



UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE DRAW - MEDIA GUIDE 2018

Version: 1.0

CONTENTS

CHAPTERS

1	INTRODUCTION
2	DRAW CEREMONY
3	MEDIA INFORMATION
4	UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE FORMAT

1.2 LEAGUE COMPOSITION

1.3 DRAW POTS

1.4 MATCH CALENDAR

1.5 UEFA EURO 2020

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE FORMAT

The UEFA Nations League is a new competition that aims to ensure the continued success of national team football by replacing most friendlies with competitive matches and by enabling all nations to play against evenly matched opponents.

- Each of UEFA's 55 member associations is represented by its senior men's national team.
- The teams have been divided into four leagues (A, B, C and D) based on their UEFA national team coefficient rankings at the end of the group stage in the European Qualifiers for the 2018 FIFA World Cup (i.e. on 11 October 2017, the results of play-offs not being included).
- League A will consist of the 12 top-ranked teams, with the next 12 teams will be in League B, the next 15 in League C and the remaining 16 in League D.
- Leagues A and B will each comprise four groups of three teams; League C will contain one group of three teams and three groups of four; and League D will be formed of four groups of four.
- Matches will be played home and away between September and November 2018, with each team playing four or six games depending on the size of their group.
- The winners of the four groups in League A will qualify for the UEFA Nations League finals, which will be held in June 2019 and consist of two semi-finals, a third-place match and a final. One host country will be appointed by the UEFA Executive Committee in December 2018 from among the four finalist teams.
- The winners of the various groups in Leagues B, C and D will be promoted to the next league up in the 2020/21 Nations League and those who finish bottom of their groups in Leagues A, B and C will be relegated.

All teams will therefore be competing to become UEFA Nations League champions, to gain promotion or to avoid relegation.

1.2 LEAGUE COMPOSITION

The composition of each league is based on the UEFA national team coefficient rankings of 11 October 2017, following the completion of the group stage of the 2016–18 European Qualifiers:

LEAGUE A		
RANK	TEAM	COEFFICIENT
1.	Germany	40.747
2.	Portugal	38.655
3.	Belgium	38.123
4.	Spain	37.311
5.	France	36.617
6.	England	36.231
7.	Switzerland	34.986
8.	Italy	34.426
9.	Poland	32.982
10.	Iceland	31.155
11.	Croatia	31.139
12.	Netherlands	29.866



LEAGUE B		
RANK	TEAM	COEFFICIENT
13.	Austria	29.418
14.	Wales	29.269
15.	Russia	29.258
16.	Slovakia	28.555
17.	Sweden	28.487
18.	Ukraine	28.286
19.	Rep.of Irland	28.249
20.	Bosnia-Herwegovina	28.200
21.	Northern Irland	27.127
22.	Denmark	27.052
23.	Czech Republic	28.028
24.	Turkey	26.538

LEAGUE C		
RANK	TEAM	COEFFICIENT
25.	Hungary	26.486
26.	Romania	26.057
27.	Scotland	25.662
28.	Slovenia	25.148
29.	Greece	24.931
30.	Serbia	24.847
31.	Albania	24.430
32.	Norway	24.208
33.	Montenegro	23.912
34.	Israel	22.792
35.	Bulgaria	22.091
36.	Finland	20.501
37.	Cyprus	19.491
38.	Estonia	19.441
39.	Lithuania	18.101

LEAGUE D		
RANK	TEAM	COEFFICIENT
40.	Azerbaijan	17.761
41.	Macedonia	17.071
42.	Belarus	16.858
43.	Georgia	16.523
44.	Armenia	15.846
45.	Latvia	15.821
46.	Faroe Islands	15.490
47.	Luxembourg	14.231
48.	Kazakhstan	13.431
49.	Moldova	13.130
50.	Liechtenstein	10.950
51.	Malta	10.870
52.	Andorra	10.240
53.	Kosovo	9.950
54.	San Marino	8.190
55.	Gibraltar	7.550

1.3 DRAW POTS

LEAGUE A

- Pot 1: Germany, Portugal, Belgium, Spain
- Pot 2: France, England, Switzerland, Italy
- Pot 3: Poland, Iceland, Croatia, Netherlands

The League A teams will be 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 determine the 2018/19 UEFA Nations League champions. One host country will be appointed in December 2018 from among the four finalist teams.

The four teams that finish bottom of their groups will be relegated to League B for the 2020/21 Nations League.

In addition, the top four teams that have not already qualified for UEFA EURO 2020 will enter play-offs in March 2020, with one place at EURO 2020 up for grabs.



LEAGUE B

- Pot 1: Austria, Wales, Russia, Slovakia
- Pot 2: Sweden, Ukraine, Republic of Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Pot 3: Northern Ireland, Denmark, Czech Republic, Turkey



The League B teams will be split into four groups of three.

Due to a decision of the UEFA Executive Committee, Russia and Ukraine cannot be drawn in the same group.

As decided by the UEFA Executive Committee, Russia and Ukraine cannot be drawn into the same group.

The four group winners will be promoted to League A for the 2020/21 Nations League, and the four teams that finish bottom of their groups will be relegated to League C.

In addition, the top four teams that have not already qualified for UEFA EURO 2020 will enter play-offs in March 2020, with one place at EURO 2020 up for grabs.



LEAGUE C

- Pot 1: Hungary, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia
- Pot 2: Greece, Serbia, Albania, Norway
- Pot 3: Montenegro, Israel, Bulgaria, Finland
- Pot 4: Cyprus, Estonia, Lithuania

The League C teams will be split into one group of three (containing teams from Pots 1, 2 and 3 only) and three groups of four.

As a result of winter venue restrictions, no one group can contain more than two of the following teams: Norway, Finland, Estonia and Lithuania.

The four group winners will be promoted to League B for the 2020/21 Nations League, and the four teams that finish bottom of their groups will be relegated to League D.

In addition, the top four teams that have not already qualified for UEFA EURO 2020 will enter play-offs in March 2020, with one place at EURO 2020 up for grabs.



LEAGUE D

- Pot 1: Azerbaijan, FYR Macedonia, Belarus, Georgia
- Pot 2: Armenia, Latvia, Faroe Islands, Luxembourg
- Pot 3: Kazakhstan, Moldova, Liechtenstein, Malta
- Pot 4: Andorra, Kosovo, San Marino, Gibraltar

The League D teams will be split into four groups of four.

As decided by the UEFA Executive Committee, Armenia and Azerbaijan cannot be drawn into the same group.

As a result of travel-time restrictions, no one group can contain more than one of the following pairs: Andorra and Kazakhstan, Faroe Islands and Kazakhstan, Gibraltar and Kazakhstan, and Gibraltar and Azerbaijan.

The four group winners will be promoted to League C for the 2020/21 Nations League.

In addition, the top four teams that have not already qualified for UEFA EURO 2020 will enter play-offs in March 2020, with one place at EURO 2020 up for grabs.

1.4 MATCH CALENDAR

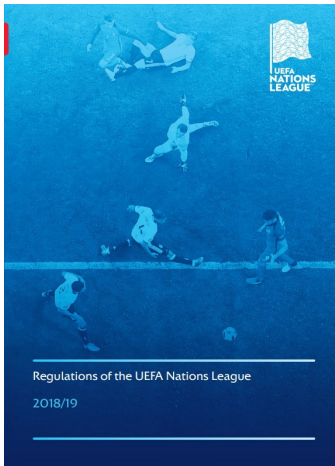
The league phase will be played over six matchdays, from September to November 2018.

Three-team groups will play on four of the six matchdays

GROUP STAGE	DATE
Matchday 1	6-8 September 2018
Matchday 2	9-11 September 2018
Matchday 3	11-13 October 2018
Matchday 4	14-16 October 2018
Matchday 5	15-17 November 2018
Matchday 6	18-20 November 2018

FINALS	
Finals Draw	Early December 2018
Finals	5-9 June 2019

UEFA EURO 2020 PLAY-OFFS	
UEFA EURO 2020 play-off draw	22 November 2019
UEFA EURO 2020 play-offs	26-31 March 2020



Regulations of the UEFA Nations League

1.5 UEFA EURO 2020

The qualifying system for EURO 2020 remains largely the same as for EURO 2016, the first 24-team EURO, although the qualifying competition (European Qualifiers) will not begin until March 2019 and no teams will qualify automatically as hosts.

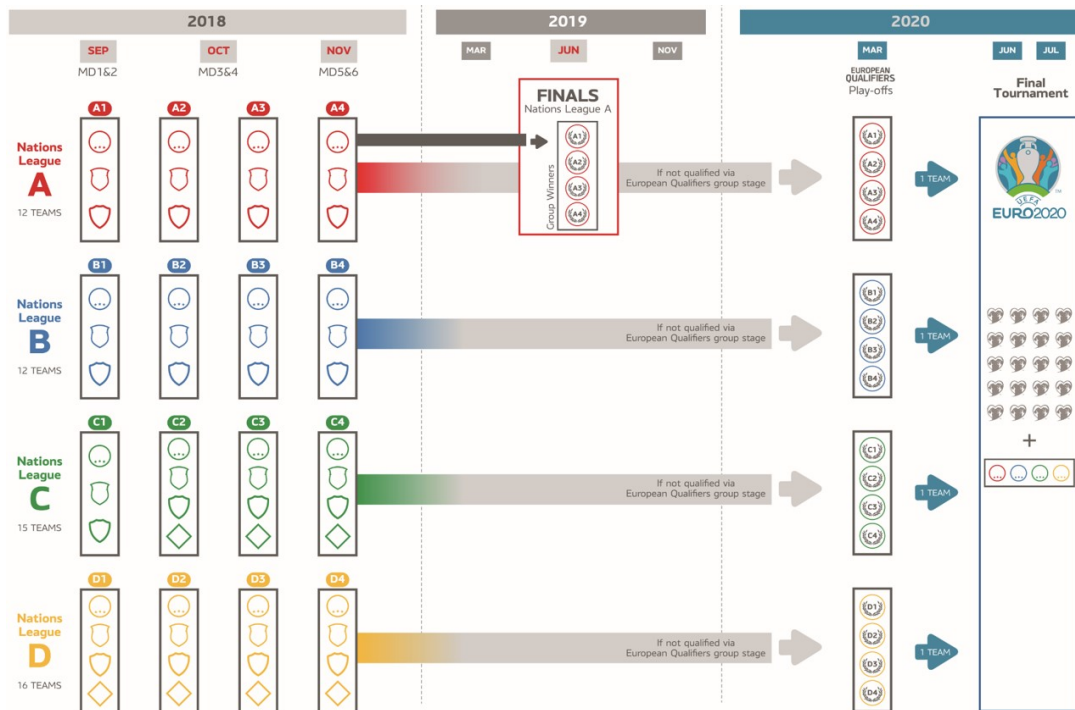
EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS GROUP STAGE (20 TEAMS ENTER EURO 2020)

The 55 teams will be split into ten groups of five or six, and the top two from each group will qualify for EURO 2020, filling 20 of the 24 available places.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS PLAY-OFFS (4 TEAMS ENTER EURO 2020)

The four remaining places at EURO 2020 will be filled by a team from each of the leagues in the 2018/19 Nations League, with four teams from each league entering the European Qualifiers play-offs to determine who goes through.

- Each league will have a play-off path of its own and each path will feature two single-leg semi-finals and one single-leg final. The winners of each path will qualify for EURO 2020.
- By default, the Nations League groups winners enter the European Qualifiers play-offs (i.e. the top four teams in each league). If a UEFA Nations League group winner has already qualified via the European Qualifiers, their spot will go to the next best-ranked team in their league. If a league cannot fill its play-off path, the remaining slots are allocated to teams from another league, based on the overall Nations League rankings.



2 DRAW CEREMONY

2.1 SPECIAL GUESTS

2.2 RUNNING ORDER

2.1 SPECIAL GUESTS

DECO (PORTUGAL, LEAGUE A)

- UEFA Cup winner in 2003 (FC Porto)
- UEFA Champions League winner in 2004 (FC Porto) and 2006 (FC Barcelona)
- UEFA EURO 2004 finalist (Portugal)
- Ballon d'Or runner-up in 2004
- UEFA Player of the Year in 2004
- Most UEFA Champions League's assists in 2004



VLADIMÍR ŠMÍČER (CZECH REPUBLIC, LEAGUE B)

- UEFA Champions League winner in 2005 (Liverpool FC)
- UEFA Cup winner in 2001 (Liverpool FC)
- UEFA Super Cup winner in 2001 (Liverpool FC)
- UEFA EURO '96 finalist (Czech Republic)



JARI LITMANEN (FINLAND, LEAGUE C)

- UEFA Champions League winner in 1995 (Ajax Amsterdam)
- UEFA Super Cup winner in 1995 (Ajax Amsterdam)
- UEFA Champions League finalist in 1996 (Ajax Amsterdam)
- UEFA Cup winner in 2001 (Liverpool FC)
- Best Player in Finland in 1990, 1992 to 1998 and 2000
- Ranked third for Ballon d'Or in 1995
- UEFA Champions League's top goalscorer in 1995/96



ALEXANDER HLEB (BELARUS)

- UEFA Champions League finalist in 2006 (Arsenal)
- Best Player in Belarus (2002, 2003, 2005 to 2008)



All 4 special guests for the draw will be available in the mixed zone for media on draw day at 11.00.

2.2 RUNNING ORDER

ACTIVITY
Entertainment. Live performance of UEFA Nations League anthem by a 28-voice choir of The Opéra de Lausanne Conducted by Franck Van Der Heijden, co-composer of the anthem
Welcome by the master of ceremonies
Presentation of the competition format
Arrival of the UEFA president and Nations League trophy on stage
Interview with the UEFA president
Introduction of the special guests
Presentation of the draw procedure, by Giorgio Marchetti - UEFA Deputy General Secretary
Conducting of the draw, from League D to League A



3 MEDIA INFORMATION

3.1	SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
3.2	VENUE AND TRANSPORT
3.3	MEDIA FACILITIES
3.4	GUEST ARRIVALS AREA
3.5	CONTACTS FOR BROADCAST PARTNERS

3 MEDIA INFORMATION

3.1 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY	HOURS
Media areas open	08.00 - 18.00
Draw hall open to media	11.00 - 11.45
Draw ceremony	12.00 - 13.00
Post-draw mixed zone	13.00 - 15.00
Distribution of match schedule	Around 16.30



3.2 VENUE AND TRANSPORT

The league phase draw will take place at the SwissTech Convention Center, on the campus of the prestigious École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL research institute and university).

SwissTech Convention Center
Quartier Nord de l'École polytechnique fédérale of Lausanne (EPFL)
Route Louis-Favre 2
CH - 1024 Ecublens

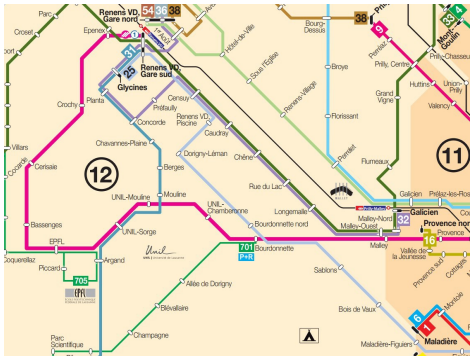
www.stcc.ch/en/home/



The SwissTech Convention Center is easily accessible by public transport. From the centre of Lausanne (Lausanne-Gare), take the M1 metro to the EPFL stop, which is right in front of the Convention Center building. Allow 15 minutes each way.

Information about Lausanne public transport are available [here](#)

- [Fare & payment](#)
- [Map of the Lausanne transport network](#)
- [Lausanne transport app](#)



Lausanne transport network

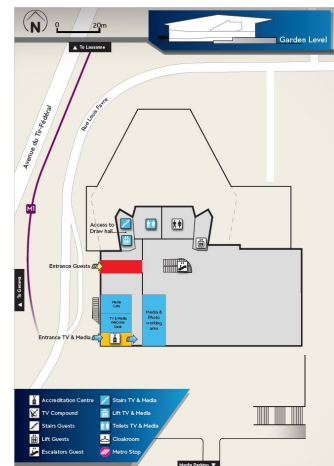
3.3 MEDIA FACILITIES

3.3.1 ACCREDITATION CENTRE

An accreditation centre will be set up in the southwest corner of the building, on the ground floor (called Garden Level). Signage will be installed from the public parking areas and metro station.

Media representatives can collect their accreditation from 08.00 to 11.30 on the day of the draw.

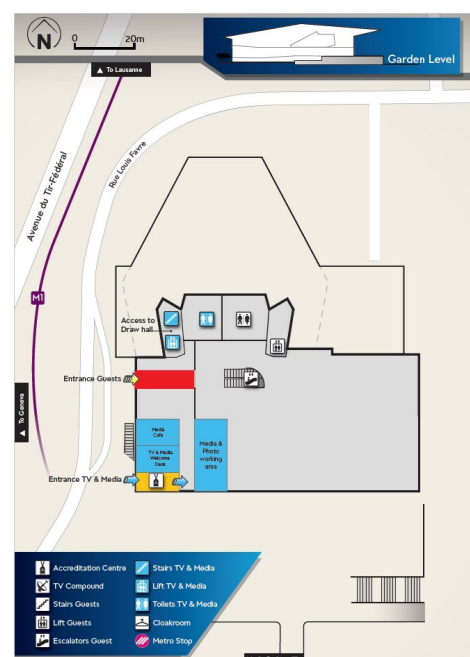
- Photographers must collect draw hall special access devices (SADs) from the media welcome desk next to the media working area.
- SADs are not required for any other media to access the draw hall or the mixed zone.
- Non-rights-holding broadcasters must deposit their cameras at the media welcome desk before 11.00, to be collected only once the draw ceremony has finished.



3.3.2 MEDIA WORKING AREA

A media working area containing approximately 120 working positions with power and cabled internet will be located on the Garden Level and accessed via the accreditation centre. Media representatives in the working area will be able to follow the draw live on a giant screen.

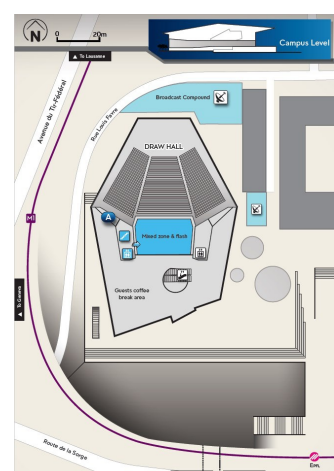
Sockets in the media working area will be primarily Schuko sockets (for round two-pin plugs), with a limited number of Swiss sockets available.



3.3.3 MIXED ZONE

The head coaches in attendance will be available in the mixed zone after the draw.

The mixed zone will be accessible from the first floor (Campus Level) and will be divided by league path (A, B, C and D).

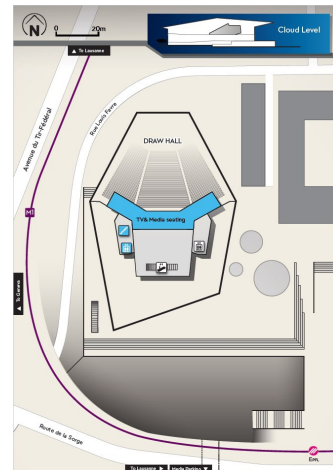


3.3.4 MEDIA SEATS IN THE DRAW HALL

Photographers with SADs may work on the main level of the draw hall (Campus Level), while other media may follow the draw from the balcony (Cloud Level), or on the giant screen in the media working area.

As specified above, only photographers require draw hall SADs.

The doors of the draw hall will be closed at 11.45, i.e. 15 minutes before the start of the show. No photographers or other media will be granted access to the draw hall (main level or balcony) after this time.



3.3.5 CATERING

A catering area will be set up next to the working area, providing drinks and snacks throughout the day and a light meal after the draw.

3.4 GUEST ARRIVALS AREA

A red carpet area will be set up just inside the main entrance on the Garden Level for media to cover the arrivals of the team delegations and other guests. This area will operate on a ‘first come, first served’ basis, with no reserved positions.

3.5 CONTACTS FOR BROADCAST PARTNERS

UNILATERAL SERVICES (BOOKINGS)

NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
Alexandra Soares	Alexandra.Soares@uefa.ch	+41 79 829 2637

Questions about unilateral services can be sent to bookings@uefa.ch.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS PRESS OFFICERS

LEAGUE A			
TEAM	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
Germany	Jens Grittner	jens.grittner@dfb.de	+49 151 1678 8420
Portugal	Onofre Costa	onofre.costa@fpf.pt	+351 966 982 503
Belgium	Stefan Van Loock	svl@footbel.com	+32 477 639 336
Spain	Paloma Antoranz	pantoranz@rfef.es	+34 608 578 088
France	Yann Perrin Philippe Tournon	yann.perrin@fff.fr philippe.tournon@free.fr	+33 6 1473 8614 +33 6 2969 9904
England	Andy Walker	andy.walker@thefa.com	+44 7812 734527
Switzerland	Marco von Ah	vonah.marco@football.ch	+41 79 453 7911
Italy	Paolo Corbi	p.corbi@figc.it	+39 335 7636 050
Poland	Jakub Kwiatkowski	Jakub.kwiatkowski@pzpn.pl	+48 501 770 650
Island	Omar Smarason Óskar Örn Guðbrandsson	omar@ksi.is oskar@ksi.is	+354 895 9889
Croatia	Tomislav Pacak	tomislav.pacak@hns-cff.hr	+38 5914 961 707
Netherlands	Bas Ticheler	bas.ticheler@knvb.nl	+31 653 837 342

LEAGUE B			
TEAM	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
Austria	Iris Stöckelmayr	iris.stoeckelmayr@oefb.at	+43 6769 593 414
Wales	Ian Gwyn Hughes	IGHughes@faw.co.uk	+44 7827 157 881
Russia	Igor Vladimirov	igorvlad72@mail.ru	+7 925 010 89 50
Slovakia	Monika Jurigová	monika.jurigova@futbalsfz.sk	+421 918 681 166
Sweden	Niklas Bodell	Niklas.bodell@svenskfotboll.se	+46 705 211 199
Ukraine	Mykola Vasylykov	vasylkov@gmail.com	+380 503 563 837
Republic of Ireland	Ian Mallon	ian.mallon@fai.ie	+353 872 458 515
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Slavica Pecikoza	slavica.pecikoza@nsbih.ba	+387 61 895 539
Northern Ireland	Neil Brittain	neil.brittain@irishfa.com	+44 7779789639
Denmark	Jacob Wadland	jwad@dbu.dk	+45 5131 5324
Czech Republic	Pavel Pillár	pavel.pillar@sport-invest.cz	+420 608 348 210
Turkey	Turker Tozar	turkertozar@tff.org	+90 533 396 33 71

LEAGUE C			
TEAM	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
Hungary	Márton Dinnyés	Dinnyes.Marton@mlsz.hu	+36 30 7742533
Romania	Gabriel Berceanu	gabriel.berceanu@frf.ro	+40 743 099 073
Scotland	Greig Mailer	greig.mailer@scottishfa.co.uk	+44 7939 220 895
Slovenia	Matjaž Krajnik	matjaz.krajnik@nzs.si	+386 41 512 797
Greece	Iakovos Filippoussis	ifilippoussis@epo.gr	+30 6 937 116 865
Serbia	Milan Vukovic	milan.vukovic@fss.rs	+381 648 180 108
Albania	Gerti Carcani	gcarcani@fshf.org.al	+355 696 080 043
Norway	Svein Graff	svein.graff@fotball.no	+47 92 287 219
Montenegro	Branko Latinovic	branko.latinovic@fscg.me	+382 67 173 412
Israel	Shlomi Barzel	Shlomib@football.org.il	
Bulgaria	Pavel Kolev	p.kolev@bfunion.bg	+359 202 905 5305
Finland	Mikael Erävuori	mikael.eravuori@palloliitto.fi	+358 50 556 1966
Cyprus	Constantinos Shiamboullis	cshiamboullis@cfa.com.cy	+357 99 360 633
Estonia	Sander Jürjens	press@jalgpall.ee	+372 58 192 616
Lituania	Justas Kontrimas	j.kontrimas@lff.lt	+370 61 488 687

LEAGUE D			
TEAM	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
Azerbaijan	Firuz Garayev Firuz Abdulla	firuz.abdulla@affa.az	+994 555 112 156
FYR Macedonia	Zlatko Andonovski	zlatko.andonovski@ffm.com.mk	+389 71 212 885
Belarus	Aleksandr Aleinik	press@bff.by	+37 5297 007 051
Georgia	Otar Giorgadze	otto@gff.ge	+995 577 171 761
Armenia	Hayk Karapetyan	media@ffa.am	+374 93 775 946
Latvia	Viktors Sopirins	viktors.sopirins@lff.lv	+371 28 336 617
Faroe Islands	Heri a Rogvi	arogviheri@gmail.com	+298 774 040
Luxembourg	Marc Diederich	marc.diederich@football.lu	+352 621 190 371
Kazakhstan	Yerbol Kairov	erbol-kairov@yandex.ru	+7 701 402 35 85
Moldavia	Victor Daghi	victor.daghi@fmf.md	+37 369 105 438
Liechtenstein	Anton Banzer	anton.banzer@lfv.li	
Malta	Kevin Azzopardi	kevin.d.azzopardi@mfa.com.mt	+356 99 475 001
Andorra	Xavi Bonet	xbonet@fedandfut.com	+376 324 987
Kosovo	Diturie Hoxha	dituriehoxha@ffk-kosova.com	+386 49 758 000
San Marino	Luca Pelliccioni	press@fsgc.sm	+39 333 2127 030
Gibraltar	Steven Gonzalez	steven.gonzalez@gibraltarfifa.com	+350 5400 0399

4 UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

4 UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 to give more meaning to national team football, with associations, coaches, players and supporters increasingly of the opinion that friendly matches are not providing adequate competition.

Extensive consultation and discussions started back at a 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 38th Ordinary UEFA Congress in Astana on 27 March 2014.

WHEN WILL THE UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE TAKE PLACE?

The 2018/19 UEFA Nations League will be staged as follows:

- Group matches will be held over six matchdays, as 'double-headers' in September, October and November 2018. The finals, for the teams that win the four groups in the top division, are scheduled for June 2019.
- Finals, involving the winners of the four groups in League A, will be staged as a knockout tournament (with semi-finals, a third-place match and a final) in June 2019, to determine the UEFA Nations League champions. One host country will be appointed by the UEFA Executive Committee in December 2018 from among the finalist teams.
- The European Qualifiers play-off matches involving teams from each league in the 2018/19 UEFA Nations League will be staged in March 2020.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND TEAMS?

The Nations League creates more meaningful, competitive matches for teams and introduces a clear calendar and structure for national team football.

Top teams can aspire to take part in the Nations League finals, a new top-level event.

For middle-ranking and smaller nations, the Nations League will offer another opportunity to qualify for UEFA EUROs and World Cups, with one of the bottom 16 teams in the UEFA national team coefficient rankings now guaranteed a place at these tournaments.

Lower-ranked teams who struggle against much higher-ranked opponents will now get the chance to compete in more balanced matches. Teams do not learn and progress by repeatedly losing, and with the Nations League they have a realistic chance of winning. Likewise, higher-ranked teams will get to play more matches against higher-ranked opponents.

While the 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 play teams from outside Europe, as they will be in groups of three.

Associations and teams will also benefit from the buffer introduced between the end of a UEFA EURO and the start of a FIFA World Cup, and vice versa, as well as greater stability in terms of income.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES FOR SUPPORTERS?

Supporters are the first to point out that most friendlies fail to deliver meaningful, competitive 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 EUROs and World Cups.

In every even year, one team is crowned World or European champions; now in every odd year there will be UEFA Nations League champions. 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 Nations League and European Qualifiers will adhere to the existing agreed international match calendar. UEFA always strives to maintain a balance between club and national team football. This new competition should, in fact, reduce the demands on players and clubs, with less travel envisaged for friendly matches and national teams competing more consistently at their own level. With double-header matchweeks, players will even return to their clubs earlier than is currently the case.

WILL THIS BE THE END OF FRIENDLY INTERNATIONALS?

There will certainly be fewer friendly internationals, and fewer meaningless friendlies for sure. However, there will still be space in the calendar for friendly matches – particularly warm-up matches for final tournaments. UEFA also considers it important that European teams still have the opportunity to play against teams from other confederations, and vice versa.

For more details and any queries about the UEFA Nations League, you can contact UEFA Media & Press relations via media@uefa.ch.