

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



**San Marino**

**San Marino Stadium - Serravalle**

Thursday 15 November 2018

20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Group D2 - Matchday 5



**Moldova**

Last updated 15/11/2018 10:47CET



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## Previous meetings

### Head to Head

#### UEFA Nations League

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
12/10/2018	GS-FT	<b>Moldova</b> - San Marino	2-0	Chisinau	Gînsari 31, 67

#### FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
11/10/2013	QR (GS)	<b>Moldova</b> - San Marino	3-0	Chisinau	Frunză 55, Sidorencu 59, 89
16/10/2012	QR (GS)	San Marino - <b>Moldova</b>	0-2	Serravalle	Dadu 72 (P), A. Epureanu 78

#### UEFA EURO 2012

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
11/10/2011	QR (GS)	<b>Moldova</b> - San Marino	4-0	Chisinau	Zmeu 30, S. Bacciocchi 62 (og), Suvorov 66, Andronic 87
12/10/2010	QR (GS)	San Marino - <b>Moldova</b>	0-2	Serravalle	Josan 20, Doroş 86 (P)

	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>																		
San Marino	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	7	0	0	7	0	16
Moldova	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	7	7	0	0	16	0

# Squad list

## San Marino

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase			
						Pld	Gls		
<b>Goalkeepers</b>									
1	Matteo Zavoli	06/07/1996	22	Libertas	-		0	0	
12	Simone Benedettini	21/01/1997	21	Marino	-		0	0	
23	Elia Benedettini	22/06/1995	23	Novara	-		4	0	
<b>Defenders</b>									
2	Davide Cesarini	16/02/1995	23	Tre Penne	-		2	0	
5	Fabio Vitaoli	05/04/1984	34	Tropical Coriano	-		2	0	
6	Davide Simoncini	30/08/1986	32	Libertas	-		3	0	
11	Manuel Battistini	22/07/1994	24	Libertas	-		3	0	
14	Michele Cevoli	22/07/1998	20	Marino	-		0	0	
18	Mattia Giardi	15/12/1991	26	Faetano	*		4	0	
19	Andrea Grandoni	23/03/1997	21	San Marino	*		3	0	
21	Marcello Mularoni	08/09/1998	20	U.S. Pietracuta	-		2	0	
<b>Midfielders</b>									
3	Mirko Palazzi	21/03/1987	31	Tre Penne	-		4	0	
4	Michael Battistini	08/10/1996	22	Libertas	-		0	0	
8	Enrico Golinucci	16/07/1991	27	Libertas	-		3	0	
10	Luca Tosi	04/11/1992	26	Folgore	-		0	0	
13	Luca Censoni	18/07/1996	22	Tre Penne	-		0	0	
15	Lorenzo Lunadei	12/07/1997	21	FYA Riccione	*		3	0	
16	Danilo Rinaldi	18/04/1986	32	La Fiorita	-		2	0	
17	Alessandro Golinucci	10/10/1994	24	U.S. Pietracuta	-		2	0	
<b>Forwards</b>									
7	Matteo Vitaoli	27/10/1989	29	Tropical Coriano	*		4	0	
9	Nicola Nanni	02/05/2000	18	Crotone	-		0	0	
20	José Hirsch	31/01/1986	32	La Fiorita	*		2	0	
22	Fabio Tomassini	05/02/1996	22	Juvenes/Dogana	*		4	0	
<b>Coach</b>									
-	Franco Varrella	25/01/1953	65		-		4	0	

## Moldova

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
<b>Goalkeepers</b>									
1	Stanislav <b>Namaşco</b>	10/11/1986	32	Zeta	-			0	0
12	Serghei <b>Paşcenco</b>	18/12/1982	35	Sheriff	-			0	0
23	Alexei <b>Koşevlev</b>	19/11/1993	24	Fortuna Sittard	-			4	0
<b>Defenders</b>									
2	Oleg <b>Reabciuk</b>	16/01/1998	20	Porto	*			4	0
3	Petru <b>Racu</b>	17/07/1987	31	Sheriff	-			0	0
5	Veaceslav <b>Posmac</b>	07/11/1990	28	Sheriff	*			4	0
6	Alexandru <b>Epureanu</b>	27/09/1986	32	İstanbul Başakşehir	-			4	0
13	Dinu <b>Graur</b>	27/12/1994	23	Milsami	-			2	0
14	Artiom <b>Rozgoniuc</b>	01/10/1995	23	Sfintul Gheorghe	-			0	0
15	Ion <b>Jardan</b>	10/01/1990	28	Zimbru	-			1	0
<b>Midfielders</b>									
4	Cătălin <b>Carp</b>	20/10/1993	25	Ufa	*			4	0
7	Artur <b>Ioniţa</b>	17/08/1990	28	Cagliari	-			3	0
8	Alexandru <b>Gaşcan</b>	27/03/1984	34	Rostov	-			4	0
9	Eugeniu <b>Cebotaru</b>	16/10/1984	34	Sibir	-			0	0
10	Alexandru <b>Dedov</b>	26/07/1989	29	Ziră FK	-			3	0
16	Constantin <b>Sandu</b>	15/09/1993	25	Speranta	-			2	0
17	Alexandru <b>Antoniuc</b>	23/05/1989	29	Milsami	*			4	0
18	Gheorghe <b>Anton</b>	27/01/1993	25	Sheriff	-			0	0
20	Eugeniu <b>Cociuc</b>	11/05/1993	25	Sabail	-			3	0
<b>Forwards</b>									
11	Radu <b>Gînsari</b>	10/12/1991	26	H. Haifa	*			4	2
19	Alexandru <b>Boiciuc</b>	21/08/1997	21	Sheriff	-			2	0
21	Vitalie <b>Damaşcan</b>	24/01/1999	19	Torino	-			3	0
22	Ion <b>Nicolaescu</b>	07/09/1998	20	Shakhtyor	*			2	0
<b>Coach</b>									
-	Alexandru Spiridon	20/07/1960	58		-			4	0

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## Head coach

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### Franco Varrella

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**Date of birth:** 25 January 1953

**Nationality:** Italian

**Playing career:** Rimini, Urbino, Montecchio, Jesina

**Coaching career:** Bellaria, Pietri Carpi, Forlì, Brescia, Monza, Casertana, Salernitana, Reggiana, Savoia, Padova, Triestina, Ravenna, San Marino

- A youth player with Juventus for a time, Varrella played at a senior level in the lower leagues in Italy before becoming a games teacher.
- Started coaching with Bellaria and later moved into Serie C2 with Forlì in 1986/87, stepping up to Serie B to take charge of Brescia, Salernitana, Reggiana, Savoia and Ravenna.
- Won Serie C2 – the fourth highest division in Italy – with Padova in 2000/01. Hired as San Marino coach in January 2018.
- Worked as Arrigo Sacchi's assistant with Italy from 1995 onwards, culminating in a trip to EURO '96. Varrella continues to teach coaches at the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) technical centre in Coverciano and for UEFA Coach Education Programme.

### Alexandru Spiridon

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**Date of birth:** 20 July 1960

**Nationality:** Moldovan

**Playing career:** Nistru Chişinău (twice), SKA Kyiv, Zorya Voroshilovgrad, Zaria Bălţi, Zimbru Chişinău, Tiligul Tiraspol

**Coaching career:** Zimbru Chişinău (twice), Tiligul Tiraspol (twice), Moldova Under-21, Moldova (twice), Unisport Chişinău, Nistru Otaci, Shakhtar Donetsk (assistant), Zenit (assistant)

- Born in Edinet in northern Moldova, the midfielder started his professional career at Nistru Chişinău (now Zimbru). Shortly before he was due to travel to the 1979 FIFA World Youth Championship with the USSR, Spiridon broke his leg in two places – an injury that would hamper his career.
- Played for Ukrainian clubs SKA Kyiv and Zorya Voroshilovgrad (now Zorya Luhansk) in the Soviet second tier before returning to Nistru and later joining Zaria Bălţi. After Moldova gained independence, Spiridon went on to play for Zimbru and Tiligul Tiraspol before hanging up his boots at the age of 37.
- Spiridon won 16 caps and scored twice for Moldova between 1991 and 1995. He won five Moldovan leagues with Zimbru both as player and coach and was voted the country's player of the year in 1992.
- He started coaching in 1992 while still playing for Zimbru – first as assistant coach then, from 1994, as player/head coach. Held the same role at Tiligul before focusing solely on coaching and guiding local clubs Unisport and Nistru. He was on the national team coaching staff between 1994 and 2000, working with the Under-21s, and briefly took charge of the senior side in 2001.
- A new chapter in Spiridon's career kicked off in 2004 as he became Mircea Lucescu's assistant at Shakhtar – a post he held for the next 12 years, during which Shakhtar won eight league titles and the 2008/09 UEFA Cup. Spiridon followed Lucescu to Zenit for the 2016/17 season before being appointed as Moldova's head coach in January 2018.

## Match officials

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<b>Referee</b>	Georgios Kominis (GRE)
<b>Assistant referees</b>	Chrysoula Kourompylia (GRE) , Chasan Koula (GRE)
<b>Additional assistant referees</b>	Ioannis Papadopoulos (GRE) , Emmanouil Skoulas (GRE)
<b>Fourth official</b>	Christos Baltas (GRE)
<b>UEFA Delegate</b>	Björn Fecker (GER)
<b>UEFA Referee observer</b>	Pascal Garibian (FRA)

## Referee

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Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Georgios Kominis	07/04/1980	0	12

## UEFA Nations League matches between the two teams

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No such matches refereed

## Other matches involving teams from either of the two countries involved in this match

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No such matches refereed

## 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

### San Marino

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

##### Group D2

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Luxembourg	4	3	0	1	10	1	9
Belarus	4	2	2	0	6	0	8
<b>Moldova</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>San Marino</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>

##### Matchday 1 (08/09/2018)

###### Belarus 5-0 San Marino

**Goals:** 1-0 Stasevich 4, 2-0 Dragun 26, 3-0 Saroka 67 (P), 4-0 Dragun 87, 5-0 Kovalev 90+1

**San Marino:** E. Benedettini, Cesarini (81 D. Rinaldi), Palazzi, D. Simoncini, M. Vitaioli (62 Tomassini), A. Gasperoni (63 Hirsch), Berardi, Manuel Battistini, Lunadei, Biordi, Giardi

##### Matchday 2 (11/09/2018)

###### San Marino 0-3 Luxembourg

**Goals:** 0-1 Chanot 9, 0-2 Joachim 45+1, 0-3 Sinani 52

**San Marino:** E. Benedettini, Palazzi, D. Simoncini, M. Vitaioli, Berardi (72 Tomassini), Manuel Battistini, Brolli, D. Rinaldi, Giardi, Grandoni, E. Golinucci (88 Lunadei)

##### Matchday 3 (12/10/2018)

###### Moldova 2-0 San Marino

**Goals:** 1-0 Gînsari 31, 2-0 Gînsari 67

**San Marino:** E. Benedettini, F. Vitaioli, M. Vitaioli, A. Gasperoni, Giardi (46 Palazzi), Manuel Battistini, Brolli, Mularoni, Grandoni, Hirsch (71 Tomassini), E. Golinucci (84 Golinucci)

##### Matchday 4 (15/10/2018)

###### Luxembourg 3-0 San Marino

**Goals:** 1-0 Turpel 4, 2-0 Sinani 65, 3-0 Thill 73

**San Marino:** E. Benedettini, Cesarini, F. Vitaioli, M. Vitaioli, A. Gasperoni, Giardi, Mularoni, Grandoni (76 Palazzi), D. Simoncini, E. Golinucci (85 Golinucci), Tomassini (61 Lunadei)

##### Matchday 5 (15/11/2018)

San Marino-Moldova

##### Matchday 6 (18/11/2018)

San Marino-Belarus

### Moldova

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

##### Matchday 1 (08/09/2018)

###### Luxembourg 4-0 Moldova

**Goals:** 1-0 Malget 34, 2-0 O. Thill 60, 3-0 Sinani 75, 4-0 C. Martins 83

**Moldova:** Koşev, Reabciuk, Carp (77 Cojocari), Posmac, A. Epureanu, Gaţcan, Cociuc, Dedov (63 Platica), Gînsari (62 Nicolaescu), Graur, A. Antoniu

##### Matchday 2 (11/09/2018)

###### Moldova 0-0 Belarus

**Moldova:** Koşev, Reabciuk, Carp (63 Cociuc), Posmac, A. Epureanu, Ioniţa, Gaţcan, Gînsari, Graur, A. Antoniu (86 Platica), Nicolaescu (67 Damaşcan)

##### Matchday 3 (12/10/2018)

###### Moldova 2-0 San Marino

**Goals:** 1-0 Gînsari 31, 2-0 Gînsari 67

**Moldova:** Koşev, Reabciuk (46 Dedov), Carp, Posmac, A. Epureanu, Ioniţa, Gaţcan, A. Antoniu, Gînsari (79

Sandu), Cociuc, Damaşcan (54 Boiciuc)

**Matchday 4 (15/10/2018)**

**Belarus 0-0 Moldova**

**Moldova:** Koşelev, Reabciuk, Carp, Posmac, A. Epureanu, Ioniţa, Gaţcan, A. Antoniu (65 Sandu), Gînsari (78 Dedov), I. Jardan, Damaşcan (72 Boiciuc)

**Matchday 5 (15/11/2018)**

San Marino-Moldova

**Matchday 6 (18/11/2018)**

Moldova-Luxembourg

## Legend

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### Competitions

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