

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Finland

Veritas Stadion - Turku
Tuesday 11 September 2018
20.45CET (21.45 local time)
Group C2 - Matchday 2



Estonia

Last updated 11/09/2018 11:11CET



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Previous meetings

Head to Head

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
19/08/1937	QR (GS)	Finland - Estonia	0-1	Turku	Kuremaa 56

	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																		
Finland	1	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	15	10	7	72	41
Estonia	-	-	-	-	1	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	32	7	10	15	41	72

Squad list

Finland

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase				
						Pld	Gls			
Goalkeepers										
1	Lukas Hradecky	24/11/1989	28	Leverkusen	-		1	0		
12	Jesse Joronen	21/03/1993	25	København	-		0	0		
23	Anssi Jaakkola	13/03/1987	31	Reading	-		0	0		
Defenders										
2	Paulus Arajuuri	15/06/1988	30	Brøndby	-		1	0		
3	Albin Granlund	01/09/1989	29	Örebro	-		1	0		
5	Sauli Väisänen	05/06/1994	24	Crotone	-		0	0		
6	Thomas Lam	18/12/1993	24	Zwolle	-		0	0		
15	Markus Halsti	19/03/1984	34	Esbjerg	-		0	0		
16	Henri Toivomäki	21/02/1991	27	KuPS	-		0	0		
18	Jere Uronen	13/07/1994	24	Genk	*		1	0		
22	Jukka Raitala	15/09/1988	29	Montreal	-		1	0		
Midfielders										
4	Joona Toivio	10/03/1988	30	Häcken	-		1	0		
7	Robin Lod	17/04/1993	25	Sporting Gijón	-		1	0		
8	Robert Taylor	21/10/1994	23	Tromsø	-		1	0		
11	Rasmus Schüller	18/06/1991	27	Minnesota United	-		1	0		
14	Tim Sparv	20/02/1987	31	Midtjylland	-		1	0		
19	Joni Kauko	12/07/1990	28	Esbjerg	-		1	0		
Forwards										
9	Eero Markkanen	03/07/1991	27	Dalkurd FF	-		0	0		
10	Teemu Pukki	29/03/1990	28	Norwich	-		1	1		
13	Pyry Soiri	22/09/1994	23	Admira	-		1	0		
17	Simon Skrabb	19/01/1995	23	Norrköping	-		0	0		
20	Jasse Tuominen	12/11/1995	22	BATE	-		1	0		
21	Rasmus Karjalainen	04/04/1996	22	KuPS	-		0	0		
Coach										
-	Markku Kanerva	24/05/1964	54		-		1	0		

Estonia

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers									
1	Mihkel Aksalu	07/11/1984	33	SJK	-			1	0
12	Sergei Lepmets	05/04/1987	31	Levadia	-			0	0
22	Matvei Igonen	02/10/1996	21	Lillestrøm	-			0	0
Defenders									
2	Gert Kams	25/05/1985	33	Flora	-			1	0
3	Artur Pikk	05/03/1993	25	Miedz	-			1	0
4	Joonas Tamm	02/02/1992	26	Sarpsborg	-			1	0
5	Madis Vihmann	05/10/1995	22	Flora	-			1	0
15	Ragnar Klavan	30/10/1985	32	Cagliari	-			0	0
17	Enar Jääger	18/11/1984	33	Vålerenga	-			0	0
18	Karol Mets	16/05/1993	25	NAC	*			1	0
19	Ken Kallaste	31/08/1988	30	Korona	-			0	0
21	Nikita Baranov	19/08/1992	26	Sogndal	*			1	0
Midfielders									
6	Marek Kaljumäe	18/02/1991	27	Kemi	-			0	0
7	Sander Puri	07/05/1988	30	Waterford	-			1	0
11	Henrik Ojamaa	20/05/1991	27	Miedz	-			1	0
13	Siim Luts	12/03/1989	29	Teplice	-			1	0
14	Konstantin Vassiljev	16/08/1984	34	Piast	-			1	0
16	Ilja Antonov	05/12/1992	25	Hermannstadt	-			0	0
20	Artjom Dmitrijev	14/11/1988	29	Lahti	-			1	0
23	Taijo Teniste	31/01/1988	30	Brann	-			0	0
Forwards									
8	Henri Anier	17/12/1990	27	Lahti	-			1	0
9	Ats Purje	03/08/1985	33	KuPS	-			0	0
10	Sergei Zenjov	20/04/1989	29	Cracovia	-			1	0
Coach									
-	Martin Reim	14/05/1971	47		-			1	0

Head coach

Markku Kanerva

Date of birth: 24 May 1964

Nationality: Finnish

Playing career: HJK Helsinki (twice), Elfsborg, FinnPa

Coaching career: HJK Helsinki (assistant), Viikingit, Finland Under-21s, Finland (caretaker, twice), Finland (assistant), Finland

- A defender in his playing days, Markku Kanerva started out at home-town club HJK and won five Finnish titles and three Finnish Cups over two spells, returning for four years until his retirement in 1998 after an initial stay from 1983 to 1990.
- Contested five games in the 1998/99 UEFA Champions League with HJK, having rejoined after stints with Swedish side Elfsborg and Finnish outfit FinnPa; Kanerva also picked up 59 caps for his national team, scoring once.
- Began his coaching career as an assistant at HJK before briefly holding the reins at Viikingit in 2003 and entering the Football Association of Finland (SPL-FBF) coaching set-up the following year.
- Took charge of Finland's U21s between 2004 and 2009, earning recognition as Finland's coach of the year in 2008 after booking the side a historic maiden place at the 2009 UEFA European U21 Championship finals.
- Assistant coach of Finland's senior team between 2010 and 2016, Kanerva took over in an interim capacity in both 2011 and 2015 before being handed the role full time as Hans Backe's replacement in December 2016. A home win against Iceland was the highlight of the unsuccessful qualifying campaign for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Martin Reim

Date of birth: 14 May 1971

Nationality: Estonian

Playing career: Tallinna Lõvid, Tallinna Sport, Norma Tallinn, Flora (twice), Lelle, KTP Kotka, Tervis Pärnu, Viimsi

Coaching career: Flora, Estonia U18, Estonia U21, Estonia U23, Estonia

- Reim was a defensive midfielder whose international career spanned 17 years after his debut for the newly-independent nation in June 1992 against Slovenia, a 1-1 draw. He won his 157th cap (then a European record) in June 2009, six months after ending club career.
- Took first steps in the game alongside goalkeeper Mart Poom. Began career in Soviet Estonia's top division aged 16, finishing top scorer in 1990 while playing for Norma.
- Spent bulk of his club career (a combined 16 years) in two stints at Flora, retiring with seven titles and three Estonian Cups to his name. He also reached the Finnish Cup final during his only overseas spell, 18 months at KTP Kotka.
- Returned to Flora as head coach in December 2009, having served as assistant to Janno Kivisild in the latter part of his playing career; won the Estonian title in 2010 and 2011. Also lifted the Estonian Cup in 2011, but left in October 2012 and established a football academy in Tallinn.
- Subsequently coached Estonia at various levels – youth, U21s and U23s – with some success. Was named successor to Magnus Pehrsson as senior Estonia coach on 14 September 2016 in the wake of a 5-0 defeat away to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the first match of 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying and, though Estonia ultimately finished fourth in their section, did oversee a famous friendly 3-0 win against Croatia in March 2017.

Match officials

Referee	Orel Grinfeld (ISR)
Assistant referees	Dvir Shimon (ISR) , Roy Hassan (ISR)
Additional assistant referees	Erez Papir (ISR) , Ziv Adler (ISR)
Fourth official	Idan Yarkoni (ISR)
UEFA Delegate	Wolfgang Thierrichter (AUT)
UEFA Referee observer	Mike Riley (ENG)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Orel Grinfeld	21/08/1981	0	40

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
12/07/2012	UEL	1QR	FC Šiauliai	FC Levadia Tallinn	2-1	Šiauliai

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

Finland

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group C2

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Greece	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Finland	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Estonia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Hungary	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Matchday 1 (08/09/2018)

Finland 1-0 Hungary

Goals: 1-0 Pukki 7

Finland: Hradecky, Arajuuri, Toivio, Lod, Pukki, Schüller (63 Sparv), Soiri (85 Taylor), Uronen (46 Granlund), Kauko, Tuominen, Raitala

Matchday 2 (11/09/2018)

Finland-Estonia

Matchday 3 (12/10/2018)

Estonia-Finland

Matchday 4 (15/10/2018)

Finland-Greece

Matchday 5 (15/11/2018)

Greece-Finland

Matchday 6 (18/11/2018)

Hungary-Finland

Estonia

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 1 (08/09/2018)

Estonia 0-1 Greece

Goals: 0-1 Fortounis 14

Estonia: Aksalu, Kams, Pikk, Vihmann, Henri Anier (63 Zenjov), Ojamaa (80 Tamm), Luts (86 S. Puri), Vassiljev, Mets, Dmitrijev, Baranov

Matchday 2 (11/09/2018)

Finland-Estonia

Matchday 3 (12/10/2018)

Estonia-Finland

Matchday 4 (15/10/2018)

Estonia-Hungary

Matchday 5 (15/11/2018)

Hungary-Estonia

Matchday 6 (18/11/2018)

Greece-Estonia

Legend

Competitions

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