

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Kazakhstan

Astana Arena - Astana
Thursday 6 September 2018
16.00CET (20.00 local time)
Group D1 - Matchday 1



Georgia

Last updated 12/02/2019 19:33CET



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Previous meetings

Head to Head

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
08/10/2005	QR (GS)	Georgia - Kazakhstan	0-0	Tbilisi	
17/08/2005	QR (GS)	Kazakhstan - Georgia	1-2	Almaty	Kenzhekanov 22; Demetradze 50, 82

	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																		
Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	4	1	2	1	3	3
Georgia	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	4	1	2	1	3	3

Squad list

Kazakhstan

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers									
1	Nenad Erić	26/05/1982	36	Astana	-			0	0
12	Vladimir Plotnikov	03/04/1986	32	Kairat	-			0	0
22	Dmytro Nepohodov	17/02/1988	30	Tobol	-			0	0
Defenders									
2	Sergei Maliy	05/06/1990	28	Astana	-			0	0
3	Dmitri Miroshnichenko	26/02/1992	26	Tobol	-			0	0
4	Evgeni Postnikov	16/04/1986	32	Astana	-			0	0
16	Gafurzhan Suyumbayev	19/08/1990	28	Kairat	-			0	0
18	Dmitri Shomko	19/03/1990	28	Astana	-			0	0
20	Aibol Abiken	01/06/1996	22	Kairat	-			0	0
21	Abzal Beysebekov	30/11/1992	25	Astana	-			0	0
23	Yuri Logvinenko	22/07/1988	30	Astana	-			0	0
Midfielders									
5	Islambek Kuat	12/01/1993	25	Kairat	-			0	0
6	Yan Vorogovskiy	07/08/1996	22	Kairat	-			0	0
7	Serikzhan Muzhikov	17/06/1989	29	Astana	-			0	0
8	Duman Narzildayev	06/09/1993	25	Kaysar	-			0	0
9	Bauyrzhan Islamkhan	23/02/1993	25	Kairat	-			0	0
10	Georgi Zhukov	19/11/1994	23	Kairat	-			0	0
11	Yerkebulan Tunggyshbayev	14/01/1995	23	Ordabasy	-			0	0
19	Baktiyor Zainutdinov	02/04/1998	20	Astana	-			0	0
Forwards									
13	Aleksei Schetkin	21/05/1991	27	Astana	-			0	0
14	Roman Murtazayev	10/09/1993	24	Astana	-			0	0
15	Bauyrzhan Turysbek	15/10/1991	26	Tobol	-			0	0
17	Yerkebulan Seidakhmet	04/02/2000	18	Ufa	-			0	0
Coach									
-	Stanimir Stoilov	13/02/1967	51		-			1	0

Georgia

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls		
Goalkeepers											
1	Giorgi Loria	27/01/1986	32	Krylya Sovetov	-			0	0		
12	Roin Kvashvadze	31/05/1989	29	Torpedo Kutaisi	-			0	0		
14	Lazare Kupatadze	08/02/1996	22	Saburtalo	-			0	0		
Defenders											
2	Otar Kakabadze	27/06/1995	23	Luzern	-			0	0		
3	David Khocholava	08/02/1993	25	Shakhtar Donetsk	-			0	0		
4	Guram Kashia	04/07/1987	31	San Jose Earthquakes	-			0	0		
5	Solomon Kverkvelia	06/02/1992	26	Lokomotiv Moskva	-			0	0		
16	Jemal Tabidze	18/03/1996	22	Ufa	-			0	0		
22	Giorgi Navalovski	28/06/1986	32	Dinamo Minsk	-			0	0		
Midfielders											
6	Nika Kvekveskiri	29/05/1992	26	Tobol	-			0	0		
7	Jaba Kankava	18/03/1986	32	Tobol	-			0	0		
8	Valeri Kazaishvili	29/01/1993	25	San Jose Earthquakes	-			0	0		
9	Otar Kiteishvili	26/03/1996	22	Sturm	-			0	0		
10	Tornike Okriashvili	12/02/1992	26	Krasnodar	-			0	0		
15	Giorgi Aburjania	02/01/1995	23	Lugo	-			0	0		
17	Giorgi Merebashvili	15/08/1986	32	Wisła Płock	-			0	0		
18	Giorgi Chakvetadze	29/08/1999	19	Gent	-			0	0		
19	Giorgi Papunashvili	02/09/1995	23	Zaragoza	-			0	0		
21	Valerian Gvilia	24/05/1994	24	Luzern	-			0	0		
23	Jambul Jigauri	08/07/1992	26	Grenoble	-			0	0		
Forwards											
11	Giorgi Kvilitaia	01/10/1993	24	Gent	-			0	0		
13	Nika Katcharava	13/01/1994	24	Anorthosis	-			0	0		
20	Giorgi Arabidze	04/03/1998	20	Nacional	-			0	0		
Coach											
-	Vladimír Weiss	22/09/1964	53		-			1	0		

Head coach

Stanimir Stoilov

Date of birth: 13 February 1967

Nationality: Bulgarian

Playing career: Haskovo, Levski Sofia (three times), Fenerbahçe, CSKA Sofia, Campomaiorense, Slavia Sofia

Coaching career: Levski Sofia, Bulgaria (twice), Litex Lovech, Anorthosis Famagusta, Botev Plovdiv, Astana, Kazakhstan

- A stellar name at Levski, Stoilov had three spells at the club, ending his senior career there after amassing four league titles plus five Bulgarian Cups. Started out as a midfielder but later moved up front and, towards the end of his career, into defence. Scored three goals in 14 international appearances for Bulgaria, two of them on his debut in September 1992 in a friendly against Turkey, where he had just arrived to play for Fenerbahçe.
- Captain and assistant coach at Levski in his later years, he was appointed head coach in 2004. In four seasons in charge won two league titles, two national cups and became the first man to lead a Bulgarian club into the group stage of the UEFA Champions League.
- Stood in as caretaker national team coach in June 2007 following Hristo Stoichkov's resignation. Sacked by Levski in May 2008, he joined Litex and took them to victory in the Bulgarian Cup, having in the meantime also been appointed Bulgaria coach. Left Litex in August 2009 to concentrate solely on the national side but missed out on 2010 FIFA World Cup qualification and resigned in September 2010.
- Took over the Botev Plovdiv reins midway through 2012/13 and led the side into the UEFA Europa League third qualifying round in 2013/14 as well as steering them to the Bulgarian Cup final. He then joined Astana in June 2014 and oversaw the club's maiden Kazakh title later that year, before navigating their route through 2015/16 UEFA Champions League qualifying to seal Kazakhstan's first ever group stage spot.
- Further league titles followed in 2015, 2016 – when Astana also won the domestic cup – and 2017, when Stoilov was named Bulgaria's coach of the year; under him, Astana also reached the UEFA Europa League group stage in 2016/17 and 2017/18 round of 32. Stepped down from his club commitments at the end of 2017 to take the reins of the Kazakhstan national side.

Vladimír Weiss

Date of birth: 22 September 1964

Nationality: Slovakian

Playing career: Agro Hurbanovo, Inter Bratislava, Sparta Praha, Drnovice, Dunajská Streda, Košice, Artmedia

Coaching career: Artmedia (twice), Saturn Moskovskaya Oblast, Slovakia, Slovan Bratislava, Kairat Almaty, Georgia

- Bratislava-born, Weiss spent six and a half years developing his talent as a defensive midfielder with local club Inter. First capped by Czechoslovakia in 1988, he won three of his 19 caps at the 1990 FIFA World Cup.
- Had brief spell at Sparta Praha, winning the final Czechoslovakian championship in 1993. Won a further dozen caps for Slovakia, scoring his country's first post-independence goal, against United Arab Emirates in February 1994. Ended playing career with Artmedia, serving as an assistant coach until 2000 when he took the top job.
- Led Artmedia to Slovakian league title and cup final in 2005 before knocking out Celtic and Partizan to reach UEFA Champions League group stage, where team registered famous 3-2 win at Porto. Left for Russian club Saturn in early 2006 but returned to Artmedia 18 months later and masterminded domestic double.
- Appointed national team coach in June 2008 in place of Ján Kocian and steered Slovakia to first appearance at a World Cup finals as qualifying group winners, including historic 2-1 win away to the Czech Republic. Even better followed in South Africa, Slovakia reaching the last 16 by eliminating holders Italy before losing to the Netherlands.
- Coached Slovakia in tandem with Slovan Bratislava in 2011/12 and led his home-town club into their first UEFA Europa League group stage. Nearly did the same with Kairat, only losing against Bordeaux on away goals in play-offs. Left Almaty in November 2015 having won Kazakhstan Cups in successive seasons. Hired by Georgia in March 2016, he was unable to oversee a win in 2018 World Cup qualifying as his team picked up five points from ten matches.

Match officials

Referee	Halil Umut Meler (TUR)
Assistant referees	Mustafa Eyisoy (TUR) , Cevdet Komurcuoglu (TUR)
Additional assistant referees	Barış Şimşek (TUR) , Ümit Öztürk (TUR)
Fourth official	Ceyhun Sesigüzel (TUR)
UEFA Delegate	Aristeidis Stavropoulos (GRE)
UEFA Referee observer	Patrick Kelly (IRL)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Halil Umut Meler	01/08/1986	0	15

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
27/09/2017	UYL	R1	FC Kairat Almaty	FC Krasnodar	2-2	Almaty
02/08/2018	UEL	2QR	NK Maribor	FC Chikhura Sachkhere	2-0	Maribor

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 finals 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 finals 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 finals 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

Kazakhstan

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group D1

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Andorra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Matchday 1 (06/09/2018)

Kazakhstan-Georgia

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Andorra-Kazakhstan

Matchday 3 (13/10/2018)

Latvia-Kazakhstan

Matchday 4 (16/10/2018)

Kazakhstan-Andorra

Matchday 5 (15/11/2018)

Kazakhstan-Latvia

Matchday 6 (19/11/2018)

Georgia-Kazakhstan

Georgia

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 1 (06/09/2018)

Kazakhstan-Georgia

Matchday 2 (09/09/2018)

Georgia-Latvia

Matchday 3 (13/10/2018)

Georgia-Andorra

Matchday 4 (16/10/2018)

Latvia-Georgia

Matchday 5 (15/11/2018)

Andorra-Georgia

Matchday 6 (19/11/2018)

Georgia-Kazakhstan

Legend

Competitions

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