

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Italy

Stadio Giuseppe Meazza - Milan

Saturday 17 November 2018
20.45CET (20.45 local time)

Group A3 - Matchday 5



Portugal

Last updated 17/11/2018 08:27CET



Previous meetings	2
Squad list	3
Head coach	5
Match officials	6
Competition facts	7
Match-by-match lineups	10
Legend	11

Previous meetings

Head to Head

UEFA Nations League

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
10/09/2018	GS-FT	Portugal - Italy	1-0	Lisbon	André Silva 48

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
17/11/1993	QR (GS)	Italy - Portugal	1-0	Milan	D. Baggio 83
24/02/1993	QR (GS)	Portugal - Italy	1-3	Porto	Couto 57; R. Baggio 2, Casiraghi 25, D. Baggio 74

1988 UEFA European Championship

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
05/12/1987	PR (GS)	Italy - Portugal	3-0	Milan	Vialli 8, Giannini 87, De Agostini 89
14/02/1987	PR (GS)	Portugal - Italy	0-1	Oeiras	Altobelli 40

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
22/12/1957	QR (GS)	Italy - Portugal	3-0	Milan	Gratton 36, 72, Pivatelli 84
26/05/1957	QR (GS)	Portugal - Italy	3-0	Lisbon	Manuel Vasques 41, Teixeira 83, Matateu 87

	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																		
Italy	3	3	0	0	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	26	18	2	6	51	23
Portugal	3	1	0	2	3	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	26	6	2	18	23	51

Squad list

Italy

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers									
1	Salvatore Sirigu	12/01/1987	31	Torino	-			0	0
12	Alessio Cragno	28/06/1994	24	Cagliari	-			0	0
22	Gianluigi Donnarumma	25/02/1999	19	Milan	-			3	0
Defenders									
2	Mattia De Sciglio	20/10/1992	26	Juventus	-			0	0
3	Giorgio Chiellini	14/08/1984	34	Juventus	-			2	0
4	Cristiano Biraghi	01/09/1992	26	Fiorentina	-			2	1
13	Francesco Acerbi	10/02/1988	30	Lazio	-			0	0
15	Daniele Rugani	29/07/1994	24	Juventus	-			0	0
19	Leonardo Bonucci	01/05/1987	31	Juventus	-			2	0
21	Emerson Palmieri	03/08/1994	24	Chelsea	-			1	0
Midfielders									
5	Roberto Gagliardini	07/04/1994	24	Internazionale	-			1	0
6	Marco Verratti	05/11/1992	26	Paris	-			1	0
7	Lorenzo Pellegrini	19/06/1996	22	Roma	-			1	0
8	Jorginho	20/12/1991	26	Chelsea	-			3	1
16	Alessandro Florenzi	11/03/1991	27	Roma	-			1	0
18	Nicolò Barella	07/02/1997	21	Cagliari	-			1	0
20	Matteo Politano	03/08/1993	25	Internazionale	-			0	0
23	Vincenzo Grifo	07/04/1993	25	Hoffenheim	-			0	0
Forwards									
9	Kevin Lasagna	10/08/1992	26	Udinese	-			1	0
10	Lorenzo Insigne	04/06/1991	27	Napoli	-			2	0
11	Domenico Berardi	01/08/1994	24	Sassuolo	-			1	0
14	Federico Chiesa	25/10/1997	21	Fiorentina	-			3	0
17	Ciro Immobile	20/02/1990	28	Lazio	-			1	0
Coach									
-	Roberto Mancini	27/11/1964	53		-			3	0

Portugal

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers									
1	Rui Patrício	15/02/1988	30	Wolves	-			2	0
12	Cláudio Ramos	16/11/1991	27	Tondela	-			0	0
22	Beto	01/05/1982	36	Göztepe Izmir	-			0	0
Defenders									
2	João Cancelo	27/05/1994	24	Juventus	-			2	0
3	Rúben Dias	14/05/1997	21	Benfica	-			2	0
4	Luís Neto	26/05/1988	30	Zenit	-			0	0
5	Raphaël Guerreiro	22/12/1993	24	Dortmund	-			0	0
6	José Fonte	22/12/1983	34	LOSC	-			0	0
19	Mário Rui	27/05/1991	27	Napoli	*			2	0
21	Cédric	31/08/1991	27	Southampton	-			0	0
Midfielders									
7	Bruma	24/10/1994	24	Leipzig	-			1	0
8	Renato Sanches	18/08/1997	21	Bayern	-			2	0
10	João Mário	19/01/1993	25	Internazionale	-			0	0
11	Bernardo Silva	10/08/1994	24	Man. City	-			2	1
13	Danilo	09/09/1991	27	Porto	-			1	0
14	William Carvalho	07/04/1992	26	Betis	*			2	0
15	Rafa Silva	17/05/1993	25	Benfica	-			1	0
16	Bruno Fernandes	08/09/1994	24	Sporting CP	-			1	0
17	Gonçalo Guedes	29/11/1996	21	Valencia	-			0	0
18	Rúben Neves	13/03/1997	21	Wolves	*			2	0
20	Pizzi	06/10/1989	29	Benfica	-			2	0
Forwards									
9	Éder	22/12/1987	30	Lokomotiv Moskva	-			0	0
23	André Silva	06/11/1995	23	Sevilla	*			2	2
Coach									
-	Fernando Santos	10/10/1954	64		-			2	0

Head coach

Roberto Mancini

Date of birth: 27 November 1964

Nationality: Italian

Playing career: Bologna, Sampdoria, Lazio, Leicester (loan)

Coaching career: Fiorentina, Lazio, Internazionale Milano (twice), Manchester City, Galatasaray, Zenit, Italy

- Spent the majority of his playing career in Italy, winning Serie A titles and UEFA Cup Winners' Cups with both Sampdoria and Lazio as well as six editions of the Coppa Italia, four with Sampdoria and two with Lazio. Capped 36 times by Italy, the forward was a bronze medallist at the 1990 FIFA World Cup.
- Started his coaching career as assistant to Sven-Göran Eriksson at Lazio before replacing Fatih Terim at Fiorentina in 2001. After leading the Viola to the Coppa Italia, he returned to Lazio and repeated that feat as well as steering the Roman club into the UEFA Champions League and to the UEFA Cup semi-finals in 2002/03.
- Became coach of Inter in July 2004, replacing Alberto Zaccheroni one day after terminating his contract with Lazio; led the Nerazzurri to Coppa Italia glory in his debut season, Inter's first domestic honour since the 1989 Scudetto. After Juventus were stripped of their 2005/06 title and AC Milan suffered a points penalty, Inter were finally crowned champions of Italy again. Mancini repeated that success in 2006/07.
- Left Inter in May 2008 despite winning another title and replaced Mark Hughes as manager of Manchester City midway through the 2009/10 Premier League season. City finished fifth in his first campaign, third in his second – when they also lifted the FA Cup – and dramatically won the top flight for the first time in 44 years on the final day of his third.
- City finished second the following season, but Mancini was sacked two days after losing to Wigan in the 2013 FA Cup final. Mancini succeeded Terim again that September at Galatasaray, winning the 2014 Turkish Cup in what proved his only season; returned to Inter for two seasons from 2014 before joining Russian club Zenit in 2017, stepping down the following year to take charge of Italy.

Fernando Santos

Date of birth: 10 October 1954

Nationality: Portuguese

Playing career: Benfica, Estoril (twice), Marítimo

Coaching career: Estoril, Estrela da Amadora, Porto, AEK Athens (twice), Panathinaikos, Sporting CP, Benfica, PAOK, Greece, Portugal

- A left-back, Santos – who holds a degree in electrical and telecommunications engineering – started his playing days at home-town club Benfica before spending most of his career with Estoril.
- He retired from playing in 1987, going immediately into coaching at Estoril, where he was head coach for six years, guiding the club to two promotions and into the Portuguese top flight.
- Had four seasons with Estrela da Amadora prior to joining Porto in 1998. Led his side to the Liga title in his first term, adding two domestic cups before departing for AEK in 2001. Again made an instant impact, lifting the 2002 Greek Cup. Went to Panathinaikos that summer followed by spells at Sporting, AEK again and Benfica.
- He then revived PAOK's fortunes after taking over in 2007, steering them to runners-up spot in the 2009/10 Super League to earn a place in the UEFA Champions League third qualifying round. Announced his departure in May 2010 and was confirmed as Otto Rehhagel's successor as Greece coach six weeks later, proving an immediate hit as he helped them to the quarter-finals of UEFA EURO 2012.
- Repeated the feat for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, guiding Greece to the last 16, before stepping down. He was appointed by Portugal that September after Paulo Bento's departure following a 1-0 defeat by Albania and led them to UEFA EURO 2016 thanks to seven successive victories. The crowning glory was to come in France, Portugal remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament and defeating the hosts in the St-Denis final thanks to Éder's extra-time goal; two years later, Santos and his team reached the last 16 of the World Cup.

Match officials

Referee	Danny Makkelie (NED)
Assistant referees	Mario Diks (NED) , Hessel Steegstra (NED)
Additional assistant referees	Kevin Blom (NED) , Pol van Boekel (NED)
Fourth official	Erwin Zeinstra (NED)
UEFA Delegate	Rainer Koch (GER)
UEFA Referee observer	Vladimir Antonov (MDA)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Danny Makkelie	28/01/1983	1	53

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
22/11/2012	UEL	GS	Newcastle United FC	CS Maritimo	1-1	Newcastle
06/09/2013	WC	QR	Northern Ireland	Portugal	2-4	Belfast
18/06/2015	U21	GS-FT	England	Portugal	0-1	Uherske Hradiste
04/09/2015	FRIE.	R1	Portugal	France	0-1	Lisbon
09/10/2016	WC	QR	FYR Macedonia	Italy	2-3	Skopje
02/11/2016	UCL	GS	Borussia Dortmund	Sporting Clube de Portugal	1-0	Dortmund
16/02/2017	UEL	R32	Villarreal CF	AS Roma	0-4	Villarreal
03/09/2017	WC	QR	Hungary	Portugal	0-1	Budapest
04/04/2018	UCL	QF	FC Barcelona	AS Roma	4-1	Barcelona

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

Italy

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group A3

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Portugal	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Italy	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Poland	3	0	1	2	3	5	1

Matchday 1 (07/09/2018)

Italy 1-1 Poland

Goals: 0-1 Zieliński 40, 1-1 Jorginho 78 (P)

Italy: Donnarumma, Chiellini, Jorginho, Balotelli (61 Belotti), Insigne (71 Chiesa), Biraghi, Pellegrini (46 Bonaventura), Gagliardini, Bonucci, Bernardeschi, Zappacosta

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Portugal 1-0 Italy

Goals: 1-0 André Silva 48

Italy: Donnarumma, Criscito (74 Emerson Palmieri), Jorginho, Romagnoli, Zaza, Bonaventura, Caldara, Chiesa, Lazzari, Immobile (59 Berardi), Cristante (79 Belotti)

Matchday 4 (14/10/2018)

Poland 0-1 Italy

Goals: 0-1 Biraghi 90+2

Italy: Donnarumma, Chiellini, Verratti, Jorginho, Insigne, Chiesa, Biraghi, Florenzi (84 Piccini), Bonucci, Bernardeschi (81 Lasagna), Barella

Matchday 5 (17/11/2018)

Italy-Portugal

Portugal

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 2 (10/09/2018)

Portugal 1-0 Italy

Goals: 1-0 André Silva 48

Portugal: Rui Patrício, João Cancelo, Pepe, Rúben Dias, Bruma (77 Gelson Martins), André Silva, Bernardo Silva, Rúben Neves, William Carvalho (86 Sérgio Oliveira), Mário Rui, Pizzi (74 Renato Sanches)

Matchday 3 (11/10/2018)

Poland 2-3 Portugal

Goals: 1-0 K. Piątek 18, 1-1 André Silva 31, 1-2 Glik 43 (og) , 1-3 Bernardo Silva 52, 2-3 Błaszczykowski 77

Portugal: Rui Patrício, João Cancelo, Pepe, Rúben Dias, Bernardo Silva (90 Bruno Fernandes), André Silva, William Carvalho, Rafa Silva (84 Danilo), Rúben Neves, Mário Rui, Pizzi (74 Renato Sanches)

Matchday 5 (17/11/2018)

Italy-Portugal

Matchday 6 (20/11/2018)

Portugal-Poland

Legend

Competitions

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