

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Netherlands

Stadion Feijenoord - Rotterdam

Friday 16 November 2018
20.45CET (20.45 local time)
Group A1 - Matchday 5



France

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Previous meetings

Head to Head

UEFA Nations League

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
09/09/2018	GS-FT	France - Netherlands	2-1	Saint-Denis	Mbappé 14, Giroud 75; Babel 67

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
31/08/2017	QR (GS)	France - Netherlands	4-0	Saint-Denis	Griezmann 14, Lemar 73, 88, Mbappé 90+1
10/10/2016	QR (GS)	Netherlands - France	0-1	Amsterdam	Pogba 30

UEFA EURO 2008

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
13/06/2008	GS-FT	Netherlands - France	4-1	Berne	Kuyt 9, Van Persie 59, Robben 72, Sneijder 90+2; Henry 71

UEFA EURO 2000

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
21/06/2000	GS-FT	France - Netherlands	2-3	Amsterdam	Dugarry 8, Trezeguet 31; Kluyvert 14, F. de Boer 51, Zenden 59

EURO '96

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
22/06/1996	QF	France - Netherlands	0-0 (aet, 5-4pens)	Liverpool	

FIFA World Cup

Date	Stage reached	Match	Result	Venue	Goalscorers
18/11/1981	QR (GS)	France - Netherlands	2-0	Paris	Platini 52, Six 82
25/03/1981	QR (GS)	Netherlands - France	1-0	Rotterdam	Mühren 47

	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																		
Netherlands	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	2	4	2	1	1	27	10	4	13	54	47
France	2	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	4	1	1	2	27	13	4	10	47	54

Squad list

Netherlands

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase				
						Pld	Gls			
Goalkeepers										
-	Jeroen Zoet	06/01/1991	27	PSV	-		0	0		
-	Jasper Cillessen	22/04/1989	29	Barcelona	-		2	0		
-	Marco Bizot	10/03/1991	27	AZ	-		0	0		
Defenders										
-	Daley Blind	09/03/1990	28	Ajax	-		2	0		
-	Stefan de Vrij	05/02/1992	26	Internazionale	-		0	0		
-	Nathan Aké	18/02/1995	23	Bournemouth	-		1	0		
-	Kenny Tete	09/10/1995	23	Lyon	-		1	0		
-	Virgil Van Dijk	08/07/1991	27	Liverpool	-		2	1		
-	Matthijs de Ligt	12/08/1999	19	Ajax	-		2	0		
-	Denzel Dumfries	18/04/1996	22	PSV	-		1	0		
Midfielders										
-	Ryan Babel	19/12/1986	31	Beşiktaş	-		2	1		
-	Georginio Wijnaldum	11/11/1990	28	Liverpool	-		2	1		
-	Kevin Strootman	13/02/1990	28	Marseille	-		0	0		
-	Marten de Roon	29/03/1991	27	Atalanta	-		1	0		
-	Tonny Vilhena	03/01/1995	23	Feyenoord	-		0	0		
-	Javairo Dilrosun	22/06/1998	20	Hertha	-		0	0		
-	Donny van de Beek	18/04/1997	21	Ajax	-		0	0		
-	Frenkie de Jong	12/05/1997	21	Ajax	-		2	0		
-	Pablo Rosario	07/01/1997	21	PSV	-		0	0		
Forwards										
-	Luuk de Jong	27/08/1990	28	PSV	-		1	0		
-	Memphis Depay	13/02/1994	24	Lyon	-		2	1		
-	Quincy Promes	04/01/1992	26	Sevilla	-		2	0		
-	Steven Bergwijn	08/10/1997	21	PSV	-		1	0		
Coach										
-	Ronald Koeman	21/03/1963	55		-		2	0		

France

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	League phase		Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers									
1	Hugo Lloris	26/12/1986	31	Tottenham	-			1	0
16	Steve Mandanda	28/03/1985	33	Marseille	-			0	0
23	Alphonse Areola	27/02/1993	25	Paris	-			2	0
Defenders									
2	Benjamin Pavard	28/03/1996	22	Stuttgart	-			3	0
3	Presnel Kimpembe	13/08/1995	23	Paris	-			1	0
4	Raphaël Varane	25/04/1993	25	Real Madrid	-			3	0
5	Mamadou Sakho	13/02/1990	28	Crystal Palace	-			0	0
12	Lucas Digne	20/07/1993	25	Everton	-			0	0
17	Adil Rami	27/12/1985	32	Marseille	-			0	0
19	Djibril Sidibé	29/07/1992	26	Monaco	-			0	0
22	Ferland Mendy	08/06/1995	23	Lyon	-			0	0
Midfielders									
6	Moussa Sissoko	16/08/1989	29	Tottenham	-			0	0
13	N'Golo Kanté	29/03/1991	27	Chelsea	-			3	0
14	Blaise Matuidi	09/04/1987	31	Juventus	-			3	0
15	Steven Nzonzi	15/12/1988	29	Roma	-			2	0
20	Florian Thauvin	26/01/1993	25	Marseille	-			0	0
21	Tanguy Ndombele	28/12/1996	21	Lyon	-			1	0
Forwards									
7	Antoine Griezmann	21/03/1991	27	Atlético	-			3	2
8	Alassane Plea	10/03/1993	25	Mönchengladbach	-			0	0
9	Olivier Giroud	30/09/1986	32	Chelsea	-			3	1
10	Kylian Mbappé	20/12/1998	19	Paris	-			3	1
11	Ousmane Dembélé	15/05/1997	21	Barcelona	-			3	0
18	Nabil Fekir	18/07/1993	25	Lyon	-			1	0
Coach									
-	Didier Deschamps	15/10/1968	50		-			3	0

Head coach

Ronald Koeman

Date of birth: 21 March 1963

Nationality: Dutch

Playing career: Groningen, Ajax, PSV Eindhoven, Barcelona, Feyenoord

Coaching career: Netherlands (assistant), Barcelona (assistant), Vitesse, Ajax, Benfica, PSV Eindhoven, Valencia, AZ Alkmaar, Feyenoord, Southampton, Everton, Netherlands

- One of the classiest ball-playing defenders in history, Ronald Koeman was also a frequent goalscorer, mostly from free-kicks and penalties. He began his career at Groningen before spending three seasons apiece at Ajax and PSV.
- The 1987/88 season was one of extraordinary achievement for the blond right-footer, who collected the Dutch domestic double as well as the European Cup with PSV and then proved an equally inspirational figure with the Netherlands at EURO '88, where they captured their only major international trophy to date.
- Koeman subsequently shone during a six-year spell at Barcelona – during which he played at three further tournaments for the Oranje, ending up with 78 caps and 14 goals. The highlight of his time in Catalonia was his winning goal in the 1992 European Cup final against Sampdoria at Wembley, giving Barça their first continental crown. He also won four Liga titles with the club.
- After ending his playing days at Feyenoord, Koeman took on assistant coach roles with the Netherlands then Barcelona before branching out on his own at the turn of the millennium and embarking on what would be a highly eventful coaching career. Having played for each of the Netherlands' big three clubs he became the first man to coach all three as well, winning two titles with Ajax, one with PSV and reinvigorating Feyenoord during a productive tenure from 2011 to 2014.
- He departed Rotterdam to pursue his career in England, firstly with Southampton, then Everton, with whom he parted company in October 2017. The following February he was appointed as the Netherlands' Bondscoach on a contract taking him through to the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Didier Deschamps

Date of birth: 15 October 1968

Nationality: French

Playing career: Nantes, Marseille (twice), Bordeaux, Juventus, Chelsea, Valencia

Coaching career: Monaco, Juventus, Marseille, France

- A product of Nantes's highly rated youth system, Deschamps had success with Marseille as a defensive midfielder, winning Ligue 1 in 1990 and 1992 and captaining them to UEFA Champions League glory in 1993. Signed for Juve in 1994 and won the UEFA Champions League again in 1996, adding three Serie A titles, a Coppa Italia and a European/South American Cup.
- Left in 1999 for Chelsea, staying one season and lifting the FA Cup, before ending his career with a year in Valencia, watching from the bench as they lost the 2001 UEFA Champions League final to Bayern München. Skipped France to victory on home soil at the 1998 FIFA World Cup and also at UEFA EURO 2000, retiring that year with 103 caps.
- Started coaching career in 2001 with Monaco, landing the French League Cup in 2003 and reaching the UEFA Champions League final a year later, going down to José Mourinho's Porto. Resigned in September 2005 and joined his old club Juventus, then in Serie B, the following June. Stepped down after securing promotion back to Serie A in May 2007.
- Appointed Marseille boss in May 2009, replacing Eric Gerets. Ended OM's 18-year wait for the Ligue 1 championship in his first term and added a maiden League Cup, retaining the latter trophy in the next two campaigns.
- Succeeded Laurent Blanc after UEFA EURO 2012 and guided France to the 2014 World Cup, where they lost to eventual winners Germany in the quarter-finals, and then to the final of UEFA EURO 2016 on home soil only to lose to Portugal in extra time. Redemption followed at Russia 2018, where France went all the way to lift the trophy, making Deschamps only the third man to win the World Cup as both player and coach after Mário Zagallo and Franz Beckenbauer.

Match officials

Referee	Anthony Taylor (ENG)
Assistant referees	Gary Beswick (ENG) , Adam Nunn (ENG)
Additional assistant referees	Stuart Attwell (ENG) , Martin Atkinson (ENG)
Fourth official	Lee Betts (ENG)
UEFA Delegate	Balázs Makray (HUN)
UEFA Referee observer	Jørn West Larsen (DEN)

Referee

Name	Date of birth		UEFA matches
Anthony Taylor	20/10/1978	1	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
23/10/2014	UEL	GS	FC Internazionale Milano	AS Saint-Étienne	0-0	Milan
10/07/2015	U19	GS-FT	Germany	Netherlands	1-0	Katerini
08/12/2015	UCL	GS	Paris Saint-Germain	FC Shakhtar Donetsk	2-0	Paris
03/08/2016	UCL	3QR	PAOK FC	AFC Ajax	1-2	Salonika
13/11/2016	WC	QR	Luxembourg	Netherlands	1-3	Luxembourg
23/02/2017	UEL	R32	AFC Ajax	Legia Warszawa	1-0	Amsterdam
09/03/2017	UEL	R16	Olympique Lyonnais	AS Roma	4-2	Decines
15/03/2018	UEL	R16	Athletic Club	Olympique de Marseille	1-2	Bilbao
01/06/2018	FRIE.	GS-FT	France	Italy	3-1	Nice
29/08/2018	UCL	PO	PSV Eindhoven	FC BATE Borisov	3-0	Eindhoven

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

Netherlands

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Group A1

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
France	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Netherlands	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Germany	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

Matchday 2 (09/09/2018)

France 2-1 Netherlands

Goals: 1-0 Mbappé 14, 1-1 Babel 67, 2-1 Giroud 75

Netherlands: Cillessen, Tete (82 Janmaat), De Ligt, Van Dijk, Blind, Pröpper, De Jong, Wijnaldum, Promes (76 Vormer), Depay, Babel (88 L. de Jong)

Matchday 3 (13/10/2018)

Netherlands 3-0 Germany

Goals: 1-0 Van Dijk 30, 2-0 Depay 87, 3-0 Wijnaldum 90+3

Netherlands: Cillessen, Dumfries, De Ligt, Van Dijk, Blind, De Roon, De Jong (77 Aké), Wijnaldum, Bergwijn (68 Groeneveld), Depay, Babel (68 Promes)

Matchday 5 (16/11/2018)

Netherlands-France

Matchday 6 (19/11/2018)

Germany-Netherlands

France

UEFA Nations League - Group stage – final tournament

Matchday 1 (06/09/2018)

Germany 0-0 France

France: Areola, Pavard, Varane, Umtiti, Pogba, Griezmann (80 Fekir), Giroud (66 Dembélé), Mbappé, Kanté, Matuidi (86 Tolisso), Lucas

Matchday 2 (09/09/2018)

France 2-1 Netherlands

Goals: 1-0 Mbappé 14, 1-1 Babel 67, 2-1 Giroud 75

France: Areola, Pavard, Varane, Umtiti, Pogba, Griezmann (81 Nzonzi), Giroud (89 Dembélé), Mbappé, Kanté, Matuidi, Lucas (62 B. Mendy)

Matchday 4 (16/10/2018)

France 2-1 Germany

Goals: 0-1 Kroos 14 (P) , 1-1 Griezmann 62, 2-1 Griezmann 80 (P)

France: Lloris, Pavard, Kimpembe, Varane, Pogba, Griezmann (91 Ndombele), Giroud, Mbappé (86 Dembélé), Kanté (94 Nzonzi), Matuidi, Lucas

Matchday 5 (16/11/2018)

Netherlands-France

Legend

Competitions

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