

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



FYR Macedonia

**Nacionalna Arena Filip II Makedonski
- Skopje**

Sunday 9 September 2018
18.00CET (18.00 local time)
Group D4 - Matchday 2



Armenia

Last updated 11/10/2018 17:01CET



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Previous meetings

Head to Head

UEFA EURO 2012

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
07/10/2011	QR (GS)	Armenia - FYR Macedonia	4-1	Yerevan	Pizzelli 28, Mkhitaryan 34, Ghazaryan 69, Sarkisov 90+1; Sikov 86
07/09/2010	QR (GS)	FYR Macedonia - Armenia	2-2	Skopje	Gjurovski 42, Naumoski 90+6 (P); Movsisyan 41, Manucharyan 90+1

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
04/06/2005	QR (GS)	Armenia - FYR Macedonia	1-2	Yerevan	Manucharyan 55; Pandev 29, 46
18/08/2004	QR (GS)	FYR Macedonia - Armenia	3-0	Skopje	Pandev 5, Sakiri 37, Sumulikoski 90

EURO '96

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
06/09/1995	PR (GS)	FYR Macedonia - Armenia	1-2	Skopje	Micevski 56; Grigoryan 61, Shahgeldyan 78
10/05/1995	PR (GS)	Armenia - FYR Macedonia	2-2	Yerevan	Grigoryan 21, Shahgeldyan 49; Hristov 59, Markovski 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
Total																		
FYR Macedonia	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	6	2	2	2	11	11
Armenia	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	6	2	2	2	11	11

Squad list

FYR Macedonia

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers									
1	Stole Dimitrievski	25/12/1993	24	Rayo Vallecano	-			1	0
12	David Mitov Nilson	12/01/1991	27	Norrköping	-			0	0
22	Damjan Siskovski	18/03/1995	23	Lahti	-			0	0
Defenders									
2	Kristijan Toševski	06/05/1994	24	Vardar	-			0	0
3	Mite Cikarski	06/01/1993	25	Giannina	-			0	0
4	Kire Ristevski	22/10/1990	27	Vasas	-			1	0
5	Visar Musliu	13/11/1994	23	Shkëndija	-			1	0
8	Egzijan Alioski	12/02/1992	26	Leeds	*			1	1
13	Stefan Ristovski	12/02/1992	26	Sporting CP	-			1	0
14	Darko Velkoski	21/06/1995	23	Rijeka	-			0	0
15	Egzon Bejtulai	07/01/1994	24	Shkëndija	-			1	0
Midfielders									
7	Ivan Tričkovski	18/04/1987	31	AEK Larnaca	*			1	1
11	Enis Bardi	02/07/1995	23	Levante	-			1	0
16	Boban Nikolov	28/07/1994	24	Vidi	-			1	0
20	Stefan Spirovski	23/08/1990	28	Ferencváros	-			1	0
21	Eljif Elmas	24/09/1999	18	Fenerbahçe	-			1	0
Forwards									
9	Aleksandar Trajkovski	05/09/1992	26	Palermo	-			1	0
10	Goran Pandev	27/07/1983	35	Genoa	-			1	0
23	Ilija Nestorovski	12/03/1990	28	Palermo	-			1	0
Coach									
-	Igor Angelovski	02/06/1976	42		-			1	0

Armenia

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase				
						Pld	Gls			
Goalkeepers										
1	Arsen Beglaryan	18/02/1993	25	Liepāja	-		0	0		
12	Anatoli Aivazov	08/06/1996	22	Banants	-		0	0		
16	Aram Airapetyan	22/11/1986	31	Banants	-		1	0		
Defenders										
2	Hayk Ishkhanyan	24/06/1989	29	Gandzasar	-		0	0		
3	Varazdat Haroyan	24/08/1992	26	Ural	-		1	0		
4	Taron Voskanyan	22/02/1993	25	Alashkert	-		0	0		
5	Narek Petrosyan	25/01/1996	22	Banants	-		0	0		
13	Andre Calisir	13/06/1990	28	Göteborg	-		1	0		
17	Artak Edigaryan	18/03/1990	28	Alashkert	-		1	0		
19	Hovhannes Hambartsumyan	04/10/1990	27	Paralimni	-		1	0		
Midfielders										
6	Karlen Mkrtchyan	25/11/1988	29	Pyunik	*		1	0		
7	Edgar Malakyan	22/09/1990	27	Zhetysu	-		0	0		
8	Marcos Pizzelli	03/10/1984	33	Aktobe	-		1	1		
9	Gor Malakyan	12/06/1994	24	FC Ararat-Armenia	*		1	0		
10	Gevorg Ghazaryan	05/04/1988	30	Chaves	-		1	0		
15	Erik Vardanyan	07/06/1998	20	Pyunik	-		0	0		
18	Henrikh Mkhitaryan	21/01/1989	29	Arsenal	-		1	0		
20	Tigran Barseghyan	22/09/1993	24	Vardar	-		1	1		
21	Rumyan Hovsepyan	13/11/1991	26	Pyunik	-		0	0		
23	Aras Özbiliz	09/03/1990	28	Willem II	-		1	0		
Forwards										
11	Artur Sarkisov	01/07/1987	31	Yenisey	-		0	0		
14	Ivan Yagan	11/10/1989	28	Eupen	-		1	0		
22	Sargis Adamyan	23/05/1993	25	Jahn	-		0	0		
Coach										
-	Vardan Minasyan	05/01/1974	44		-		1	0		

Head coach

Igor Angelovski

Date of birth: 2 June 1976

Nationality: Macedonian

Playing career: Makedonija Gjorce Petrov, Pelister, Publikum, Cementarnica (twice), Pobeda

Coaching career: Rabotnicki, FYR Macedonia (assistant), FYR Macedonia

- A former midfielder, Angelovski spent most of his playing career in his homeland, his highlight coming in 2002/03 when he lifted the Macedonian Cup with Cementarnica.
- After retiring in 2007, he served as sporting director at Rabotnicki for five years before becoming a surprise choice to replace Zhikica Tasevski as the club's head coach aged 37 prior to 2013/14.
- Angelovski wasted no time showing his coaching potential by becoming the youngest coach to win the Macedonian championship, leading the Skopje-based side to a domestic double in his debut season – aged 38. He repeated his Macedonian Cup success with Rabotnicki the following year, and won consecutive awards for best domestic coach in 2014 and 2015.
- While continuing in his Rabotnicki job, he served as Ljubinko Drušević's assistant with FYR Macedonia from July to October 2015 while studying for his UEFA Pro licence.
- Angelovski took temporary charge of the national team in October 2015 and enjoyed a winning debut in a 4-1 friendly win against Montenegro in Skopje the following month. He was appointed coach on a permanent basis shortly afterwards and oversaw the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign in which the team picked up 11 points from ten matches.

Vardan Minasyan

Date of birth: 5 January 1974

Nationality: Armenian

Playing career: Zangezur, Pyunik (twice), FC Yerevan, Lausanne, Lokomotiv St Petersburg

Coaching career: Armenia Under-21, Armenia (assistant), Pyunik, Armenia (twice), Tobol

- A forceful midfielder, he spent the bulk of his playing career with Pyunik (formerly Homenetmen Yerevan), winning six Armenian championships with the club in two spells (1992–97 and 2001–03). Capped 13 times by Armenia between 1996 and 2003.
- Began coaching career as an assistant both with Pyunik and Armenia; stood in as joint-caretaker for the latter following coach Ian Porterfield's death in September 2007 and was in sole charge for the country's final two UEFA EURO 2008 qualifiers.
- Assistant coach since 2005, he took sole command at Pyunik in May 2008 and led the club to an eighth successive Armenian championship; stretched sequence to nine in his first full season at the helm in 2009 and also secured the domestic double with victory in the Armenian Cup, repeating the feat in 2010.
- After previous experience with national team as caretaker, assistant and Under-21 coach, he was handed head role in April 2009 in addition to his day job with Pyunik, replacing Dane Jan Børge Poulsen.
- Led Armenia to their only 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifying win – 2-1 at home to Belgium – five months later and, after missing out on a UEFA EURO 2012 play-off place on the final day of qualifying, stepped down in October 2013. Had a year in charge of Tobol, being sacked in 2015, and returned to the Armenia post three years later.

Match officials

Referee	Manuel Schuettengruber (AUT)
Assistant referees	Roland Brandner (AUT) , Roland Riedel (AUT)
Additional assistant referees	Rene Eisner (AUT) , Dieter Muckenhammer (AUT)
Fourth official	Markus Gutschi (AUT)
UEFA Delegate	Mike Appleby (ENG)
UEFA Referee observer	Francesco Bianchi (SUI)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Manuel Schuettengruber	20/07/1983	0	29

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
10/07/2014	UEL	1QR	FC Chikhura Sachkhere	FK Turnovo	3-1	Tbilisi
08/09/2015	U21	QR	Armenia	Romania	2-3	Yerevan
21/10/2015	U17	QR	Scotland	FYR Macedonia	3-0	Burgas

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

FYR Macedonia

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group D4

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FYR Macedonia	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Armenia	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Liechtenstein	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Gibraltar	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Matchday 1 (06/09/2018)

Gibraltar 0-2 FYR Macedonia

Goals: 0-1 Tričkovski 19, 0-2 Alioski 35

FYR Macedonia: Dimitrievski, Ristevski, Musliu, Tričkovski, Alioski, Trajkovski (68 Elmas), Pandev (46 Nestorovski), Bardi (85 Bejtulai), Ristovski, Nikolov, Spirovski

Matchday 2 (09/09/2018)

FYR Macedonia-Armenia

Matchday 3 (13/10/2018)

FYR Macedonia-Liechtenstein

Matchday 4 (16/10/2018)

Armenia-FYR Macedonia

Matchday 5 (16/11/2018)

Liechtenstein-FYR Macedonia

Matchday 6 (19/11/2018)

FYR Macedonia-Gibraltar

Armenia

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 1 (06/09/2018)

Armenia 2-1 Liechtenstein

Goals: 1-0 Pizzelli 30, 1-1 Wolfinger 33, 2-1 Barseghyan 76

Armenia: Airapetyan, Haroyan, Manucharyan (42 Artak Edigaryan), Mkrtchyan, Pizzelli, G. Malakyan, Calisir, Yagan (55 Barseghyan), Mkhitarian, Hambartsumyan, Özbiliz (83 Ghazaryan)

Matchday 2 (09/09/2018)

FYR Macedonia-Armenia

Matchday 3 (13/10/2018)

Armenia-Gibraltar

Matchday 4 (16/10/2018)

Armenia-FYR Macedonia

Matchday 5 (16/11/2018)

Gibraltar-Armenia

Matchday 6 (19/11/2018)

Liechtenstein-Armenia

Legend

Competitions

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