0		
8	Ruslan Malinovskiy	04/05/1993	25	Genk	-			1	0		
11	Marlos	07/06/1988	30	Shakhtar Donetsk	-			1	0		
14	Vitaliy Buyalskiy	06/01/1993	25	Dynamo Kyiv	-			0	0		
15	Viktor Tsygankov	15/11/1997	20	Dynamo Kyiv	-			1	0		
16	Serhiy Sydorchuk	02/05/1991	27	Dynamo Kyiv	-			0	0		
17	Olexandr Zinchenko	15/12/1996	21	Man. City	-			1	1		
21	Oleg Danchenko	01/08/1994	24	Shakhtar Donetsk	-			0	0		
22	Oleksandr Karavaev	02/06/1992	26	Zorya	-			1	0		
Forwards											
7	Andriy Yarmolenko	23/10/1989	28	West Ham	-			1	0		
9	Yevhen Seleznyov	20/07/1985	33	Akhisar	-			1	0		
10	Yevhen Konoplyanka	29/09/1989	28	Schalke	-			1	1		
18	Roman Yaremchuk	27/11/1995	22	Gent	-			1	0		
Coach											
-	Andriy Shevchenko	29/09/1976	41		-			1	0		

Slovakia

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Martin Dúbravka	15/01/1989	29	Newcastle	-			0	0		
12	Michal Šulla	15/07/1991	27	Slovan Bratislava	-			0	0		
23	Matúš Kozáčík	27/12/1983	34	Plzeň	-			0	0		
Defenders											
2	Martin Valjent	11/12/1995	22	Mallorca	-			0	0		
3	Martin Škrtel	15/12/1984	33	Fenerbahçe	-			0	0		
4	Ľubomír Šatka	02/12/1995	22	Dunajská Streda	-			0	0		
5	Norbert Gyömbér	03/07/1992	26	Perugia	-			0	0		
14	Milan Škriniar	11/02/1995	23	Internazionale	-			0	0		
15	Tomáš Hubočan	17/09/1985	32	Marseille	-			0	0		
16	Róbert Mazán	09/02/1994	24	Celta	-			0	0		
Midfielders											
6	Ján Greguš	29/01/1991	27	København	-			0	0		
7	Vladimír Weiss	30/11/1989	28	Al-Gharafa	-			0	0		
8	Ondrej Duda	05/12/1994	23	Hertha	-			0	0		
10	Albert Rusnák	07/07/1994	24	Real Salt Lake	-			0	0		
13	Patrik Hrošovský	22/04/1992	26	Plzeň	-			0	0		
17	Marek Hamšík	27/07/1987	31	Napoli	-			0	0		
18	Erik Sabo	22/11/1991	26	Beitar Jerusalem	-			0	0		
19	Juraj Kucka	26/02/1987	31	Trabzonspor	-			0	0		
22	Stanislav Lobotka	25/11/1994	23	Celta	-			0	0		
Forwards											
9	Erik Pačinda	09/05/1989	29	Dunajská Streda	-			0	0		
11	Adam Nemec	02/09/1985	33	Dinamo București	-			0	0		
20	Róbert Mak	08/03/1991	27	Zenit	-			0	0		
21	Michal Ďuriš	01/06/1988	30	Anorthosis	-			0	0		
Coach											
-	Ján Kozák	17/04/1954	64		-			0	0		

Head coach

Andriy Shevchenko

Date of birth: 29 September 1976

Nationality: Ukrainian

Playing career: Dynamo Kyiv (twice), AC Milan (twice), Chelsea

Coaching career: Ukraine (assistant), Ukraine

- Shevchenko enjoyed phenomenal early success with Dynamo Kyiv, the club he joined as a schoolboy, winning five successive Ukrainian titles and contributing 60 top-flight goals, including a league-best tally of 18 in 1998/99; that same season he also jointly topped the UEFA Champions League charts with eight goals as Dynamo reached the semi-finals.
- Joined Milan in July 1999 and hit the ground running, finishing top of the Serie A goal charts in his debut season (the first foreigner to achieve the feat) with 24 goals, a tally he would match the following campaign and again in 2003/04, when he led the listings once more as Milan won the Scudetto; won the Ballon d'Or in December 2004 to go with his six Ukrainian footballer of the year titles.
- Won the UEFA Champions League with the Rossoneri in 2003, scoring the decisive spot kick in the final against Juventus to crown an injury-curtailed campaign; however, missed crucially from the spot in the 2005 showpiece against Liverpool.
- Left Milan in 2006 with 127 Serie A and 37 European goals to his credit, but a move to Chelsea did not work out and he returned to Milan for an equally unsuccessful loan spell in 2008/09 before making the permanent move back to Dynamo a year later.
- Ukraine's record scorer by a distance with 48 goals in 111 appearances, he captained the team to the quarter-finals of the 2006 FIFA World Cup and became the first player to reach the 100-cap milestone for Ukraine, in October 2010. Scored twice in a famous win against Sweden at UEFA EURO 2012, his international swansong; after a short-lived foray into politics, appointed assistant to Ukraine coach Mykhaylo Fomenko, taking over as head coach after UEFA EURO 2016 but losing out to Iceland and eventual runners-up Croatia in their qualifying section for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Ján Kozák

Date of birth: 17 April 1954

Nationality: Slovak

Playing career: Spišská Nová Ves, Lokomotíva Košice (three times), Dukla Praha, Seraing, Bourges

Coaching career: Lokomotíva Košice, 1. FC Košice, Michalovce, Ličartovce, MFK Košice (twice), Slovakia

- A creative midfielder, Kozák spent much of his playing career with local team Lokomotíva Košice, where he had three spells. He returned for the first time in 1982 at the conclusion of his military service in Prague, where he turned out for Dukla.
- A member of the Czechoslovakia squad that finished third at the 1980 UEFA European Championship, beating Italy 9-8 on penalties in the bronze-medal match, he scored nine goals in 55 international appearances. Kozák also travelled to the 1982 FIFA World Cup in Spain but did not feature due to injury.
- Won the Czechoslovak Cup three times and the 1982 league championship with Dukla before retiring in 1990. Moved into coaching several years later and proved an instant success, steering 1. FC Košice to successive titles (1997, 1998) and into the 1997/98 UEFA Champions League where, as Slovakia's first ever group stage representative, they lost all six games in a section containing Feyenoord, Juventus and Manchester United.
- Left Košice in 1998 but came back for two further stints at the club now renamed MFK Košice, winning the Slovak Cup in 2009. He stood down in summer 2013, succeeding Stanislav Griga and Michal Hipp as coach of Slovakia, and led the team to UEFA EURO 2016 as Group C runners-up behind holders Spain. Kozák's side went on to reach the last 16 at the finals in France, although they missed out on the 2018 World Cup despite finishing second to England in their qualifying group.
- His son Ján Kozák Jr played in the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League group stage for Artmedia Petržalka, equalising and then creating the winner in a famous 3-2 comeback victory over Porto; grandson Filip Lesniak was at Tottenham between 2012 and 2017, when he joined Denmark's AaB.

Match officials

Referee	Tasos Sidiropoulos (GRE)
Assistant referees	Polychronis Kostaras (GRE) , Lazaros Dimitriadis (GRE)
Additional assistant referees	Ioannis Papadopoulos (GRE) , Athanasios Tzilos (GRE)
Fourth official	Damianos Efthimiadis (GRE)
UEFA Delegate	Peter Lundström (FIN)
UEFA Referee observer	Michel Piraux (BEL)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Tasos Sidiropoulos	09/08/1979	0	59

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
11/05/2013	U17	GS-FT	Ukraine	Croatia	1-2	Zlate Moravce
19/09/2013	UEL	GS	FC Dynamo Kyiv	KRC Genk	0-1	Kyiv
20/02/2014	UEL	R32	FC Viktoria Plzeň	FC Shakhtar Donetsk	1-1	Plzen
17/09/2014	UCL	GS	Athletic Club	FC Shakhtar Donetsk	0-0	Bilbao
20/08/2015	UEL	PO	FC Zorya Luhansk	Legia Warszawa	0-1	Kyiv
21/10/2015	UCL	GS	Malmö FF	FC Shakhtar Donetsk	1-0	Malmö
11/11/2016	WC	QR	Slovakia	Lithuania	4-0	Trnava
01/11/2017	UCL	GS	FC Shakhtar Donetsk	Feyenoord	3-1	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

Ukraine

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group B1

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Ukraine	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Matchday 1 (06/09/2018)

Czech Republic 1-2 Ukraine

Goals: 1-0 Schick 4, 1-1 Konoplyanka 45+1, 1-2 Zinchenko 90+3

Ukraine: Pyatov, Matviyenko, Kryvtsov, Stepanenko, Yarmolenko (66 Zinchenko), Malinovskiy, Konoplyanka (77 Tsygankov), Marlos, Yaremchuk (85 Seleznyov), Rakitskiy, Karavaev

Matchday 2 (09/09/2018)

Ukraine-Slovakia

Matchday 4 (16/10/2018)

Ukraine-Czech Republic

Matchday 5 (16/11/2018)

Slovakia-Ukraine

Slovakia

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 2 (09/09/2018)

Ukraine-Slovakia

Matchday 3 (13/10/2018)

Slovakia-Czech Republic

Matchday 5 (16/11/2018)

Slovakia-Ukraine

Matchday 6 (19/11/2018)

Czech Republic-Slovakia

Legend

Competitions

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