



Albania national football team

The **Albania national football team** (Albanian: *Kombëtarja e futbollit të Shqipërisë*) represents Albania in men's international football, and is governed by the Albanian Football Association, the governing body for football in Albania.

Albania competes in the three major international football tournaments—the FIFA World Cup, UEFA European Championship and UEFA Nations League. Albania was the winner of the 1946 Balkan Cup and the 2000 Malta Rothmans International Tournament. At Euro 2016, Albania made its debut at a major men's football tournament, scoring its first goal and recording its first victory in a major tournament against Romania on 19 June 2016.^[5] They will compete in Euro 2024.

Since its completion in 2019, Arena Kombëtare (*National Arena*), known as Air Albania Stadium for sponsorship reasons, has been the team's home ground. Albania's highest FIFA World Ranking was 22nd in August 2015.

The team uses red, white and black colours and the Albanian double headed eagle as its symbol. Its supporters are collectively known as the Tifozët Kuq e Zi and use the same national red and black colours.

In 2020, Albania won group 4 of UEFA Nations League C and was promoted to UEFA Nations League B.

History

20th century



Commemorative stamp (2003) of the ninety years of the first unofficial match of the football nation of Albania.

Albania also participated for the first time in the Balkan Cup in which Albania won by beating Romania 1–0 in the final.^[7] In 1954, Albania was one of the founding members of UEFA. Albania waited until 1962 to compete in a Euro Cup competition and the only time Albania was between the best 16 teams of the Continent, the reason being Albania got past the first leg as Greece, for political reasons

Albania



Nickname(s)	<u>Kuq e Zinxhëri</u> (The Red and Blacks) <u>Shqiponjat</u> (The Eagles)
Association	<u>Federata Shqiptare e Futbollit</u> (FSHF)
Confederation	<u>UEFA</u> (Europe)
Head coach	<u>Sylvinho</u>
Captain	<u>Berat Djimsiti</u>
Most caps	<u>Lorik Cana</u> (93)
Top scorer	<u>Erjon Bogdani</u> (18)
Home stadium	<u>Arena Kombëtare</u>
FIFA code	ALB
First colours	
Second colours	
Third colours	
FIFA ranking	64 ▼ 2 (15 February 2024) ^[1]
Highest	22 (August 2015) ^[2]
Lowest	124 (August 1997) ^[3]
First international	Albania 2–3 <u>Yugoslavia</u> (Tirana, Albania; 7 October 1946)
Biggest win	

forfeited the game.^{[8][9]} At the end of the tournament Albania ranked 9th in Europe.^{[10][11][12]} Albania participated at the 1964 Summer Olympics in the Men's qualification tournament, and closely lost both matches against Bulgaria in the preliminary round.^[13] They would participate for the second and last time at the 1972 Summer Olympics in which they faced Romania at the Men's European Qualifiers in the Playoffs. Albania would lose both matches close with 2–1 in the first leg and 1–2 at home in the second leg.^{[14][15]}

Albania participated for the first time in a qualifying phrase of a World Cup in the qualifiers of the 1966 edition in England. The team was drawn in the Group 5 which finished in the last position with only one point from six matches. In the qualifiers, of the UEFA Euro 1968 Albania had a draw 0–0 against West Germany that denied the Germans the participation to the UEFA Euro 1968 finals.^{[16][17]} In later years, Albania did not participate in the qualifiers of the World Cup 1970, UEFA Euro 1976, World Cup 1978 and UEFA Euro 1980 for unknown political reasons. After six years without playing any international matches, Albania entered in the qualifiers of the World Cup 1982, managing to finish in a place other than last for the first time in a qualifying match, with Finland getting last place instead. In the following qualification for the World Cup 1986 Albania were able to beat famously Belgium at home in Tirana with 2–0 as well as

drawing away in Mielec against Poland with 2–2 despite leading until the end of this match. Their last point were won against Greece at home. Missing out close for their first ever FIFA World Cup as they finished third in the standings. The qualifiers of the World Cup 1990 were probably the worst qualifier in Albania's history as there were 6 losses in as many games with no memorable matches.



Manifest of the Fifth Albanian Football Spartakiad (1984).

21st century

In the qualifiers of the World Cup 2002, Albania recorded a 2–0 win over Greece which was the only team that they beat during the qualifiers. Albania was able to make some impact in the qualifying of the UEFA Euro 2004 by beating 3–1 Russia at Loro Borici Stadium.^[18] This match was also the debut of the German coach Hans-Peter Briegel who led Albania to an undefeated run

at home matches. Despite the good results, Albania finished the group in the penultimate spot with only eight points. In the qualifiers of the World Cup 2006 Albania recorded some historical results. Two months after Greece beat Portugal to win the European Championship, Albania defeated Greece 2–1.^[19]

In the qualifiers of the UEFA Euro 2008 Albania won twice in both matches against Luxembourg. Albania also drew 2–2 with Belarus and 0–0 away with Bulgaria. Albania's Euro campaign ended with a 6–1 loss away to Romania which resulted in the resignation of the coach Otto Barić and his assistant.^[20] In December 2007, Arie Haan was named Albania's head coach by signing a two-year contract for the qualifiers of the World Cup 2010, where Albania made a very negative performance by winning only one match. Albania won only seven points from ten matches and Haan was replaced by Josip Kuže in May 2009 following the end of the campaign.^[21] However, Kuže couldn't lead Albania to the better results as the team ended the qualifiers of the UEFA Euro 2012 with only nine points from ten matches. With Kuže in charge, Albania recorded its second biggest win in the history by defeating Cyprus 6–1 at home, equal with Albania's 5–0 victory over Vietnam in 2003.^[22]

	Albania 5–0 Vietnam	
(Bastia Umbra, Italy; 12 February 2003)		
	Albania 6–1 Cyprus	
(Tirana, Albania; 12 August 2009)		

	Albania 5–0 San Marino	
(Elbasan, Albania; 8 September 2021)		

Biggest defeat

	Hungary 12–0 Albania	
(Budapest, Hungary; 24 September 1950)		

European Championship

Appearances	2 (first in 2016)	
Best result	Group stage (2016)	
Medal record		[show]
Men's football		
Balkan Cup		
G	1946 Albania	Team
G	Malta International	
G	2000 Albania	Team



Loro Borici captained the team in winning the 1946 Balkan Cup.



The team of Albania took the field with the second shirt against Austria on 26 March 2016.

Josip Kužo parted ways with Albania three and a half years after he started the job, and in December 2011, Italian coach Gianni de Biasi replaced him.^[23] Albania started the qualifiers and was, at one point, 2nd in group with six matches played and four to spare, but failed to be successful in the last four, losing away in Slovenia and Iceland, as well as at home against Switzerland, and drawing in Cyprus.^[24] Albania started the qualifiers of the UEFA Euro 2016 with an emphatic 1–0 away win against Portugal,^[25] which was followed by a 1–1 draw against Denmark at the newly renovated stadium Elbasan Arena.^[26] After beating Armenia 3–0 in the last qualifying match, Albania made history by qualifying for the UEFA Euro 2016, its first appearance at a major men's football tournament after 50 years and Albania's first-ever appearance at a competitive tournament in the history.^[27] In the tournament itself, Albania lost 0–1 to Switzerland and 0–2 to hosts France. While they beat Romania 1–0 (their first win against Romania since 1947), the team finished last among the third-placed teams and didn't progress beyond the group stage.^[28]

In 2018 World Cup qualification, Albania was drawn in a group with Spain, Italy, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, and Israel. Despite the difficult draw, they placed third in the group, their best result in history without qualifying for the final tournament. During this time, manager Gianni De Biasi resigned after disputes with the FSHF and was replaced by Christian Panucci.^[29] Albania played poorly in the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League, winning only once against Israel and losing the return leg as well as both matches against Scotland.^[30] Panucci would be sacked after a 2–0 defeat to Turkey in the opening match of UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying.^[31] Edoardo Reja replaced Panucci as Albania faced home and away series against both 2018 FIFA World Cup champions France and Iceland as well as the return leg against Turkey.^[32] In the end, Albania placed fourth in the group, failing to qualify.^[33]

On 17 November 2023, Albania qualified for UEFA Euro 2024.^[34]

Team image

Nicknames

The team's nicknames are the "Kuq e Zinjtë" ("The Red and Blacks") and "Shqiponjat" ("The Eagles"). It is also known, among supporters, as "Kosova B" ("Kosovo B"). During the period before 2016, the national teams of Albania and Kosovo exchanged players with each other due to the complexities of descent brought on by Kosovo's independence, leading supporters to refer to each team as the other team's "reserve" side.^[35]

Kits

Albania's colours are red and black, mirroring the nation's flag. The team typically wears red shirts, black shorts and red socks. Away kits are usually all-white, with red and black trim. In the 2000s, Albania signed with German sportswear company Puma and was the first kit supplier of Albania in the 21st century. On 29 January 2016, Albania signed Italian sportswear company Macron, which continues to be Albania's kit.^[36]



Albania home kit at 2016–17 season.

Kit sponsorship

Kit supplier	Period	Contract	
		Announcement	Duration
Adidas	1981–1992		
Umbro	1992–1993		
Uhlsport	1994–1995		
Puma	1996–2005		
Nike	2005–2010		
Adidas	2010–2016		
Macron	2016–present	26 January 2016 ^[36]	2016–2022 ^[36]
		9 June 2022 ^[37]	2022–2027 ^[37]

Home stadium

Albania's main stadium for most part of the history was Qemal Stafa Stadium located in Tirana. The work started in April 1939 during the Italy regime. The construction lasted for three years but it stopped briefly in August 1943 following the fall of fascist regime.^[38] The stadium had an Olympic Stadium shape, as idealized by Gherardo Bosio, a young fascist architect from Florence, Italy.^[39] The stadium's initial capacity was 15,000, this due to the fact that Tirana at that time had only 60,000 inhabitants.^[39] It was named after Qemal Stafa, a Hero of Albania in World War II.^[40] The stadium was inaugurated officially on 7 October 1946 when Albania played its first competitive match against Yugoslavia.^[41] Ever since then, further 130 international matches took place in the stadium, with the last being a friendly against Georgia in November 2015.^[42] In 2005, Cecilia de Marco and Elisabetta Lorusso, two young Italian students, called the stadium as "one of the strongest symbols of Italian impact in Albania".^[38] In November 2013, Qemal Stafa Stadium was shut down by FIFA for not fulfilling international standards.^[43] The stadium's demolition started in June 2016, and it was announced that is going to be replaced by Arena Kombëtare.^[44]



Construction of Arena Kombëtare in the city center, 2019

Albania sometimes has played home matches at other venues. Outside Tirana, the national team has played matches in Flamurtari Stadium in Vlorë,^[45] Tomori Stadium in Berat,^[46] Niko Dovana Stadium in Durrës,^[47] Loro Borici Stadium in Shkodër^[48] and Elbasan Arena in Elbasan.^[49] In February 2014, due to Albania not having a stadium that fulfills international standards set by FIFA, the work for renovation of Elbasan Arena (at the time Ruzhdi Bizhuta Stadium) started.^[50] The work lasted for 7 months, and the stadium was inaugurated on 9 October when Albania played a friendly match against KF Elbasani under-19 squad; Albania won the match 17–0.^[51] The official inauguration occurred two days later in the UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying match against Denmark.^[52]

The first international match at Loro Borici Stadium was played on 29 March 2003 against Russia, with Albania winning 3–1.^[18] In October 2014, Prime Minister of Albania, Edi Rama, promised the reconstruction of the stadium.^[53] The stadium's construction started in May 2015 and finished in August 2016.^[54] In 2016–17, the stadium served temporary as the home of Kosovo national team, due to stadiums in Mitrovica and Pristina were under renovation and did not meet UEFA standards.^[55]

Albania national football team home stadiums

Nr.of matches	Image	Stadium	Capacity	Location	First match	Last match	Ref	
131		<u>Qemal Stafa Stadium</u>	25,000	Tirana, Albania	v.  Yugoslavia, 7 October 1946	v.  Georgia, 16 November 2015	[41]	
19		<u>Arena Kombëtare</u>	22,500	Tirana, Albania	v.  France, 17 November 2019	v.  Faroe Islands, 20 October 2023	[56]	
18		<u>Elbasan Arena</u>	13,800	Elbasan, Albania	v.  Denmark, 11 October 2014	v.  San Marino, 8 September 2021	[49]	
9		<u>Loro Borici Stadium</u>	20,200	Shkodër, Albania	v.  Russia, 29 March 2003	v.  Turkey, 22 March 2019	[48]	
6		<u>Niko Dovana Stadium</u>	12,040	Durrës, Albania	v.  Uzbekistan, 11 August 2010	v.  Malta, 5 March 2014	[47]	
2		<u>Nuevo Estadio de Los Cármenes</u>	19,336	Granada, Spain	v.  Ukraine, 29 March 1997	v.  Germany, 2 April 1997	[57]	
1		<u>Skënderbeu Stadium</u>	12,343	Korçë, Albania	v.  North Macedonia, 17 November 2010			[45]
1		<u>Hardturm</u>	16,600	Zürich, Switzerland	v.  Northern Ireland, 10 September 1997			[58]
1		<u>Tomori Stadium</u>	17,890	Berat, Albania	v.  Cuba, 6 August 1988			[46]
1		<u>Flamurtari Stadium</u>	10,500	Vlorë, Albania	v.  Romania, 28 October 1987			[45]

Rivalries

Kosovo

This derby is otherwise known as Brotherly derby (Albanian: *Derbi vëllazëror*), also known as the Brotherly (Albanian: *Vëllazërorja*). The documented beginnings of this derby date back to the time during the World War II, respectively on 29 November 1942, where they played a friendly match as part of the celebrations for 30th Anniversary of the Independence of Albania and the match ended with a 2–0 win for Tirana,^{[a][60][61]} this derby is back 50 years after the first match, when the Football Federation of Kosovo signed a cooperation protocol with the Albanian Football Association and in the framework of this protocol it was decided to play on 14 February a friendly match between these two national teams,^[62] and this match ended with a 3–1 win for Albania.^[63]

Serbia

This football rivalry between Albania and Serbia is mainly due to historical tensions between the two countries. It has been described as "one of the fiercest rivalries in the world". During the Euro 2016 qualifying phase, the Serbian crowd were chanting "Kill, kill Albanians"^[64] and were throwing flares at the Albania team, after which there was a clash between the Serbia and Albania teams.^[65]

Supporters



A choreography of Tifozat Kuq e Zi in the national team's first match at Elbasan Arena against Denmark in October 2014.

Tifozat Kuq e Zi (Red and Black Fans), also known as the **Albania National Football Team Supporters Club**) is a non-profit football supporters' association for the Albania national football team and various national team sportive activities.^{[66][67]} It was founded on 25 December 2003.^[66] In cooperation with FSHF, it organises trips for football fans to visit games, and develops and sells merchandise to support itself and fund sporting related projects.

Tifozat Kuq e Zi stands firm in the political view that Albanians should share only one national team and have continuous aspirations to join in one state (Një Komb, Një Kombëtare), i.e. unification of Albania, Kosovo, etc.^{[68][69]} In this sense, TKZ is joined by different supporters' associations throughout

Albanian-speaking regions mainly in Kosovo (Shqiponjat of Peja, Kuqezinjet e Jakoves of Gjakova, Plisat of Prishtina, Torcida of Mitrovica, etc.), North Macedonia (Ballistët of Tetovë, Ilirët of Kumanovë, Shvercerat of Shkupi, etc.) and in Albania itself (Ultras Guerrils of Partizani Tirana, Tirona Fanatics of KF Tirana, Vllaznit Ultras of Vllaznia Shkodër, Ujqërit e Deborës of Skënderbeu Korçë, Shqiponjat of KF Besa Pejë and many other different Albanian fans).^[66]

There are sports twinnings with some amateur football teams of the historic Albanian communities of Italy (*Arbëreshë*): in 2017, on the occasion of the Italy – Albania match played in Palermo (Sicily, Italy) for the World Cup qualifiers, the local team and the Municipality of Piana degli Albanesi welcomed the ambassador of the Republic of Albania, the official delegation of the Albanian football federation and numerous Albanian fans who also came from the Balkans, in a fraternal and sporting twinning *Arbëreshë-Shqiptarë*.

The ongoing dispute between the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Football Association of Albania has been seen as a political intrusion by FIFA and UEFA, which led to the banning of Albania from international sportive activities. FSHF president Armand Duka is highly unwanted by the TKZ who have numerous asked for his resignation believing he is responsible for internal corruption in the Albanian Football Association.^{[70][71][72][73]}

The TKZ have been praised by many different football players and managers, whom were not just Albanian. One example is with Switzerland's former coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, who was astonished by how many Albanian fans turned up and how enthusiastic they were in 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying match between Switzerland and Albania where the Swiss won 2–0 thanks to goals from Gökhan Inler and Kosovo-born Xherdan Shaqiri. He didn't believe that there was 12,000 Albanian fans in the stands which was more than how many Swiss fans turned up for the game. He stated

that "Albanian fans are fantastic and the most passionate fans I have ever seen".^[74] During that campaign, TKZ attended all games Albania played apart from a match against Cyprus in Nicosia and were also large in numbers in the away games to Slovenia in Maribor and Norway in Oslo.^{[75][76][77]}



Albanian and Arbëreshë fans in Palermo, for the Italy-Albania 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier match on 24 March 2017.

Media coverage

Current

Broadcaster	Television channel	Period	Broadcast matches	
			Qualifying	Friendly
SuperSport Albania		N/A–present	✓	✓
TV Klan		2022–present ^[78]	✓	✓
ArtMotion	ArtSport	2022–present	✓	✗
	Klan Kosova		✓	✗

Previous

Broadcaster	Television channel	Period
Albanian Radio Television		until 2022
Radio Television of Kosovo	RTK 1	

Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 12 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win Draw Loss Fixture

2023

Euro 2024 qualifying	27 March 20:45	Poland 1–0 Albania Świderski 41' Report (ps://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036321/)	Warsaw, Poland Stadium: Stadion Narodowy Attendance: 56,227 Referee: Slavko Vinčić (Slovenia)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	17 June 20:45	Albania 2–0 Moldova Asani 52' Report (ps://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036344/) Bajrami 76'	Tirana, Albania Stadium: Arena Kombëtare Attendance: 20,944 Referee: Dennis Higler (Netherlands)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	20 June 20:45 (19:45 UTC+1)	Faroe Islands 1–3 Albania Færø 45+1' Report (Bajrami 20' Asllani 51' Muçi 90+1'	Tórshavn, Faroe Islands Stadium: Tórsvøllur Attendance: 2,507 Referee: Chrysovalantis Theouli (Cyprus)	[show]

Euro 2024 qualifying	7 September 20:45	Czech Republic  1–1 Albania 	Černý 56' Report (htt ps://www. uefa.com/ european- qualifiers/ match/203 6391/)	Prague, Czech Republic Stadium: Eden Arena Attendance: 18,641 Referee: Anthony Taylor (England)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	10 September 20:45	Albania  2–0 Poland 	Asani 37' Report (htt ps://www. uefa.com/ european- qualifiers/ match/203 6414/)	Tirana, Albania Stadium: Arena Kombëtare Attendance: 21,900 Referee: José María Sánchez (Spain)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	12 October 20:45	Albania  3–0 Czech Republic 	Asani 9' Report (htt ps://www. uefa.com/ european- qualifiers/ match/203 6436/)	Tirana, Albania Stadium: Arena Kombëtare Attendance: 20,917 Referee: Danny Makkelie (Netherlands)	[show]
Friendly	17 October 16:30	Albania  2–0 Bulgaria 	Laçi 41' Report (htt ps://eu-foo tball.info/_ p?id=1865 4)	Tirana, Albania Stadium: Arena Kombëtare Attendance: 17,232 Referee: Mervan Bejtullahu (Kosovo)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	17 November 20:45 (21:45 UTC+2)	Moldova  1–1 Albania 	Baboglo 87' Report (htt ps://www. uefa.com/ european- qualifiers/ match/203 6483/)	Chișinău, Moldova Stadium: Zimbru Stadium Attendance: 9,537 Referee: Willie Collum (Scotland)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	20 November 20:45	Albania  0–0 Faroe Islands 	Report (htt ps://www. uefa.com/ european- qualifiers/ match/203 6506/)	Tirana, Albania Stadium: Arena Kombëtare Attendance: 21,456 Referee: Sven Jablonski (Germany)	[show]

2024

Friendly	22 March 20:45 UTC+1	Albania  v Chile 	Report (htt ps://eu-foo tball.info/_ match.ph p?id=1891 9)	Parma, Italy Stadium: Stadio Ennio Tardini	[show]
Friendly	25 March 19:00 UTC+1	Sweden  v Albania 	Report (htt ps://eu-foo tball.info/_ match.ph p?id=1873 9)	Solna, Sweden Stadium: Friends Arena	[show]

[Friendly](#)

3 June

[Albania](#)

v

[Liechtenstein](#)[Austria](#)

[show]

Report ([http://eu-footballball.info/_match.php?id=18933](https://eu-footballball.info/_match.php?id=18933))

[Euro 2024](#)15 June
21:00 CEST[Italy](#)

v

[Albania](#)[Dortmund, Germany](#)

[show]

Report ([http://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036164/](https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036164/))

[Euro 2024](#)19 June
15:00 CEST[Croatia](#)

v

[Albania](#)[Hamburg, Germany](#)

[show]

Report ([http://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036176/](https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036176/))

[Euro 2024](#)24 June
21:00 CEST[Albania](#)

v

[Spain](#)[Düsseldorf, Germany](#)

[show]

Report ([http://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036187/](https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036187/))

[2024–25 Nations League](#)7 September
20:45[Ukraine](#)

v

[Albania](#)[TBD^{\[b\]}](#)

[show]

Report ([http://www.uefanationleague/match/2040066/](https://www.uefanationleague/match/2040066/))

[2024–25 Nations League](#)10 September
20:45[Albania](#)

v

[Georgia](#)[Tirana, Albania](#)

[show]

Report ([http://www.uefanationleague/match/2040086/](https://www.uefanationleague/match/2040086/))

[2024–25 Nations League](#)11 October
20:45[Czech Republic](#)

v

[Albania](#)[Czech Republic](#)

[show]

Report ([http://www.uefanationleague/match/2040109/](https://www.uefanationleague/match/2040109/))

[2024–25 Nations League](#)14 October
18:00 (20:00 UTC+4)[Georgia](#)

v

[Albania](#)[Georgia](#)

[show]

Report ([http://www.uefanationleague/match/2040129/](https://www.uefanationleague/match/2040129/))

[2024–25 Nations League](#)16 November
20:45[Albania](#)

v

[Czech Republic](#)[Tirana, Albania](#)

[show]

Report ([http://www.ueff.com/match/2040129/](https://www.ueff.com/match/2040129/))

Stadium: [Arena Kombëtare](#)

2024–25 Nations League	19 November	Albania  v  Ukraine	Tirana, Albania	[show]
	20:45	Report (https://www.uefa.com/uefanationsleague/match/2040195/)	Stadium: Arena Kombëtare	

Coaching staff

Current coaching staff

Role	Name
Head coach	 Sylvinho
Assistant coach(es)	 Pablo Zabaleta
	 Dorival Guidoni
	 Ervin Bulku
Athletic coach(es)	 Taulant Stërmasi
	 Elton Kodra
Goalkeeping coach	 Ilir Bozhiqi
Physiotherapist	 Altin Haxhia
Doctor	 Gianluca Stesina
Masseur	 Arzen Voçi
Material base(s)	 Eduard Salillari
	 Osman Bulku
Osteopath	 Arjan Llaperi
Team manager	 Dritan Babamusta
Video analyst	 Alarico Marco Rossi



Sylvinho, the current head coach of Albania national football team.

Players

Current squad

- The following players were called up for the UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying matches against Moldova and Faroe Islands, on 17 and 20 November 2023.^[80]
- Caps and goals are correct as of 20 November 2023 after the match against Faroe Islands.^[81]

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Etrit Berisha <i>(vice-captain)</i>	10 March 1989	80	0	Empoli
12	GK	Elhan Kastrati	2 February 1997	2	0	Cittadella
23	GK	Thomas Strakosha <i>(4th captain)</i>	19 March 1995	25	0	Brentford
2	DF	Iván Balliu	1 January 1992	11	0	Rayo Vallecano
3	DF	Mario Mitaj	6 August 2003	10	0	Lokomotiv Moscow
4	DF	Elseid Hysaj <i>(3rd captain)</i>	20 February 1994	81	2	Lazio
5	DF	Frédéric Veseli	20 November 1992	45	0	Fatih Karagümrük
6	DF	Berat Gjimshiti <i>(captain)</i>	19 February 1993	55	1	Atalanta
13	DF	Jon Mersinaj	8 February 1999	1	0	Lokomotiva
18	DF	Ardian Ismajli	30 September 1996	36	2	Empoli
7	MF	Keidi Bare	28 August 1997	28	2	Espanyol
8	MF	Klaus Gjasula	14 December 1989	27	0	Darmstadt 98
10	MF	Nedim Bajrami	28 February 1999	19	3	Sassuolo
14	MF	Qazim Laçi	19 January 1996	23	2	Sparta Prague
20	MF	Ylber Ramadani	12 April 1996	32	1	Lecce
21	MF	Kristjan Asllani	9 March 2002	16	2	Inter Milan
24	MF	Arbnor Muçolli	15 September 1999	4	0	IFK Göteborg
9	FW	Jasir Asani	19 May 1995	9	3	Gwangju
11	FW	Myrto Uzuni	31 May 1995	35	5	Granada
15	FW	Taulant Seferi	15 November 1996	17	3	Baniyas
16	FW	Sokol Cikalleshi	27 July 1990	59	13	Konyaspor
17	FW	Ernest Muçi	19 March 2001	7	2	Beşiktaş
19	FW	Mirlind Daku	1 January 1998	5	1	Rubin Kazan
22	FW	Arbnor Muja	29 November 1998	5	0	Samsunspor

Recent call-ups

The following players have been called up for the team within the last 12 months and are still available for selection.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Alen Sherri	15 December 1997	1	0	Egnatia	v. Bulgaria, 17 October 2023
GK	Simon Simoni	14 July 2004	0	0	Eintracht Frankfurt	v. Moldova, 17 June 2023 ^{U21}
DF	Arlind Ajeti	25 September 1993	24	1	CFR Cluj	v. Moldova, 17 November 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Enea Mihaj	5 July 1998	15	0	Famalicão	v. Bulgaria, 17 October 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Christian Cugnata	13 January 2005	0	0	Spezia	v. Czech Republic, 12 October 2023 ^{PRE / U19}
DF	Naser Aliji	27 December 1993	13	0	Voluntari	v. Faroe Islands, 20 June 2023
DF	Andi Hadroj	22 February 1999	3	0	Partizani	v. Moldova, 17 June 2023
DF	Adrian Bajrami	5 April 2002	3	0	Benfica	v. Moldova, 17 June 2023 ^{U21}
DF	Ermir Lenjani	5 August 1989	44	5	Schaffhausen	v. Poland, 27 March 2023
DF	Marash Kumbulla	8 February 2000	18	0	Sassuolo	v. Poland, 27 March 2023 ^{INJ}
MF	Dean Vranić	2 January 2006	0	0	Parma U19	v. Czech Republic, 12 October 2023 ^{PRE / U19}
MF	Odise Roshi	21 May 1991	71	5	Sakaryaspor	v. Poland, 10 September 2023
MF	Amir Abrashi	27 March 1990	50	1	Grasshoppers	v. Faroe Islands, 20 June 2023
MF	Anis Mehmeti	9 January 2001	3	0	Bristol City	v. Faroe Islands, 20 June 2023
MF	Lindon Selahi	26 February 1999	4	0	Rijeka	v. Poland, 27 March 2023
FW	Marvin Çuni	10 July 2001	1	0	Frosinone	v. Bulgaria, 17 October 2023
FW	Armando Broja	10 September 2001	17	4	Fulham	v. Czech Republic, 12 October 2023 ^{INJ}
FW	Flavio Sulejmani	20 March 2006	0	0	Lazio	v. Czech Republic, 12 October 2023 ^{PRE / U19}
FW	Armando Sadiku	27 May 1991	39	12	Mohun Bagan	v. Faroe Islands, 20 June 2023
FW	Gerald Kubazi	17 August 2006	0	0	Vllaznia	v. Poland, 27 March 2023 ^{PRE / U17}

Notes

- U21, U19, U17 = Was called up from national U21, U19 or U17 squad.
- PRE = Preliminary squad/standby.
- INJ = It is not part of the current squad due to injury.

Records

As of 20 November 2023^[82]

Players in **bold** are still active with Albania.

Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Period
1	Lorik Cana	93	1	2003–2016
2	Elseid Hysaj	81	2	2013–present
3	Etrit Berisha	80	0	2012–present
4	Altin Lala	79	3	1998–2011
5	Klodian Duro	77	4	2001–2011
6	Erjon Bogdani	75	18	1996–2013
	Ervin Skela	75	13	2000–2011
8	Ansi Agolli	73	3	2005–2017
	Foto Strakosha	73	0	1990–2004
10	Odise Roshi	71	5	2011–present



Panajot Pano, awarded "The Player of the Century" by UEFA and rated by the Albanian Football Federation as the most outstanding national player of the last 50 years.

Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Average	Period
1	Erjon Bogdani	18	75	0.24	1996–2013
2	Alban Bushi	14	67	0.21	1995–2007
3	Sokol Cikalleshi	13	60	0.22	2014–present
	Ervin Skela	13	75	0.17	2000–2011
5	Armando Sadiku	12	39	0.31	2012–present
6	Hamdi Salihi	11	50	0.22	2006–2015
	Altin Raklli	11	63	0.17	1992–2005
8	Sokol Kushta	10	31	0.32	1987–1996
	Igli Tare	10	68	0.15	1997–2007
10	Bekim Balaj	9	48	0.19	2012–2022



Lorik Cana is the most capped player in the history of Albania with 93 caps.

Competitive record

FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record										Qualification record							
Year	Round	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1930 to 1962	Did not participate										Did not participate						
1966	Did not qualify										4th	6	0	1	5	2	12

1970	Entry not accepted ^[83]							
1974	Did not qualify							
1978	Did not participate							
1982								
1986								
1990								
1994								
1998								
● 2002	Did not qualify							
2006								
2010								
2014								
2018								
2022								
2026								
2030	To be determined							
2034								
Total	—	0/22	0	0	0	0	0	—
		13/22	114	24	14	76	84	200

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record									Qualifying record							
Year	Round	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1960	Did not participate									Did not participate						
1964																
1968	Did not qualify									Did not participate						
1972																
1976	Did not participate									Did not participate						
1980																
1984										Did not participate						
1988																
1992										Did not participate						
1996	Did not qualify															
2000										Did not participate						
2004																
2008										Did not qualify						
2012																
2016	Group stage	18th	3	1	0	2	1	3	Squad	<u>5th</u>	8	0	2	6	4	14
2020	Did not qualify															
2024	Qualified									<u>4th</u>						
										<u>5th</u>	12	2	5	5	12	18
										<u>5th</u>	10	2	3	5	7	14
										<u>2nd</u>	8	4	2	2	10	5
										<u>4th</u>	10	4	1	5	16	14
										<u>1st</u>	8	4	3	1	12	4

2028

2032

To be determined

To be determined

Total	Group stage	2/17	3	1	0	2	1	3	—	14/17	111	26	26	59	100	177
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Albania's European Championship record [show]

First match	Albania 0–1 Switzerland (Stade Bollaert-Delelis, Lens, France; 11 June 2016)
Biggest win	Romania 0–1 Albania (Parc Olympique Lyonnais, Lyon, France; 19 June 2016)
Biggest defeat	France 2–0 Albania (Stade Vélodrome, Marseille, France; 15 June 2016)
Best result	Group stage (2016)
Worst result	

UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record

League phase**												Finals											
Season	LG	Grp	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK	Year	Pos.	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad			
2018–19	C	1	3rd	4	1	0	3	1	8	=	34th	2019 2021 2023 2025	Did not qualify										
2020–21	C	4	1st	6	3	2	1	8	4	▲	35th		Did not qualify										
2022–23	B	2	3rd	4	0	2	2	4	6	=	27th		Did not qualify										
2024–25	B	1	To be determined										Did not qualify										
Total			14	4	4	6	13	18	27th	Did not qualify										—			

*Draws include knockout matches decided via penalty shoot-out.

**League stage played home and away. Flag shown represents host nation for the finals stage.

Summer Olympic Games

Olympic Games record

Year	Result	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad
1908 to 1936	Team did not exist								
1948 to 1960	Did not participate								
1964	Did not qualify								
1968	Did not participate								
1972	Did not qualify								
1976 to 1988	Did not participate								
Since 1992	See Albania national under-23 team								
Total	—	0/2	0	0	0	0	0	0	—

Qualification record

Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
Team did not exist						
Did not participate						
PR	2	0	0	2	0	2
Did not participate						
PO	2	0	0	2	2	4
Did not participate						
See Albania national under-23 team						
2/2	4	0	0	4	2	6

Other tournaments

Year	Round	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad
Balkan Cup									
1946	Champions	1st	3	2	0	1	6	4	Squad
1947	Fifth place	5th	4	0	0	4	2	13	
1948	Fifth place	5th	3	1	2	0	1	0	
Malta International Tournament									
1998	Third place	3rd	3	0	2	1	3	6	
2000	Champions	1st	3	3	0	0	5	0	
Total	Best: Champions	5/5	16	6	4	6	17	23	—

FIFA rankings

As of December 2022 Source:[\[84\]](#)

Best Ranking Worst Ranking Best Mover Worst Mover

Albania's FIFA world rankings

Rank	Year	Pld	Best		Worst	
			Rank	Move	Rank	Move
	66	2022	11	65	▲ 1	69 ▼ 1
	66	2021	12	63	▲ 3	69 ▼ 3
	66	2020	7	66	▲ 3	69 ▼ 3
	66	2019	16	61	▲ 2	66 ▼ 4
	60	2018	9	56	▲ 2	60 ▼ 3
	62	2017	9	51	▲ 9	71 ▼ 12
	49	2016	12	35	▲ 5	49 ▼ 10
□	38	2015	7	22	▲ 15	63 ▼ 7
□	58	2014	9	45	▲ 25	70 ▼ 16
	57	2013	8	37	▲ 16	71 ▼ 13
	63	2012	9	58	▲ 17	97 ▼ 10
	74	2011	11	50	▲ 23	75 ▼ 14
	65	2010	9	58	▲ 13	97 ▼ 7
	96	2009	9	78	▲ 3	98 ▼ 11
□	81	2008	7	73	▲ 19	102 ▼ 18
	80	2007	11	66	▲ 11	88 ▼ 12
	87	2006	6	62	▲ 20	88 ▼ 13
	82	2005	10	82	▲ 7	93 ▼ 4
	86	2004	8	86	▲ 5	94 ▼ 5
	89	2003	11	86	▲ 13	101 ▼ 5
	93	2002	9	92	▲ 4	97 ▼ 5
	96	2001	7	74	▲ 1	96 ▼ 6
	72	2000	8	72	▲ 13	94 ▼ 6
	83	1999	8	83	▲ 15	95 ▼ 2
	106	1998	8	97	▲ 14	109 ▼ 8
□	116	1997	7	113	▲ 8	124 ▼ 4
□	116	1996	5	90	▲ 6	116 ▼ 12
	91	1995	8	87	▲ 13	106 ▼ 6
	100	1994	5	93	▲ 9	113 ▼ 11
	92	1993	7	91	▲ 1	93 ▼ 6
	86	1992		86		86

Honours

- Balkan Cup:
 - ① Champions (1): 1946
- Malta International Football Tournament:

- ① **Champions** (1): 2000^[85]

Head-to-head record

As of 17 November 2023 after the match against Moldova

Key

Positive balance (more Wins)
Neutral balance (Wins = Losses)
Negative balance (more Losses)



2007 Postage stamp of Albania, commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Victory at the Balkan Cup.

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	Reference
Algeria ^[A]	2	1	1	0	4	1	+3	50%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=6) H2H results* (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=328)
Andorra	7	5	1	1	11	4	+7	71%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=5)
Argentina	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=7)
Armenia	6	4	1	1	10	5	+5	66%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=9)
Austria	7	0	0	7	2	19	-17	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=12)
Azerbaijan	5	3	1	1	5	3	+2	60%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=15)
Bahrain	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=16)
Belarus	7	3	2	2	10	10	0	42%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=36)
Belgium	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	50%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=21)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	1	2	2	4	5	-1	20%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=26)
Bulgaria	14	3	4	7	10	17	-7	21%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=32)
Cameroon	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=64)
China	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=39) H2H results* (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=290)
Cuba	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=87)
Cyprus	6	2	2	2	12	7	+5	33%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=49)
Czech Republic ^[B]	8	3	1	4	11	14	-5	33%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=95)
Denmark	10	1	3	6	4	19	-15	10%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=56)
East Germany	3	0	1	2	2	7	-5	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=82)
England	6	0	0	6	1	19	-18	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=60)
Estonia	4	1	3	0	3	1	+2	25%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=123)
Faroe Islands	2	1	1	0	3	1	+2	50%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=70)
Finland	7	2	1	4	6	8	-2	28%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=70)
66 nations	382	105	80	197	369	578	-209	27%	All H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&data=1)

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	Reference
France	9	1	1	7	4	20	-16	11%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=73)
Georgia	15	3	4	8	13	23	-10	20%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=85)
Germany ^[C]	14	0	1	13	10	38	-28	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=86)
Greece ^[D]	15	6	3	6	16	13	+3	50%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=175)
Hungary	8	2	1	5	2	19	-17	25%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=100)
Iceland	9	3	2	4	11	12	-1	33%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=103)
Iran	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=106)
Israel	6	2	0	4	6	9	-3	33%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=210)
Italy	4	0	0	4	1	7	-4	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=118)
Jordan	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=111)
Kazakhstan	4	3	1	0	6	2	+4	75%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=120)
Kosovo	7	5	1	1	13	9	+1	71%	H2H results ^{[61][87][88]}
Latvia	5	0	5	0	6	6	0	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=231)
Liechtenstein	3	3	0	0	6	0	+6	100%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=126)
Lithuania	6	2	1	3	7	7	0	33%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=234)
Luxembourg	7	3	1	3	8	7	+1	42%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=130)
North Macedonia	10	2	4	4	7	12	-5	20%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=236)
Malta	8	5	2	1	14	3	+11	62%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=136)
Mexico	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=238)
66 nations	382	105	80	197	369	578	-209	27%	All H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&data=1)

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	Reference
Moldova	8	6	2	0	17	3	+14	75%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=138)
Montenegro	3	3	0	0	9	2	+7	100%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=140) H2H results* (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=274)
Morocco	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=141)
Netherlands	4	0	0	4	1	7	-6	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=242)
Northern Ireland	9	2	2	5	5	13	-8	22%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=148)
Norway	5	1	2	2	5	6	-1	20%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=149)
Poland	15	2	3	10	10	20	-10	7%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=156)
Portugal	7	1	1	5	5	13	-8	14%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=159)
Qatar	3	2	0	1	5	3	+2	66%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=162)
Republic of Ireland	4	0	1	3	2	6	-4	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=163)
Romania ^[E]	19	3	3	13	12	45	-33	15%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=165) H2H results* (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=166)
Russia	2	1	0	1	4	5	-1	50%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=251)
Scotland	2	0	0	2	0	6	-6	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=111)
San Marino	4	4	0	0	13	0	+13	100%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=173)
Saudi Arabia	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=194)
Serbia ^[F]	7	1	1	5	7	15	-8	14%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=222)
66 nations	382	105	80	197	369	578	-209	27%	All H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&data=1)

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	Reference
Slovenia	7	1	2	4	2	6	-4	14%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=181)
Spain	8	0	0	8	3	31	-28	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=185)
Sweden	5	1	1	3	5	10	-5	20%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=191)
Switzerland	7	0	1	6	4	12	-8	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=194)
Turkey	12	4	2	6	14	13	+1	33%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=203)
Ukraine	6	0	1	5	4	13	-9	0%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=265)
Uzbekistan	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=215)
Vietnam	1	1	0	0	5	0	+5	100%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=269)
Wales	4	1	2	1	2	3	-1	25%	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&oppo=218)
66 nations	382	105	80	197	369	578	-209	27%	All H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=4&data=1)

Notes

- A. Includes match against Algeria Olympic.
- B. Includes matches against Czechoslovakia.
- C. Includes matches against West Germany.
- D. Includes awarded matches at the [Euro 1964 qualifying](#).^[86]
- E. Includes matches against Romania Olympic at [1971 Mediterranean Games](#) qualifying.
- F. Includes matches against Yugoslavia.

See also

- [Albanian Football Association](#)
- [Football in Albania](#)
- [Albania national youth football team](#)
- [Albania national under-23 football team \(defunct\)](#)
- [Albania national under-21 football team](#)
- [Albania national under-20 football team](#)
- [Albania national under-19 football team](#)
- [Albania national under-18 football team](#)
- [Albania national under-17 football team](#)
- [Albania national under-16 football team](#)

Notes and references

Notes

- a. The alternative name of the Albania national team that was used during this match.^[59]
- b. Due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ukraine are required to play their home matches at neutral venues until further notice.^[79]

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External links

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 - [Albania](https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/ALB/) (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/ALB/>) at [UEFA](#)
 - [Albania](https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/ALB) (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/ALB>) at [FIFA](#)
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Bosnia and Herzegovina national football team



The **Bosnia and Herzegovina national football team** (Bosnian and Serbian Latin: *Fudbalska reprezentacija Bosne i Hercegovine*; Croatian: *Bosanskohercegovačka nogometna reprezentacija*; Serbian Cyrillic: Фудбалска репрезентација Босне и Херцеговине) represents Bosnia and Herzegovina in men's international football competitions, and is governed by the Football Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Until 1992, Bosnian footballers played for Yugoslavia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina achieved their best result when they reached the 2014 FIFA World Cup as winners of their qualifying group.^[4] They were eliminated after narrow group stage losses to Argentina and Nigeria and a win over Iran.^[5]

The national team has appeared in numerous other qualification play-offs, including the 2010 FIFA World Cup play-offs loss to Portugal, as well as the qualifying play-offs for UEFA Euro 2012, 2016 and 2020, losing to Portugal, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland respectively, preventing the team from reaching their first UEFA European Championship.^{[6][7][8]}

The team's highest FIFA World Ranking was 13th, achieved in August 2013.^[9]

History

Bosnia and Herzegovina have seen a steady rise in their fortunes on the international football stage in recent times. Historically, Bosnia and Herzegovina has managed multiple play-off appearances and has qualified for one FIFA World Cup. More often than not, the team produces solid results in qualifiers and challenges for a top spot.

From 1920 to 1992, the players lined up for Yugoslavia, but following the outbreak of the Bosnian War and subsequent independence, a new football nation arose from the ashes.

The early period saw Bosnia and Herzegovina have to wait until the 1998 FIFA World Cup qualifiers to compete for a place in a major competition. Bosnia and Herzegovina finished fourth in a group that included Greece, Denmark, Croatia and Slovenia. This was then subsequently followed by further disappointment with lackluster campaigns in the UEFA Euro 2000 qualifiers, as well as the 2002 FIFA World Cup.^{[10][11]}

This early period was followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina coming very close to qualifying directly for their first ever major competition, UEFA Euro 2004, narrowly missing out by a single

Bosnia and Herzegovina



Nickname(s)	<u>Zmajevi</u> (The <u>Dragons</u>) <u>Zlatni Ilijani</u> (The <u>Golden Lilies</u>)
Association	<u>Football Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina</u> (N/FSBiH)
Confederation	<u>UEFA</u> (Europe)
Head coach	<u>Savo Milošević</u>
Captain	<u>Edin Džeko</u>
Most caps	<u>Edin Džeko</u> (133)
Top scorer	<u>Edin Džeko</u> (65)
Home stadium	<u>Bilino Polje</u> / <u>Grbavica</u>
FIFA code	<u>BIH</u>



First colours



Second colours

FIFA ranking	
Current	71 ▼ 2 (15 February 2024) ^[1]
Highest	13 (August 2013)
Lowest	173 (September 1996)
First international	
	Albania 2–0 Bosnia and Herzegovina (Tirana, Albania; 30 November 1995) ^[2]
Biggest win	

goal against Denmark.^[12]

Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to make the grade in the 2006 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, despite being unbeaten at home, and the UEFA Euro 2008 qualifiers, which saw their poor home form cost them. Bosnia and Herzegovina then experienced double heartbreak, bowing out twice in the playoffs to Portugal, first 2–0 on aggregate in the 2010 FIFA World Cup decider and then 6–2 on aggregate in the UEFA Euro 2012 decider.^{[13][14][15]}

Bosnia and Herzegovina qualified for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, hosted by Brazil, in October 2013 by beating Lithuania, finally breaking their curse and participating in a major tournament.^[16]

They managed to finish third in a group which included Argentina, and tasted their first victory thanks to a 3–1 win over Iran.^[17] Nigeria pipped Bosnia and Herzegovina for second place in the group with a 1–0 win marred with controversy following an incorrectly disallowed goal scored by Edin Džeko in the first half.^[18]

 <u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u> 7–0 <u>Estonia</u> 
(Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 10 September 2008)
 <u>Liechtenstein</u> 1–8 <u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u> 
(Vaduz, Liechtenstein; 7 September 2012)
Biggest defeat
 <u>Argentina</u> 5–0 <u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u> 
(Córdoba, Argentina; 14 May 1998)
 <u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u> 0–5 <u>Portugal</u> 
(Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 16 October 2023)

World Cup

Appearances	1 (<i>first in 2014</i>)
Best result	Group stage (<i>2014</i>)
Website	nfsbih.ba (https://www.nfsbih.ba/)



Bosnia and Herzegovina squad vs Austria international friendly (2015).

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	 <u>Argentina</u>	3	3	0	0	6	3	+3	9	Advance to knockout stage
2	 <u>Nigeria</u>	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4	
3	 <u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u>	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3	
4	 <u>Iran</u>	3	0	1	2	1	4	-3	1	

Source: [FIFA](https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/archive/brazil2014/groups/index.html) (<https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/archive/brazil2014/groups/index.html>)

Rules for classification: [Tie-breaking criteria](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina finished third in the UEFA Euro 2016 qualifiers behind Belgium and Wales. After making an unfortunate start to the qualifiers with a surprise 2–1 home defeat against Cyprus and managing just two points through four games, manager Safet Sušić was dismissed and replaced by Mehmed Baždarević.^{[19][20][21]}

After the slow start, Bosnian performance improved dramatically, with five wins in their remaining six matches, including victories over Wales and Israel along with three clean sheets. However, they ultimately failed to qualify after a two legged playoff encounter with the Republic of Ireland.^{[22][23][24]} Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to make back-to-back FIFA World Cups after failing to qualify to the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Bosnia and Herzegovina finished fourth in their UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying group with the manager Robert Prosinečki, missing out on direct qualification. However, they qualified for the playoffs by winning their UEFA Nations League group, and with new manager Dušan Bajević, they ultimately missed out on yet another Euro after losing to Northern Ireland on penalties.



Starting XI at the debut FIFA World Cup appearance for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Following several years of disappointment, Bulgarian Ivaylo Petev was named as Bosnia and Herzegovina's new manager, marking the first time a Bosnia and Herzegovina manager was not from the former Yugoslavia. In their first campaign under Petev, Bosnia and Herzegovina were drawn into a group with 2018 FIFA World Cup champions France and kept their chances of qualification alive until the final two matches; ultimately failing to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Team image

Nickname

A popular nickname of all Bosnian national teams is "Zmajevi" (Serbo-Croatian for "dragons"), popularized by football TV commentator Mustafa Mijajlović during the Belgium vs. Bosnia and Herzegovina (2–4) 2010 WC qualification game on 28 March 2009.

General agreement among Bosnia and Herzegovina sports fans is that this nickname has historical context, as it is considered as an allusion to the famous Bosnian general Husein Gradaščević, who fought for Bosnian autonomy, and who was known as the "Dragon of Bosnia".^[25]

In both local and foreign media, they are sometimes referred to as the *Golden Lilies*, which was the original nickname given to all of the country's national teams by fans after independence, in reference to the official state insignia at the time (the flag and the coat of arms), which itself referred to the golden lily, the historical state insignia that was featured on the coat of arms of the ruling Bosnian medieval Kotromanić dynasty.^[26]

Home stadiums

Currently, the national team uses Grbavica Stadium as its home ground following its renovation in 2018.^{[27][28][29]}

Bosnia and Herzegovina also uses Bilino Polje Stadium, located in the city of Zenica, for many of its home games. The stadium, built and opened in 1972, underwent many reconstruction works since 2012 in order to comply with standards needed to host international games.^{[30][31][32][33][34][35][36]}

Another stadium Bosnia and Herzegovina has used is Koševo City Stadium.^[37]

Its training ground for domestic matches is the Bosnia and Herzegovina FA Training Centre in Zenica, which was opened in 2013 in conjunction with UEFA.^[38]



Grbavica in Sarajevo.

Supporters

A large number of national team's supporters come from Northern and Western Europe, North America, and some from as far away as Australia.^[40] Most of these fans are members of BHFanaticos, Belaj Boys, BHLegion, Armija Zmajeva (Dragons Army) and Ljuti Krajišnici groups.^{[41][42][43]}

In the game against Norway, at the Ullevål Stadium in Oslo on 24 March 2007, Bosnian fans caused an hour-long delay due to an unprecedented amount of flares that had been thrown onto the pitch in protest against corruption in the (now former) Football Federation of Bosnia.^[44] On 1 June 2008, former Bosnia and Herzegovina players Meho Kodro and Elvir Bolić organised a friendly humanitarian game in Sarajevo called "Kodro, Bola and Friends" between

former Bosnian football legends, in order to gain support, to say its time for changes in the Bosnian Football Association.^[45] The game was organised to commence at the same time as Bosnia and Herzegovina national side faced Azerbaijan in a friendly in Zenica. The attendance in Sarajevo was 15,000 while in Zenica only about 50.^[46] The game in Sarajevo was organised by the Federalna TV who broadcast the humanitarian game live. A significant number of Bosnian International players were involved in the game,^[47] which ended 11–9 in favour of Team Kodro.^[48]



Bosnian supporters in Brussels, 2005-03-26.^[39]

Kits

Bosnia and Herzegovina's traditional kit colours are blue and white, taken from the country's flag. While the current home kits are primarily blue, and the away kits are primarily white, this colour scheme was initially used in reverse order. This is due to the fact that the flag of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RBiH), used before the Dayton Agreement, was predominately white.

The team kit is currently produced by Spanish sports company Kelme.^[49] The general sponsor of the team is m:tel.^[50] Also sponsoring the team are Coca-Cola, ASA Osiguranje, and Privredna Banka Sarajevo.

The table below shows the history of kit manufacturers for the national football team of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Period	Kit Provider
1996–1999	Patrick ^[51]
1999–2000	Adidas ^[51]
2000–2005	Reusch ^[51]
2005–2014	Legea ^[51]
2014–2023	Adidas ^[52]
2023–present	Kelme ^[49]

Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 12 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win Draw Loss Fixture

2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	23 March 20:45 UTC+1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3–0	Iceland	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	[show]
		Krunić ⚽ 14', 40' Dedić ⚽ 63'	Report (ht com/euro pean-quali fiers/matc h/203631 2/)		Stadium: Bilino Polje Attendance: 9,234 Referee: Donatas Rumšas (Lithuania)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	26 March 20:45 UTC+1	Slovakia	2–0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bratislava, Slovakia	[show]
		Mak ⚽ 13' Haraslin ⚽ 40'	Report (ht com/euro pean-quali		Stadium: Tehelné pole Attendance: 6,052 Referee: Marco Di Bello (Italy)	

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 June	Portugal  3–0  Bosnia and Herzegovina	Lisbon, Portugal	[show]
	19:45 UTC+1	<u>B. Silva</u>  44' Report (ht) <u>Fernandes</u>  77', https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/58/ Report (ht) https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/58/	Stadium: Estádio da Luz Attendance: 55,058 Referee: Davide Massa (Italy)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	20 June	Bosnia and Herzegovina  0–2  Luxembourg	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	<u>Report</u> (ht) <u>Borges Sanches</u>  4' https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203638/0/ Report (ht) https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203638/0/	Stadium: Bilino Polje Attendance: 8,600 Referee: Gal Leibovitz (Israel)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	8 September	Bosnia and Herzegovina  2–1  Liechtenstein	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	<u>Džeko</u>  3' Report (ht) <u>Wolfinger</u>  21' <u>Lüchinger</u>  19' (o.g.) https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/6403/ Report (ht) https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/6403/	Stadium: Bilino Polje Attendance: 6,189 Referee: Sayat Karabayev (Kazakhstan)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	11 September	Iceland  1–0  Bosnia and Herzegovina	Reykjavík, Iceland	[show]
	18:45 UTC±0	<u>Finnbogason</u>  90+1' Report (h) https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203642/5/ Report (h) https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203642/5/	Stadium: Laugardalsvöllur Attendance: 5,229 Referee: Lawrence Visser (Belgium)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	13 October	Liechtenstein  0–2  Bosnia and Herzegovina	Vaduz, Liechtenstein	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	<u>Report</u> (h) <u>Rahmanović</u>  13' https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203645/0/ Report (h) https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203645/0/	Stadium: Rheinpark Stadion Attendance: 5,874 Referee: Damian Sylwestrzak (Poland)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 October	Bosnia and Herzegovina  0–5  Portugal	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	<u>Report</u> (ht) <u>Ronaldo</u>  5' (pen.), 20' https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203672/6472/ Report (ht) https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203672/6472/	Stadium: Bilino Polje Attendance: 13,047 Referee: Halil Umut Meler (Turkey)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 November	Luxembourg  4–1  Bosnia and Herzegovina	Luxembourg City, Luxembourg	[show]
	20:45 UTC+1	<u>Olesen</u>  6' Report (h) <u>Gojković</u>  90+3' <u>Rodrigues</u>  30' (pen.), 90+5' https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203685/55/ <u>Mujakić</u>  55' (o.g.) https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203685/55/ Report (h) https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203685/55/	Stadium: Stade de Luxembourg Attendance: 8,520 Referee: Andris Treimanis (Latvia)	

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 November 20:45 UTC+1	Bosnia and Herzegovina 	1–2 Report (ht https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036518/)	Slovakia 	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina Stadium: Bilino Polje Attendance: 3,800 Referee: Julian Weinberger (Austria)	[show]
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2024

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	21 March 20:45	Bosnia and Herzegovina 	v	Ukraine 	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina Stadium: Bilino Polje Stadium	[show]
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UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying or Friendly	26 March 20:45	Bosnia and Herzegovina 	v	Israel or Iceland 	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina Stadium: Stadion Grbavica	[show]
Friendly	3 June 19:45 CEST (UTC+01:00)	England 	v	Bosnia and Herzegovina 	Newcastle upon Tyne, England Stadium: St James' Park	[show]
Friendly	9 June 20:45 CEST (UTC+02:00)	Italy 	v	Bosnia and Herzegovina 	Empoli, Italy Stadium: Stadio Carlo Castellani	[show]

2024–25 UEFA Nations League	7 September 20:45 CEST (UTC+02:00)	Netherlands 	v	Bosnia and Herzegovina 	Netherlands	[show]
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2024–25 UEFA Nations League	10 September 20:45 CEST (UTC+02:00)	Hungary 	v	Bosnia and Herzegovina 	Hungary	[show]
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2024–25 UEFA Nations League	11 October 20:45 CEST (UTC+02:00)	Bosnia and Herzegovina 	v	Germany 	Bosnia and Herzegovina	[show]
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2024–25 UEFA Nations League	14 October 20:45 CEST (UTC+02:00)	Bosnia and Herzegovina 	v	Hungary 	Bosnia and Herzegovina	[show]
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2024–25 UEFA Nations League

16 November

Germany 

v

 **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Germany

[show]

20:45 CEST (UTC+01:00)

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Stadium: TBD

2024–25 UEFA Nations League

19 November

Bosnia and Herzegovina 

v

 **Netherlands**

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[show]

20:45 CEST (UTC+01:00)

[Report \(ht
tps://www.
uefa.com/
uefanation
sleague/m
atch/2040
194/\)](https://www.uefa.com/uefanationssleague/match/2040194/)

Stadium: TBD

Coaching staff

Current technical staff

Position	Name
Head coach	 Savo Milošević
Assistant coaches	 Nenad Cvetković
	 Mario Ivanković
	 Nedim Jusufbegović
Goalkeeping coach	 Siniša Mrkobrada
Fitness coach	 Almir Seferović
	 Marko Stojanović
Video analyst	 Đorđe Jorović
Team doctors	 Adnan Hadžimuratović
	 Reuf Karabeg
Technical director	 Zvjezdan Misimović
Team secretary	 Darko Ljubojević

Coaching history

As of 19 November 2023^[53]

Name	From	To	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	Achievements ^[a]
Fuad Muzurović	30 November 1995	7 November 1997	18	7	2	9	21	25	-4	38.89	
Džemaludin Mušović	14 May 1998	27 January 1999	7	1	2	4	7	16	-9	14.29	
Faruk Hadžibegić	10 March 1999	9 October 1999	7	2	2	3	10	10	+0	28.57	
Avdo Kalajdžić (caretaker)	18 August 1999	18 August 1999	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	0.00	
Mišo Smajlović	24 January 2000	1 January 2002	14	5	4	5	20	17	+3	35.71	
Blaž Slišković	27 March 2002	11 October 2006	37	11	11	15	44	56	-12	29.73	
Fuad Muzurović ^[b]	21 December 2006	17 December 2007	9	3	0	6	11	16	-5	33.33	
Meho Kodro	5 January 2008	17 May 2008	2	0	1	1	2	5	-3	0.00	
Denijal Pirić (caretaker)	18 May 2008	30 June 2008	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	
Miroslav Blažević	10 July 2008	12 December 2009	17	8	2	7	34	24	+10	47.06	
Safet Sušić	29 December 2009	17 November 2014	49	23	9	17	83	59	+24	46.94	2014 FIFA World Cup – Group stage
Mehmed Baždarević ^[c]	13 December 2014	10 October 2017	25	14	5	6	53	30	+23	56.00	2016 Kirin Cup – Winners
Robert Prosinečki	4 January 2018	27 November 2019	22	9	6	7	29	21	+8	40.91	2018–19 UEFA Nations League B – Promoted
Dušan Bajević	21 December 2019	18 November 2020	8	0	3	5	4	14	-10	0.00	
Ivaylo Petev ^[d]	21 January 2021	31 December 2022	20	6	7	7	19	24	-5	30.00	2022–23 UEFA Nations League B – Promoted
Faruk Hadžibegić	4 January 2023	23 June 2023	4	1	0	3	3	7	-4	25.00	
Meho Kodro	3 August 2023	21 September 2023	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	50.00	
Savo Milošević	29 September 2023	Present	4	1	0	3	4	11	-7	25.00	
Total			247	93	55	99	347	337	+10	37.65	Four achievements

a. Table does not include results of minor tournaments (reserve players) managed by [Husnija Arapović](#).

b. Due to an illness to [Fuad Muzurović](#), assistant manager [Borče Sredojević](#) took charge of the team on 6 June 2007.^[54]

c. Due to a suspension of [Mehmed Baždarević](#) for unsportsmanlike behaviour, assistant manager [Stéphane Gilli](#) took charge of the team on 25 March 2017.^{[55][56]}

d. Due to Ivaylo Petev testing positive to COVID-19, assistant managers Elvir Rahimić and Slaven Musa took charge of the team on 27 and 31 March 2021, respectively.^[57]

Players

Current squad

The following players were called up for UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying matches against Luxembourg and Slovakia on 16 and 19 November 2023, respectively.^[58]

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Nikola Vasilij	2 December 1995	8	0	FC St. Pauli
22	GK	Kenan Pirić	7 July 1994	7	0	AEK Larnaca
12	GK	Hidajet Hankić	29 June 1994	0	0	Botev Plovdiv
<hr/>						
3	DF	Dennis Hadžikadunić	9 July 1998	25	0	Hamburger SV
16	DF	Jusuf Gazibegović	11 March 2000	14	0	Sturm Graz
	DF	Amar Dedić	18 August 2002	12	1	Red Bull Salzburg
19	DF	Adnan Kovačević	9 September 1993	12	0	Raków Częstochowa
2	DF	Renato Gojković	10 September 1995	4	1	Orenburg
5	DF	Nihad Mujakić	15 April 1998	2	0	Ankaragücü
4	DF	Nermin Zolotić	7 July 1993	1	0	Casa Pia
<hr/>						
13	MF	Gojko Cimirot	19 December 1992	47	0	Al-Fayha
20	MF	Miroslav Stevanović	29 July 1990	33	3	Servette
	MF	Rade Krunic	7 October 1993	32	4	Fenerbahçe
18	MF	Amir Hadžiahmetović	8 March 1997	30	0	Beşiktaş
14	MF	Haris Hajradinović	18 February 1994	7	1	Kasımpaşa
7	MF	Amar Rahmanović	13 May 1994	7	1	Krylia Sovetov
6	MF	Benjamin Tahirović	3 March 2003	6	0	Ajax
17	MF	Almedin Ziljkic	25 February 1996	3	0	Sarajevo
21	MF	Dal Varešanović	23 May 2001	2	0	Çaykur Rizespor
8	MF	Ivan Bašić	30 April 2002	1	0	Orenburg
<hr/>						
9	FW	Smail Prevljak	10 May 1995	27	6	Hertha BSC
23	FW	Ermedin Demirović	25 March 1998	23	1	FC Augsburg
15	FW	Nemanja Bilbija	2 November 1990	6	0	Zrinjski Mostar
10	FW	Said Hamulić	12 November 2000	6	0	Vitesse
11	FW	Haris Tabaković	20 June 1994	1	0	Hertha BSC

Recent call-ups

The following players have been called up to the squad within the last 12 months:

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Ibrahim Šehić	2 September 1988	54	0	 Khaleej	v.  Portugal, 16 October 2023
GK	Goran Karačić	18 August 1996	0	0	 Adana Demirspor	v.  Liechtenstein, 8 September 2023 PRE
GK	Osman Hadžikić	12 March 1996	0	0	 Velež Mostar	v.  Portugal, 17 June 2023 PRE
DF	Sead Kolašinac	20 June 1993	57	0	  Atalanta	v.  Luxembourg, 16 November 2023 INJ
DF	Adrian Leon Barišić	19 July 2001	4	0	 Basel	v.  Luxembourg, 16 November 2023 INJ
DF	Eldar Ćivić	28 May 1996	27	1	 Ferencváros	v.  Portugal, 16 October 2023
DF	Anel Ahmedhodžić	26 March 1999	21	1	 Sheffield United	v.  Liechtenstein, 13 October 2023 PRE
DF	Hrvoje Miličević	20 April 1993	8	0	 AEK Larnaca	v.  Iceland, 11 September 2023
DF	Siniša Saničanin	24 April 1995	23	0	 Partizan	v.  Liechtenstein, 8 September 2023 PRE
DF	Josip Ćorluka	3 March 1995	3	0	 Zrinjski Mostar	v.  Portugal, 17 June 2023 PRE
DF	Hrvoje Barišić	3 February 1991	1	0	 Zrinjski Mostar	v.  Portugal, 17 June 2023 PRE
DF	Elvir Duraković	7 February 2000	0	0	 Sarajevo	v.  Portugal, 17 June 2023 PRE
MF	Miralem Pjanić (vice-captain)	2 April 1990	114	18	 Sharjah	v.  Luxembourg, 16 November 2023 INJ
MF	Sanjin Prcić	20 November 1993	17	0	  Strasbourg	v.  Iceland, 11 September 2023
MF	Adi Nalić	1 December 1997	9	0	 Hammarby	v.  Iceland, 11 September 2023
MF	Amer Gojak	13 February 1997	35	4	 Ferencváros	v.  Liechtenstein, 8 September 2023 PRE
MF	Haris Duljević	16 November 1993	28	1	<u>Unattached</u>	v.  Portugal, 17 June 2023 PRE
MF	Vladan Danilović	27 July 1999	7	0	 Nacional	v.  Portugal, 17 June 2023 PRE
MF	Armin Hodžić	29 February 2000	0	0	 Hatayspor	v.  Portugal, 17 June 2023 PRE
FW	Edin Džeko (captain)	17 March 1986	133	65	 Fenerbahçe	v.  Luxembourg, 16 November 2023 WD
FW	Luka Menalo	22 July 1996	15	3	 Celje	v.  Portugal, 16 October 2023
FW	Kenan Kodro RET	19 August 1993	15	2	 Fehérvár	v.  Iceland, 11 September 2023

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
FW	Jasmin Mešanović	6 January 1992	1	0	Kisvárda	v.  Portugal, 17 June 2023 PRE

Notes

- PRE = Preliminary squad
- INJ = Withdrawn due to injury or illness
- RET = Retired from the national team
- SUS = Suspended
- WD = Withdrawn

Individual records

As of 19 November 2023^[53]

Players in **bold** are still active with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	Edin Džeko	133	65	2007–present
2	Miralem Pjanić	114	18	2008–present
3	Emir Spahić	94	6	2003–2018
4	Zvjezdan Misimović	85	25	2004–2018
5	Vedad Ibišević	83	28	2007–2018
6	Asmir Begović	63	0	2009–2020
7	Haris Medunjanin	60	9	2009–2018
8	Sead Kolašinac	57	0	2013–present
	Senad Lulić	57	4	2008–2017
10	Edin Višća	55	10	2010–2020



Edin Džeko is Bosnia's most capped player and all-time top goal scorer.

Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	Edin Džeko (list)	65	133	0.49	2007–present
2	Vedad Ibišević	28	83	0.34	2007–2018
3	Zvjezdan Misimović	25	85	0.29	2004–2018
4	Elvir Bolić	22	51	0.43	1996–2006
5	Miralem Pjanić	18	114	0.16	2008–present
6	Sergej Barbarez	17	47	0.36	1998–2006
7	Elvir Baljić	14	38	0.37	1996–2005
8	Zlatan Muslimović	12	30	0.4	2006–2011
9	Edin Višća	10	55	0.18	2010–2020
10	Haris Medunjanin	9	60	0.15	2009–2018

Most clean sheets

Rank	Player	Clean Sheets	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	Asmir Begović	27	63	0.43	2009–2020
2	Ibrahim Šehić	19	54	0.35	2010–present
3	Kenan Hasagić	13	44	0.3	2002–2011
4	Mirsad Dedić	8	27	0.3	1996–2000
5	Goran Brašnić	5	8	0.63	2004–2008
	Adnan Gušo	5	23	0.22	1999–2007
7	Tomislav Piplica	4	8	0.5	2001–2002
	Almir Tolja	4	15	0.27	2000–2006
9	Jasmin Burić	3	3	1	2008–2020
	Kenan Pirić	3	7	0.43	2018–present
	Nikola Vasilj	3	8	0.38	2021–present



Asmir Begović is Bosnia's record holder in clean sheets.

Captains

Emir Spahić captained Bosnia at their first ever FIFA World Cup tournament. This is a list of Bosnia and Herzegovina captains for ten or more matches.

Note: Some of the other players to have captained the team include: Mehmed Baždarević (2 caps) 1996, Meho Kodro (5) 1997 to 1998, Vlatko Glavaš (1) 1997, Suvad Katana (2) 1998, Elvir Bolić (6) 1999 to 2000, Bruno Akrapović (4) 1999 to 2003, Hasan Salihamidžić (1) 2004, Zlatan Bajramović (1) 2006, Džemal Berberović (1) 2007, Asmir Begović (6) 2011 to 2020, Haris Medunjanin (4) 2016 to 2018, Vedad Ibišević (1) 2017, Miralem Pjanić (6) 2019 to 2021, Ermin Bičakčić (1) 2019, Sead Kolašinac (2) 2021 to 2022, Ibrahim Šehić (3) 2021 to 2023, Siniša Saničanin (1) 2021, Eldar Čivić (1) 2021, Adnan Kovačević (1) 2021, Ajdin Nukić (1) 2021, Smail Prevljak (1) 2022, Rade Krunić (1) 2023, Gojko Cimirot (1) 2023.

Player	Period	Games as captain	Notes
Muhamed Konjić	1995–2002	20	First official captain of the Bosnia and Herzegovina national football team
Mirsad Hibić	2000–2003	14	
Sergej Barbarez	2004–2006	20	
Zvjezdan Misimović	2007–2012	16	
Emir Spahić	2006–2014	55	First official captain of the team in a major tournament (2014 FIFA World Cup)
Edin Džeko	2014–	62	

Table correct as of match played on 19 November 2023.

Centuriate goals

As of 19 November 2023, Bosnia and Herzegovina have scored 365 goals.

Rank	Date	Scorer	Opponent	Score
1st	8 October 1996	<u>Hasan Salihamidžić</u>	 Croatia	1–4
100th	4 June 2005		 San Marino	3–1
200th	29 February 2012	<u>Vedad Ibišević</u>	 Brazil	1–2
300th	3 September 2017	<u>Edin Džeko</u>	 Gibraltar	4–0



Hasan
Salih amidžić
scored Bosnia's
first ever goal in
October 1996

Competitive record

FIFA World Cup

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record								UEFA European Championship qualifying record								
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Position	
1960 to 1992	Part of  Yugoslavia															
	as  Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina															
 1996	Could not enter															
	as  Bosnia and Herzegovina															
 2000	Did not qualify								10	3	2	5	14	17	3/6	

	2004				8	4	1	3	7	8		4/5					
	2008				12	4	1	7	16	22		4/7					
	2012				12	6	3	3	19	14		2/6 Lost play-offs					
	2016				12	5	3	4	18	15		3/6 Lost play-offs					
	2020				11	4	2	5	21	18		4/6 Lost play-offs					
	2024				10	3	0	7	9	20							
		2028			<i>To be determined</i>												
		2032			<i>To be determined</i>												
Total			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	75	29	12	34	104	114	—

UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record										
Year	Division	Group	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	Rank
2018–19	B	3	4	3	1	0	5	1	▲	13th
2020–21	A	1	6	0	2	4	3	11	▼	15th
2022–23	B	3	6	3	2	1	8	8	▲	18th
2024–25	A	<i>To be determined</i>								
Total			16	6	5	5	16	20		13th

Minor tournaments

Minor tournaments record											
Tournament		Round		Position		Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
	1997 Dunhill Cup Malaysia	Runners-up		2		5	3	1	1	9	5
	2001 Millennium Soccer Cup	Runners-up		2		5	3	1	1	7	5
	2001 Merdeka Tournament	Runners-up		2		5	3	1	1	7	4
	2001 LG Cup	Runners-up		2		2	1	0	1	4	6
●	2016 Kirin Cup	Winners		1		2	1	1	0	4	3
Total		1 Title		—		19	11	4	4	31	23

FIFA ranking history

FIFA-ranking yearly averages for Bosnia and Herzegovina.^[60] Their average position since [FIFA World Ranking](#) creation is 58.^[60]

[show] Year	Position	Highest	Lowest
1996	152	152	173
1997	99	99	139
1998	96	91	102
1999	75	74	78
2000	78	74	83
2001	69	69	79
2002	87	71	87
2003	59	53	88
2004	79	58	81
2005	65	65	81
2006	59	42	65
2007	51	25	58
2008	61	51	75
2009	51	33	61
2010	44	44	59
2011	20	20	56
2012	27	19	31
2013	19	13	26
2014	29	17	29
2015	22	20	32
2016	27	20	29
2017	37	27	40
2018	34	32	41
2019	49	35	49
2020	55	49	55
2021	61	55	61
2022	57	57	59

Head-to-head record

Key

- More wins than losses
- As many wins as losses
- Fewer wins than losses

Bosnia and Herzegovina's all-time international record, 1995–present

Opponent	[hide]	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	First game	Last game	Biggest win	Biggest loss
Albania		5	2	2	1	5	4	+1	30.11.1995	28.03.2017	2:0	0:2
Algeria		1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	14.11.2012	—	1:0	—
Andorra		2	2	0	0	6	0	+6	28.03.2015	06.09.2015	3:0	—
Argentina		3	0	0	3	1	9	-8	14.05.1998	15.06.2014	—	0:5
Armenia		4	3	0	1	10	6	+4	15.10.2008	08.09.2019	4:1	2:4
Austria		5	1	3	1	3	4	-1	24.03.2001	15.11.2018	1:0	0:2
Azerbaijan		1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	01.06.2008	—	1:0	—
Bahrain		1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	23.06.2001	—	1:0	—
Bangladesh		1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	12.01.2001	—	2:0	—
Belarus		2	2	0	0	3	0	+3	02.09.2011	06.09.2011	2:0	—
Belgium		8	3	1	4	13	19	-6	26.03.2005	07.10.2017	4:2	0:4
Brazil		2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	18.12.1996	28.02.2012	—	1:2
Bulgaria		2	1	0	1	2	2	0	20.08.2008	23.03.2018	1:0	1:2
Chile		1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	22.01.2001	—	1:0	—
China		1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	02.03.1997	—	—	0:3
Costa Rica		1	0	1	0	0	0	0	27.03.2021	—	—	—
Croatia		4	0	0	4	6	14	-8	08.10.1996	22.08.2007	—	1:4
Czech Republic		2	0	0	2	1	6	-5	10.10.1998	08.09.1999	—	0:3
Cyprus		4	2	0	2	8	7	+1	09.09.2014	31.08.2017	2:0	2:3
Denmark		6	2	2	2	8	7	+1	08.06.1997	06.06.2021	3:0	0:2
Egypt		1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	05.03.2014	—	—	0:2
Estonia		7	5	1	1	21	4	+17	05.09.1998	10.10.2017	7:0	0:1
Faroe Islands		2	1	1	0	3	2	+1	19.08.1998	09.06.1999	1:0	—
Finland		7	3	2	2	12	11	+1	28.04.2004	14.06.2022	4:1	1:3
France		6	0	3	3	4	8	-4	18.08.2004	01.09.2021	—	0:2
Georgia		1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	25.03.2022	25.03.2022	—	0:1
Germany		2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	11.10.2002	03.06.2010	—	1:3
Ghana		1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	03.03.2010	—	2:1	—
Gibraltar		2	2	0	0	9	0	+9	25.03.2017	03.09.2017	5:0	—
Greece		11	1	5	5	9	17	-8	01.09.1996	15.10.2019	3:1	0:4
Hungary		4	0	2	2	3	6	-3	10.03.1999	08.09.2007	—	1:3
Iceland		2	1	0	1	3	1	+2	23.03.2023	11.09.2023	3:0	0:1
Indonesia		1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	26.02.1997	—	2:0	—
Iran		7	1	1	5	10	19	-9	22.07.2001	12.11.2020	3:1	0:4
Israel		4	1	1	2	4	7	-3	11.10.2000	12.06.2015	3:1	0:3
Italy		5	1	1	3	4	9	-5	06.11.1996	18.11.2020	2:1	0:3
Ivory Coast		1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	30.05.2014	—	2:1	—
82 countries		262	100	59	103	365	354	+11	30.11.1995	19.11.2023	8:1	0:5

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	First game	Last game	Biggest win	Biggest loss	
Japan	3	1	1	1	4	6	-2	28.02.2006	07.06.2016	2:1	0:3	
Jordan	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	11.03.2000	15.03.2000	2:1	—	
Kazakhstan	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	07.09.2021	09.10.2021	2:0		
Kuwait	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	04.09.2021		1:0		
Latvia	2	2	0	0	9	1	+8	11.09.2012	07.06.2013	5:0		
Liechtenstein	10	9	1	0	35	3	+32	18.08.1999	13.10.2023	8:1		
Lithuania	6	4	1	1	10	5	+5	14.10.1998.	16.10.2013.	3:0	2:4	
Luxembourg	9	7	0	2	18	7	+11	29.03.2003	16.11.2023	5:0	1:4	
Malaysia	3	2	1	0	5	2	+3	28.02.1997	27.06.2001	2:0		
Malta	4	3	0	1	9	4	+5	27.01.1999	06.06.2007	5:2	1:2	
Mexico	4	1	0	3	2	5	-3	09.02.2011	01.02.2018	1:0	0:2	
Moldova	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	07.10.2006	12.09.2007	—	0:1	
Montenegro	4	1	3	0	2	1	+1	28.05.2018	23.09.2022	1:0	—	
Netherlands	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	11.10.2020	15.11.2020	—	1:3	
Nigeria	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	21.06.2014			0:1	
North Macedonia	5	1	3	1	8	8	0	03.06.1998	26.03.2008	1:0	0:1	
Northern Ireland	3	2	1	0	5	2	+3	08.09.2018	08.10.2020	2:0	—	
Norway	4	2	0	2	3	5	-2	16.10.2002	17.10.2007	2:1	0:2	
Oman	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	09.06.2009		2:1	—	
Paraguay	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	21.04.1996		—	0:3	
Poland	5	0	1	4	3	9	-6	15.12.2007	14.10.2020		0:3	
Portugal	6	0	1	5	2	16	-14	14.11.2009	16.10.2023		0:5	
Qatar	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	24.01.2000	10.08.2010		0:2	
Republic of Ireland	3	0	1	2	1	4	-3	26.05.2012	16.11.2015	—		0:2
Romania	6	2	0	4	4	13	-9	07.09.2002	26.09.2022	2:1	1:4	
San Marino	2	2	0	0	6	1	+5	04.06.2005	09.10.2005	3:0	—	
Scotland	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	04.09.1999	05.10.1999	—	1:2	
Senegal	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	27.03.2018			—	
Serbia and Montenegro	5	0	2	3	1	6	-5	14.01.2001	12.10.2005		0:2	
Slovakia	6	3	0	3	7	8	-1	20.06.2001	26.03.2023	3:2	0:2	
Slovenia	4	4	0	0	10	4	+6	10.11.1996	06.02.2013	3:0	—	
South Africa	1	1	0	0	4	2	+2	08.08.2001		4:2		
South Korea	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	26.05.2006	01.06.2018	3:1		
Spain	8	0	2	6	7	18	-11	02.09.2000	18.11.2018	2:5		
Sweden	1	0	0	1	2	4	-2	29.05.2010		2:4		
Switzerland	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	29.03.2016		2:0	—	
Tunisia	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	05.11.1997		—	1:2	
82 countries	262	100	59	103	365	354	+11	30.11.1995	19.11.2023	8:1	0:5	

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	First game	Last game	Biggest win	Biggest loss
Turkey	6	2	2	2	7	6	+1	16.08.2000	11.10.2018	2:0	0:1
Ukraine	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	12.10.2021	16.11.2021	—	0:2
United States	3	0	1	2	3	5	-2	14.08.2013	18.12.2021	—	3:4
Uruguay	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	18.01.2001		3:2	—
Uzbekistan	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	30.06.2001	01.06.2009	—	1:2
Vietnam	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	22.02.1997		4:0	—
Wales	4	2	2	0	6	2	+4	12.02.2003	10.10.2015	2:0	
Zimbabwe	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	24.02.1997		—	
82 countries	262	100	59	103	365	354	+11	30.11.1995	19.11.2023	8:1	0:5

Notable victories

Source: Results (http://www.eloratings.net/Bosnia_Herz.htm)

- Unofficial games not included.

Date [hide]	Tournament	Place	Opponents	Score	Additional Notes
6 November 1996	Friendly	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Italy	2–1	Victory over top 5 ranked team at the time (5th) ^[61]
10 November 1996	1998 FIFA World Cup qualification	Ljubljana, Slovenia	Slovenia	2–1	Historic first ever victory in World Cup qualifiers
22 February 1997	1997 Dunhill Cup Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Vietnam	4–0	Largest ever victory against a non-UEFA opponent
20 August 1997	1998 FIFA World Cup qualification	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Denmark	3–0	Victory over top 5 ranked team at the time (3rd) ^[62]
19 August 1998	UEFA Euro 2000 qualifying	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Faroe Islands	1–0	Historic first ever victory in European Championship qualifiers
2 April 2003	UEFA Euro 2004 qualifying	Copenhagen, Denmark	Denmark	2–0	Victory over top 15 ranked team at the time (11th) ^[63]
6 September 2003	UEFA Euro 2004 qualifying	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Norway	1–0	
3 September 2005	2006 FIFA World Cup qualification	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Belgium	1–0	
24 March 2007	UEFA Euro 2008 qualifying	Oslo, Norway	Norway	2–1	
2 June 2007	UEFA Euro 2008 qualifying	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Turkey	3–2	Edin Džeko's debut senior cap and first international goal.
10 September 2008	2010 FIFA World Cup qualification	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Estonia	7–0	Largest ever victory (without conceding)
28 March 2009	2010 FIFA World Cup qualification	Genk, Belgium	Belgium	4–2	
1 April 2009	2010 FIFA World Cup qualification	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Belgium	2–1	
10 October 2009	2010 FIFA World Cup qualification	Tallinn, Estonia	Estonia	2–0	Qualified to first ever play-offs (2010 FIFA World Cup)

7 September 2012	2014 FIFA World Cup qualification	Vaduz, Lichtenstein	Liechtenstein	8–1	Largest ever victory
22 March 2013	2014 FIFA World Cup qualification	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	3–1	Victory over top 15 ranked team at the time (12th) ^[64]
10 September 2013	2014 FIFA World Cup qualification	Žilina, Slovakia	Slovakia	2–1	
15 October 2013	2014 FIFA World Cup qualification	Kaunas, Lithuania	Lithuania	1–0	Qualified to 2014 FIFA World Cup
25 June 2014	2014 FIFA World Cup Group Stage	Salvador, Brazil	Iran	3–1	Historic first victory in FIFA World Cup
10 October 2015	UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Wales	2–0	Victory over top 10 ranked team at the time (8th) ^[65]
29 March 2016	Friendly	Zürich, Switzerland	Switzerland	2–0	Victory over top 15 ranked team at the time (12th) ^[66]
7 June 2016	2016 Kirin Cup	Osaka, Japan	Japan	2–1	Victory in the Final of 2016 Kirin Cup

Honours

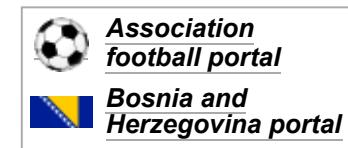
- [UEFA Nations League B](#)
 - [Winners \(2\): 2018–19, 2022–23](#)

Minor tournaments

- [Kirin Cup](#)
 - [Winners \(1\): 2016](#)
- [Millennium Super Cup](#)
 - [Runners-up \(1\): 2001^{\[67\]}](#)

See also

- [Bosnia and Herzegovina national under-21 football team](#)
- [Bosnia and Herzegovina national under-19 football team](#)
- [Bosnia and Herzegovina national under-17 football team](#)
- [Bosnia and Herzegovina national under-15 football team](#)
- [Bosnia and Herzegovina women's national football team](#)
- [Bosnia and Herzegovina women's national under-19 football team](#)
- [Bosnia and Herzegovina women's national under-17 football team](#)
- [Bosnian footballer of the year award – Idol of the nation](#)



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External links

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Bulgaria national football team

The **Bulgaria national football team** (Bulgarian: Български национален отбор по футбол, romanized: *Balgarski natsionalen otbor po futbol*) represents Bulgaria in men's international football, and is administered by the Bulgarian Football Union, a member association of UEFA.

Bulgaria's best achievements are reaching the final at the 1968 Summer Olympics and the fourth-place finish at the FIFA World Cup in 1994. Bulgaria have competed at a total of seven World Cups, debuting in 1962 and last appearing in 1998. In addition, they have participated in two European Championships, in 1996 and 2004. The team has also competed at the Balkan Cup, winning three titles. However, Bulgaria have failed to qualify for any major tournament since UEFA Euro 2004.

History

1922–1945: early history

The Bulgaria national football team was formed in 1922. In 1923, the Bulgarian Football Union was formed and the team's first match was held in Vienna on 21 May 1924, which resulted in a 6–0 defeat against Austria.^[5] Bulgaria also participated in the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris a few days later.

After being unable to compete in the 1930 World Cup, the Bulgarian side did not qualify for any major tournament for nearly 30 years, narrowly falling short of qualification on numerous occasions. The national team had gone on a streak of finishing 2nd or 3rd in their qualifying groups along with proceeding to the play-offs, but in the end, failing to qualify. Despite their qualifying problems, the national team did manage to defeat many elite teams during memorable international friendlies during those years. It also seemed as if the only tournaments they managed to qualify for were smaller tournaments, such as the Balkan Cup, which they won three times (1931, 1932 and 1973–76), thus being the competition's second most successful team only behind Romania with four titles.

1960s and 1970s

Bulgaria qualified for the World Cup for the first time in its history in 1962 and followed that up with consecutive appearances in 1966, 1970 and 1974. The team, however, did not have much

Bulgaria



<u>Nickname(s)</u>	Лъвовете / <i>Lavovete</i> (The Lions) Трикольорите / <i>Trikolyorite</i> (The Tricolours)
<u>Association</u>	<u>Bulgarian Football Union</u> (BFU)
<u>Confederation</u>	<u>UEFA</u> (Europe)
<u>Head coach</u>	<u>Ilian Iliev</u>
<u>Captain</u>	<u>Kiril Despodov</u>
<u>Most caps</u>	<u>Stiliyan Petrov</u> (105)
<u>Top scorer</u>	<u>Dimitar Berbatov</u> <u>Hristo Bonev</u> (48)
<u>Home stadium</u>	<u>Various</u>
<u>FIFA code</u>	<u>BUL</u>
<u>First colours</u>	
<u>Second colours</u>	
<u>FIFA ranking</u>	
<u>Current</u>	<u>83</u>  <u>2</u> (15 February 2024) ^[1]
<u>Highest</u>	<u>8</u> (June 1995)
<u>Lowest</u>	<u>96</u> (May 2012)
<u>First international</u>	

Austria 6–0 Bulgaria (Vienna, Austria; 21 May 1924)

Biggest win

Singapore 2–10 Bulgaria (Singapore; 13 December 1956)

Biggest defeat

Spain 13–0 Bulgaria (Madrid, Spain; 21 May 1933)

World Cup

Appearances 7 (first in 1962)

Best result Fourth place (1994)

European Championship

Appearances 2 (first in 1996)

Best result Group stage (1996, 2004)

Medal record

[show]

World Cup

B 1994 United States^{*[3]}

Team

Olympic Games

S 1968 Mexico City

Team

B 1956 Melbourne

Team

Balkan Cup

G 1931 Bulgaria

Team

G 1932 Yugoslavia

Team

G 1973–76 Europe

Team

S 1935 Bulgaria

Team

S 1936 Romania

Team

B 1933 Romania

Team



Bulgaria vs. Sweden 0–0, 1974 FIFA World Cup

success and finished in third place in their group two out of the four times.

Bulgaria took part in qualifiers for the European Championship in 1968 and went on to win their group with impressive wins over Norway, Sweden, and Portugal. Although they would go on to lose to the eventual champions and hosts Italy in a two-legged qualifying play-off.

At the 1968 Summer Olympics, the team won the silver medal. They finished first in Group D by defeating Thailand 7–0, Guatemala 2–1, and drawing 2–2 against Czechoslovakia. They advanced to the quarter-finals by defeating Israel and then the semi-finals by defeating favored hosts Mexico. In the Olympic Final, the team was defeated by Hungary, in what many would say was a hard-fought match for both sides.

Despite winning the Balkan Cup twice in 1931 and 1932, the Bulgaria national team added two more trophies to their case as they went on to win the tournament in 1973 and 1976. In both 1973 and 1976, Bulgaria had used their previous World Cup experience to create a very tactical team. This paid off quite well, as they had many decisive victories over Hungary, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Poland, Albania and Romania. In fact, the team won the 1976 Balkan Cup by beating Romania in the two-legged final 1–0 and 3–2.

Bulgaria finally qualified for their first World Cup in 1962. Bulgaria was drawn in a tough group with elite opponents in England, powerhouse Argentina and Hungary. Bulgaria opened up their campaign with a narrow 0–1 loss to Argentina. Later on, Bulgaria would lose their second group match by a 6–1 score to Hungary. Bulgaria's hopes of qualifying were over, but the national team impressively drew with future 1966 World Cup champions England 0–0 and finished fourth in the group with only one point.

Bulgaria qualified for their second straight World Cup, drawn into an even tougher group compared to the previous World Cup. They were placed in the group of death with superpowers Hungary, Portugal and Brazil, with Pelé at the helm. Bulgaria opened their campaign match with a 0–2 loss to Brazil thanks to two free kick goals by Pelé and Garrincha. In their second match Bulgaria loss 0–3 to Eusebio's Portugal. Finally, Bulgaria with no chance of advancing to the next round, finished their last match with a 1–3 loss to Hungary. Bulgaria once again finished fourth with zero points in the group.

After their poor World Cup performance, Bulgaria was determined to redeem themselves. Bulgaria was drawn in a very tough group for qualifying, with Norway and Sweden, along with Eusebio's Portugal. Bulgaria started off with a 4–2 win over Norway. They would add to their winning streak with a 2–0 victory against Sweden. In their next two matches Bulgaria would draw 0–0 against Norway, and dominate Sweden 3–0. In their final two group fixtures Bulgaria played Portugal to a 1–0 victory at home and an 0–0 draw on the road, but it was enough to advance to the two-legged

qualifying play-off. There Bulgaria were drawn against eventual Euro 1968 host Italy. Italy were defeated in the first leg 3–2, but won the second by a 0–2 score to advance 4–3 on aggregate. Italy would win the playoff and go on to win the tournament, while Bulgaria was eliminated from reaching the finals.

A month and a half after the European Championship qualifying came the Olympics, which Bulgaria had qualified for the fifth time in their history. They were drawn in a simple group with Thailand, Guatemala and Czechoslovakia. Bulgaria started off with a 7–0 thrashing of Thailand. They later went on and drew with Czechoslovakia 2–2 to increase their point standards. Their final match once again determined if they would carry on to the quarter-finals. Needing a decisive win, Bulgaria went on to defeat Guatemala 2–1 and win their Olympic group. They qualified directly to the quarter-finals facing underdogs, Israel. The game remained 1–1 for most of the match until a drawing of lots determined who would go on to the semi-finals of the tournament. Winning the draw Bulgaria advanced to the semi-finals against Mexico. After a very hard-fought match, Bulgaria proved stronger as they came out on top with a 3–2 victory. Bulgaria advanced to the finals for the first time in their Olympic history. They were determined to win the gold medal, but fell short with a 1–4 loss to Hungary. Although battling hard, Bulgaria came out with the silver medal.

Bulgaria qualified for their third straight World Cup, held in Mexico, just like the 1968 Olympics. They were drawn in a very tricky group with Germany, Peru and Morocco. Bulgaria played their first match against Peru, losing 3–2. Germany won Bulgaria's second match, 5–2. The last group stage match ended 1–1; Bulgaria ended up in 3rd place.

The 1974 World Cup was held in West Germany. They were drawn in a decently tough group, with the Netherlands, Sweden and Uruguay. Bulgaria started off with a goalless draw with Sweden. They drew again, this time 1–1 with Uruguay. As the final match came, Bulgaria fell by a 4–1 score. Bulgaria remained in third place in the group stages.

1986–2000

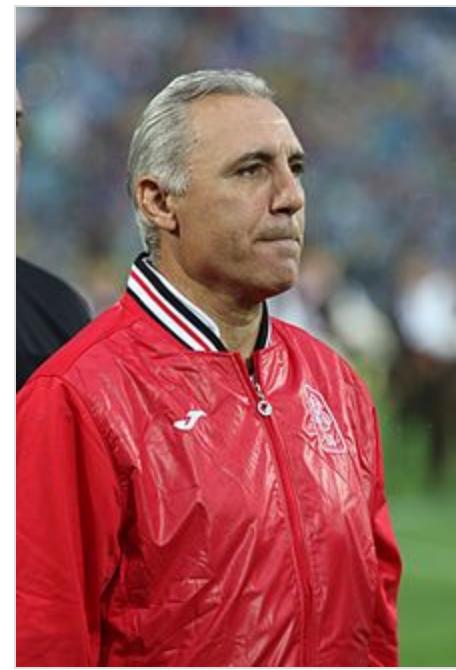
Bulgaria qualified for the 1986 World Cup in Mexico by finishing second in Group Four, behind France with 11 points, but ahead of powerful rivals Yugoslavia and East Germany. This was their fifth World Cup appearance. They were drawn in Group A with Italy, Argentina, and South Korea. In the opening match of the World Cup, the Bulgarians held the defending champions Italy to an impressive 1–1 draw. Alessandro Altobelli gave the Italians the lead, but an 85th-minute equalizer by Nasko Sirakov gave the Bulgarians the point they needed. The next match was another 1–1 draw against South Korea with the goal for Bulgaria coming from Plamen Getov in the 11th minute. They lost the final match of the group 2–0 against Argentina, who eventually won the tournament. Despite not recording a win, the Bulgarians advanced to the knockout stage by being the third-best third-placed team. By doing so, Bulgaria along with Uruguay became the first nations to qualify for the knockout stage without winning a game in the first round. In the Round of 16, they faced World Cup hosts Mexico, who were looking for revenge due to their previous home Olympic semi-final loss to Bulgaria in Mexico City in 1968. The match was hard-fought from both sides of the scale but ultimately, Mexico came away with the 2–0 win.

Certainly one of the most important dates in Bulgarian football history is 17 November 1993, a date on which Emil Kostadinov scored a deciding goal in the 90th minute to beat France in Paris, allowing Bulgaria to qualify for the World Cup in the United States in 1994. Under the management of Dimitar Penev, the Bulgarians, led by players such as Hristo Stoichkov, Yordan Lechkov, and Krasimir Balakov, along with a multitude of other talented players remembered in Bulgaria as the "Golden Generation", made a strong impression by surprisingly reaching the semi-finals. They entered a very tough Group D with 1990 World Cup runners-up Argentina with Diego Maradona at the helm, African Nations Cup champions Nigeria, and Balkan rivals Greece. The first match ended with a 3–0 defeat to Nigeria. Despite the bad start, the team made quite a huge statement by winning 4–0 against their Greece and increasing their goal difference. Their third and final match came against Argentina. The powerful Bulgarian side came away with a shocking 2–0 victory. Going into injury-time, Argentina was leading the group. A 91st-minute strike from Nasko Sirakov, however, meant that they'd drop two places and finish third.

Bulgaria continued to the round of 16, where they faced Mexico. Stoichkov opened the scoring in the sixth minute with an incredible strike off a break away from outside the box, tallying his fourth goal. The match ended 1–1 and after no goals were scored in extra time, penalties decided which team would go through. Team captain Borislav Mihaylov saved the first three penalty kicks in a row, breaking the World Cup record. Bulgaria won 3–1 on penalties. In the quarter-finals, Bulgaria faced the defending world champions Germany. At the start of the match held in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, the Bulgarians dominated impressively, hitting the post twice in the process, but eventually found themselves behind after Lothar Matthäus scored the opening goal for the Germans. The Bulgarians, however, managed to turn the game over with a swerving free kick by Hristo Stoichkov and a flying header by Yordan Lechkov, giving them a 2–1 win. In the semi-finals, they controversially lost 2–1 to Italy. Stoichkov scored Bulgaria's only goal in the first half to tally his seventh goal, which led the tournament. In the second half, Bulgaria were waved off on a non-penalty call in which an Italian defender had clearly committed a handball in the box, off a Kostadinov cross. Instead of playing in the final, it became a third place play-off. Bulgaria lost against Sweden 4–0, but the fourth-place finish was Bulgaria's best performance in history to that point.



Bulgarian players celebrate victory over world champions Germany in the quarter-finals of the 1994 World Cup at Giants Stadium



Hristo Stoichkov won the Ballon D'Or, World and European Golden Boots in 1994. He led Bulgaria to the semi-finals of the 1994 World Cup, along with leading Barcelona to their first ever UEFA Champions League title in 1992.

Hristo Stoichkov was awarded the Golden Boot shared with Oleg Salenko as the top scorer in the tournament with his six goals. Krasimir Balakov was named in the 1994 World Cup Dream Team along with Stoichkov. Later on in December, Stoichkov was awarded the FIFA Ballon D'Or trophy for his great skill and leadership, becoming the first Bulgarian and third Barcelona player to win it in history.

In 1996, the team qualified for the European Football Championship for the first time. They were drawn in Group B with France, Spain, and Romania. Bulgaria started with a 1–1 draw against the Spain. Stoichkov scored his second goal with a wonderful volley, ruled offside. Bulgaria defeated Romania 1–0 in the next group stage match. Stoichkov scored in the third minute. In the final group match, the Bulgarian side lost 3–1 against France; Stoichkov scored a free kick to give Bulgaria their only goal of the game, along with their only loss. At the same time, Spain defeated Romania 2–1, and Bulgaria were eliminated.

Bulgaria qualified for the 1998 World Cup in France by finishing first in Group 5, with decisive wins over Russia. They entered the competition with new manager Hristo Bonev. Bulgaria drew Spain, Nigeria, and Paraguay in Group D. The first match ended decently, in a goalless draw against eventual group runners up Paraguay. In the second match, the Bulgarians lost 1–0 for a second-straight World Cup to Nigeria. The final match ended with a 6–1 defeat to Spain. Following the bad results, Bulgaria finished fourth in the group, with only one point. This was the last World Cup appearance for Bulgaria.

Bulgaria was drawn in a tough qualifying group with teams England, Sweden, and Poland. The campaign started slow with a draw and a defeat by Poland and Sweden. The most memorable match for Bulgaria in the group was the 1–1 draw against England, which was also the last match for Stoichkov before his international retirement. Bulgaria finished fourth with eight points and failed to make the final stages of Euro 2000.

Early 21st century

Bulgaria was once again drawn into a tough group with Denmark and Czech Republic. The group was also the debut of Bulgaria's top scoring legend Dimitar Berbatov. Bulgaria won the matches against the weaker teams, but lost once and drew once with both Denmark and the Czech Republic. Bulgaria finished third with 17 points, three points behind second-placed Czech Republic, thus failing to make the World Cup in South Korea and Japan.

Bulgaria managed to qualify for the Euro 2004 in Portugal by finishing first with wins over Croatia and Belgium. They drew Sweden, Italy, and Denmark in Group C. All three group stage matches ended up in losses for Bulgaria, with Martin Petrov being the team's lone scorer in the country's 1–2 loss to Italy.

Bulgaria failed to qualify for the World Cup in Germany after a run of poor results. They tied with Sweden and Croatia the first run but lost the other meetings to the two sides. Although Berbatov scored many goals in the qualifiers including a last-minute equalizer against Croatia, Bulgaria still finished third in qualifying with 15 points.

Bulgaria found themselves in a minor tournament in Japan known as the Kirin Cup. They started off well with a 2–1 victory over the hosts Japan. However, Bulgaria lost 5–1 to Scotland, the eventual cup champions. Bulgaria finished as the runners-up and received the silver medal.

Group G of Euro 2008 qualification had Netherlands, Romania, and Bulgaria attempting to qualify for Euro 2008, hosted by Switzerland and Austria. Bulgaria performed well after a run of good results against Romania which gave them the first place. Bulgaria finished third in the group falling short on one point behind the Netherlands.

Bulgaria were drawn against Italy and Ireland in qualifying in Group 8. Bulgaria started the campaign with a series of draws. Manager Plamen Markov was replaced by Stanimir Stoilov in January 2009. The Bulgarians then recorded their first wins of the group over Cyprus, Montenegro and Georgia. They finished in third place with 14 points, therefore failing to qualify to a play-off spot.



The national team in 2012

Bulgaria were drawn in Group G along with England, Switzerland, Wales, and Montenegro. Bulgaria finished in last place in the group.



Bulgaria in 2010

In the qualification phase for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, Bulgaria were placed in Group B together with the teams of Italy, Denmark, Czech Republic, Armenia and Malta. Under the guidance of former player Lyuboslav Penev as head coach, Bulgaria enjoyed a revival and some noteworthy performances in friendly matches before the start of the qualifying, including a 2–1 victory over 2010 World Cup runners-up Netherlands in Amsterdam. The qualifying began with a 2–2 draw against Euro 2012 runners-up Italy. Bulgaria then edged a tight match against Armenia, which ended 1–0. Next, Bulgaria drew 1–1 against Denmark. Four days later, Bulgaria earned a hard-fought 0–0 draw away to the Czech Republic. As a result, the team climbed from 96th in the FIFA World Rankings, their lowest position in history, to 40th in November 2012.

Penev's players hosted and defeated Malta 6–0 under heavy snowfall. Four days later, Bulgaria drew Denmark 1–1 in Copenhagen. This result left Bulgaria second in the group with 10 points, still undefeated. Bulgaria traveled to Italy, losing 1–0. After a series of poor results, Bulgaria ended up failing to qualify for Brazil 2014.

Bulgaria were placed in a group with Italy, Croatia, Norway, Azerbaijan, and Malta. Bulgaria opened up their first match with a 2–1 victory over Azerbaijan. They were defeated 1–0 by Croatia, following another 2–1 defeat to Norway. To make it worse, Bulgaria drew with Malta 1–1 at home, which would cost manager Lyuboslav

Penev his position. He was replaced by Ludogorets Razgrad manager Ivaylo Petev.

On his debut match, Petev's squad drew Romania 0–0; this later led to a 2–2 draw with Italy, which Bulgaria led until a last-minute Italian equalizer. Bulgaria defeated Malta 1–0 to edge two points ever closer to the third place playoff position. After a series of losses, Bulgaria failed to qualify for Euro 2016 in France despite a 2–0 defeat of Azerbaijan.

Bulgaria were drawn in a strong World Cup qualification group with the Netherlands, France, Sweden, Belarus and Luxembourg. They began with a 4–3 win against Luxembourg at home.^[6] This was followed by heavy losses to France (4–1) and Sweden (3–0).^{[7][8]} In November 2016, the Lions beat Belarus in Sofia 1–0,^[9] and then put up one of their best performances in recent years, beating the Netherlands 2–0 to move into third place in the group.^[10] Bulgaria then beat the group leaders Sweden 3–2 in Sofia to move one point behind their opponents in the table.^[11] However, they lost the match against the Netherlands at the Amsterdam Arena 3–1. A 1–0 defeat at home to France and a 1–1 draw in Luxembourg ended their chances of qualifying.^[12]

2018–present

Bulgaria were drawn in UEFA Nations League C with Norway, Slovenia and Cyprus. Bulgaria opened up the campaign with a 2–1 win over Slovenia and a clean sheet against Norway. The Norwegians eventually avenged their loss to Bulgaria, resulting in a tie for first place. Bulgaria eventually closed out the second round of games with two 1–1 draws against Slovenia and Cyprus, resulting in a second-place finish.

Bulgaria was drawn in Group A with England, Czech Republic, Montenegro and Kosovo. The team began the qualifying campaign with a 1–1 home draw against Montenegro and a 1–1 away draw to Kosovo while losing three major players due to injuries.^[13] They later carried on with two more losses which sparked the end of their group campaign. Despite finishing in fourth place, the national side had one more opportunity to qualify for the Euros thanks to the good performance in the Nations League. It sent Bulgaria to the Path A qualifying play-offs, which also included Hungary, Iceland and Romania.

The draw put Bulgaria against Hungary in their first play-off match on their quest to qualify for a major competition since 2004. However, in front of limited number of home fans, Bulgaria fell 1–3 to Hungary, and was eliminated from the tournament.^{[14][15]}

After appointing Georgi Dermendzhiev as their new head coach, Bulgaria began their brief promotion in League B. Being drawn into Group 4 with Wales, Finland and Republic of Ireland, Bulgaria played its first match against Ireland. A near victory for the Bulgarians until a 90th minute injury time equalizer sealed the draw for the Irish.^[16] Bulgaria would then play away to Wales, where they held the hosts leveled 0–0 until another 90th minute injury time goal that resulted in 0–1 loss. The problems would continue with another set of narrow losses to Finland and Wales, forcing Bulgaria to miss out on promotion to League A. With two more matches left, Bulgaria finished winless against Finland and Ireland, relegating the Lions to League C.

Yasen Petrov was hired as the coach prior to the qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup. Bulgaria began the campaign horribly, losing at home 1–3 to Switzerland and 0–2 to Italy. The team somewhat improved in the next two games, drawing away at Northern Ireland and Italy, the reigning European champions. Bulgaria then beat Lithuania 1–0 at home, but lost 1–3 away against the same team, ending their hopes for qualification. A 2–1 home win against Northern Ireland was only a brief moment of rejoice before a heavy 0–4 defeat to Switzerland ended a largely miserable attempt for qualifying.

Bulgaria was allocated to League C for the League of Nations season, after relegation from the previous edition. Bulgaria's opponents were drawn to be North Macedonia, Georgia and Gibraltar. The campaign began with a 1–1 draw against North Macedonia at home, followed by a heavy 2–5 loss against Georgia at home. Yasen Petrov handed his resignation following the game. Georgi Ivanov was appointed as interim manager for the next two games against Gibraltar and Georgia. Another shameful performance followed, when the Lions drew 1–1 in Gibraltar, which was one of only few times that the Gibraltar national team had not lost a competitive game in its

history. In Georgia, Bulgaria drew 0–0, extending the winless streak to four games. During the one month pause of the tournament, Serbian Mladen Krstajić was appointed as manager. Under his reins, Bulgaria recorded two wins against Gibraltar at home and North Macedonia away, eventually finishing second in the group. The game against North Macedonia was particularly intense, due to rising political tensions between the two countries at that time. The Bulgarian national anthem was heavily booed, followed by multiple provocations from both Macedonian fans and players aimed at the Bulgarian team.

Team image

Bulgaria's traditional colours are white, green and red, taken from the colours of the country's flag. This tricolour is reflected through the use of white shirts, green shorts, and red socks. The team's away kits have usually been red.

Their nickname is The Lions, in tribute of the lions represented in the coat of arms of Bulgaria.

Colours



Kit sponsorship

Supplier	Period
Adidas	1974–1994
Puma	1995–2010
Kappa	2011–2014
Joma	2015–2022
Macron	2023–

Ultras and controversy

In recent years, ultras of the Bulgarian team have developed a reputation for racism. After racist chanting and monkey noises directed at Ashley Young, Ashley Cole and Theo Walcott during a qualifier for Euro 2012, the Bulgarian Football Union was fined €40,000 by UEFA.^[17] The BFU denied that racism would be an issue during Euro 2020 qualifiers, claiming that the issue was worse in England.^[18] Nevertheless, Bulgarian ultras were accused of racist chants during their matches against Czech Republic, Kosovo and England. As a result, part of the Bulgarian stadium was closed off for the match against England (October 2019), and officials twice halted the game under the UEFA anti-racism protocol.^[19] In the following days since the match took place, Bulgarian police identified 15 fans they suspected were responsible for subjecting black English players including Raheem Sterling, Marcus Rashford and Tyrone Mings to racist abuse, arresting six of them.^[20]

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin condemned the alleged abuse calling on the "football family and governments" to "wage war on the racists".^[21] Disciplinary proceedings have been launched against both Bulgaria and England.^[22]

Home stadium

Traditionally, the Bulgaria national football team's home stadium is the Vasil Levski National Stadium with a capacity of 44,000. Vasil Levski was officially opened in 1953 and reconstructed in 1966 and 2002. It is the second largest stadium in Bulgaria, behind the Plovdiv Stadium with a capacity of 55,000. During the 2006–07 UEFA Champions League, the stadium was used for Levski Sofia matches with Barcelona, Chelsea, and Werder

Bremen. Similarly, Ludogorets Razgrad used it as their main home venue for their European matches until the 2017–18 season. The Bulgaria national team's home matches and the Bulgarian Cup finals are held at the venue, as well as athletics competitions.

Lately, the national team is playing its home matches at the Huvepharma Arena in Razgrad, home of 11-time Bulgarian champions Ludogorets Razgrad. Opened in 1954 and renovated in 2011, the stadium has a capacity of 10,422.



Vasil Levski National Stadium

Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 12 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win Draw Loss Fixture

2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	24 March 19:00 UTC+2	Bulgaria 0–1 Montenegro Report (ht Krstović 70' tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203630 2/)	Razgrad, Bulgaria	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	27 March 21:45 UTC+2	Hungary 3–0 Bulgaria Vécsei (7' Szoboszlai (26' Ádám (39' Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203632 5/)	Budapest, Hungary	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 June 16:00 UTC+3	Lithuania 1–1 Bulgaria Girdvainis (15' Report (ht M. Petkov (27' tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203634 9/)	Kaunas, Lithuania	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	20 June	Bulgaria 1–1 Serbia	Razgrad, Bulgaria	[show]

21:45 UTC+3

Despodov 47' Report (ht [Lazović](#) 90+6'
<https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/2036372/>)

Stadium: [Huvepharma Arena](#)
 Attendance: 6,700
 Referee: [Craig Pawson \(England\)](#)

Friendly	7 September 19:00 UTC+3	Bulgaria 0–1 Iran	Report (ht Mohebi 14' https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/09/07/world友赛/bulgaria/iran/4167842/)	Plovdiv, Bulgaria	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	10 September 19:00 UTC+3	Montenegro 2–1 Bulgaria	Savić 45+1' Report (ht Borukov 79' https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/09/07/world预选赛/黑山/保加利亚/4167841/)	Podgorica, Montenegro	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	14 October 19:00 UTC+3	Bulgaria 0–2 Lithuania	Report (ht Širvys 45', 55' https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/10/17/world预选赛/保加利亚/立陶宛/4167440/)	Sofia, Bulgaria	[show]
Friendly	17 October 18:00 UTC+2	Albania 2–0 Bulgaria	Laci 41' Report (ht Muçi 81' https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/10/17/world友赛/阿尔巴尼亚/保加利亚/4167843/)	Tirana, Albania	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 November 19:00 UTC+2	Bulgaria 2–2 Hungary	Delev 24' Report (ht Ádám 10' Despodov 79' (pen.) https://www.uefa.com/matches/2024/11/16/world预选赛/保加利亚/匈牙利/42036486/)	Sofia, Bulgaria	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 November 16:00 UTC+2	Serbia 2–2 Bulgaria	Veljković 17' Report (ht Rusev 59' Babić 82' https://www.uefa.com/matches/2024/11/19/world预选赛/塞尔维亚/保加利亚/42036486/)	Leskovac, Serbia	[show]

2024

2024 FIFA World Series	22 March 15:00 UTC+2	Bulgaria  v  Tanzania	Baku, Azerbaijan Stadium: Dalga Arena	[show]
2024 FIFA World Series	25 March 18:00 UTC+2	Azerbaijan  v  Bulgaria	Baku, Azerbaijan Stadium: Tofiq Bahramov Republican Stadium	[show]
Friendly	4 June	Romania  v  Bulgaria	Bucharest, Romania Stadium: Stadionul Steaua	[show]
Friendly	8 June	Slovenia  v  Bulgaria	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: Stožice Stadium	[show]
UEFA Nations League C	5 September	Belarus  v  Bulgaria	TBA	[show]
			Stadium: TBA	
UEFA Nations League C	8 September	Bulgaria  v  Northern Ireland	Bulgaria	[show]
			Stadium: TBA	
UEFA Nations League C	12 October	Bulgaria  v  Luxembourg	Bulgaria	[show]
			Stadium: TBA	
UEFA Nations League C	15 October	Northern Ireland  v  Bulgaria	Belfast, Northern Ireland	[show]
			Stadium: Windsor Park	
UEFA Nations League C	15 November	Luxembourg  v  Bulgaria	Luxembourg City, Luxembourg	[show]
			Stadium: Stade de Luxembourg	
UEFA Nations League C	18 November	Bulgaria  v  Belarus	Bulgaria	[show]
			Stadium: TBA	

Coaching staff

Role	Name
Head Coach	 Ilian Iliev
Assistant Coach	 Petar Kostadinov
Assistant Coach	 Georgi Donkov
Goalkeeping Coach	 Zdravko Zdravkov
Analyst	 Atanas Ribarski
Fitness Coach	 Yasen Lyubenov
Recovery Coach	 Nikola Izpoldzhiyski
GPS Analyst	 Alex Mihalev
Doctor	 Zdravko Taralov

Coaching history

- Leopold Nitsch (1922–1924)
- Willibald Stejskal (1925–1926)
- Pavel Grozdanov (1927–1930)
- Carl Nemes (1930–1931)
- Otto Feist (1931–1932)
- Pavel Grozdanov (1932–1933)
- Károly Fogl (1934–1935)
- Nikola Kalkandzhiev (1935–1936)
- Ivan Batandzhiev (1936)
- Geno Mateev (1936–1937)
- Stanislav Toms (1937–1938)
- Kostantin Maznikov (1938–1939)
- Ivan Radoev (1939–1940)
- Franz Köhler (1940–1941)
- Ivan Radoev (1941–1942)
- Ivan Batandzhiev (1943–1945)
- Todor Konov (1945–1946)
- Mihail Manov (1947)
- Ivan Radoev (1947)
- Rezső Somlai (1947–1948)
- Lubomir Angelov (1948)
- Andor Hajdú (1948–1949)
- Ivan Radoev (1950)
- Lubomir Angelov (1950)
- Andor Hajdú (1950)
- Lubomir Angelov (1950–1953)
- Stoyan Ormandzhiev (1950–1953)
- Krum Milev (1954–1960)
- Georgi Pachedzhiev (1955–1962)
- Stoyan Ormandzhiev (1963)
- Béla Volentik (1963–1965)
- Rudolf Vytlačil (1965–1966)
- Dobromir Tashkov (1966–1967)
- Stefan Bozhkov (1967–1970)
- Vasil Spasov (1970–1972)
- Hristo Mladenov (1972–1974)
- Stoyan Ormandzhiev (1974–1977)
- Tsvetan Ilchev (1978–1980)
- Atanas Purzhelov (1980–1982)
- Ivan Vutsov (1982–1986)
- Hristo Mladenov (1986–1987)
- Boris Angelov (1988–1989)
- Ivan Vutsov (1989–1991)
- Dimitar Penev (1991–1996)
- Hristo Bonev (1996–1998)
- Dimitar Dimitrov (1998–1999)
- Stoycho Mladenov (2000–2001)
- Plamen Markov (2002–2004)
- Hristo Stoichkov (2004–2007)
- Stanimir Stoilov (2007)
- Dimitar Penev (2007)
- Plamen Markov (2007–2008)
- Stanimir Stoilov (2009–2010)
- Lothar Matthäus (2010–2011)
- Mihail Madanski (2011)
- Lyuboslav Penev (2011–2014)
- Ivaylo Petev (2015–2016)
- Petar Hubchev (2016–2019)
- Krasimir Balakov (2019)
- Georgi Dermendzhiev (2019–2020)
- Yasen Petrov (2021–2022)
- Georgi Ivanov (2022)
- Mladen Krstajić (2022–2023)
- Ilian Iliev (2023–present)

Players

Current squad

The following players were called up for the 2024 FIFA Series games against Tanzania and Azerbaijan on 22 and 25 March 2024.^[23] The list will be completed with players from the domestic league.

Caps and goals as of 19 November 2023, after the match against Serbia.^{[24][25]}

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Daniel Naumov	29 March 1998	10	0	CSKA 1948
12	GK	Dimitar Mitov	22 January 1997	2	0	St Johnstone
23	GK	Ivan Dyulgerov	15 July 1999	4	0	Cherno More
<hr/>						
2	DF	Viktor Popov	5 March 2000	13	0	Cherno More
3	DF	Simeon Petrov	12 January 2000	3	0	Śląsk Wrocław
5	DF	Aleks Petkov	25 July 1999	6	0	Śląsk Wrocław
15	DF	Zhivko Atanasov	3 February 1991	2	0	Cherno More
16	DF	Angel Lyaskov	16 March 1998	1	0	Lokomotiv Plovdiv
19	DF	Ivan Turitsov	18 July 1999	18	0	CSKA Sofia
	DF	Valentin Antov	9 November 2000	24	1	Cremonese
	DF	Petko Hristov	1 March 1999	19	0	Spezia
	DF	Kristian Dimitrov	27 February 1997	17	1	Levski Sofia
<hr/>						
4	MF	Ilia Gruev	6 May 2000	14	0	Leeds United
6	MF	Svetoslav Kovachev	14 March 1998	5	0	Akhmat Grozny
8	MF	Andrian Kraev	14 February 1999	8	0	Levski Sofia
10	MF	Dominik Yankov	28 July 2000	17	0	CF Montréal
18	MF	Ivaylo Chochev	18 February 1993	42	4	Ludogorets Razgrad
20	MF	Filip Krastev	15 October 2001	13	0	PEC Zwolle
22	MF	Ilian Iliev Jr.	20 August 1999	12	0	Cherno

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
						<u>More</u>
	MF	Georgi Kostadinov	7 September 1990	37	3	 APOEL
	MF	Yoni Stoyanov	22 May 2001	8	0	 Hapoel Be'er Sheva
	MF	Lukas Petkov	1 November 2000	4	0	 Greuther Fürth
	MF	Hristo Ivanov	16 December 2000	2	0	 Lokomotiv Plovdiv
7	FW	Georgi Rusev	2 July 1998	14	1	 Sion
9	FW	Spas Delev	22 September 1989	47	5	 Ludogorets Razgrad
11	FW	Kiril Despodov (captain)	11 November 1996	45	12	 PAOK
13	FW	Stanislav Ivanov	16 April 1999	2	0	 Arda
14	FW	Preslav Borukov	23 April 2000	4	1	 Marítimo
17	FW	Aleksandar Kolev	8 December 1992	2	0	 Krumovgrad
21	FW	Martin Minchev	22 April 2001	15	0	 Çaykur Rizespor
	FW	Georgi Minchev	20 April 1995	9	1	 AEL Limassol

Recent call-ups

The following players have also been called up to the Bulgarian squad within the last 12 months and are still available for selection.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Plamen Andreev	15 December 2004	0	0	Levski Sofia	v. Serbia, 20 June 2023
GK	Svetoslav Vutsov	9 July 2002	4	0	Slavia Sofia	v. Hungary, 27 March 2023
DF	Anton Nedyalkov	30 April 1993	29	0	Ludogorets Razgrad	v. Serbia, 19 November 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Patrik-Gabriel Galchev	14 April 2001	3	0	Levski Sofia	v. Albania, 17 October 2023
DF	Dimo Krastev	10 February 2003	3	0	Feralpisalò	v. Lithuania, 14 October 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Hristiyan Petrov	24 June 2002	2	0	CSKA Sofia	v. Serbia, 20 June 2023
DF	Plamen Galabov	2 November 1995	5	0	Beitar Jerusalem	v. Hungary, 27 March 2023
DF	Ivaylo Markov	5 June 1997	1	0	Slavia Sofia	v. Hungary, 27 March 2023
MF	Marin Petkov	2 October 2003	10	2	Levski Sofia	v. Albania, 17 October 2023
MF	Ivan Yordanov	7 November 2000	4	0	Ludogorets Razgrad	v. Lithuania, 14 October 2023 ^{INJ}
MF	Nikola Iliev	6 June 2004	8	0	CSKA 1948	v. Iran, 7 September 2023 ^{U21}
MF	Iliyan Stefanov	20 September 1998	8	2	Levski Sofia	v. Serbia, 20 June 2023
MF	Stanislav Shopov	23 February 2002	2	0	CSKA Sofia	v. Serbia, 20 June 2023
MF	Yanis Karabeliyov	23 January 1996	12	0	Botev Plovdiv	v. Hungary, 27 March 2023
FW	Radoslav Kirilov	29 June 1992	12	2	CSKA 1948	v. Hungary, 27 March 2023

Notes

- INJ = Player withdrew from the current squad due to injury.
- COVID = Player withdrew from the current squad due to testing positively for COVID-19 or having to self-isolate because of it.
- U21 = Not part of the squad due to U-21 call up.
- PRE = Preliminary squad.
- RET = Player had announced retirement from international football.
- SUS = Player is serving a suspension.
- PRV = Player absent due to private circumstances.
- WD = Withdrawn.

Player records

As of 20 June 2023^[26]

Players in **bold** text are still active with Bulgaria.

Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	<u>Stiliyan Petrov</u>	105	8	1998–2011
2	<u>Borislav Mihaylov</u>	102	0	1983–1998
3	<u>Hristo Bonev</u>	96	48	1967–1979
4	<u>Krasimir Balakov</u>	92	16	1988–2003
	<u>Dimitar Penev</u>	90	2	1965–1974
5	<u>Martin Petrov</u>	90	19	1999–2011
	<u>Ivelin Popov</u>	90	18	2007–2019
8	<u>Radostin Kishishev</u>	88	1	1996–2009
9	<u>Hristo Stoichkov</u>	83	37	1986–1999
10	<u>Nasko Sirakov</u>	81	23	1983–1996



Stiliyan Petrov is Bulgaria's most capped player with 105 appearances

Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Average	Career
1	<u>Dimitar Berbatov</u>	48	78	0.62	1999–2010
	<u>Hristo Bonev</u>	48	96	0.5	1967–1979
3	<u>Hristo Stoichkov</u>	37	83	0.45	1987–1999
4	<u>Emil Kostadinov</u>	27	70	0.39	1988–1998
5	<u>Lyubomir Angelov</u>	26	44	0.59	1931–1940
6	<u>Petar Zhekov</u>	25	44	0.57	1963–1972
	<u>Ivan Kolev</u>	25	75	0.33	1950–1963
8	<u>Atanas Mihaylov</u>	23	45	0.51	1970–1981
	<u>Nasko Sirakov</u>	23	81	0.28	1983–1996
10	<u>Dimitar Milanov</u>	19	39	0.49	1948–1959
	<u>Georgi Asparuhov</u>	19	49	0.39	1962–1970
	<u>Dinko Dermendzhiev</u>	19	58	0.33	1966–1977
	<u>Martin Petrov</u>	19	90	0.21	1999–2011



Dimitar Berbatov is Bulgaria's joint all-time top scorer with 48 goals.

Youngest debutants

As of 15 November 2021.

Results list Bulgaria's goal tally first.

Rank	Player	Age on debut	Opponent	Result	Year
1	Vladimir Todorov	15 years 08 months 14 days	Romania	2–3	1929
2	Aleksandar Belokapov	15 years 10 months 11 days	Germany	1–2	1939
3	Georgi Sokolov	16 years 10 months 24 days	Netherlands	3–2	1959
4	Radoslav Maznikov	17 years 02 months 12 days	Romania	0–3	1929
5	Nikola Staykov	17 years 07 months 28 days	Yugoslavia	1–3	1926
6	Nikolay Mihaylov	17 years 10 months 13 days	Scotland	1–5	2006
7	Martin Minchev	17 years 11 months 00 days	Montenegro	1–1	2019
8	Hristo Minkovski	17 years 11 months 17 days	Romania	0–3	1929
9	Nikola Savov	18 years 01 month 10 days	Hungary	1–4	1934
10	Krasimir Chomakov	18 years 01 month 12 days	Uzbekistan	0–0	1995

Competitive record

FIFA World Cup

Champions Runners-up Third place Fourth place

FIFA World Cup record

Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad
1930		Did not enter							
1934		Did not qualify							
1938		Did not qualify							
1950		Did not enter							
1954		Did not qualify							
1958		Group stage	15th	3	0	1	2	1	7
1962			15th	3	0	0	3	1	8
1966			13th	3	0	1	2	5	9
1970			12th	3	0	2	1	2	5
1974		Did not qualify							
1978		Did not qualify							
1982		Did not qualify							
1986	Round of 16	15th	4	0	2	2	2	6	Squad
1990		Did not qualify							
1994	Fourth place	4th	7	3	1	3	10	11	Squad
1998	Group stage	29th	3	0	1	2	1	7	Squad
2002		Did not qualify							
2006		Did not qualify							
2010		Did not qualify							
2014		Did not qualify							
2018		Did not qualify							
2022		Did not qualify							
2026		To be determined							
2030		To be determined							
2034		To be determined							
Total	Fourth place	7/22	26	3	8	15	22	53	—

Qualification record

Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
Declined invitation					
3	0	0	3	3	14
2	0	1	1	1	7
Declined participation					
4	0	1	3	3	7
4	2	0	2	11	7
5	4	0	1	7	4
5	4	0	1	11	7
6	4	1	1	12	7
6	4	2	0	13	3
4	1	2	1	5	6
8	4	1	3	11	10
8	5	1	2	13	5
6	1	1	4	6	8
10	6	2	2	19	10
8	6	0	2	18	9
10	5	2	3	14	15
10	4	3	3	17	17
10	3	5	2	17	13
10	3	4	3	14	9
10	4	1	5	14	19
8	2	2	4	6	14
To be determined					
137	62	29	46	215	191

*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record											Qualifying record					
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1960										2	0	1	1	1	3	
1964										5	3	0	2	7	7	
1968										8	5	2	1	13	4	
1972										6	3	1	2	11	7	
1976										6	2	2	2	12	7	
1980										8	2	1	5	6	14	
1984										6	2	1	3	7	8	
1988										8	4	2	2	12	6	
1992										8	3	3	2	15	8	
1996	Group stage	11th	3	1	1	1	3	4	Squad	10	7	1	2	24	10	
2000										8	2	2	4	6	8	
2004	Group stage	16th	3	0	0	3	1	9	Squad	8	5	2	1	13	4	
2008										12	7	4	1	18	7	
2012										8	1	2	5	3	13	
2016										10	3	2	5	9	12	
2020										9	1	3	5	7	20	
2024										8	0	4	4	7	14	
2028										To be determined						
2032										To be determined						
Total	Group stage	2/17	6	1	1	4	4	13	—	130	50	33	47	171	154	

*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record										
Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK
2018–19	C	3	6	3	2	1	7	5	▲	29th
2020–21	B	4	6	0	2	4	2	7	▼	31st
2022–23	C	4	6	2	3	1	10	8	=	40th
2024–25	C	3	To be determined							
Total			18	5	7	6	19	20	29th	

*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

Olympic Games

Olympic Games record										
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	
1908										
1912										
1920										
1924	Round of 16	12th	1	0	0	1	0	1	Squad	
1928										
1936										
1948										
1952	Round of 16	13th	1	0	0	1	1	2	Squad	
1956	Bronze medal	3rd	3	2	0	1	10	3	Squad	
1960	Group stage	5th	3	2	1	0	8	3	Squad	
1964										
1968	Silver medal	2nd	6	3	2	1	16	10	Squad	
1972										
1976										
1980										
1984										
1988										
Since 1992	Olympic football has been an under-23 tournament									
Total	1 Silver medal	5/17	14	7	3	4	35	19	—	

Balkan Cup

Balkan Cup record									
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1929–31	Fourth place	4th	6	2	0	4	10	19	
1931	Champions	1st	2	2	0	0	8	3	
1932	Champions	1st	3	3	0	0	7	2	
1933	Third place	3rd	3	1	0	2	2	11	
1934–35	Fourth place	4th	3	1	0	2	7	8	
1935	Runners-up	2nd	3	2	1	0	12	5	
1936	Runners-up	2nd	2	1	0	1	6	8	
1946	Fourth place	4th	3	0	1	2	4	7	
1947	Fourth place	4th	4	1	0	3	5	14	

<u>1948*</u>	Group stage	3rd	5	2	1	2	6	7
<u>1973–76</u>	Champions	1st	4	2	0	2	10	9
<u>1977–80</u>	Group stage	3rd	4	1	1	2	4	6
Total	3 Titles	12/12	42	18	4	20	81	99

*Competition abandoned with Bulgaria in third place.

Head-to-head record

As of 19 November 2023 after the match against  Serbia. [27]

Positive Record Neutral Record Negative Record

Opponents	[show]	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Albania		15	7	4	4	17	12	+5
Algeria		6	3	2	1	9	6	+3
Andorra		2	2	0	0	5	1	+4
Argentina		9	1	0	8	6	18	-12
Armenia		2	1	0	1	2	2	0
Australia		4	2	2	0	8	4	+4
Austria		8	1	2	5	7	21	-14
Azerbaijan		4	3	1	0	6	2	+4
Belarus		8	5	0	3	12	7	+5
Belgium		14	6	2	6	20	23	-3
Bolivia		1	1	0	0	3	1	+2
Bosnia and Herzegovina		2	1	0	1	2	2	0
Brazil		9	0	1	8	2	19	-17
Cameroon		1	1	0	0	3	0	+3
Canada		1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Chile		1	0	0	1	2	3	-1
Croatia		9	1	2	6	6	18	-12
Cuba		1	1	0	0	5	2	+3
Cyprus		16	14	1	1	36	10	+26
Czech Republic ^[a]		24	10	4	10	22	32	-10
Denmark		16	4	8	4	20	21	-1
East Germany		23	8	8	7	31	30	+1
Ecuador		2	1	0	1	3	4	-1
Egypt		7	2	2	3	8	9	-1
England		12	0	4	8	2	26	-24
Estonia		2	1	1	0	2	0	+2
Finland		10	7	1	2	20	7	+13
France		23	8	4	11	26	41	-15
Georgia		8	4	2	2	21	12	+9
Germany ^[b]		24	4	2	18	28	62	-34
Gibraltar		3	2	1	0	9	2	+7
Greece		26	13	7	6	48	35	+13

Opponents	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
<u>Hungary</u>	34	6	11	17	39	75	-36
<u>Iceland</u>	5	4	1	0	12	7	+5
<u>India</u>	1	1	0	0	3	0	+3
<u>Indonesia</u>	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4
<u>Iran</u>	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1
<u>Israel</u>	6	4	1	1	12	5	+7
<u>Italy</u>	23	2	9	12	19	42	-23
<u>Jamaica</u>	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
<u>Japan</u>	6	4	1	1	13	10	+3
<u>Jordan</u>	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2
<u>Kazakhstan</u>	2	2	0	0	4	2	+2
<u>Kosovo</u>	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1
<u>Kuwait</u>	5	2	3	0	9	6	+3
<u>Latvia</u>	3	3	0	0	6	0	+6
<u>Lebanon</u>	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1
<u>Lithuania</u>	5	2	1	2	6	6	0
<u>Luxembourg</u>	15	13	2	0	39	9	+30
<u>Malta</u>	14	11	3	0	45	6	+39
<u>Mexico</u>	12	2	6	4	11	14	-3
<u>Moldova</u>	2	2	0	0	7	1	+6
<u>Montenegro</u>	8	1	4	3	9	9	0
<u>Morocco</u>	6	1	3	2	5	10	-5
<u>Netherlands</u>	12	5	2	5	17	20	-3
<u>New Caledonia</u>	1	1	0	0	5	3	+2
<u>Nigeria</u>	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4
<u>North Korea</u>	3	3	0	0	12	1	+11
<u>North Macedonia</u>	9	5	2	2	9	4	+5
<u>Northern Ireland</u>	9	5	2	2	11	8	+3
<u>Norway</u>	16	7	4	5	27	16	+11
<u>Oman</u>	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
<u>Paraguay</u>	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1
<u>Peru</u>	5	2	1	2	11	11	0

Opponents	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Poland	27	6	9	12	32	48	-16
Portugal	13	6	3	4	18	16	+2
Qatar	1	1	0	1	4	4	0
Republic of Ireland	13	3	6	4	10	15	-5
Romania	43	13	8	22	62	82	-20
Russia ^[c]	28	3	11	14	23	42	-19
San Marino	2	2	0	0	7	0	+7
Saudi Arabia	3	2	0	1	3	1	+2
Scotland	6	0	3	3	4	10	-6
Serbia ^[d]	37	9	8	20	53	74	-21
Singapore	1	1	0	0	10	2	+8
Slovakia	8	2	2	4	6	11	-5
Slovenia	4	3	1	0	8	2	+6
South Africa	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
South Korea	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1
Spain	9	1	3	5	15	31	-16
Sudan	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Sweden	16	3	2	11	11	31	-20
Switzerland	12	2	4	6	13	22	-9
Thailand	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4
Tunisia	2	0	1	1	3	6	-3
Turkey	27	14	6	7	53	36	+17
Ukraine	6	0	3	3	3	8	-5
United Arab Emirates	6	5	0	1	14	4	+10
Uruguay	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Wales	10	4	1	5	8	6	+2
Total (90)	790	288	198	304	1,116	1,167	-51

a. Includes matches against  Czechoslovakia.

b. Includes matches against  West Germany.

c. Includes matches against  Soviet Union.

Ranking history

	Rank	Date
Best Rank	8	June 1995
Current Rank	83	February 2024
Worst Rank	96	May 2012

- FIFA-ranking yearly averages for Bulgaria (1992–2023)^[28]

As of 21 December 2023

Honours

This is a list of honours for the senior Bulgaria national team

Major

- **Olympic Games:**

- ② Runners-up (1): [1968](#)
- ③ Third place (1): [1956](#)

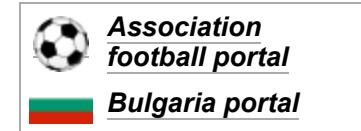
Other

- **Balkan Cup:**

- ① Champions (3): [1931](#), [1932](#), [1976](#)
- ② Runners-up (2): [1935](#), [1936](#)
- ③ Third place (2): [1933](#), [1980](#)

See also

- [Bulgaria national under-21 football team](#)
- [Bulgaria national under-19 football team](#)
- [Bulgaria national under-18 football team](#)
- [Bulgaria national under-17 football team](#)



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External links

- Official website (<https://teambulgaria.bg/>) (in Bulgarian)
- Bulgaria FIFA profile (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/BUL>)
- Bulgaria UEFA profile (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/BUL/>)
- Bulgarian football – history, teams, stadiums, fan clubs (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070204083518/http://get.info.bg/sport/Dir.asp?d=0-1>) (archived 4 February 2007)
- RSSSF archive of results 1924– (<https://www.rsssf.org/tables/bulg-intres.html>)
- RSSSF archive of most capped players and highest goalscorers (<https://www.rsssf.org/miscellaneous/bulg-recintl.html>)
- Planet World Cup archive of results in the World Cup (<http://www.planeworldcup.com/NATIONS/bul.html>)
- Planet World Cup archive of squads in the World Cup (http://www.planeworldcup.com/NATIONS/bul_squads.html)
- Planet World Cup archive of results in the World Cup qualifiers (http://www.planeworldcup.com/NATIONS/bul_qualify.html)



First Professional Football League (Bulgaria)

The **First Professional Football League** (Bulgarian: Първа професионална футболна лига, romanized: *Parva Profesionalna Futbolna Liga*), commonly known as **Parva Liga** or **Bulgarian First League** (currently known as the **efbet League** for sponsorship reasons),^[1] is a professional association football league, being the top tier of Bulgarian football league system. Contested by 16 teams, it operates on a system of promotion and relegation with the **Second Professional Football League**.

The Bulgarian football championship was inaugurated in 1924 as the *Bulgarian State Football Championship* and has been played in a league format since 1948, when the A Group was established. The champions of the First League have the right to participate in the qualifying rounds of the UEFA Champions League based on the league's European coefficient. Additionally, two UEFA Europa Conference League spots are allocated to the second team in the final standings and the winner of the European playoffs. A further fourth spot may also be granted to the fourth placed team in the final league ranking, given that the *Bulgarian Cup* holder has finished among the top three teams at the end of the season.

A total of 75 clubs have competed in the Bulgarian top-tier since its establishment, with FC Krumovgrad being the newest member of the top tier, after promotion in 2023. Since 1948, eleven different teams have been crowned champions of Bulgaria. The three most successful clubs are CSKA Sofia with 31 titles, Levski Sofia with 26 titles and Ludogorets Razgrad with 12 titles. The current champions Ludogorets Razgrad won their twelfth consecutive title in their twelfth First League season in 2022–23. Historically, the competition has been dominated by Sofia-based teams. Together they have won a total number of 70 titles.

History

Foundation

The first football championship in Bulgaria was held in 1924 as a knockout tournament. It was organised by the Bulgarian National Sports Federation (BNSF). The six inaugural teams were Vladislav Varna, Orel Vratsa, Levski Sofia, Krakra Pernik, Pobeda Plovdiv and Chernomorets Burgas, each having won and representing its regional sports federation, called *sportna federatsiya*. The championship was abandoned, because of a dispute between Vladislav and Levski over the replay of the final game. In the following 1925 season, SK Vladislav became the first champion of Bulgaria. The championship was reorganised for three seasons, from season 1937–38 to 1939–40, ten teams participated in a round-robin tournament, called the *National Football Division*.^[2]

A Republican Football Group

The inaugural season of the *A Republican Football Group* began in the autumn of 1948. The ten teams participating in the league were Levski, Septemvri, Lokomotiv, Slavia and Spartak from the capital city Sofia, and Botev Varna, Botev Burgas, Slavia Plovdiv, Marek Stanke Dimitrov, Benkovski in a spring-autumn cycle like in the Soviet Union. In the autumn of 1949, qualification tournaments were played to determine the teams that would play in the next 1950 season. In the next two seasons the number of teams in the league was increased to 12, and for the 1953 season there were 15 teams (the 16th team was the *Bulgaria national team*). In seasons 1954 and 1955 there were 14 teams in the league, and in seasons 1956 and 1957 there were 10.

In 1958, the championship was again stopped after the spring half-season, as had happened in 1948. New reorganizations were accepted and the league was again going to be played in the *autumn-spring format*. Despite the fact that the teams had played just 1 match, CDNA was crowned as the champion of Bulgaria.

The frequent changes in the number of teams in A Group continued in the 1960s. In the first two seasons after the reforms in 1958, the number of teams in the league was 12, in the period 1960–1962 – 14, until season 1967/68, when the teams were 16.

There were new reforms at the end of the 1960s. There were many mergers between Bulgarian clubs. The most-famous are between CSKA Red Flag and Septemvri Sofia in CSKA September Flag, the capital teams Levski and Spartak in Levski-Spartak, Lokomotiv and Slavia in Slavia, the Plovdiv teams Botev, Spartak and Academic in Trakiya. Mergers happened between other Bulgarian clubs too. These mergers between clubs and reforms in A Group were made at the winter break of the 1968/69 season.

After the winter reforms in 1968 until 2000, A Group remained with 16 teams, except in seasons 1971/72 and 1972/73, when 18 teams competed in the league.

Premier Professional Football League

The Bulgarian Football Union decided to make reforms. The Premier Professional Football League, created in the autumn of 2000, had 14 teams participating in it. At the end of the 2000/01 season, the last two teams were directly relegated to the lower division and the team that finished 12th had the chance to compete in the promotion/relegation play-off for the remaining place in the league. Levski Sofia became champions in the first season of the Premier League.

In the 2001/02 season there was experimentation with the regulations. The championship was divided into two phases. In the first phase the teams played a regular season, each team playing twice against all the others, once home and once away. The second phase was a play-off phase.

First Professional Football League



Organising body	Bulgarian Football Union (BFU)
Founded	1924 (knockout) 1937–1940; 1948 (as round-robin)
Country	Bulgaria
Confederation	UEFA
Number of teams	16
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	Second League
Domestic cup(s)	Bulgarian Cup Bulgarian Supercup
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa League UEFA Europa Conference League
Current champions	Ludogorets Razgrad (12th title) (2022–23)
Most championships	CSKA Sofia (31 titles)
Most appearances	Georgi Iliev (461)
Top goalscorer	Martin Kamburov (256 goals)
TV partners	Nova Broadcasting Group
Website	fpleague.bg (http://www.fpleague.bg/)

Current: 2023–24 season

In the following season, 2002/03, the championship returned to the regulations of 2000/01 – 14 teams playing in a home and away format. For the first time in 6 years, CSKA Sofia became champions.

A Group

The Bulgarian A Professional Football Group was created in 2003. The group was formed by 16 teams, each playing twice against all the others, once home and once away. In the first season of the newly created A Group, the 2003–04 season, for the first time in history, Lokomotiv Plovdiv became champions, finishing with 75 points. In 2004–05, CSKA Sofia won A Group for the 30th time. For the next two seasons, Levski Sofia were champions under manager Stanimir Stoilov. From 2005–06 the league's name has been **A Football Group**. In 2007–08, CSKA became champions of A Group for a record-breaking 31st time without a loss out of 30 matches. But in the summer, UEFA didn't give a licence for the club to play in the UEFA Champions League qualifying rounds and Levski Sofia entered to play in the tournament instead of CSKA. In the following season Levski Sofia won their last A Group title, finishing one point ahead of CSKA. Later on, two years in a row Litex Lovech won another two titles like in 1997–98 and 1998–99. In 2011–12, after winning promotion from B Group, Ludogorets Razgrad became the second team after Litex to win the A Group in their first season.



The A Group Trophy
as of 2005

The Bulgarian Football Union made some changes in the format of A Group prior to season 2013–14 with the reduction of the number of the teams participating in the top league from 16 to 14 and the reintroduction of the two phase league with a regular season and a playoff/play out phase. For the 2014–15 season, the league was once more decreased, this time to 12 teams, keeping the two phase format. This season was memorable since two of the most popular and successful clubs, CSKA Sofia and Lokomotiv Sofia, were both excluded from the league, despite finishing in the top 5 places. Both teams had accumulated debts and did not have the financial resources to pay them, so the BFU decided to take away their professional licenses. This was the first time in the history of the A Group that CSKA was relegated. For the 2015–16 season, the BFU decided to further decrease the number of teams competing, this time to just 10, with a quadruple round robin format introduced, a format used in the Croatian First Football League and Albanian Kategoria Superiore.

First Professional Football League

On 7 June 2016 the league's name was changed to **First Professional Football League**, following approval of new licensing criteria for the clubs.^[3] The new league name also came with a new format change, the fourth such in the last four seasons. A total of 14 teams would compete, and the season would consist of two phases, a regular season phase, where each team plays each other team twice, followed by a playoff phase, where the top six teams from the regular season compete for the title as well as European competition spots, while the remaining eight teams would compete for avoiding relegation to the Second League. This format was used from 2016 up until 2021.

In 2021, the BFU decided to once more change the format of the league. This time, the league would still consist of a regular season stage where teams compete against each other twice, but then the league would split into three phases. The top six clubs would again compete for the title and European spots, while teams ranked 7–10 at the end of the regular season would play in the Europa Conference Group, with the 7th placed team competing against the 4th placed team from the Championship group for a UEFA Europa Conference League spot. The bottom four teams would compete to avoid relegation. This format lasted only one season, however, as the league was expanded to 16 teams for the 2022–23 season. The three phases were kept identical though, with the exception being that six teams would compete in the relegation group instead of four.

Competition format

Starting from the 2022–23 season, a new league format was approved by the Bulgarian Football Union, in an attempt to improve each participating club's competitiveness, match attendance and performance in the league. It involves 16 teams playing in two phases, a regular season and playoffs. The first phase includes each club competing against every other team twice in a double round-robin system, on a home-away basis at a total of 30 games per team and played in 30 fixtures. Eight matches are played in every fixture at a total of 240 games played during the first phase. In the second phase, the top six teams form a European qualifying table, while between the 7th and 10th places will battle European Conference League play-off and bottom six teams participate in a relegation group. The winner of the top group is declared as Champions of Bulgaria and is awarded with the title.

International qualification

The six top teams compete against each other on a home-away basis. Three matches are played in every fixture of the top six, with the results and points after the regular season also included. At the end of the stage, every team will have played a total of 36 games. The winner of the group is declared as Champions of Bulgaria and automatically secures participation in the UEFA Champions League second qualifying round. The team that ranks second is awarded with a place in the UEFA Europa League qualifying rounds. The third team in the final standings would participate in a play-off match against a representative team from the bottom eight. Depending on the winner of the Bulgarian Cup final, a possible fourth team from the first six may compete in a play-off match for an UEFA Europa League spot instead of the third ranked team.

Note: If the Bulgarian Cup winner has secured its qualification for the European tournaments for the next season through results from Parva Liga, then the place in the UEFA Europa League play-off is awarded to the fourth ranked team in the final standings.

Relegation

The teams in the bottom eight are split in two sub-groups of four teams, Group A and Group B, depending on their final position after the regular season standings. The teams that enter Group A are the 7th, 10th, 11th and the 14th, and the teams that participate in Group B are the 8th, 9th, 12th and the 13th. Every participant plays twice against the other three teams in their group on a home-away basis. The teams from the bottom eight also compete with the results from the regular season. After the group stages, every team will have played a total number of 32 games. Depending on their final position in Group A and Group B, two sections will be formed, one for a play-off spot in next season's European competitions and one to avoid relegation. The first two teams from each group continue in the semi-finals, and the last two teams of each group continue to the semi-finals for a relegation match. After this phase, one team is directly relegated to the Second League and the remaining two teams will compete in two relegation matches against the second and the third ranked clubs from the Second League.^[4]

Tiebreakers

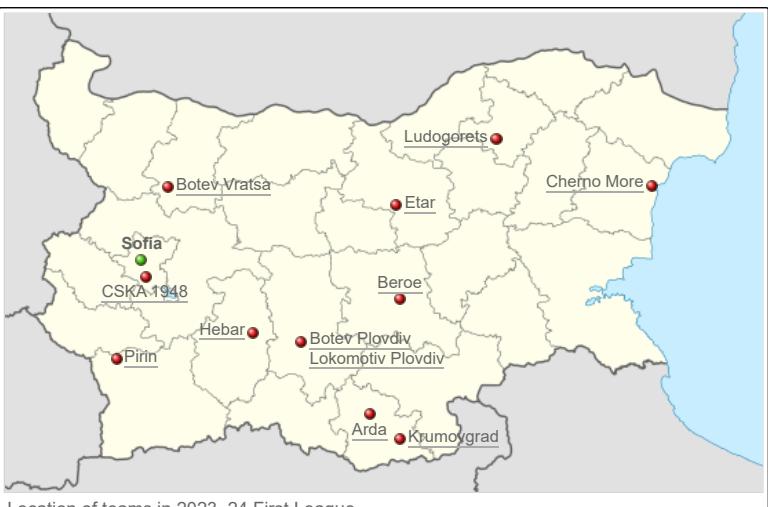
In case of a tie on points between two or more clubs, tiebreakers are applied in the following order:^[5]

1. Number of wins;

2. Goal difference;
3. Goals for;
4. Goals against;
5. Fewest red cards;
6. Fewest yellow cards;
7. Draw

Current clubs

The following clubs are competing in the First League during the 2023–24 season.

<u>Arda</u>	<u>Beroe</u>	<u>Botev Plovdiv</u>	<u>Botev Vratsa</u>
Arena Arda	Beroe	Hristo Botev	Hristo Botev
Capacity: 11,114	Capacity: 12,128	Capacity: 18,777	Capacity: 25,000
			
<u>Cherno More</u>	<u>CSKA 1948</u>	<u>CSKA Sofia</u>	<u>Etar</u>
Ticha	Bistritsa	Balgarska Armia	Ivaylo
Capacity: 6,250	Capacity: 2,500	Capacity: 22,995	Capacity: 18,000
			
<u>Hebar</u>	 <p>Location of teams in 2023–24 First League</p>		
Georgi Benkovski			
Capacity: 13,128			
			
<u>Levski Sofia</u>	 <p>Sofia 2023–24 First League football clubs</p>		
Vivacom Arena - Georgi Asparuhov			
Capacity: 25,000			
			
<u>Lokomotiv Sofia</u>	<u>Ludogorets</u>	<u>Pirin Blagoevgrad</u>	<u>Slavia Sofia</u>
Lokomotiv	Huvepharma Arena	Hristo Botev	Aleksandar Shalamanov
Capacity: 22,000	Capacity: 10,422	Capacity: 7,500	Capacity: 25,556
			

List of champions

Performance by club

[6] **Bold** indicates clubs which play in the [2022–23 First League](#).

Club	Titles	Winning seasons
CSKA Sofia ★ ★ ★	31	1948, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1958–59, 1959–60, 1960–61, 1961–62, 1965–66, 1968–69, 1970–71, 1971–72, 1972–73, 1974–75, 1975–76, 1979–80, 1980–81, 1981–82, 1982–83, 1986–87, 1988–89, 1989–90, 1991–92, 1996–97, 2002–03, 2004–05, 2007–08
Levski Sofia ★ ★	26	1933, 1937, 1942, 1946, 1947, 1948–49, 1950, 1953, 1964–65, 1967–68, 1969–70, 1973–74, 1976–77, 1978–79, 1983–84, 1984–85, 1987–88, 1992–93, 1993–94, 1994–95, 1999–2000, 2000–01, 2001–02, 2005–06, 2006–07, 2008–09
Ludogorets ★	12	2011–12, 2012–13, 2013–14, 2014–15, 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22, 2022–23
Slavia Sofia	7	1928, 1930, 1936, 1938–39, 1941, 1943, 1995–96
Litex Lovech	4	1997–98, 1998–99, 2009–10, 2010–11
Lokomotiv Sofia	3	1945, 1963–64, 1977–78
Vladislav	3	1925, 1926, 1934
Botev Plovdiv	2	1929, 1966–67
AS-23	1	1931
Beroe	1	1985–86
Etar	1	1990–91
Lokomotiv Plovdiv	1	2003–04
Shipchenski sokol	1	1932
Spartak Plovdiv	1	1962–63
Sportklub Sofia	1	1935
Ticha	1	1937–38
ZhSK Sofia	1	1939–40

Notes:

- CSKA Sofia titles include those won as *Septemvri pri CDNV*, *CDNA*, and *CFKA Sredets*.
- Levski Sofia titles include those won as *Levski-Spartak* and *Vitosha*, as well as the re-awarded 1984–85 title.
- Botev Plovdiv total does not include 1984–85 title originally awarded to *Trakia*.

All-time ranking (since 1948)

The all-time Parva Liga table^[7] is an overall record of all match results, points and goals for each team that has participated in the league since its inception in 1948. It also shows every team's number of top three finishes,^[8] their best classification, debut season and current spell in Parva Liga, or the season they were last part of the championship.^[9]

The table is accurate as of the end of the [2022–23 season](#).

It has to be noted that the table below does not reflect the tables provided by official sources, including the Bulgarian Football Union. In general, the table presented below considers clubs bearing similar names and from the same city to be the same entity, and not separate clubs, whereas the Bulgarian Football Union considers the foundation of a new club to be a separate entity and records are kept separately.

All-time Parva Liga table																	
#	Club	S	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	1st	2nd	3rd	Debut	Since/ Last App	Best	Notes
1	CSKA Sofia	74	2148	1307	493	348	4348	1836	+2512	3645	30	28	7	1948–49	2016–17	1	
2	Levski Sofia	75	2181	1269	504	408	4144	1940	+2204	3599	21	27	12	1948–49	1948–49	1	[a]
3	Slavia Sofia	74	2158	928	514	716	3169	2524	+645	2752	1	7	11	1948–49	1952	1	[b]
4	Lokomotiv Sofia	66	1903	789	479	635	2708	2310	+398	2355	2	3	10	1948–49	2021–22	1	
5	Botev Plovdiv	68	1993	763	465	765	2840	2740	+100	2265	1	2	11	1951	2012–13	1	
6	Lokomotiv Plovdiv	62	1861	727	435	699	2511	2507	+4	2225	1	2	4	1949–50	2001–02	1	
7	Cherno More	59	1742	625	449	668	2072	2169	-97	1982	–	–	2	1948–49	2000–01	3	
8	Beroe	56	1688	581	392	715	2049	2397	-348	1797	1	1	2	1954	2009–10	1	
9	Litex Lovech	21	608	354	123	131	1113	552	+561	1149	4	1	3	1994–95	2015–16	1	
10	Spartak Varna	44	1237	383	280	574	1417	1894	-477	1169	–	–	2	1950	2022–23	3	
11	Chernomorets Burgas	36	1084	369	241	474	1345	1633	-288	1104	–	–	–	1948–49	2013–14	4	[c]
12	Minyor Pernik	38	1055	330	248	477	1175	1594	-419	1000	–	–	–	1951	2012–13	4	
13	Botev Vratsa	33	1012	330	225	457	1223	1525	-302	940	–	–	1	1964–65	2018–19	3	
14	Ludogorets Razgrad	12	398	262	85	51	826	286	+540	915	12	–	–	2011–12	2011–12	1	[d]
15	Etar Veliko Tarnovo	29	890	309	201	380	1112	1306	-194	903	1	–	2	1969–70	2023–24	1	[e]
16	Spartak Pleven	35	994	314	245	435	1150	1511	-361	886	–	–	1	1952	2001–02	3	
17	Pirin Blagoevgrad	28	857	262	211	384	912	1168	-256	820	–	–	–	1973–74	2021–22	5	
18	Dunav Ruse	29	838	260	206	372	888	1270	-382	763	–	–	–	1951	2019–20	4	
19	Marek 1915	29	838	251	177	410	920	1374	-454	737	–	–	1	1948–49	2014–15	3	
20	Sliven	25	750	246	164	340	906	1109	-203	675	–	–	–	1963–64	2010–11	6	
21	Neftochimic Burgas	14	430	171	83	176	600	567	+33	575	–	1	–	1994–95	2016–17	2	
22	Akademik Sofia	18	505	163	136	206	589	676	-87	467	–	–	2	1950	2010–11	3	
23	Spartak Plovdiv	17	441	158	121	162	562	581	-19	455	1	1	–	1953	1995–96	1	
24	Dobrudzha 1919	14	414	126	82	206	448	682	-234	411	–	–	–	1962–63	2002–03	7	
25	Spartak Sofia	15	377	135	124	118	456	416	+40	394	–	2	–	1948–49	1967–68	2	Dissolved in 2007.
26	Belasitsa Petrich	12	368	116	68	184	377	590	-213	360	–	–	–	1980–81	2008–09	6	
27	Velbazhd Kyustendil	7	201	98	27	76	299	269	+30	314	–	–	3	1954	2000–01	3	
28	Lokomotiv GO	10	304	102	59	143	310	462	-152	291	–	–	–	1963–64	2016–17	8	
29	Montana	10	310	70	71	169	291	488	-197	281	–	–	–	1994–95	2020–21	9	
30	Volov Shumen	7	212	61	38	113	219	368	-149	201	–	–	–	1972–73	1999–00	4	[f]
31	Pirin Bl. Blagoevgrad	6	178	53	41	84	189	254	-65	200	–	–	–	2003–04	2010–11	8	Merged to form Pirin in 2008.
32	Arda 1924	4	129	45	43	41	155	160	-5	178	–	–	–	2019–20	2019–20	4	
33	Yantra Gabrovo	7	214	65	50	99	239	332	-93	174	–	–	–	1970–71	1993–94	8	
34	Septemvri Sofia	6	183	47	38	98	207	325	-118	167	–	–	–	1959–60	2022–23	5	
35	CSKA 1948	3	98	40	32	26	147	107	+40	152	–	–	1	2020–21	2020–21	3	
36	Haskovo	7	212	52	31	129	210	400	-190	139	–	–	–	1978–79	2014–15	8	
37	Vihren Sandanski	4	118	38	14	66	117	173	-56	128	–	–	–	2005–06	2008–09	9	
38	Sevlievo	5	150	28	36	86	126	271	-145	120	–	–	–	2003–04	2011–12	12	

#	Club	S	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	1st	2nd	3rd	Debut	Since/ Last App	Best	Notes
39	Rodopa Smolyan	4	118	31	17	70	106	194	-88	110	-	-	-	2003–04	2006–07	10	[g]
40	Hebar	4	121	29	26	66	115	200	-85	100	-	-	-	1989–90	2022–23	9	
41	Akademik Svishtov	4	120	36	26	58	136	195	-59	97	-	-	-	1976–77	1986–87	11	
42	Tsarsko Selo Sofia	3	95	23	25	47	82	127	-45	94	-	-	-	2019–20	2021–22	8	Dissolved in 2022.
43	Vereya	3	106	24	19	63	73	195	-122	91	-	-	-	2016–17	2018–19	6	
44	Maritsa 1921	4	120	28	25	67	129	225	-126	89	-	-	-	1967–68	1996–97	14	
45	Tundzha 1915	3	97	28	22	47	98	152	-57	78	-	-	-	1970–71	1972–73	13	
46	Zavod 12 Sofia	3	74	23	27	24	72	80	-8	73	-	-	-	1954	1956	4	Merged with Slavia in 1957.
47	Metalurg Pernik	2	58	22	6	30	60	77	-17	72	-	-	-	1997–98	1998–99	10	
48	Lokomotiv Mezdra	2	60	17	13	30	69	89	-20	64	-	-	-	2008–09	2009–10	8	Dissolved in 2012.[h]
49	Vitosha Bistritsa	3	101	15	18	68	67	173	-106	63	-	-	-	2017–18	2019–20	13	Dissolved in 2020.
50	Pirin Gotse Delchev	2	68	16	8	44	62	148	-86	56	-	-	-	2012–13	2013–14	11	
51	VVS Sofia	2	54	13	21	20	60	63	-3	47	-	-	-	1953	1955	8	Merged into CDNA in 1956.
52	DSO Stroitel Sofia	2	50	13	18	19	47	53	-6	44	-	-	-	1950	1953	8	Dissolved in 1954.
53	Kaliakra Kavarna	2	60	10	11	39	45	117	-72	41	-	-	-	2010–11	2011–12	12	
54	Cherveno Zname Sofia	2	40	13	13	14	46	50	-4	39	-	-	-	1950	1951	6	Merged with CSKA in 1962.
55	Rilski Sportist	2	56	11	6	39	51	116	-65	39	-	-	-	2002–03	2006–07	14	
56	Olimpik Teteven	1	30	11	2	17	26	50	-24	35	-	-	-	1997–98	1997–98	14	
57	Rakovski Ruse	2	60	9	6	45	41	151	-110	33	-	-	-	1995–96	1996–97	13	
58	Septemvri Pleven	3	66	9	14	43	48	137	-89	32	-	-	-	1950	1954	8	Merged with Spartak in 1957.
59	Akademik Varna	1	28	9	7	12	26	43	-17	25	-	-	-	1953	1953	10	Merged with Cherno More in 1969.
60	Dimitrovgrad	1	30	8	6	16	32	66	-34	21	-	-	-	1986–87	1986–87	16	
61	Lyubimets	1	38	6	3	29	35	104	-69	21	-	-	-	2013–14	2013–14	14	
62	Himik Dimitrovgrad	1	30	7	6	17	36	60	-24	20	-	-	-	1962–63	1962–63	16	Merged to form Dimitrovgrad in 1967.
63	Nesebar	1	30	5	5	20	26	63	-37	20	-	-	-	2004–05	2004–05	15	
64	Rozova Dolina	1	30	7	5	18	30	53	-23	19	-	-	-	1982–83	1982–83	15	
65	Sportist Svoge	1	30	5	4	21	23	59	-36	19	-	-	-	2009–10	2009–10	15	
66	Slavia Plovdiv	1	18	4	8	6	16	21	-5	16	-	-	-	1948–49	1948–49	7	
67	Pavlikeni	1	26	5	4	17	12	45	-33	14	-	-	-	1955	1955	14	
68	Bdin 1923	1	18	2	4	12	13	35	-22	8	-	-	-	1948–49	1948–49	9	
69	Svetkavitsa 1922	1	30	1	5	24	8	71	-63	8	-	-	-	2011–12	2011–12	16	
70	Conegliano German F.C.	1	30	0	1	29	8	131	-123	-2	-	-	-	2006–07	2006–07	16	Dissolved in 2007.

Key

Competing in Parva Liga
Competing in Vtora Liga
Competing in the amateur leagues
Not competing (see notes)

a.^ Never relegated.

b.^ Never relegated, withdrawn with political decision during the 1950 season, due to league reorganisation.[10]

c.^ Club dissolved in 2006, successor clubs PSFC Chernomorets Burgas and FC Chernomorets 1919 Burgas were founded in 2005 and 2015.

d.^ Won the championship each season they've been in Parva Liga.

e.^ Club dissolved in 2003, successor clubs FC Etar 1924 Veliko Tarnovo and later SFC Etar Veliko Tarnovo were founded in 2002 and 2013.

f.^ Club dissolved in 2014 and refounded in 2018. successor club FC Shumen 1929 was founded 2013 and dissolved in 2016.

g.^ Club only supports a youth academy.

h.^ Club dissolved in 2012, successor clubs FC Lokomotiv 1929 Mezdra and OFC Lokomotiv Mezdra were founded in 2011 and 2012.

Bulgarian derbies

The Eternal Derby

The Eternal Derby of Bulgarian football is contested between the two most successful and most popular football clubs in Bulgaria, CSKA Sofia and Levski Sofia.

Plovdiv derby

The Plovdiv derby is contested between Botev and Lokomotiv.^[11]

Media coverage

For the start of the new 2012–13 season, the football clubs rejected requests from four TV stations due to the low payments being offered – Bulgarian National Television, Nova Television, TV7 and TV+. Finally after the first set of fixtures, the satellite broadcaster Bulsatcom with its channel TV+ bought the rights, along with BNT. Before the start of the spring half-season the rights were bought by TV7 and News7, who had rights for the first, third and fourth pick, and BNT 1 along with the international channel BNT World broadcasting the second pick of a match.^[12]

The next seasons will also be broadcast on the Nova Broadcasting Group channels Diema, Diema Sport and Diema Sport 2, part of the Diema Extra paid pack, as their contract with the league was additionally extended.^[13]

Sponsorship

Until 2011 the official sponsor of the championship was TBI Credit and the league was officially known as **TBI A Football Group**.^[14]

In 2011–12, A Group had a new sponsor, the Victoria FATA Insurance, and therefore the league name in that season was rebranded to **Victoria A Football Championship**.^[15]

In early 2013, for a short period of time the naming rights of A Group were bought from the news television network News7, eventually renaming the competition's name to **NEWS7 Football Championship**.^[16]

On 11 July 2019, the Bulgarian Football Union announced that the football division's name had been changed to **efbet League**, following a two-year sponsorship deal with a betting company of the same name.^[1]

Statistics

UEFA coefficients

The following data indicates Bulgarian coefficient rankings between European football leagues.^[17]

Country ranking

UEFA League Ranking as of the end of 2022-23 season:^[18]

- 25.  (27)  Nemzeti Bajnokság I (20.625)
- 26.  (25)  Liga I (20.500)
- 27.  (24)  First Professional Football League (20.000)
- 28.  (30)  Slovak Super Liga (19.750)
- 29.  (26)  Azerbaijan Premier League (16.625)

Club ranking

UEFA 5-year Club Ranking as of 29 May 2021:^[19]

- 78.  (70) Ludogorets Razgrad (21.000)
- 114.  (129) CSKA Sofia (13.000)
- 242.  (287) Lokomotiv Plovdiv (5.500)
- 278.  (292) Levski Sofia (4.500)
- 316.  (292) Slavia Sofia (4.000)
- 316.  (292) Botev Plovdiv (4.000)

Managers

The following is a table of all current Parva Liga head coaches and managers, and the time they've spent working with their respective clubs.

As of 26 February 2024

Current managers

Nat.	Manager	Club	Appointed	Time as manager
България	Ilian Iliev	Cherno More	28 December 2017 ^[20]	6 years, 64 days
България	Aleksandar Tomash	Lokomotiv Plovdiv	11 April 2022 ^[21]	1 year, 325 days
България	Lyuboslav Penev	Hebar	21 March 2023 ^[22]	346 days
България	Nikolay Kostov	Levski Sofia	13 June 2023 ^[23]	262 days
+	Nestor El Maestro	CSKA Sofia	29 July 2023 ^[24]	216 days
България	Nikolay Panayotov	CSKA 1948	15 August 2023 ^[25]	199 days
Словения	Dušan Kerkez	Botev Plovdiv	4 September 2023 ^[26]	179 days
Сръбия	Danilo Dončić	Lokomotiv Sofia	4 September 2023 ^[27]	179 days
България	Hristo Yanev	Botev Vratsa	19 September 2023 ^[28]	164 days
Испания	José Acciari	Beroe	20 September 2023 ^[29]	163 days
България	Svetoslav Petrov	Etar	2 October 2023 ^[30]	151 days
България	Zlatomir Zagorčić	Slavia Sofia	23 October 2023 ^[31]	130 days
България	Georgi Dermendzhiev	Ludogorets	24 October 2023 ^[32]	129 days
България	Stanislav Genchev	Krumovgrad	28 October 2023 ^[33]	125 days
Украйна	Oleksandr Babych	Pirin Blagoevgrad	5 February 2024 ^[34]	25 days
България	Nikolay Kirov	Arda	26 February 2024 ^[35]	4 days

Records

All-time league appearances

Top 10 appearances in Bulgarian First League

Rank	Player	Period	App.
1	Georgi Iliev	2000–2019	461
2	Martin Kamburov	1998–2021	456
3	Marin Bakalov	1980–1999	454
4	Dinko Dermendzhiev	1959–1978	447
5	Vidin Apostolov	1959–1976	444
6	Todor Marev	1972–1994	422
7	Hristo Bonev	1964–1984	410
8	Zapryan Rakov	1983–1999	403
9	Malin Orachev	1990–2008	398
10	Todor Yanchev	1997–2014	395

Bold displays footballers currently playing in First League
As of 20 February 2022



Georgi Iliev holds the records for most appearances in First League

All-time top scorers

Top 10 goalscorers in Bulgarian First League

Rank	Player	Period	Goals	Average
1	Martin Kamburov	1998–2021	256	0.56
2	Petar Zhekov	1962–1975	253	0.76
3	Nasko Sirakov	1980–1998	196	0.59
4	Dinko Dermendzhiev	1959–1978	194	0.43
5	Hristo Bonev	1964–1984	185	0.45
6	Plamen Getov	1977–1998	164	0.57
7	Nikola Kotkov	1956–1971	163	0.51
8	Stefan Bogomilov	1962–1976	162	0.46
9	Petar Mihtarski	1982–2001	158	0.48
10	Petko Petkov	1968–1980	152	0.53

Bold displays footballers currently playing in First League
As of 20 February 2022



Martin Kamburov is the all-time top goalscorer in First League with 256 goals

Other records

- Youngest player to appear in the league –  [Radoslav Uzunov](#) (aged 15 years and 1 month)^[36]
- Oldest player to appear in the league –  [Georgi Petkov](#) (aged 47 years)^{[37][38]}
- Foreign player with the most appearances in the league –  [Vančo Trajanov](#) (328)
- Foreign player with the most goals in the league –  [Claudiu Keserü](#) (113)
- Footballer with the most titles won -  [Manol Manolov](#) (12, all with [CSKA Sofia](#))^[39]
- Footballer who has won the title with the most teams -  [Stefan Kolev](#) (5 titles - 1 with [Levski Sofia](#), 1 with [CSKA Sofia](#), 1 with [Slavia Sofia](#) and 2 with [Litex Lovech](#))^[40]
- Manager with the most titles won -  [Krum Milev](#) (11, all with [CSKA Sofia](#))^[41]
- Manager with the most matches in charge of a team -  [Dimitar Dimitrov](#)^[42]
- Most goals scored in a single match -  [Ivo Georgiev](#),  [Petar Mihaylov](#),  [Todor Pramatarov](#) and  [Tsvetan Genkov](#) (6)^{[41][43]}
- Fastest goal scored in the league –  [Miroslav Manolov](#) (6 seconds)^[44]
- Goal scored at latest point in a match (excluding extra time) –  [Spas Delev](#) (108th minute)^[45]
- Fastest red card in the league –  [Nenad Filipović](#) (20 seconds)^[46]
- Tallest player to appear in the league –  [Alessandro Coppola](#) (2.05 m)^[47]

Top scorers by season

[\[48\]](#)[\[49\]](#)

Bold indicates all-time highest.

Season	Player (Club)	Nat.	Goals
1937–38	Krum Milev (Slavia Sofia)	BUL	12
1938–39	Georgi Pachedzhiev (AS 23 Sofia)	BUL	14
1939–40	Yanko Stoyanov (Levski Sofia) Dimitar Nikolaev (FC 13 Sofia)	BUL BUL	14
1948–49	Dimitar Milanov (CSKA Sofia) Nedko Nedev (Cherno More Varna)	BUL BUL	11
1950	Lyubomir Hranov (Levski Sofia)	BUL	13
1951	Dimitar Milanov (2) (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	14
1952	Dimitar Isakov (Slavia Sofia) Dobromir Tashkov (Spartak Sofia)	BUL BUL	10
1953	Dimitar Minchev (Spartak Pleven and VVS Sofia)	BUL	15
1954	Dobromir Tashkov (2) (Slavia Sofia)	BUL	25
1955	Todor Diev (Spartak Plovdiv)	BUL	13
1956	Pavel Vladimirov (Minyor Pernik)	BUL	16
1957	Hristo Iliev (Levski Sofia) Dimitar Milanov (3) (CSKA Sofia)	BUL BUL	14
1958	Dobromir Tashkov (3) (Slavia Sofia) Georgi Arnaudov (Spartak Varna)	BUL BUL	9
1958–59	Aleksandar Vasilev (Slavia Sofia)	BUL	13
1959–60	Dimitar Yordanov (Levski Sofia) Lyuben Kostov (Spartak Varna)	BUL BUL	12
1960–61	Ivan Sotirov (Botev Plovdiv)	BUL	20
1961–62	Nikola Yordanov (Dunav Ruse)	BUL	23
1962–63	Todor Diev (2) (Spartak Plovdiv)	BUL	26
1963–64	Nikola Tsanev (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	26
1964–65	Georgi Asparuhov (Levski Sofia)	BUL	27
1965–66	Traycho Spasov (Marek Dupnitsa)	BUL	21
1966–67	Petar Zhekov (Beroe Stara Zagora)	BUL	21
1967–68	Petar Zhekov (2) (Beroe Stara Zagora)	BUL	31
1968–69	Petar Zhekov (3) (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	36
1969–70	Petar Zhekov (4) (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	31
1970–71	Dimitar Yakimov (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	26
1971–72	Petar Zhekov (5) (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	27
1972–73	Petar Zhekov (6) (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	29
1973–74	Petko Petkov (Beroe Stara Zagora)	BUL	20
1974–75	Ivan Pritargov (Botev Plovdiv)	BUL	20
1975–76	Petko Petkov (2) (Beroe Stara Zagora)	BUL	19
1976–77	Pavel Panov (Levski Sofia)	BUL	20
1977–78	Stoycho Mladenov (Beroe Stara Zagora)	BUL	21
1978–79	Rusi Gochev (Chernomorets Burgas and Levski Sofia)	BUL	19
1979–80	Spas Dzhevizov (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	23
1980–81	Georgi Slavkov (Botev Plovdiv)	BUL	31
1981–82	Mihail Valchev (Levski Sofia)	BUL	24
1982–83	Antim Pehlivanov (Botev Plovdiv)	BUL	20
1983–84	Eduard Eranosyan (Lokomotiv Plovdiv)	BUL	19
1984–85	Plamen Getov (Spartak Pleven)	BUL	26
1985–86	Atanas Pashev (Botev Plovdiv)	BUL	30
1986–87	Nasko Sirakov (Levski Sofia)	BUL	36
1987–88	Nasko Sirakov (2) (Levski Sofia)	BUL	28
1988–89	Hristo Stoichkov (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	23

Season	Player (Club)	Nat.	Goals
1989–90	Hristo Stoichkov (2) (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	38
1990–91	Ivaylo Yordanov (Lokomotiv Gorna Oryahovitsa)	BUL	21
1991–92	Nasko Sirakov (3) (Levski Sofia)	BUL	26
1992–93	Plamen Getov (2) (Levski Sofia)	BUL	26
1993–94	Nasko Sirakov (4) (Levski Sofia)	BUL	30
1994–95	Petar Mihtarski (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	24
1995–96	Ivo Georgiev (Spartak Varna)	BUL	21
1996–97	Todor Pramatarov (Slavia Sofia)	BUL	26
1997–98	Anton Spasov (NafTEX Burgas) Boncho Genchev (CSKA Sofia)	BUL BUL	17
1998–99	Dimcho Belyakov (Litex Lovech)	BUL	21
1999–00	Mihail Mihaylov (Velbazhd Kyustendil)	BUL	20
2000–01	Georgi Ivanov (Levski Sofia)	BUL	22
2001–02	Vladimir Manchev (CSKA Sofia)	BUL	21
2002–03	Georgi Chilikov (Levski Sofia)	BUL	23
2003–04	Martin Kamburov (Lokomotiv Plovdiv)	BUL	25
2004–05	Martin Kamburov (2) (Lokomotiv Plovdiv)	BUL	27
2005–06	Milivoje Novaković (Litex Lovech) José Emílio Furtado (Vihren and CSKA Sofia)	SVN CPV	16
2006–07	Tsvetan Genkov (Lokomotiv Sofia)	BUL	27
2007–08	Georgi Hristov (Botev Plovdiv)	BUL	19
2008–09	Martin Kamburov (3) (Lokomotiv Sofia)	BUL	17
2009–10	Wilfried Niflore (Litex Lovech)	FRA	19
2010–11	Garra Dembélé (Levski Sofia)	MLI	26
2011–12	Ivan Stoyanov (Ludogorets Razgrad) Júnior Moraes (CSKA Sofia)	BUL BRA	16
2012–13	Basile de Carvalho (Levski Sofia)	GNB	19
2013–14	Wilmar Jordán (Litex Lovech) Martin Kamburov (4) (Lokomotiv Plovdiv)	COL BUL	20
2014–15	Añete (Levski Sofia)	ESP	14
2015–16	Martin Kamburov (5) (Lokomotiv Plovdiv)	BUL	18
2016–17	Claudiu Keşerü (Ludogorets Razgrad)	ROM	22
2017–18	Claudiu Keşerü (2) (Ludogorets Razgrad)	ROM	26
2018–19	Stanislav Kostov (Levski Sofia)	BUL	23
2019–20	Martin Kamburov (6) (Beroe)	BUL	18
2020–21	Claudiu Keşerü (3) (Ludogorets Razgrad)	ROM	18
2021–22	Pieros Sotiriou (Ludogorets Razgrad)	CYP	17
2022–23	Ivaylo Chochev (CSKA 1948 Sofia)	BUL	21

See also

- List of foreign football players in A PFG
- Second Professional Football League (Bulgaria)

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.fpleague.bg/bg/>)
 - League (<http://www.uefa.com/memberassociations/association=bul/domesticleague/index.html>) at UEFA
 - Bulgaria – List of Champions (<https://www.rsssf.org/tables/bulgchamp.html>), RSSSF.com
 - Table (http://www.xscores.com/soccer/tables/bulgaria/premier_league/2014-2015/I/4/0/), at xscores.com

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=First_Professional_Football_League_\(Bulgaria\)&oldid=1210665486](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=First_Professional_Football_League_(Bulgaria)&oldid=1210665486)"

Football in Albania

Football is the most popular sport in Albania, both at a participatory and spectator level.^{[1][2]} The sport is governed by the Football Association of Albania (FSHF) (Albanian: *Federata Shqiptare e Futbollit*).

History of football in Albania

Football arrived in Albania at the beginning of the 20th century. The first recorded match was between students at a Christian mission in Shkodër. The game increased in popularity and by 1919 the first club, KS Vllaznia Shkodër, had been founded. In 1920 SK Tirana was founded. Other towns and cities followed suit and on 6 June 1930 the Football Association of Albania (FSHF) was established. The association became a member of football's governing body FIFA in 1932, and joined the European governing body UEFA in 1954 as a founding member.

A domestic championship began in 1930 with 6 teams. KF Tirana were the inaugural winners. They, together with such sides as KS Dinamo Tirana, Vllaznia Shkodër and FK Partizani, have continued to dominate the Albanian scene until the present day. The years following World War II saw a new political order, with the introduction of a communist system which had a positive impact as far as the game's appeal was concerned. Football was used as popular entertainment. Its infrastructure grew stronger as the game was organized and developed in state enterprises, schools, villages and towns. New institutional clubs were founded such as Partizani Tirana (1946) and Dinamo Tirana (1950) (governed respectively by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Internal Affairs).^[3] Until 1990 they were privileged in relation to the other clubs as they were able to get players from other teams.

From 1991, there were crucial political and economic changes that had a tremendous effect on the nation, as the centralized economy and political system came to an end. The result for the country's footballers was an opportunity to play their trade on foreign fields. Neighbouring Greece and the Balkan states were popular destinations for players who were good enough to go abroad.

League and Cup system

The Albanian league is split into 4 divisions. The Albanian Superliga (Albanian: *Kategoria Superiore*) was formed in 1930. In 1998 it took its current name and is the highest level of Albanian Football. It currently comprises 10 teams. The Superliga displaced the First Division (Albanian: *Kategoria e Parë*) as the top division, and this is now Albanian Football's second tier. Below this is Second Division (Albanian: *Kategoria e Dytë*), which is divided geographically into A & B.

The winners of the league are entitled to compete in the UEFA Champions League at the First qualifying round stage. The runners-up are entitled to compete in the UEFA Europa League, also at the First qualifying round stage. KF Tirana hold the record for Albanian league titles, with 24.

Football in Albania



The Arena Kombëtare during inauguration match between Albania and France

Country	Albania
Governing body	Albanian Football Association
National team(s)	Men's national team
National competitions	
Albanian Supercup	
Club competitions	
Kategoria Superiore	
International competitions	
Champions League	
Europa League	
Europa Conference League	
Super Cup	
FIFA Club World Cup	
FIFA World Cup (National Team)	
European Championship (National Team)	
UEFA Nations League (National Team)	

Level	League(s)/Division(s)
1	Kategoria Superiore 10 clubs
	↓↑ 2-3 clubs
2	Kategoria e Parë 12 clubs
	↓↑ 2-4 clubs
3	Kategoria e Dytë 23 clubs + 3 Reserve teams divided in 2 series of 13 clubs
	↓ 2-3 clubs ↑ 2-3 clubs
4	Kategoria e Tretë 8 clubs

Cup competitions

The Albanian Football Cup (Albanian: Kupa e Shqipërisë), which is the country's main knockout cup competition, was established in 1939. The winners are entitled to compete in the UEFA Europa League, at the First qualifying round stage. The most successful team in this competition, KF Partizani Tirana, has won the cup 15 times.

The Albanian Supercup, which started in 1989, is a single match played at the beginning of the season between the winners of the Superliga and the Albanian Cup. The most successful team in this competition, KF Tirana, has won 9 times.

Albanian football clubs in European competitions

Albanian football clubs have a long history in European football. The most successful clubs in the past were KF Tirana and Flamurtari FC as well as FK Partizani Tirana. In recent history KF Skënderbeu Korçë were quite successful in the UEFA Europa League.

European Cup / UEFA Champions League

The first Albanian club to enter the European Cup was FK Partizani Tirana in 1962–63 playing in the first round against Norrköping losing out after two legs despite drawing at home with 1–1 in the second leg.^[4] The following year, Partizani won their first-ever match in the European Cup 1963–64 in the first leg against Plovdiv through a goal from Kolec Kraja. In the second leg away from home, Partizani nearly qualified for the second round but lost 1–3 despite a goal from Panajot Pano.^[5] One year later in 1964–65 Partizani Tirana faced 1. FC Köln from Germany in the preliminary round. The Albanians surprised the Germans and held a 0–0 draw at home.^[6] In the second leg in Cologne Partizani Tirana lost the match 0–2.

KF Tirana first entered the European Football scene in 1969–70. After losing the first leg against Belgian team Standard Liège 0–3 away from home, they drew at home 1–1 thanks to a late goal from Josif Kazanxhi.



KF Tirana (Sept. 1970) before facing Ajax Amsterdam

In the following year, KF Tirana faced Eredivisie team AFC Ajax in the 1970–71 European Cup in the first round. Tirana drew Ajax 2–2 after losing 0–2 at home. The Albanians equalized the game thanks to goals from Josif Kazanxhi and Ceco.^[7] Tirana faced Ajax in the second leg at the Olympisch Stadion in Amsterdam. Ajax won the game 2–0 and went on to win the Cup.^[8]

KF Vllaznia Shkodër debuted at the European Cup 1978–79 facing FK Austria Wien in the first round. Vllaznia beat Austria in the first leg 2–0 with goals from Medin Zhega and Shyqyri Ballgjini.^[9] In the following match, Vllaznia had good chances to qualify as the first Albanian football club in the round of 16. The hopes were dashed for Vllaznia as they lost with 4–1 away in Wien.^[10]

Partizani Tirana qualified for the Cup for the fourth time in 1979–80 and beat Celtic 1–0 in the first match with a header from Agim Murati in the 35th minute.^[11] Celtic turned things around and beat Partizani 4–1 despite an own goal in the Celtic Park in Glasgow.^[12]

Two years later in the 1981–82 European Cup, Partizani Tirana faced Austria Wien in the first round. Partizani lost the first leg away match 1–3.^[13] The Albanians played the second leg at home in the Qemal Stafa Stadium and won 1–0. Haxhi Ballgjini scored the goal for Partizani in the 31st minute. Partizani needed to score two goals to qualify into the second round, and they were eliminated from the competition despite the victory.^[14]

The historical 1980's in the European cup for the Albanian Football clubs

The following year at the 1982–83 European Cup KF Tirana faced Linfield F.C. in the first round. The teams played the first leg in Tirana. Tirana won the match 1–0 with a goal from Agustin Kola.^[15] In the second leg match, Tirana faced Linfield at Windsor Park in Belfast. Arben Minga scored in the 28th minute, but Linfield scored two quick goals in the final minutes of the match. Despite the 2–1 away loss, KF Tirana qualified as the first Albanian football club in history for the round of 16 in the European Cup.^[16] The team would have played against Dynamo Kyiv in the round of 16, but Tirana did not participate.^[17]

After several years without success for Albania, KF Tirana competed for the sixth time in history at the European Cup in 1988–89.^[18] The team faced the Hamrun Spartans from Malta in the first round. In the first leg, they played away from home at National Stadium in Ta' Qali. KF Tirana started with a goal from Anesti Stoja in the 5th minute, but Hamrun scored two goals to win the match 2–1.^[19] In the second leg, Tirana defeated the Spartans 2–0 to qualify for the round of 16.^[20]

In the first leg of the round of 16, Tirana faced IFK Göteborg at home and lost the match 0–3.^[21] Tirana defeated Göteborg 1–0 in the second leg at Ullevi stadium but did not qualify for the quarter-finals.

In the following European Cup in 1989–90, KF Tirana faced Maltese team Sliema Wanderers F.C. in the first round. The first leg was played away from home in the National Stadium. The Albanians lost 0–1. KF Tirana won the second leg game 5–0 with goals from Agustin Kola, Bardhi, Hodja, and Florian Riza to advance to the round of 16 for the third time in the club's history.^[22]

In the round of 16, KF Tirana faced Bundesliga team FC Bayern Munich from Germany. In the first leg at the Olympiastadion in Munich, KF Tirana lost 3–1.^[23] In the second match, Tirana faced Bayern at home and lost 0–3.^[24]

UEFA Cup / UEFA Europa League

Albania did not compete in the UEFA Cup as much as they did in the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup or in the European Cup, despite Albania's success in the late '80s. Flamutari Vlora^[25] and, in recent years, KF Skënderbeu Korçë have been the most successful Albanian teams in the UEFA Cup.

Dinamo Tirana became the first Albanian football team to debut in the UEFA Cup during the 1981–82 competition. In the first round, they faced Carl Zeiss Jena from East Germany.^[26] In the first leg, Dinamo faced the opposition at home at Selman Stërmasi Stadium, winning 1–0 with a goal from Vasillaq Zëri.^[27] Dinamo Tirana had to travel to Jena to face Carl Zeiss at Ernst-Abbe-Sportfeld in the second leg. The Albanians lost 4–0 and failed to qualify for the second round.

In the 1985–86 UEFA Cup Dinamo Tirana faced the Hamrun Spartans from Malta. In the first leg, Dinamo defeated the Spartans 1–0 at home with a goal from Eduard Abazi. Dinamo drew the away game in the second leg 0–0 to qualify as the first Albanian football club in the second round. In the second round, Dinamo Tirana faced Portuguese side Sporting Lisabon. In the first leg, Tirana held a 0–0 draw at home. Away from home at José Alvalade Stadium in Lisbon, Tirana lost 0–1 and was knocked out of the competition.^[28]

Flamurtari Vlora debuted at the UEFA Cup 1986–87. They faced FC Barcelona in the first round.^[29] The teams played the first leg at the Flamurtari Stadium. Flamutari put themselves in front with a goal from Vasil Ruci^[30] in the 68 minute. Barcelona equalized in the 88th minute to secure a 1–1 draw in Vlora. In the second leg, Flamutari traveled to Spain to face Barcelona at Camp Nou. The game ended in a 0–0 draw. Barcelona advanced and knocked Flamutari out of the competition due to the away rule.^[31]

Flamutari qualified for a second consecutive UEFA Cup in 1987–88. Flamutari faced in the first round Yugoslavian side Partizan Belgrad. Flamutari won the first leg match at home 2–0 through an own goal and a goal from Roland Iljadhi.^{[32][33]} The teams played the second leg at Partizan Stadium in Belgrade. The situation was tense between the Albanians and Serbians, due to the political unrest in Kosovo. Partizan led the match 2–0 until Sokol Kushta scored to clinch a 2–1 result and advance Flamutari to the second round for the first time in the history for Albania in the UEFA Cup.^{[34][35][36][37]}

Flamutari Vlora faced East German side Wismut Aue in the second round. Flamutari lost the first leg match at the Otto-Grotewohl-Stadion in Aue 1–0. They won the second leg match at home 2–0 with goals from Rrapo Taho and Vasil Ruci to become the first Albanian team to qualify for the round of 16 in the UEFA Cup. They also became the first Albanian side to beat two clubs in a UEFA competition after two rounds were played.^{[38][39]}

Flamutari faced FC Barcelona for the second time in their history in the third round at the Camp Nou. Flamutari was down 1–0 at halftime, but three quick goals in the second half put Barca up 4–0. Vasil Ruci scored a penalty kick to bring the final score to 4–1. In the following leg, Flamutari defeated Barca 1–0 in the fully crowded Flamurtari Stadium in Vlora with a goal from Sokol Kushta. Despite the win, Flamutari did not qualify for the quarterfinals.^[40] As of May 2022, Flamutari's 1987–88 UEFA Cup performance was the most successful result for Albania in a UEFA competition.^{[41][42][43]}

UEFA Cup Winners' Cup

Several Albanian football clubs, including KF Besa Kavajë, KF Tirana, and KF Vllaznia Shkodër have participated in the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup.

Albania's debut at the competition came in 1968–69 when FK Partizani Tirana faced Italian side Torino F.C. In the first leg, Partizani Tirana defeated Torino at home.^[44] In the second leg, the Albanians lost 3–1 away and failed to advance to the quarterfinals. Torino advanced directly to the quarterfinals after the match.^[45]

In the 1970–71 European Cup Winners' Cup, Partizani Tirana faced Swedish team Åtvidabergs FF in the preliminary round in the Kopparvallen. Partizani drew the away match 1–1. In the following leg at home, the Albanians won 2–0 with goals from Panajot Pano and Ramazan Rragami.^[46] The round was the first time Partizani advanced in a UEFA competition after drawing in the first leg.^[44]

At the following 1971–72 European Cup Winners' Cup, Dinamo Tirana debuted against Austrian side Austria Wien. Dinamo held a 1–1 draw at home with a penalty goal from Iljaz Çeço.^[47] At the following game at the Praterstadion in Vienna, the Albanians lost 1–0 and failed to advance to the round of sixteen.^[48]

In the following 1972–73 UEFA Cup Winners' season, KF Besa Kavajë debuted in the first round against Fremad Amager from Denmark. The Albanians drew away from home 1–1 and secured a 0–0 draw at home to become the first Albanian club to advance to the round of sixteen at the competition.^[49]

The Albanians faced Scottish side Hibernian in the round of sixteen. In the first leg away, Besa lost 7–1 despite a goal from M.Kariqi. In the following leg at the Besa Stadium, the Albanians failed to make up the six goal deficit and were knocked out of the competition, drawing 1–1 with a goal from K.Pagria.^[50]

After some years in which Albania couldn't take place at this competition, they would return several years later in 1980-81 in which FK Partizani Tirana, faced Malmö from Sweden. In the first round. Despite a close match they would lose the first leg with 1–0 away. Notably they drew their home leg with 0–0, still not enough to qualify further.^[51]

Two years later in the 1982-83 edition Dinamo Tirana faced in the first round Aberdeen F.C. from Scotland. In the first leg they would lose close with 1–0 despite playing a good match. At the second leg they couldn't overcome a 0–0 in Tirana and so left the competition once again in the first round.^[52] Notable fact Aberdeen would than go on and eventually win the competition that particular year, after winning against Real Madrid in the finals.^[53]

In the 1983-84 edition 17 Nëntori Tirana would made their debut, at this competition. Their first tie was against Swedish side Hammarby. Away from home they couldn't compete against the opponent, as they faced a staggering defeat in the Söderstadion with 4–0 in the end. Despite losing the first match, in the second leg they, improved on their performance. Winning at home with 2–1 thanks to goals from Arben Vila and Sulejman Mema. Securing Albania their first win after more than 10 years, in this competition.^[54]

The history of the Albania national football team

Pre war history of Albania

Founded on 6 June 1930, Albania had to wait 16 years to play its first international match, which was against Yugoslavia in 1946. In 1932, Albania had already joined FIFA (during the congress 12–16 June) and in 1954 it was one of the founding members of UEFA. Albania was invited to play in the 1934 World Cup, but did not take part due to logistical problems.

Champion of the Balkans in 1946

The early years oversaw a notably successful Balkan Cup in the 1946 campaign. Albania won the cup after overcoming Yugoslavia on level points but a better goal difference. The final match ended in a 1–0 win against Romania. Four days earlier, Albania had already beaten Bulgaria 3–1. Albania wasn't expected to participate, but the withdrawal of Greece from the tournament offered Albania a chance to join in the re-established post-war cup.^[55]



2007 postage stamp of Albania dedicated to the Albania squad that won the 1946 Balkan Cup

Between the best 16 Teams in Europe at the UEFA Euro 1964

Albania qualified for the first time in their history at the UEFA Euro 1964 in Spain, for its first-ever major men's national football Tournament. Albania faced Greece in the first round. They wouldn't participate as Greece withdrew and Albania being given a walkover and advancing so to the Round of 16 in this Tournament.^[56] In the Round of 16 the Albanians would face Denmark. In the first leg they lost out with 4–0 away from home. Despite their win at the second leg in Tirana, through an early goal from Panajot Pano. Albania couldn't progress to the quarterfinals. At the end of this tournament Albania ranked 9th.^[57] It was the only time Albania was between the best 16 teams of Europe.^[58]

1964–72 Albania participating in Football at the Summer Olympics qualifying tournaments

Albania would participate for the first time in their history at the 1964 Summer Olympics in the men's qualification tournament. In which the Albanians faced Bulgaria in the preliminary round. Albania would lose both matches close with 0–1 against the Bulgarians, missing out on the next stage.^[59] Albania then participate for the second and last time in their Football history at the 1972 Summer Olympics held in Munich. In the Men's European Qualifiers they would face Romania in the play-off stage. In the first leg they lost with 2–1 away from home despite an equalizer scored by Medin Zhega in the 55th Minute of this match. At the second leg Albania faced the Romanians in the Qemal Stafa Stadium in

Tirana. The Albanians started the match well as Panajot Pano puts Albania in front in the 29th minute but once again they couldn't hold on to the result. As Romania scored further two goals in the end, to beat Albania once more with 1–2 this time around.^[60]

Albania's historical 1986 FIFA World Cup qualification

Albania would face in this qualification Belgium, Poland and their rivals Greece. In the first match they faced Belgium in Brussels. The Albanians lost with 3–1 despite the equalizer from Bedri Omuri in the 71st minute. Albania would face away from home against Poland in the Stadion Stali Mielec. They drew the result through goals from Bedri Omuri and even the leading goal from Agustin Kola with 2–1 but at the end Poland scored again. Albania missing out on their first win, in this qualification. After that Albania famously beat Belgium at home with 2–0 in the Qemal Stafa Stadium. The goals were scored by Mirel Josa and Arben Minga securing Albania their first and only win in this qualification.^{[20][61]} As Albania loss their next two games against Greece away with 2–0 and against Poland at home close with 0–1. Missing out close to qualify for the 1986 FIFA World Cup. In their last match they faced Greece at home in Tirana. They go in front by a goal from Bedri Omuri but they couldn't hold on as Greece equalized the result in the 54th minute. At the end playing a 1–1 draw.^[62] Despite finishing their campaign with four points in the third place. Albania came close to qualify as they nearly beat every opponent in this group. It was their most successful FIFA World Cup qualification in the history of Albania.

Albania's turn around in results between 2004 and 2006

After a poor start in which Albania would draw at home against Switzerland with 1–1 by a goal from Edvin Murati but lost in the next match away against Russia with 4–1 despite an earlier equalizer scored by Klodian Duro Albania sacked their manager Giuseppe Dossena^[63] and replaced him with German Hans-Peter Briegel for the following match.^[64] against Russia in the Loro Borici Stadium in Shkodër. In which the Albanians won 3–1 through goals from Altin Raklli, Altin Lala and Igli Tare to secure Hans-Peter Briegel in his debut match, as a manager, his maiden win for Albania.^{[65][66]} He led Albania to an undefeated run at home matches by drawing against Republic of Ireland 0–0 and beating in the last match Georgia 3–1 by goals from Besnik Hasi, Igli Tare and striker Alban Bushi. Despite the good results, Albania finished the group in the penultimate spot with eight points. Away, Albania could not score any points, but managed to score 4 goals. Missing close out on the Playoffs stage by six points.

Two months after Greece beat Portugal to win the European Championship, Albania defeated Greece 2–1 at home by two quick goals from Edvin Murati and Adrian Aliaj, denting the Greeks' possibility to qualify. The Albanians led the table for the first time in a qualification after this match.^{[67][68]} Albania went on to disappoint by losing to Georgia away and Denmark at home, before returning to winning ways by beating Kazakhstan 0–1 with a goal from Alban Bushi. Then, Albania played Ukraine, Turkey, and Greece, losing all three matches. Later Albania beat Georgia 3–2 by two goals from Igli Tare and one from Ervin Skela as well as beating Kazakhstan with 2–1 by goals from Florian Myrtaj and striker Erjon Bogdani. The last positive result for Albania in this qualification would be a 2–2 away draw with Ukraine where Bogdani scored two goals. At the end, Albania got 13 points, and four wins in their best result then. They surpassed for the first time in their history two nations in the qualifying standings.^[69]

World Cup 2014 qualifying

Albania started the qualifiers well, notably defeating Cyprus with 3–1 by goals from Armando Sadiku, Edgar Çani and Erjon Bogdani as well as beating Slovenia at home with 1–0 by a goal from Odise Roshi.^[70] which was followed by an unprecedent away win at Norway in Oslo after a stunning goal from Hamdi Salihu.^{[71][72]} Albania would also draw against Norway at home despite leading the match with a goal from Valdet Rama , this match ending in a 1–1 draw.^[73] The team was at one point 2nd with 6 matches played and 4 to spare, but failed to be successful in the last four, losing away in Slovenia and Iceland,^{[74][75]} as well at home against Switzerland,^[76] and drawing in Cyprus.^[77] With De Biasi, the Albania national team reached an unprecedented high number of players, who although are ethnically Albanian, were not born in Albania, but either in Kosovo, or outside of Kosovo, while hailing from Kosovo Albania parents. In 2011–13, 14 Albanians of Kosovo origin were either part of the start-up team, or had received recent call-ups.^[78]

UEFA Euro 2016 qualification

The qualifying draw took place on 23 February 2014. Albania was drawn in Group I along with Portugal, Denmark, Serbia, and Armenia. Qualifying matches started in September 2014. Albania started the qualifiers with a historic result as they beat group favourites Portugal 1–0 away thanks to a goal from Bekim Balaj.^[79] In the second match against Denmark at the newly renovated Elbasan Arena, Albania was in the lead until the 82nd minute where Lasse Vibe equalized, with the match ending 1–1. In the next game against Serbia at Partizan Stadium, the match was abandoned in 42nd minute after several on and off the field incidents. Despite the violence by Serbia's hooligans against Albania at Partizan Stadium, Serbia was awarded the 3–0 victory after the decision by UEFA.^[80] The decision was appealed by both Serbia and Albania,^{[81][82]} but the decision was upheld by UEFA.^[83] Both associations then filed further appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport,^[84] and on 10 July 2015 the Court of Arbitration for Sport rejected the appeal filed by the Serbian FA, and upholds in part the appeal filed by the Albanian FA, meaning the match is deemed to have been forfeited by Serbia with 0–3 and they are still deducted three points.^[85]

In the fourth match against Armenia at home, Albania were behind from the 4th minute after an own goal from Mërgim Mavraj, but Mavraj equalized in the 77th minute with a powerful header. Four minutes later Shkëlzen Gashi scored the winner, putting Albania in the 2nd position along with Denmark with 10 points.^[86] It was the first time that Albania ended the first part of the qualifiers in the second spot. Albania made history again by beating one-time world champions and UEFA Euro 2016 hosts France at the Elbasan Arena in the "Group I" friendly match.^[87] After a draw against Denmark, Albania clinched at least a play-off place. Despite losing to Portugal and Serbia, Albania defeated Armenia 3–0 in Yerevan and qualified for UEFA Euro 2016,^[88] for its first appearance at a major men's football tournament after 50 years.

Albania at the UEFA Euro 2016

Albania qualified for the UEFA Euro 2016 held in France. They were drawn in a strong group with the host France, Switzerland and Romania. In their second ever campaign Albania started his first Groupstage Match against Switzerland. Despite being 0–1 down after an unlucky conceded goal from F.Schär in the 5th minute. Albania did play a strong match even though with 10 men because Lorik Cana got a red card for holding the ball with his hand in the 36th minute. Albania did everything in the second half and had 6 minutes before the end an amazing chance to equalize in the closing stage of the match, to get a deserved draw but Shkelzen Gashi missed a sitter in front off the goal. Despite that the Albanian team was praised by the football community for their strong performance.^[89] Albania would play against France in their second group game. Until the end Albania hold in Marseille a strong 0–0 draw but in the end Albania conceded two goals from Antoine Griezmann and Dimitri Payet to lose in the end with 2–0. Albania would face in their last Groupstage match Romania. Albania would win this match with 0–1 by a beautiful header scored by Armando Sadiku in the 43rd minute. In the second half Albania defended the result and secured their first win after 50 years in a UEFA European Championship in their history. However, the team finished last among the third-placed teams and didn't progress beyond the group stage.^[90]

In 2020, Albania won for the first time a group by finishing first in group 4 of UEFA Nations League C. Albania also won a spot for the play-offs of 2022 World Cup and was promoted in UEFA Nations League B.

Honours of Albania

- **Balkan Cup:**
 - **Champions (1): 1946**
- **Malta International Football Tournament:**
 - **Champions (1): 2000^[91]**
- **UEFA Nations League**
 - **Promotion (1): 2020–21 UEFA Nations League C**

Albania national under-21 football team

- **UEFA European Under-21 Championship**
 - **Quarterfinals (1): in 1984**

- Balkan Youth Championship

- **Winners** (2): 1978, 1981

Albanian Football clubs in Europe

KF Tirana

- UEFA Champions League

- **Round of Sixteen** (3): in 1982-83, 1988-89 and in 1989-90

Flamurtari Vlora

- UEFA Cup

- **Round of Sixteen** (1): in 1987-88

Partizani Tirana

- Balkan Cup

- **Winners** (1): in 1970

Youth football in Albania

Balkan Youth Championship

Albania Under-21 participated in the Balkan Youth Championship as a successor to the Under-23 team, in the 1976–78 and 1981 competitions, winning both with finals against Romania and Bulgaria. Notably in 1978, the second leg of the final match against Romania was characterized by a large Albania's win 7–1, which is the largest win ever recorded by Albania U-21.^[92]

1984 UEFA European Under-21 Football Championship

Albania Under-21s have managed to qualify only once in their history, and that came in the year of 1984 when they managed to qualify for the 1984 UEFA European Under-21 Football Championship, although they were competing for the first time in such tournament. They were drawn in a very tough group which included the West Germany, Turkey and Austria. The historic event was the first time any Albanian squad qualified for a Europe or World Championship, and is only the fifth time any Albanian squad qualified for the major championships. To this day the team that qualified for 1984 UEFA European Under-21 Football Championship are still regarded as the most successful team in Albanian football history. Albania U21 managed to qualify without losing a single game and managing two very good draws against one of the biggest and best footballing nations, West Germany.

Albania played the quarter-finals against Italy, against which it lost twice 0–1, and 0–1, in Albania and Italy respectively.^[93]

Albania under-19 football team

Than the Albania national under-18 football team were able to participate for the first time ever in the 1982 UEFA European Under-18 Championship after beating Cyprus 4–2 on aggregate in the Playoffs.^[94] in the Groupstage they faced in Group D: Scotland, Netherlands, and Turkey. Albania couldn't qualify after losing their first two matches against Scotland and the Netherlands, they secure one point against turkey in the last Groupstage match respectively. Their best result so far in their U19/18 history.^[95]

In the following 1983 UEFA European Under-18 Championship Albania came close to qualify once more but they lost the Playoff Round against Bulgaria with 4–1 despite the close win in the second leg.^[96]

Albania under-17 football team

The Albania national under-17 football team debut participating came at the 1994 UEFA European Under-16 Championship in Ireland. In which Albania secured only one draw against Belarus. Losing close before to Austria and to Spain as well.^[97]

After more than thirty years without an participation the Under 17 of Albania will host the 2025 UEFA European Under-17 Championship, who will be held in Tirana.^[98]

Albanian footballers

In the past Albania produced players such as Loro Boriçi who captained the Albania national football team, as well as Panajot Pano, Naim Kryeziu and Riza Lushta.

Naim Kryeziu started his long football career in SK Tirana where he played for six seasons winning four Kategoria Superiore between 1934 and 1939 as well as one Albanian Cup title in 1938–39.^[99] After 1939 he was noted by an Italian sports professor who suggested him to play for AS Roma. He then played for Roma between 1939 and 1947 scoring 27 goals and winning with them the 1941–42 Serie A title. His biggest achievement in his football career.^[100] Being the first Albanian footballer to win a Serie A title. He later would play successfully for S.S.C. Napoli scoring in five seasons 39 goals for the Gli Azzurri. Before retiring his footballing career in 1954. He scored 68 goals in the Seria A and is still even to this day one of the most successful Albanian footballers in the football history in Europe.

He later started a coaching career, serving also as AS Roma head coach for a short time during the 1963–64 season as a replacement for Alfredo Foni.^[101] he would coach A.S. Roma once more between 1970 and 1973 in his career.

Riza Lushta is a well known footballer in Albania and Italy. He started his football career in KF Tirana where he won the Kategoria Superiore four times in six seasons, he played with. He would then play for Seria A side S.S.C. Bari for the upcoming season. Where he scored three times in sixteen matches.^[102] His performances with Bari attracted the interest of Juventus Turin who he joined in 1940 after just one year with Bari. He would play for the Old Lady for five seasons. His most successful season came in the 1941–42 Serie A where he scored 15 goals for Juve being the highest foreigner goalscorer in the Seria in that particular season. Lushta made history as he won with Juventus Turin the 1941–42 Coppa Italia. Where he is known for his hattrick he scored against A.C. Milan in the second leg of the finals.^{[103][104]} Riza Lushta would be the first Albanian footballer to be a record goalscorer in the Coppa Italia with 8 goals in 6 matches.

Loro mostly played for Partizani Tirana in his footballing career, winning with them three times the Kategoria Superiore as well with Albania the 1946 Balkan Cup in home soil. He had a short spell in Italy with Lazio Rome where he scored three goals being the first Albanian footballer to play abroad in the Seria A.^[105]

Panajot Pano is a well known football player in Albania. He spend most of his career with Partizani Tirana. Where he played for 15 years between 1960 and 1975 scoring 136 goals for them. He won with them the Albanian Superliga four times as well as winning the Albanian cup six times and one Balkans Cup title in 1970^[106] his only international title with Partizani Tirana. He played for Albania 24 times between 1963 and 1973 where he is known for his goal against Denmark in the 1964 European Nations' Cup round of 16 second leg securing Albania's first ever win in a tournament.^[107]

Due to his skills and abilities, Pano earned the nickname "The little Puskás" by sports commentators.^[108] He is also well remembered by world known players such as Franz Beckenbauer, Willi Schulz as well as Fenerbahçe president of Albanian descent Myslym Bey praising him as a talented striker comparing him to Pele and Eusébio.^[109]

In November 2003 he was selected as the Golden Player by the Football Association of Albania as their most outstanding player of the past 50 years.^[109]

On 6 March 2009, Pano received the Honor of the Nation Decoration from the President of Albania, Bamir Topi.^[112] This was the first time in the history of Albania that a footballer was honored with the Honor of the Nation order.^[113]

"If Panajot Pano doesn't remember me, I remember him."

—Franz Beckenbauer, 1990^[110]^[111]



Lorik Cana captained the team in winning the 1946 Balkan Cup.

In recent history Albania produced top talented players such as Lorik Cana who he played for Paris Saint-Germain F.C. which he won the Coupe de France in 2003–04 as well playing for their rivals Olympique de Marseille. He also played for Serie A side S.S. Lazio which he won the 2012–13 Coppa Italia.^[114] Lorik Cana is the most capped player in the History off Albania with 93 games in total. He competed with Albania at the UEFA Euro 2016 held in France. Playing two out of their three matches in the Groupstage. After that he retired as a professional football player.^[115]

The most famous player at the moment is Thomas Strakosha, goalkeeper for Lazio in the Serie A winning with them two Coppa Italia in 2012–13 and 2018–19. He has won also two times the Supercoppa Italiana in 2017 and 2019 both against Juventus Turin. Elseid Hysaj who played in the past for S.S.C. Napoli which he won with them the Coppa Italia in 2019–20.^[118] He is playing right now for Lazio Rome. Berat Djimsiti is playing for Atalanta B.C.



Lorik Cana is the most capped player in the history of the national team with 93 caps; he overtook Altin Lala in 2014 and is seen by many as the symbol of Albanians and the national team.^[116]^[117]



A choreography of Tifozat Kuq e Zi in the national team's first match at Elbasan Arena against Denmark in October 2014.

Supporters

Tifozat Kuq e Zi (English: **Red and Black Fans**, also known as the **Albania National Football Team Supporters Club**) is a non-profit football supporters' association for the Albania national football team and various national team sportive activities.^[119]^[120] It was founded on 25 December 2003.^[119] In cooperation with FSHF, it organises trips for football fans to visit games, and develops and sells merchandise to support itself and fund sporting related projects.

Tifozat Kuq e Zi stands firm in the political view that Albanians should share only one national team and have continuous aspirations to join in one state (Një Komb, Një Kombëtare), i.e. unification of Albania, Kosovo, etc.^[121]^[122] In this sense, TKZ is joined by different supporters' associations throughout Albanian-speaking regions mainly in Kosovo (Shqiponjat of Peja, Kuqezinjet e Jakoves of Gjakova, Plisat of Prishtina, Torcida of Mitrovica, etc.), North Macedonia (Ballistët of Tetovë, Ilirët of Kumanovë, Shvercerat of Shkupi, etc.) and in Albania itself (Ultras Guerrils of Partizani Tirana, Tirona Fanatics of KF Tirana, Vllaznit Ultras of Vllaznia Shkodër, Ujqërit e Deborës of Skënderbeu Korçë, Shqiponjat of KF Besa Pejë and many other different Albanian fans).^[119]

The ongoing dispute between the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Football Association of Albania has been seen as a political intrusion by FIFA and UEFA, which led to the banning of Albania from international sportive activities. FSHF president Armand Duka is highly unwanted by the TKZ who have numerous asked for his resignation believing he is responsible for internal corruption in the Albanian Football Association.^[123]^[124]^[125]^[126]

The TKZ have been praised by many different football players and managers, whom were not just Albanian. One example is with Switzerland's former coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, who was astonished by how many Albanian fans turned up and how enthusiastic they were in 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying match between Switzerland and Albania where the Swiss won 2–0 thanks to goals from Gökhan Inler and Kosovo-born Xherdan Shaqiri. He didn't believe that there was 12,000 Albanian fans in the stands which was more than how many Swiss fans turned up for the game. He stated that "Albanian fans are fantastic and the most

passionate fans I have ever seen".^[127] During that campaign, TKZ attended all games Albania played apart from a match against Cyprus in Nicosia and were also large in numbers in the away games to Slovenia in Maribor and Norway in Oslo.^{[128][129][130]}

See also

- [Sports in Albania](#)
- [Albanian Football Association](#)

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External links

- [Football in Albania on UEFA](http://www.uefa.com/memberassociations/association=ALB/profile/index.html) (<http://www.uefa.com/memberassociations/association=ALB/profile/index.html>)
 - [League321.com](http://www.league321.com/albania-football.html) (<http://www.league321.com/albania-football.html>) - Albanian football league tables, records & statistics database
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Football in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Association football is the most popular sport in Bosnia and Herzegovina since after gaining independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, in 1995 they played their first international game against Albania, but they made the debut at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, their first ever appearance in the tournament.

It is governed by the Football Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina governing body in country, the national team has never qualified for the UEFA European Championship after failing at the play-offs by three teams. The football governing body has the Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina and also the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Cup. The teams also make the European international competitions like UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and also the new UEFA Europa Conference League tournament.

National team of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The team has only qualified for a major international tournament once as an independent nation, reaching the 2014 FIFA World Cup.^{[2][3]} It is yet to qualify for a UEFA European Championship, coming closest by losing to Portugal in the play-offs for UEFA Euro 2012.^{[4][5][6][7]}

Bosnia's home ground is Bilino Polje Stadium in the city of Zenica. The national team's first international victory as a FIFA member came against 1994 FIFA World Cup runners-up Italy on 6 November 1996.^{[8][9][10]} The national team's highest FIFA World Ranking was 13th in August 2013.^{[11][12]} October 2013 FIFA World Rankings, used to seed qualified teams in the 2014 FIFA World Cup Final Draw, placed Bosnia and Herzegovina as the highest ranked team of all former Yugoslav Republics for the first time in history. In the past years, the national side finished twice among the top three best movers in FIFA World Ranking of the year. In their first game at their first World Cup, centre-forward Vedad Ibišević scored Bosnia's first ever goal at a major tournament in the country's history in a 1–2 loss to two-time World Cup winning opposition Argentina.

History of club competitions

The game reached Bosnia and Herzegovina at the start of the 20th century, with Sarajevo (in 1903)^[13] and Mostar (in 1905)^[14] being the first cities to embrace it. Banja Luka, Tuzla, Zenica and Bihać were next along with numerous smaller towns as the sport spread. The country was under Austro-Hungarian rule when official competition began in 1908, though these activities were on a small scale within each territory.^[15] At the outbreak of World War I, there were four clubs in Sarajevo; SAŠK, Slavija, Đerzelez (also known as Sarajevski),^[16] and Makabi Sarajevo (also known as Barkohba)^[17] and approximately 20 outside the capital. The creation of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia post 1918 brought an increase in the number of leagues, and soon a domestic national championship was organised. The Yugoslav football league system was based in numerous subassociations which served as competitions which determined the local representants of the subassociations in the national final stage, the Yugoslav championship. In 1920, the Sarajevo football subassociation was founded which

Football in Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Country	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Governing body	Football Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina
National team(s)	men's national team
First played	1903
National competitions	
FIFA World Cup	
UEFA European Championship	
UEFA Nations League	
Club competitions	
List	[show]
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ LeaguePremijer Liga	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CupsBosnia and HerzegovinaFootball Cup	
International competitions	
FIFA Club World Cup	
UEFA Champions League	
UEFA Europa League	
UEFA Europa Conference League	
UEFA Super Cup	

included besides Sarajevo and its outskirts, also most of eastern Bosnia and western Serbia. The Banja Luka football subassociation included most of the western Bosnia and an area usually known as Krajina, while the Podrinje region surrounding city of Bijeljina was part of the provincial leagues of the Belgrade football subassociation. The unified Yugoslav championship ran until the start of Second World War with 1939/40 season having been the last to have been completed. In this period 3 clubs from modern-day territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina managed to qualify for the final stages of the Yugoslav championships, SAŠK and Slavija, both from Sarajevo, and Krajšnik from Banja Luka. Many local players became targets of dominating teams and had successful careers such as Florijan Matekalo, Petar Manola, Milan Rajlić, Stanko Zagorac, Aleksandar Mastela or Branko Stanković.



Vedad Ibišević scored Bosnia's first ever FIFA World Cup goal in a 2–1 loss to Argentina.^[1]

The Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was founded after the Second World War, as the subdivision of the Yugoslav Football Association. The new communist authorities abolished the former league system and disbanded numerous clubs while creating others. The era from 1945 till 1992 can be marked by the emergence of a highly competitive and quality league, characterized by the appearance of a chronological "Big 4" contenders for the title (Red Star, Partizan, Hajduk and Dinamo Zagreb) but with a particularity that highlights Bosnian football which is that their clubs were always present in the First League and FK Sarajevo, and Željezničar even won championships and created one of the most intense outsiders derbies at time, the Sarajevo derby.



Bilino Polje the stadium of the Bosnia national football team

Club football

Bosnia and Herzegovina's best sides at the time of former Yugoslavia were Sarajevo, Željezničar (Sarajevo) and Velež (Mostar) which played in the Yugoslavian first league, second league and cup competitions with moderate success, while its best players with the likes of Vahid Halilhodžić, Safet Sušić, Josip Katalinski, Faruk Hadžibegić, Ivica Osim, Asim Ferhatović, Blaž Slišković, Mehmed Baždarević, Dušan Bajević and many others were chosen to represent SFR Yugoslavia national football team.^[18]

Other notable clubs that participate in Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina are HŠK Zrinjski Mostar, NK Čelik Zenica, NK Široki Brijeg, FK Sloboda Tuzla, as well as FK Borac Banja Luka.

Football stadiums in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Image	Stadium	Capacity	Opened	City / Town	Home team	UEFA Rank.
	Stadion Asim Ferhatović-Hase	37,500	1947	Sarajevo	FK Sarajevo	UEFA ★★★★★
	Stadion Bilino Polje	15,600	1972	Zenica	NK Čelik and Bosnia and Herzegovina	UEFA ★★★★★
	Stadion Grbavica	13,146	1953	Sarajevo	FK Željezničar and Bosnia and Herzegovina	UEFA ★★★★★

Fans

Ultras are common there with the biggest names as Manijaci the supporter group of Željezničar, Horde zla The supporter group of FK Sarajevo and the BHFanaticos the supporter group of the national side.

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Football in Bulgaria

Football (Bulgarian: *футбол*, *futbol*) is the most popular sport in Bulgaria. It was introduced in 1893–1894 by Swiss gymnastics teachers invited to the country. A football (initially called *ритнитоп*, *ritnitop*, "kickball") match was first played in Varna's High School for Boys in 1894, where it was introduced by Georges de Regibus, and the game was brought to Sofia by Charles Champaud the following year. The rules of the game were published in Bulgarian by Swiss teachers in the *Uchilishten pregled* magazine in 1897, and football continued to gain popularity in the early 20th century. Among the founders of the Turkish team Galatasaray in 1905 was the Bulgarian Lycée de Galatasaray student Blagoy Balakchiev, and the first Bulgarian club, *Futbol Klub*, was established in Sofia in 1909 on the initiative of Sava Kirov. Botev Plovdiv was founded in 1912, Slavia Sofia in 1913, and Levski Sofia in 1914.

The Bulgaria national football team debuted on 21 May 1924 in a 1924 Summer Olympics qualifier, losing 0–6 to Austria in Vienna. What is today CSKA Sofia was established on 5 May 1948. In the 1950s and 1960s Bulgarian football achieved its biggest Olympic success, being third in the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne and second in the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, also finishing fifth in Euro 1968. In 1962, Bulgaria first qualified for a FIFA World Cup tournament, in total of seven participations to date. In the 1986 FIFA World Cup, Bulgaria did reach the round of 16. Then, in the 1994 FIFA World Cup, came Bulgaria's biggest World Cup success, the fourth place, the elimination of reigning world champions Germany and Hristo Stoichkov's top goalscorer prize.^{[1][2][3]} Bulgaria is also three times European champion in under-19, three times Balkan champion, and three times Balkan Youth champion. The titles won by the national team make Bulgaria one of the best performing nations in European football competitions.

Bulgarian football competitions

- Championships:
 - Top division: First League - 14 teams
 - Second division: Second League - 16 teams
 - Third division: Third League - 4 groups with 12-18 teams each
 - Fourth division: Regional Groups - divided by region
- Cup: Bulgarian Cup
- Super Cup: Bulgarian Super Cup
- AFL Cup: Cup of Bulgarian Amateur Football League

Football in Bulgaria	
	Vasil Levski National Stadium
Country	Bulgaria
Governing body	Bulgarian Football Union
National team(s)	Bulgaria national football team
First played	1894
National competitions	
FIFA World Cup	
UEFA European Championship	
UEFA Nations League	
Club competitions	
League	
First League	
Second League	
Cups	
Bulgarian Cup	
Bulgarian Super Cup	
International competitions	
UEFA Champions League	
UEFA Europa League	
UEFA Europa Conference League	
UEFA Super Cup	
FIFA Club World Cup	

Crime and corruption

Between 2003 and 2013, 15 club presidents or previous owners of Bulgarian top league clubs were murdered. A leaked US diplomatic cable of 2010 claimed that since the end of Communism, allegations of illegal gambling, match fixing, money laundering, and tax evasion abound in Bulgarian football, which has become a symbol of organised crime's corrupt influence on important institutions.^{[4][5][6]}

See also

- [List of football clubs in Bulgaria](#)
- [List of football stadiums in Bulgaria](#)
- [Bulgaria national football team](#)
- [Bulgaria national under-21 football team](#)
- [Bulgaria national under-19 football team](#)
- [Bulgarian Football Union](#)
- [Bulgarian Footballer of the Year](#)
- [Bulgarian Professional Football League](#)

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Football in Greece

Football is the most popular sport in Greece, followed by basketball.

History of Greek football

The Ancient Greeks are known to have played many ball games, some of which involved the use of the feet. The Roman game *harpastum* is believed to have been adapted from a Greek team game known as "ἐπισκυρος" (*Episkyros*)^{[1][2]} or "φαινίνδα" (*phaininda*),^[3] which is mentioned by a Greek playwright, Antiphanes (388–311 BC) and later referred to by the Christian theologian Clement of Alexandria (c.150-c.215 AD). These games appear to have resembled rugby football.^{[4][5][6][7][8]}

In the modern era, however, association football was introduced to the Greeks by expatriate British communities and military personnel. The first Greek football teams were created as part of long-established athletic and gymnastic clubs in the major port cities of Athens and Thessaloniki, as well as among the large Greek communities of the Ottoman Empire, such as Constantinople and Smyrna, in the early 1900s. After the Asia Minor Disaster of 1922 which resulted in a large resettlement of Greeks from Turkey to Greece, several clubs, such as Panionios and Apollon Smyrnis, were transplanted, while many athletes of other clubs, like Pera, formed new organizations in their new home (e.g. AEK, PAOK).

League system

The first league of professional football in Greece was officially established as the Panhellenic Championship in 1927. The league ran until 1959, when it was replaced by the Alpha Ethniki which ran until 2006 when it was then replaced by Superleague Greece. According to FIFPro, an organization that represents professional players, nearly 70 percent of players complained in a 2011 survey of problems with not being paid.^[9]

Superleague Greece is the top-flight professional football division within Greece. The league contains 14 clubs, with the winners of the league becoming the Champions of Greece. The team with the most national championships is Olympiacos, who have won 47 times - 13 Super League titles, 19 Alpha Ethniki titles and 15 Panhellenic Championships.^[10] Two other P.O.K. clubs also dominate the history of Greek football; Panathinaikos with 20 titles and AEK Athens with 13 titles.^[10]

Cup competitions

Football in Greece	
Country	Greece
Governing body	Hellenic Football Federation
National team(s)	Greece
First played	1906 (Unofficial) 1927–1928 (Official)
Clubs	about 2,500
National competitions	
Greek Cup	
Greek Amateur Cup	
Greek Super Cup	
Greek League Cup (defunct)	
Club competitions	
Superleague 1	
Superleague 2	
Football League (defunct)	
Gamma Ethniki	
Delta Ethniki (defunct)	
Local championships	
International competitions	
Champions League	
Europa League	
Conference League	
UEFA Super Cup	
FIFA Club World Cup	
FIFA World Cup (national team)	
UEFA European Championship (national team)	
UEFA Nations League (national team)	
Audience records	
Single match	Olympiacos F.C. vs. Hamburger SV 3 November 1982 Athens Olympic Stadium

There is currently one major cup competition in Greek football, the Greek Cup. It includes clubs from every division of football in Greece. Until 2008, another major cup competition was the Greek Super Cup, an annual game held between the winner of the Greek Super League and Greek Cup.



Ancient Greek Episkyros player balancing the ball.
Depiction on an Attic Lekythos.

International

UEFA competitions

Club sides may qualify to play in European tournaments under the jurisdiction of UEFA. The champions of Super League qualify for the group stage of the following season's UEFA Champions' League. The teams finishing in second to fifth position qualify for a round-robin playoff, the winner of which will enter the Champions League at the Third Qualifying Round. The other three teams will qualify for the following season's UEFA Europa League, at the Play-off, Third Qualifying or Second Qualifying Round stage, dependent on their performance in the national level playoff. The winner of the Greek Cup also qualifies for the Europa League. If this club has already qualified for a UEFA competition then the place is given to the runners-up.

The only Greek team to have reached the final of a UEFA competition is Panathinaikos, who were European Cup runners-up in 1970–71.



The Karaïskakis Stadium during a 2009–10 UEFA Champions League fixture against Arsenal

National team

The Greek national team's first match came on April 7, 1929, in a 1–4 loss to Italy. Greece have qualified for the FIFA World Cup three times, in 1994, in 2010 and in 2014. Greece have qualified for the European Championship four times, their first in 1980, their second in 2004, their third in 2008 and their fourth in 2012. 2004 was their most successful run as they became champions by defeating hosts Portugal in the finals.

Women's football



The team of Panathinaikos against Ajax in the 1971 European Cup Final.

A national league for women has existed since 1987. Now known as the Greek football women A Division, it was started in 1987 as the Pan-Hellenic Championship. In recent years PAOK have dominated the league.



Angelos Charisteas scoring
Greece's winning goal in the UEFA
Euro 2004 Final.

Greek footballers

Records

Professional seasons in Greek football

1950s:	1959–60										
1960s:	1960–61	1961–62	1962–63	1963–64	1964–65	1965–66	1966–67	1967–68	1968–69	1969–70	
1970s:	1970–71	1971–72	1972–73	1973–74	1974–75	1975–76	1976–77	1977–78	1978–79	1979–80	
1980s:	1980–81	1981–82	1982–83	1983–84	1984–85	1985–86	1986–87	1987–88	1988–89	1989–90	
1990s:	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–00	
2000s:	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	
2010s:	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	
2020s:	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23								

See also

- [Episkyros](#)
- [Greek football clubs in European competitions](#)
- [List of football stadiums in Greece](#)
- [Sport in Greece](#)

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Football in Kosovo

Football in Kosovo is governed by the [Football Federation of Kosovo](#), which was created in 1946, as a branch of the [Yugoslav Football Association](#). [Prishtina](#), is the club from Kosovo with most participations in the [Yugoslav First League](#). Football is the most popular sport in Kosovo.

The [Football Superleague of Kosovo](#) is the top division of football in Kosovo. The division was set up in 1945 as a regional league within the [Yugoslav football league system](#).

In 2008, [Kosovo](#) declared its independence from [Serbia](#). Until 2016, membership in [UEFA](#) and [FIFA](#) had been denied due to [Kosovo's](#) disputed recognition as an independent state. However, [Kosovo](#) was also not a member of the [NF Board](#), which represents non-FIFA territories, including unrepresented cultural groups and unrecognized states. Some football clubs, especially from [North Kosovo](#), refuse to enter the Republic of Kosovo's institutions and continue to be part of the [Football Association of Serbia](#). On 3 May 2016, [Kosovo](#) became the 55th member of [UEFA](#) after a 28-24 vote in their favour, and on 13 May 2016, [Kosovo](#) gained [FIFA](#) membership after a 141-23 vote in their favour.

History

The first football match ever played in [Kosovo](#) took place in [Prizren](#) in 1912 between two Austro-Hungarian teams.^[1]

The first football clubs in [Kosovo](#) were formed after the First World War and they competed in the [Belgrade Football Subassociation](#) provincial leagues within the [Yugoslav football league system](#).

During the [Second World War](#), [Yugoslavia](#) was invaded by [Axis powers](#), and most of [Kosovo](#) became part of German- Italian-dominated [Albanian Kingdom](#). Several city teams from [Kosovo](#) played during the war in the [Albanian championship](#). Two [Kosovar Albanian](#) players made headlines in [Italian Serie A](#), [Riza Lushta](#) and [Naim Kryeziu](#).^[2]

In 1945, [Kosovo](#) was reintegrated into [Serbia](#) and [Yugoslavia](#). [Football Federation of Kosovo](#) was founded in 1946 and in 1948 was co-founder of ex-FF of [Yugoslavia](#) with equal rights and duties until 1991. [FC Prishtina](#) and [KF Trepça](#) made it to the [Yugoslav First League](#). In 1992 SFR Yugoslavia became [FR Yugoslavia](#). In that period, all [Albanian](#) football players abandoned the [Yugoslavian](#) league and were part of the [Independent League of Kosovo](#) (1991) and first played match was [Flamurtari - Prishtina](#)(13 September 1991). First goal of [Independent](#) league was scored by [Eroll Salihu](#), actually General Secretary of FFK.

During this [Yugoslav](#) period most of the best players from [Kosovo](#), regardless if [Serb](#) or [Albanian](#), usually continued their career in stronger [Yugoslav](#) clubs. Examples are [Gorani Fahrudin Jusufi](#) (European vice-champion in 1966 with [Partizan](#)), [Albanians Xhevhat Prekazi](#), [Fadil Vokrri](#), [Isa Sadriu](#), [Agim Cana](#), [Ardian Kozniku](#) and [Kujtim Shala](#), [Serbs Stevan Stojanović](#) (goalkeeper of [Red Star Belgrade](#) when they won the European and world club title in 1991), [Goran Đorović](#), [Marko Perović](#), [Darko Spalević](#), [Nenad Vanić](#), [Milan Biševac](#), [Miloš Krasić](#) and others. While all [Kosovar Serbian](#) and most [Kosovar Albanian](#) players represented [Yugoslavia](#) internationally, some opted to represent [Albania](#), like [Besnik Hasi](#) or [Mehmet Dragusha](#).

Three football players that were born in [Kosovo](#) ([Milutin Šoškić](#), [Fahrudin Jusufi](#), [Vladimir Durković](#)) were part of the [Yugoslavia national football team](#), who won the gold medal at the [1960 Summer Olympics](#) and the silver medal at the [1960 European Championship](#)

After the Kosovo War in 1999, most Kosovar Albanian players opted for emigration and represented either the countries they emigrated in, or Albania. Some of them are Arjan Beqaj, Etrit Berisha, Lorik Cana, Debatik Curri, Armend Dallku, Besnik Hasi for Albania, Mehmet and Perparim Hetemaj, Njazi and Shefki Kuqi for Finland, Fatos Beqiraj, Jovan Tanasijević for Montenegro, Ardian Gashi for Norway, Emir Bajrami and Erton Fejzullahu for Sweden, Valon Behrami, Albert Bunjaku, Milaim Rama, Xherdan Shaqiri and Granit Xhaka for Switzerland.

The Kosovo national football team was formed in the early 1990s and has played a number of friendly games. From 2014 to 2016, they played a number of matches recognised by FIFA, and from 2016 on, official FIFA matches. Their first competitive game was a 1-1 draw away to Finland in a World Cup qualifier.

League system (2020–21)

Men's

Level	Leagues/Divisions			
1	<u>Kosovo Superleague</u> (10 clubs)			
2	<u>Kosovo First League – Group A</u> (10 clubs)		<u>Kosovo First League – Group B</u> (10 clubs)	
3	<u>Kosovo Second League</u> (16 clubs)			
4	<u>Kosovo Third League – Group A</u> (16 clubs)		<u>Kosovo Third League – Group B</u> (18 clubs)	
	<u>Dukagjini Plain's Group A</u> (8 clubs)	<u>Kosovo Plain's Group A</u> (8 clubs)	<u>Dukagjini Plain's Group B</u> (10 clubs)	<u>Kosovo Plain's Group B</u> (8 clubs)

Women's

Level	Leagues/Divisions	
1	<u>Kosovo Superleague</u> (Various by season, currently 8)	
2	<u>Kosovo First League</u> (Various by season, currently 5)	

Kosovar footballers

There are several ethnic Albanians from Kosovo who have played, or are playing, football for other national teams. Lorik Cana, who last played for French side Nantes, and represented Albania national football team. Valon Behrami is a Kosovar-born Swiss international who plays for Udinese Calcio. Shefki Kuqi, who last played for Premier League side Newcastle United, is a naturalized citizen of Finland. Xhevhat Prekazi, best known for his career with Turkish side Galatasaray S.K., is naturalized as a citizen of Turkey. Xherdan Shaqiri is an ethnic Albanians born in Kosovo who plays for the Swiss national team and Premier League side Liverpool, Granit Xhaka is a Switzerland-born footballer who plays for the Swiss national team and Premier League side Arsenal, originally from Kosovo of Albanian descent.



The "Fadil Vokri" Stadium, the biggest stadium in Pristina

The most famous player in women's football from Kosovo is the former German international Fatmire Alushi, who last played for French side Paris Saint-Germain, she is married to Enis Alushi, a former Kosovo international.

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Football in Montenegro

Montenegro was independent from the late middle ages until 1918, when it declared its union with Serbia and, subsequently, became part of various incarnations of Yugoslavia and the state union of Serbia and Montenegro. During this time, **football in Montenegro** was part of the wider Yugoslavian structures. As a result of the Montenegrin independence referendum held on May 21, 2006, Montenegro declared independence two weeks later, on June 3, and formed its own football association.^{[1][2]}

History

Pre-2006

Football in Montenegro, as part of Yugoslavia, was organised first by the Football Association of Yugoslavia, founded in 1919 and renamed the Football Association of Serbia and Montenegro in 2003. Yugoslavia, later Serbia and Montenegro, was one of the leading countries in European football. They twice reached the semi-finals of the World Cup (in 1930 and 1962) and twice finished runners-up in the European Championships (in 1960 and 1968). The first player from Montenegro to play in a World Cup was Milovan Jakšić who was the Yugoslav goalkeeper at 1930 World Cup. Ever since, Montenegrins were usually well represented in the Yugoslav and Serbia and Montenegro teams, some as Dragoljub Brnović, Dejan Savićević and Predrag Mijatović, became among the most prominent Yugoslav players of all time.

Initially, in the period between the two world wars, football in Yugoslavia was organised regionally. Each region had its own football subassociation which was responsible for organising its own league system which would organise the club in league competitions separated by vertically organised leagues. The top league would be formed by the best clubs within the subassociation and the winner would qualify to the Yugoslav championship where it will meet with the winners of all the other subassociations. There was no Montenegro at that time, but the territory of today Montenegro was included in a slightly enlarged Zeta banovina which besides today Montenegro also included the coast of Dubrovnik including the Pelješac peninsula, Eastern Herzegovina, Raška region of today Serbia, and Western parts of Kosovo and Metohija.

The Zeta banovina had its football subassociation formed in March 1931 in Cetinje, thus becoming known as the Cetinje Football Subassociation. Since that year the Cetinje subassociation formed its league system and would organise competition regularly as the rest of Yugoslav subassociations.^[3]

The Cetinje subassociation top league was marked by the rivalry between the two major clubs, SK Crnogorac from Cetinje, and SK Balšić from Podgorica.^[4] Before the Second World War Crnogorac was the only Montenegrin club to play in the final stage of Yugoslav Championship, and it was only in one occasion, in the 1935–36 edition which was played in a cup system.

Football in Montenegro	
Country	Montenegro
Governing body	Football Association of Montenegro
National team(s)	men's national team
International competitions	
Champions League	
Europa League	
Europa Conference League	
Super Cup	
FIFA Club World Cup	
FIFA World Cup (National Team)	
European Championship (National Team)	
UEFA Nations League (National Team)	

Later, after 1945, the best Montenegrin clubs usually played in the Yugoslav First League. The Montenegrin Republic League was the highest league played on a Montenegrin level. It formed part of the third or fourth (depending on exact period) tier of football in Yugoslavia. The Montenegrin First League was formed in 2004 as local second tier, and after Montenegrin independence, in 2006, it became country's top level.

2006 FIFA World Cup

Following Montenegro's independence in June 2006, the Serbia team was seen as the successors to the Serbia and Montenegro team. However, at the 2006 FIFA World Cup, held in the latter half of June and in July 2006, Serbia and Montenegro continued to play, representing the two independent states of Serbia and Montenegro. Despite an impressive record in qualification for the tournament, the team struggled in a tough first round group and were eliminated having won no games, conceded ten goals and scored just two. After the tournament, the team disbanded and was replaced by Serbia.

Post-independence

The Football Association of Montenegro had been in existent as a sub-federation since March 1931, but applied for independent membership of FIFA and UEFA on June 30, 2006. Full membership of UEFA was given in January 2007. Meanwhile, the association had continued to run the Montenegrin First League as the new country's premier football competition. The winners of this will enter European competition in 2007. The new national team was organised and its debut fixture was against Hungary in Podgorica on 24 March 2007. The Montenegrin side won the match 2–1.

Domestic competitions

Exclusively domestic competition started in Montenegro when Cetinje Football Subassociation started its regular league championship in 1931.^[3]

Nowadays, the top-tier football competition in Montenegro is the Montenegrin First League. It is at the top of a pyramid of three leagues, of which the lowest, the Montenegrin Third League, is split into three regional competitions (North, Central, South). Since 2007, the champions of the Montenegrin First League enter the qualification for the UEFA Champions League; the runners-up and third-placed team will enter the UEFA Europa League, same as a Montenegrin Cup winner.

Main Cup competition is Montenegrin Cup. Lower-tier teams are playing in the Montenegrin Regional Cups, which have three divisions.

Women's competitions are existing since 2008. Top-tier competition is Montenegrin Women's League, whose champion is playing in qualification for UEFA Women's Champions League. Another competition is Montenegrin Cup (women).

League system

Men's football

Level	League(s)/Division(s)
1	Telekom 1.CFL <i>10 clubs</i>
	↓↑ 1-3 clubs
2	Druga Liga <i>10 clubs</i>
	↓↑ 2 clubs
3	Montenegrin Third League <i>29 clubs</i>

Women's football

Level	League(s)/Division(s)
1	Montenegrin Women's League <i>8 clubs</i>

Futsal

Level	League(s)/Division(s)
1	Montenegrin Futsal First League <i>10 clubs</i>

Cup Competitions

- [Montenegrin Cup](#)
- [Montenegrin Regional Cups](#)
- [Montenegrin Cup \(women\)](#)

National team

The Montenegro national team played its first match in Podgorica on March 24, 2007, when they beat Hungary 2–1.^[5] Its home stadium is Podgorica city stadium and its coach is Montenegrin footballer Zoran Filipović. Montenegro are members of UEFA and play in a red kit with yellow trim. After independence in June 2006, Montenegro was still represented by the Serbia and Montenegro team which had qualified for the 2006 FIFA World Cup. Serbia and Montenegro's final game in this tournament, a 3–2 defeat against Ivory Coast was the final game for the unified side.

The unofficial, debut Montenegro national team match was on 18 May 1939. The controversy involves the meaning or designation of *national team*. The team of Montenegrin players that travelled to Yugoslav (Serbia) capital Belgrade by mid May 1939, which was formed of players from Podgorica, Tivat, Kotor and Cetinje, corresponded to what was the first attempt to gather the best Montenegrin players in one team and play against an adversary. The team was not known as *Montenegro*, or anything of the kind, but was the selection of the best players of the Cetinje subassociation. Other subassociations within Yugoslavia had this tradition of selecting their best players to form a team which would be the subassociation selection, longly established, but in the Cetinje subassociation case, this was the first time, and since, the Cetinje subassociation corresponded to Zeta banovina, which in turn corresponded to both, historical and modern Montenegro, this team was from the beginning considered as the Montenegro's best selection of players, thus, unofficially, the Montenegro national team. They travelled to Belgrade to play against the strong Belgrade subassociation team, and the game was to be a prelude to great FIFA-sponsored game between Yugoslavia and England. First Cetinje versus Belgrade subassociations and then the Yugoslavia versus England games were to be played at the BSK stadium, which at time had a capacity of 30.000 spectators and was the biggest and most modern in the Balkans (after Second World War and reconstruction it became the Partizan Stadium).^[6]

That year, the Football Association of Yugoslavia was celebrating its 20th birthday, and the decision to mark the occasion with an exhibition game with none less than the cradle of modern football, England, cost Yugoslav FA the nothing modest value of 240.000 Yugoslav Dinars at time. The decision for the prelude of the game to be a match between Belgrade and Cetinje subassociations was mostly merit of Duro Čeđović, at time president of the Cetinje subassociation and already in process of becoming the Minister of Sports in the cabinet of Dragiša Cvetković, a nomination that became official slightly less than a month after the event.^[6]

The organization of the Belgrade vs Cetinje game was delegated to Cetinje subassociation secretary, Milan Bokan, and his assistant, Vlada Mitrović, while the technicalities were the responsibility of 33-year old Milan Bećić, who already had a playing experience besides local Podgorica and Cetinje, also abroad, having played for Montpellier and CA Paris. As they had time to prepare it, the game was filled with pride and prestige on behalf of Montenegrins, and Čeđović provided 60.000 Dinars which at that time was a considerable amount, to select and properly prepare the Cetinje subassociation team to present as highest quality football as possible. The selected players gathered at April 25 in Tivat where the 3-weeks preparations begin. Tivat was a logical choice as it was at time the only pitch with proper dimensions and had all other commodities such as showers.^[6]

At the beginning 27 players were selected, they were members of Cetinje teams Sloga and Crnogorac, then Podgorica teams Balšić and Crna Gora, Arsenal from Tivat, Jugosloven from Kotor, Leotar from Trebinje and Hercegovac from Bileća. Accused by authorities of gathering youth with Communist ideals, players from Budućnost or Lovćen were ignored. The first games of this team were the preparation games against Dubrovnik and the combined team of Kotor and Tivat.^[6]

As typical, media was divided and there was skepticism. The journal "Zeta" wrote that the important was not to be humiliated, specially because the game meant so much for all Montenegrins, from homeland, as much as the many living in Belgrade. Meantime, media from Belgrade, as case of Pravda, were calling the attention that

football in the provinces as Montenegro has improved substantially and has been being worth much more attention for some time.^[6]

At the day of the game, the stadium was full since morning and included even extravagances such as groups of cyclists which came from Skopje on their bikes in 3 days. At 15 hours in front of a 30.000 spectators, Montenegrin team entered the field. It was formed by Ikontije Nakić, Vlado Božović, Vlado Mugoša, Vojo Mugoša, Asim Đurđević, (Jovan?) Kruška, Rogović, Jovićević, Klemen, Arsić and – Karlo Marks. The ticket for only the Montenegrins against Belgrade game was 100 Dinars. When the game started the general impression was that they played with a lot a sacrifice and gambled risking good technical skills, however, at the end the result was a 2:6 defeat. But the general impression was good as potential was seen. As comfort, they could watch the game Yugoslavia against England, which Yugoslavia bravely won 2:1.^[6]

See also

- [Montenegro national football team](#)
- [Montenegrin Football Championship \(1922–1940\)](#)
- [Montenegrin clubs in Yugoslav football competitions \(1946–2006\)](#)
- [Football Association of Montenegro](#)

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Football in North Macedonia

Football is the most popular sport in North Macedonia.^{[1][2]} The country became a member of FIFA in 1994.

The national team has made a few remarkable results in qualifiers for the European Championship as well as the World Cup. The most sensational result was probably the 2–2 draw away against England (October 2002). Two years later the Netherlands were held to a 2–2 draw at home (October 2004). The away-game the following year in Amsterdam also ended with a draw (0–0). On October 7, 2006, once again England was held to a draw in Manchester. On November 17, 2007, North Macedonia beat the group winners, Croatia, 2–0.

Format

The governing body of football in North Macedonia is the Football Federation of North Macedonia. It oversees the organization of:

- Leagues:
 - Macedonian First Football League
 - Macedonian Second Football League
 - Macedonian Third Football League
 - Macedonian Municipal Football Leagues
- Cup tournaments:
 - Macedonian Football Cup
 - Macedonian Football Super Cup
- National teams:
 - North Macedonia national football team
 - North Macedonia national under-21 football team
 - North Macedonia national under-19 football team
 - North Macedonia national under-17 football team
 - North Macedonia women's national football team

Note: the aforementioned competitions are for men if not stated differently. Women's football exists but is much less developed or popular.

Teams

By far the most popular clubs in the country are Vardar (Skopje), Rabotnicki (Skopje), Shkëndija (Tetovo), Pelister (Bitola) and Pobeda (Prilep).

History

The beginnings of football in North Macedonia date back to the early 20th century in the then Ottoman Empire, with the first recorded match taking place in Skopje in April 1909. At that place was erected a monument in the form of soccer ball weighing about 250 pounds, because it was the first official soccer match played on the territory of North Macedonia. The monument was erected here in 1979.^[3]

After the First World War, the region had become part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (renamed to Yugoslavia in 1929). A match was played in Skopje on April 20, 1919. It was the selection of the English army composed of the best players among the recruits, against Napredok of Skopje, Napredok would win the match by the score of 2–0. Since 1920, the clubs from the current territory of the Republic of North Macedonia had competed in the Yugoslav league system. First they were part of the Belgrade Football Subassociation (1920–1927), and later, in 1927, a separate Skopje Football Subassociation was formed. The creation of the later made it considerably easier for Macedonian clubs to access Yugoslav First League since the Subassocion leagues functioned as qualifying leagues for the Yugoslav national championship and they avoided the clubs from Belgrade. Gragjanski Skopje became usual participant during the late 1930s in the Yugoslav top tier. By the late 1930s and early 1940s the league system was changed, and Macedonian clubs competed within the Serbian league.

In 1941, as a result of the Second World War, most of Vardar Macedonia was administered by the Kingdom of Bulgaria. The football clubs and leagues were restructured and incorporated into the Bulgarian league system. From 1941 until 1944, the strongest clubs from the region competed in the Bulgarian Championship. During that time, the selection of Macedonian clubs played against the selection of the German army, and played matches against Bulgaria. During this period, several players from Vardar Macedonia represented the Bulgaria national team.

In 1945, at the end of the Second World War, the region was reincorporated into Yugoslavia, and SR Macedonia was established as one of the 6 constituent socialist republics of SFR Yugoslavia. The best Macedonian clubs usually competed in the Federal leagues, First and Second Yugoslav leagues, while the Macedonian Republic League was formed to serve as qualifying league for the federal ones. In 1945, after the Second World War, a section of the Association of Sports in Skopje with Gustav Vlahov as president, was created. Finally on 14 August 1949, the Macedonian Football

Football in North Macedonia



The Toše Proeski Arena in Skopje is the home of the North Macedonia national football team

Country	North Macedonia
Governing body	<u>Football Federation of North Macedonia</u>
National team(s)	North Macedonia
First played	1909
	National competitions
	<u>FIFA World Cup</u>
	<u>UEFA European Championship</u>
	<u>UEFA Nations League</u>
	Club competitions
List	[show]
▪ League	
1. <u>MFL</u>	
2. <u>MFL</u>	
3. <u>MFL</u>	
4. <u>MFL</u>	
Cups:	
	<u>Macedonian Football Cup</u>
	<u>Macedonian Super Cup</u>
	International competitions
	<u>FIFA Club World Cup</u>
	<u>UEFA Champions League</u>
	<u>UEFA Europa League</u>
	<u>UEFA Europa Conference League</u>
	<u>UEFA Super Cup</u>

Association was formed and was part of the Football Association of Yugoslavia until 1991, when North Macedonia declared independence. The first president of the Football Federation of Macedonia was Ljubisav Ivanov - Dzingo. The best Macedonian players were part of the Yugoslav national team.

In 1991, North Macedonia became an independent sovereign nation as the Republic of Macedonia which would change to the Republic of North Macedonia in 2019. Macedonian clubs abandoned the Yugoslav football league system and created their own league system. The first championship in North Macedonia was organized in the season 1992/93, in which 18 teams participated. Vardar from Skopje was the first champion without a lost match. They would also win the first ever Macedonian Cup. In 1994, North Macedonia became a member of FIFA and UEFA after the break-up of SFR Yugoslavia. In 1995, for the first time Macedonian clubs participated in European Cup matches. As champions, FK Vardar played in the UEFA Cup against Hungarian side Békéscsaba and lost 1–2 on aggregate. FK Sileks played in the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, eliminating Vác Samsung in the first qualifying round before losing to Borussia Mönchengladbach in the next round.

The national team began its football journey with a 4–1 win against Slovenia in a friendly on 13 October 1993 under coach Andon Dončevski. They went on to win their next two friendlies against Slovenia and Estonia before suffering their first loss against Turkey on 31 August 1994 (before this they lost to Club Atlético Peñarol 0–4 in Montevideo in February 1994). The inaugural North Macedonia side featured Darko Pančev, who won the European Champions League with Red Star Belgrade in 1991 and also played for Internazionale in Italy. The Euro 96 Qualifiers was the first major qualifying tournament that North Macedonia participated in as an independent nation and they were grouped with Spain, Denmark, Belgium, Cyprus, and Armenia. In their opening game, which was also their first ever official match, North Macedonia was drawn against the reigning European Champions Denmark. The game was played at the City Stadium in Skopje on 7 September 1994 and it finished 1–1 (the first goal was scored by Mitko Stojkovski) with North Macedonia leading for most of the game after scoring in the fourth minute. Since then, North Macedonia has been participating in all FIFA and UEFA sanctioned qualifying tournaments.

In 2016, the national U-21 team qualified for the final tournament of 2017 UEFA European Under-21 Championship after finishing first in qualification group 3 behind France, Iceland, Ukraine, Scotland and Northern Ireland. That was the first time that the any national football team of North Macedonia qualified for a major tournament.^[4] In 2017, North Macedonia's capital Skopje were host the 2017 UEFA Super Cup between Real Madrid and Manchester United. Also, in that year, Vardar advanced to the group stage of the UEFA Europa League, after winning over two matches against Turkish giants Fenerbahçe in the play-off round, marking the first time that any Macedonian club qualified for the group stage of any European competition.^[5]



Goran Pandev is a five-time Macedonian player of the year who has spent most of his career in Italy

League system

As of the 2023/24 season. Leagues that have not been held in successive seasons have been marked as *inactive*.

Level	League(s)/Division(s)				
1	1. MFL 12 clubs				
2	2. MFL 16 clubs				
3	3. MFL North 14 clubs	3. MFL South 11 clubs	3. MFL East 9 clubs	3. MFL West 8 clubs	3. MFL Southwest 9 clubs
4	4. MFL North Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4.MFL Skopje ■ 4.MFL Kisela Voda ■ 4.MFL Gazi Baba ■ 4.MFL Kumanovo ■ 4.MFL Lipkovo (inactive) ■ 4.MFL¹ Kratovo (inactive) 	4. MFL South Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4.MFL Prilep ■ 4.MFL Veles ■ 4.MFL Kavadarci ■ 4.MFL Negotino 	4. MFL East Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4.MFL Kochani ■ 4.MFL Valandovo ■ 4.MFL Vinica (inactive) ■ 4.MFL Shtip (inactive) ■ 4.MFL Sveti Nikole (inactive) ■ 4.MFL Probištip (inactive) ■ 4.MFL Strumica (inactive) ■ 4.MFL Radovish (inactive) ■ 4.MFL Gevgelija (inactive) 	4. MFL West Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4.MFL Tetovo ■ 4.MFL Kichevo ■ 4.MFL Gostivar (inactive) 	4. MFL Southwest Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4.MFL Bitola ■ 4.MFL Ohrid ■ 4.MFL Struga ■ 4.MFL Resen (inactive) ■ 4.MFL Demir Hisar (inactive) ■ 4.MFL Makedonski Brod (inactive)
5	5.MFL Only Bitola, Kumanovo and Prilep host 5.MFL Leagues.				

¹ Teams from Kratovo and Kriva Palanka usually get grouped together.

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Football in Romania

Football is the most popular sport in Romania.^[1] The Romanian Football Federation (Romanian: *Federația Română de Fotbal* or FRF), a member of UEFA, is the sport's national governing body.

History

The pre-war period

The Bucharest architect Gheorghe Radu Stănculescu discovered in a document from the archives of the British Navy that English sailors were playing football in the Danube area in 1865. This detail emerges from a document from the archives of the British Navy. It is a report by the commander of the military ship HMS "Cockatrice", marine lieutenant Gillson, addressed to Admiral Lord Paget, commander of the Mediterranean Fleet of the "Royal Navy". In his report dated January 26, 1866 (see facsimiles), Lieutenant Gillson disclosed that he had ordered "the vessel's usual anchorage to be changed to another place, where she was now exposed to the breezes, and near which was a field which served as an excellent recreation ground for cricket, quoits and football".

Another article from the press of the time from 1888 mentioned that in Arad, "a group of young people was hitting the ball". In 1890, the dentist Iuliu Weiner brought to Arad - from London, where he had studied in England - the first rules of the game written on paper, as well as the first "real" soccer ball on the territory of today's Romania. (Until then, the balls were "improvised"). Weiner promotes the new game, demonstrating its practice on the field in front of the current Arada high school no. 1.

On June 25, 1899, in Timișoara, the first football match on the current territory of Romania was organized on the Velocitas field, between students of the 6th and 7th grades of the Piarist High School, under the leadership of Professor Karl Müller. This was the first football match that respected the rules of the game from that period, although football had been played in Bucharest since 1885, in the area of the "Bolta Rece" restaurant (in the area where the Arc de Triomphe is located today). On April 26, 1902, in Timișoara, young people from the Iosefin neighborhood founded the Timișoara Football Club, later the Timișoara Athletic Club. It was the first exclusive football club founded on today's territory of Romania. But the first interclub football match took place on August 20, 1902, on the field at Pădurea Verde, in front of 100 spectators. FC Timișoara lost to Reuniunea de Sport Lugoj with a score of 2-3.

In Cluj, as early as 1875, sports tournaments of the city's multi-sport clubs were organized. Football was not allowed within the city limits, so the games took place on the meadow to the east (today Nicolae Titulescu Boulevard). Since 1900, football matches have also taken place within

Football in Romania	
	
Arena Națională	in the capital Bucharest, used by FCSB and also the Romania national football team
Country	Romania
Governing body	Romanian Football Federation
National team(s)	Men's national team
First played	1909
National competitions	
FIFA World Cup	
UEFA European Championship	
UEFA Nations League	
Club competitions	
List	[show]
League:	
Liga I	
Liga II	
Liga III	
Liga IV	
Cups:	
Cupa României	
Supercupa României	
International competitions	
FIFA Club World Cup	
UEFA Champions League	
UEFA Europa League	
UEFA Europa Conference League	
UEFA Super Cup	

these events, with the winners receiving silver medals and the finalists bronze. From the 1907-1908 season , the first official matches on the territory of our country took place in Cluj, within the second Hungarian league, followed the following season in Arad.

The first official football match in the Kingdom of Romania was played in 1907 near Kiseleff Street, Bucharest on an improvised pitch. The Romanians just watched. The competitors were English and German, employed in the textile or oil industry in Bucharest, Ploiești or Câmpina. The chronicle of that game, published in the extraordinary magazine "From the world of sports", is considered a birth certificate for Romanian football.

The first domestic football competition was the ASAR Cup (Association of Athletic Societies of Romania), founded in October 1909. It included three clubs: Colentina and Olimpia from Bucharest (which won the title), and United from Ploiești .

The interwar period

The first national championship Division A with all the reunited territories was in the 1921-22 season, and the most successful Romanian teams from the interwar period are Venus Bucharest , with seven titles, Chinezul Timișoara with six (consecutive) titles and Ripensia Timișoara with four. Since 1934, the Romanian Cup has also been held, the first winner being Ripensia Timișoara. Also in that season, the B division was established, followed two years later by the C division. In 1930 and 1934, the Romanian national team participated in the world championships.

At the end of the 30s, the Romanian teams make their debut in the European cups, a resounding victory achieved by Ripensia defeating AC Milan 3-0.

The post-war period

After the war, teams like UTA Arad , FC Argeș Pitești and the University of Craiova win the championship and qualify for the upper stages of European competitions.

The most famous football club in Romania is Steaua București , which in 1986 was the first team from Eastern Europe and the only one from Romania to win the European Champions Cup . Also, in 1989 he played another European Champions Cup final. It is the club with the most titles, 25, and the most Romanian Cups , 21. Steaua also managed to equal the performance of Chinese Timișoara, winning the title 6 times in a row between 1992-98.

Stele's rivals, Dinamo Bucharest , won 18 titles and 13 cups, and played a semi-final of the European Champions Cup in 1984, and in 1990 the semi -final of the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup .

Under the management of Walter Zenga , Steaua qualified for the UEFA Cup groups in the 2004–05 season, with Zenga qualifying a Romanian team in the "European Spring" for the first time since 1993 (when Steaua also reached the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup). Since 2006, League I is composed of 18 teams, of which the last 4 are relegated. This year the championship changed its name from Division A to League I. In the 2005-2006 season , Steaua București and Rapid Bucharest reached the quarter-finals of the 2006 UEFA Cup. Steaua reached the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup, being eliminated on the edge of Middlesbrough FCand qualified three times in a row in the groups of the Champions League. Among the outstanding matches in the League are those with Dynamo Kyiv , score 4-1 and with Lyon, 1-1.

At the start of the 2006–07 season , the competition was forced to change its name from Division A to League I due to a trademark dispute over the name. In the new format, Dinamo Bucharest won its 18th title in history, 16th in a row for teams from Bucharest. CFR Cluj opened the way for a decade of dominance in the province, teams like Unirea Urziceni , Oțelul Galați , Astra Giurgiu or Viitorul Constanța won the title for the first time in history. Unirea Urziceni accumulated 8 points, a record for Romania in the league groups. CFR Clujwas the most prolific club in the last two decades, winning 8 championships, 4 cups and 2 super cups. CFR Cluj also produced

some records, 10 points in the Champions League groups, 12 points in the Europa League groups and 10 points in the Conference League groups and a premiere, it was the first club from the province to win the Romanian Super Cup.

Among the most important players in the domestic championship in recent history are Ionel Danciulescu with the most appearances (515) and Eric de Oliveira foreign player with the most goals scored in League I (66).

National championship

Professional league football began in Romania as Divizia A in 1909. The name of the top-flight league was changed to Liga I before the 2006–07 season. Currently, domestic play is organized in a four tier league system comprising Liga I, Liga II, Liga III, and various county leagues.^[2]

SuperLiga României

The country's top-flight division is SuperLiga României. The league contains 16 teams, with the champion going into the first qualify round in the UEFA Champions League. The runner-up starts in the second qualify round in the UEFA Conference League, where the 3rd also enters the first qualify round. Steaua Bucureşti (FCSB) is the most successful club in the history of Liga I, having won 23 league championships and being runner-up 12 times. Dinamo Bucureşti is the only other club with sustained success in Liga I, having won 18 titles. The two clubs at the bottom of the league table are relegated to Liga II and the 13th and 14th placed teams plays in the relegation playoffs against the 3rd and 4th placed teams from Liga II.

Lower divisions

Liga II is the second division on the Romanian football pyramid and it has 20 teams. The first and second place teams are promoted while the third and fourth placed teams will have to play a play-off with the teams that finished 13th respectively 14th in Liga I. After the regular season, the top six teams advance to the promotion group, while the other 14 are allocated to two groups of seven, specifically termed the relegation groups. The team finishing 7th and 6th in these relegation groups faces relegation to the third division, while the teams that have finished 5th in each group participate in a playoff to determine who stays clear of relegation.^[3]

Liga III contains 100 teams. In Phase I, there's a regular season with 10 series, each consisting of 10 teams playing home and away matches, totaling 18 rounds or 18 matches for each team. Phase II is named the championship part, where each series features a play-off among the top four and a play-out among the remaining six teams. After Phase II concludes, we move to the final part of the championship. In Phase III, only the top two teams from the play-offs, totaling 20 teams, will participate. Two promotion rounds will take place. After Phase II concludes, we move to the final part of the championship. In Phase III, only the top two teams from the play-offs, totaling 20 teams, will participate. Two promotion rounds will take place. The five winners of the final round will earn promotion to the Liga II.

Cup competitions

In addition to league, there are three major cup competitions: the Cupa României, open to all Romanian professional football clubs, the Supercupa României, which matches the champions of Liga I and the winners of the Cupa României, and the Cupa Ligii(defunct). In case the same team achieves the double by winning both the Liga I and Cupa României, the Supercupa is disputed between that club and the league's runner-up.

Qualification for European competitions

Competition	Round	Who Qualifies ^[4]
UEFA Champions League	First Qualifying Round	Liga I Champion
UEFA Europa Conference League	Second Qualifying Round	Winner of the Cupa României
	Second Qualifying Round	Liga I Runner-up
	Second Qualifying Round	Liga I Third placed club

Romania national football team

The Romania national football team played its first match in 1922 and is one of only four national teams to have taken part in the first three World Cups, the other three being Brazil, France, and Belgium. Overall, they have played in seven World Cups, most recently in 1998. They have also competed in four European Championships, most recently in 2016. The team's most successful period was in the 1990s when, led by Gheorghe Hagi, they reached the quarterfinals of the 1994 World Cup. They also reached the last 16 of the 1998 World Cup, and the quarter-finals of Euro 2000.

World Cup squads

- 1930 FIFA World Cup
- 1934 FIFA World Cup
- 1938 FIFA World Cup
- 1970 FIFA World Cup
- 1990 FIFA World Cup
- 1994 FIFA World Cup
- 1998 FIFA World Cup

European Champions squads

- UEFA Euro 1984
- UEFA Euro 1996
- UEFA Euro 2000
- UEFA Euro 2008
- UEFA Euro 2016

Domestic football

Many old, traditional teams in the first division have experienced financial difficulties, eventually leading to relegation and even dissolution, such as Politehnica Timișoara, Universitatea Cluj, Universitatea Craiova, Rapid București, Petrolul Ploiești, FC Brașov, FC Argeș, Oțelul Galați, Ceahlăul Piatra Neamț, Politehnica Iași and Pandurii Târgu Jiu. They were replaced by teams with less tradition in the first level of the Romanian league system, such as Botoșani, Concordia Chiajna, Dunărea Călărași, Hermannstadt Sibiu, Juventus București, Viitorul Constanța, Sepsi Sfântu Gheorghe or Voluntari.

Dissolved traditional teams were usually re-founded by supporters' associations or by municipalities. The fact that they bore similar names and colors to the original teams made neutral fans call them "clones".^[5] Some of these teams later re-gained the record and official name of the original ones.

The country's most successful team, Steaua Bucureşti, also lost the right to use its name (and logo) and changed it to FCSB.

A number of modern stadiums have been built in the country, with the most notable examples being Arena Națională, Cluj Arena, Ilie Oană Stadium, Stadionul Ion Oblemenco, Stadionul Tudor Vladimirescu and Stadionul Francisc von Neuman.^[6]

Largest Romanian football stadiums

Overall rank	Stadium	Capacity	City	Club	Open
1	<u>Arena Națională</u>	55,634	<u>Bucharest</u>	Romania national Football team, <u>FCSB</u>	2011
2	<u>Stadionul Dan Păltinișanu</u>	32,972	<u>Timișoara</u>	ASU Politehnica Timișoara, <u>Ripensia Timișoara</u>	1960
3	<u>Stadionul Iftimie Ilisei</u>	32,700	<u>Medgidia</u>	<u>CS Medgidia</u>	1983
4	<u>Stadionul Steaua</u>	31,254	<u>Bucharest</u>	<u>Steaua București</u>	2021
5	<u>Stadionul Ion Oblemenco</u>	30,983	<u>Craiova</u>	<u>FC U Craiova 1948</u> , <u>Universitatea Craiova</u>	2017
6	<u>Cluj Arena</u>	30,201	<u>Cluj-Napoca</u>	<u>Universitatea Cluj</u>	2011

See also

- Romanian Professional Football League
- Sport in Romania
- Match fixing in Romanian football
- Romanian Football Federation
- Romania national football team
- Romania national football team players
- Romania national under-21 football team
- Romania national under-19 football team
- Romania national under-17 football team
- Romania women's national football team
- Romanian football league system
- List of football stadiums in Romania

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■



Football in Serbia

Football is the most popular sport in **Serbia**. The **Football Association of Serbia** (**FSS**) is the national governing body and is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the game of football in the country, both professional and amateur. The association organizes the professional **Serbian Superliga** (top tier) and is responsible for appointing the management of the men's, women's, and youth national football teams in Serbia. The association also organizes the **Serbian First League** (second) and **Serbian League** (third), operating the top 3 leagues.

The FSS is also responsible for organizing the **Serbian Cup**, the country's **league cup** competition. It has been played from the end of the 19th century and there were a number of very successful Serbian football players and coaches throughout history.

One of Serbia's top football clubs **Red Star Belgrade** has won the prestigious **European Champions Cup** in **1991** and has also won the **Intercontinental Cup** the same year.^[1] Its local rival **Partizan Belgrade** was the first **Southeast** and **Eastern European** football club to reach the European Champions Cup final, when it did so in **1966**. The most successful and popular teams are Red Star and Partizan from Belgrade as well as **Vojvodina** from **Novi Sad**. An important role also played **OFK Belgrade** and **Radnički Niš** in the history of the Serbian football

History

Kingdom of Serbia

Football first came to Serbia in the spring of 1896 when a **Jewish** student, **Hugo Buli**, after he had returned from his studies in **Germany**, brought the first football from **Berlin** to **Belgrade**. He brought the ball to his friends from the Belgrade gymnastics society **Soko**, and founded the first football section in Southeast Europe on 12 May.^[2]

The inaugural meeting of the First Serbian Football Society (*Prvo srpsko društvo za igranje loptom*) took place on 1 May 1899, at the restaurant *Trgovačka kafana*, at initiative of Hugo Buli, and with support of Andra Nikolić, who was then Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom of Serbia. Feti Bey, the Turkish consul in Belgrade, was elected as President, and the lawyer Mihailo Živadinović as the Vice-President. In spring 1899, the first football field was built in the **Topčider** neighbourhood of Belgrade, and the first match was played in May that year between two teams of the members of the football society.^[2]

Most of the first Serbian football clubs were multi-sports societies which included football sections. The first football club was founded in **Subotica** in 1898, the **Szabadkai Sport Egylet** (Sport Club Szabad), among the then fans better known simply as "Sport", within which was formed a football section in 1898 on the initiative of player and enthusiast Zoltán Wagner.^[3]

Football in Serbia



Home stadium of club **Red Star Belgrade**

Country	Serbia
Governing body	Football Association of Serbia
National team(s)	Serbia national football team
First played	1896
Registered players	120,194
Clubs	2,770
National competitions	
FIFA World Cup	
UEFA European Championship	
UEFA Nations League	
Club competitions	
League	
Serbian SuperLiga	
Serbian First League	
Cups	
Serbian Cup	
International competitions	
FIFA Club World Cup	
UEFA Champions League	
UEFA Europa League	
UEFA Conference League	
UEFA Super Cup	

Another club was founded in Subotica on May 3, 1901, the Sports Athletic Club Bačka. More than two years later, on 14 September 1903, the football club Šumadija was founded in Kragujevac. The Subotica clubs were older, but at the time of the foundation of Sport and Bačka, the city of Subotica was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, while Kragujevac was on the territory of the then kingdom of Serbia. Being still active, Bačka is the oldest club in nowadays Serbia. Just following the foundation of Šumadija, Soko was founded in Belgrade, and thus became the first football club from the capital city. Since then several other clubs were formed such as Srpski mač in 1906, BSK in 1911 and SK Velika Srbija (later renamed to SK Jugoslavija) in 1913.^[4]

In spring 1914, the Serbian Olympic Committee organised the first ever trophy to be played among the best football clubs of the Kingdom of Serbia. It was played in a single-round robin system, and in the final held in Belgrade it was won by Velika Srbija.^[5] This seemed to be a promising start of an organised football tournament to be held regularly, however later that same year the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war against Serbia in what will be the beginning of the First World War and the halt of all recreational and sports activities in Serbia.

Kingdom of Yugoslavia

At the end of the First World War the boundaries in the region were changed and the Serbian state was part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, later in 1929 renamed into Kingdom of Yugoslavia.^[6] The Yugoslav Football Association (*Jugoslovenski nogometni savez*) was founded at a meeting in Zagreb, on 18 April 1919. The founding assembly was presided Danilo Stojanović, popularly known as Čika Dača, important because he was the founder of several football clubs such as Šumadija, BSK and others.

In 1919 the Belgrade Football Subassociation formed the first league tournament that started being held regularly since its inaugural season in 1919–20. The first Yugoslav state championship was launched in 1923. The championships were played until 1940, and in this period the best Serbian clubs won seven state championship titles: BSK five and SK Jugoslavija two. The interruption of the championship occurred due to disagreements between the sub-associations, which culminated in 1929 when the YFA Assembly was dissolved. The differences were resolved in February 1930, after three months of crisis. An extraordinary Assembly was convened, and it took place in Zagreb on 16 May 1930. It was voted that the association's headquarters be moved to the state capital, Belgrade, and that the name of the association would be changed into Yugoslav Football Association (*Fudbalski savez Jugoslavije*). BSK, along with HŠK Gradiški, dominated the state scene until the beginning of World War II.

This period was marked by the mass popularization of football. The national league was dominated by clubs from Belgrade and Zagreb, but within Belgrade major rivalry was created between BSK and Jugoslavija (Reds and Blues respectively) creating what will be the Eternal derby of that period. The rivalry expanded throughout the country, more intensely in Serb populated areas but in others as well, dividing citizens between Reds and Blues. Best league players became real media stars, and some became real heartbreakers among the female population, as was Bane Sekulić.^[7]

The year of 1935 marked the professionalization of football in Yugoslavia, with the replacement of amateur status to the professional one, and the introduction of contracts for players.^[8]

On the assembly of the Yugoslav Football Association held on October 1, 1939, a decision was made to rename the FA into Serbian Football Association, after earlier that year the FA's of Croatia and Slovenia were formed, and the delegates of Ljubljana, Osijek, Split and Zagreb subassociations decided to abandon the Yugoslav Football Association.^[9]

Socialist Yugoslavia

The end of the war was the beginning of the reconstruction, and the devastated football grounds and stadiums, as well as the football clubs needed to be restored.^[10] On 25 February 1945, the football club Metalac was founded, later its name was changed into BSK, and then into OFK Beograd, as successor to the tradition of the

pre-war Beogradski Sport Klub (BSK). The Red Star Belgrade was formed on 4 March 1945, and Partizan Belgrade on 4 October of the same year. Some clubs were disbanded by the new socialist authorities, many on the ideological basis, for being considered too cosmopolitan and representative of the abolished monarchy, such as Jugoslavija or Jedinstvo Beograd, and some had simply disappeared due to man loss and long inactivity during the war. Some clubs were initially disbanded but shortly after, restored, the BASK case being the most evident, while a few top league clubs had continued their activity, as Vojvodina Novi Sad, RFK Novi Sad, Mačva Šabac and Radnički Kragujevac.

Contemporary period

After the dissolution of Yugoslavia, and the separation of Montenegro, on 26 June 2006, the Football Association of Serbia was admitted to the membership of FIFA and UEFA, as legal successor to all the previous national associations whose part it was. By this the world and European federations have acknowledged the continuity of football in the territory of Serbia, and the decisive role of Serbia in creating the history of the game in Western Balkans since the end of the 19th century. In recent years, many top Serbian players such as Dejan Stanković, Nemanja Vidić and Branislav Ivanović have gone on to forge successful careers in top European leagues. The U-21 team were runners-up at the 2007 UEFA Under-21 Championship having lost to the Netherlands in the final. As well, Serbia won the U-20 World Cup in 2015 in New Zealand.

Competitions

The governing body of football in Serbia is the Football Association of Serbia. It oversees the organization of:

- Leagues:

- Serbian SuperLiga — **first league**
- Serbian First League — **second league**
- Serbian League (4 groups) — **third league**
 - Serbian League Belgrade
 - Serbian League East
 - Serbian League Vojvodina
 - Serbian League West
- Serbian Zone League (10 groups) — **fourth league**
 - Belgrade Zone League
 - Banat Zone League
 - Bačka Zone League
 - Novi Sad-Syrmia Zone League
 - Drina Zone League
 - Dunav Zone league
 - Morava Zone League
 - Zone League East
 - Zone League South
 - Zone League West
- Serbian District League (31 leagues) — **fifth league**
- Serbian Intermunicipal League (52 leagues) — **sixth league**
- Serbian Municipal League (57 leagues) — **seventh league**
- Serbian Municipal Second League (6 leagues) — **eighth league**

- Cup tournaments:

- Serbian Cup

- National teams:

- [Serbia national football team](#)
- [Serbia national under-21 football team](#)
- [Serbia national under-19 football team](#)
- [Serbia national under-17 football team](#)

Note: the aforementioned competitions are for men if not stated differently. Women's football exists but is much less developed or popular.

Teams

By far the two most popular clubs in the country are [Partizan](#) and [Crvena zvezda](#), both from [Belgrade](#).

Player of the Year

The [Serbian Footballer of the Year](#) award is an annual award given from the [Football Association of Serbia](#) to the best player of the year.

+20,000-capacity football stadiums in Serbia

Image	Stadium	Seating capacity	City	Home team	Notes
	Rajko Mitić Stadium	55,568 ^[11]	Belgrade	Crvena Zvezda	UEFA Category 4 stadium
	Partizan Stadium	29,775 ^[12]	Belgrade	Partizan Belgrade	UEFA Category 3 stadium

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Football in Slovenia

Football in Slovenia is governed by the Football Association of Slovenia (Slovene: *Nogometna zveza Slovenije*). Slovenia has been participating in international football as an independent country since 1991, when the country gained independence from SFR Yugoslavia. The Slovenia national football team has qualified for four major tournaments (UEFA Euro 2000, 2002 FIFA World Cup, 2010 FIFA World Cup, and UEFA Euro 2024).^[1]

The three biggest clubs in Slovenia are Maribor, Mura and Olimpija.^[2]

History

Since being part of Austria-Hungary, football came to the territories that are today part of Slovenia in the late 19th century from Vienna. The first football club was founded in 1900 by the German minority in Ljubljana, the Laibacher Sportverein.^[3] They were soon followed by the Hungarian minority in Lendava (Nafta in 1903) and the German minority in Celje (Athletik SK in 1906).^[4] The game soon spread among Slovenian high school students, who formed their own teams in most of Slovenia's major cities, most notable being Hermes in Ljubljana and Jugoslavija in Gorizia. In 1911, the first Slovenian citizens football club, Ilirija, was founded in Ljubljana, followed by Slovan two years later.^[4]

After the end of World War I and the creation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, later renamed to Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav Football Association was formed, which was divided in regional subassociations. Football clubs Ilirija, Slovan and German teams from Maribor founded the Ljubljana Football Subassociation in 1920, which is the forerunner of today's Football Association of Slovenia. Ljubljana Subassociation covered the territory of Slovenia and was responsible for organizing the football activities within its territory. They formed the Slovenian national team, which played its first game against France in 1921.^[5] At club level they formed a league system with several levels which started being played in 1920. The Ljubljana Subassociation first league champions played along the champions of the other Yugoslav subassociations in the Yugoslav Championship. The most successful teams were Ilirija with twelve subassociation titles, followed by I. SSK Maribor with three titles, and Primorje, SK Ljubljana and Železničar Maribor with two each. Stanko Tavčar was the first Slovenian footballer to play for the Yugoslavia national team.^[6] Most of the competitions were suspended in 1941 due to outbreak of World War II.

In SFR Yugoslavia, the majority of Slovenian clubs played in the Yugoslav football league system, while the Slovenian national team continued playing as a regional amateur selection. The first post-war champions, Nafta, competed in the Yugoslav top division in the 1946–47 season, an achievement that was later repeated only by Olimpija and Maribor. Olimpija was the most successful Slovenian team in the period; they played 22 seasons in the Yugoslav top flight, reached the Yugoslav Cup final in 1970, and also competed in European competitions on three occasions. Most Slovenian clubs usually played in the third-tier Slovenian Republic League, where the most successful teams were Maribor and Ljubljana with five titles each. During the 1945–1990 period, only a handful of Slovenian players managed to get into the Yugoslavia national team, with Branko Oblak, Srečko Katanec and Danilo Popivoda being the famous three.

Football in Slovenia	
Country	Slovenia
Governing body	Football Association of Slovenia
National team(s)	men's national team
First played	1991
National competitions	
Slovenian Cup	
Club competitions	
Slovenian PrvaLiga	
Slovenian Second League	
Slovenian Third League	
International competitions	
Champions League	
Europa League	
Europa Conference League	
FIFA World Cup (national team)	
European Championship (national team)	
UEFA Nations League (national team)	

After Slovenia's independence in 1991, national league and cup competitions were formed on the basis of the old republic structures, with the first Slovenian PrvaLiga season therefore including 21 teams. In the same year, SR Slovenia regional selection reformed as the Slovenian national football team and played their first official match in 1992 against Estonia.^[7]



SK Ilirija squad, which won the first Slovenian regional championship in 1920.

League system

Level	Division											
1	Slovenian PrvaLiga 10 clubs – 1 or 2 relegations											
2	Slovenian Second League 16 clubs – 1 or 2 promotions, 2 relegations											
3	Slovenian Third League <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">West 14 clubs – 1 promotion</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">East 14 clubs – 1 promotion</td> </tr> </table>										West 14 clubs – 1 promotion	East 14 clubs – 1 promotion
West 14 clubs – 1 promotion	East 14 clubs – 1 promotion											
Slovenian Intercommunal Leagues												
4	MNZ Koper	MNZ Nova Gorica	MNZG-Kranj	MNZ Ljubljana	MNZ Celje	MNZ Maribor	MNZ Ptuj	MNZ Lendava	MNZ Murska Sobota			
	Littoral League		Upper Carniola League	Ljubljana Regional League	Intercommunal League	1. MNZ League	Super League	Pomurska League				
5	N/A			MNZ League	N/A	2. MNZ League	1. Class	MNL Lendava	1. MNL			
6	N/A					N/A	2. Class	N/A	N/A			

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Football in Turkey

Football is the most popular sport in **Turkey**, followed by basketball, tracing its roots to the **Ottoman Empire**.^[1] The first matches were played in Ottoman **Salonica** in 1875. The sport was introduced by **English** residents.^[2] The **Turkish football league system** comprises five professional leagues, one of which is dedicated to female athletes.

History

League system

Süper Lig

The **Süper Lig** (Super League) is the top division in Turkey since 1959. The league contains 18 clubs. The champions used to receive an automatic berth in the group stage of the European Champions League until the 2020/2021 season. **Galatasaray**, **Fenerbahçe**, **Beşiktaş**, and **Trabzonspor** are the most successful Turkish clubs that participate in the competition, having won the most titles so far. Galatasaray have won the highest number of Süper Lig trophies (the club won more Süper Lig and Turkish Cup trophies than any other team).

The league ushered in clubs from all over Turkey to compete with each other. Currently, clubs finishing in the top four places in the league enter qualifying rounds of European competitions, and the winners of the **Turkish Cup**, if not one of the top four, are also given a spot. The three teams with the fewest points each season are relegated to the **TFF First League**.

The top two teams are nominated for the **UEFA Champions League** while the 3rd and 4th placed clubs are nominated for the **UEFA Europa League**.

Reserve leagues

Clubs in the Turkish football league system do not have reserve teams with the exception of Genclerbirligi and Altinordu. Hacettepe SK is the reserve side of Genclerbirligi, and Nigde Anadolu FK is of Altinordu. Other clubs have U21 and U18 teams which compete outside the main league system.

Amateur football

Below the four professional leagues in Turkish football are amateur leagues. Amateur football clubs include:

- Seniors' First Amateur League: 2145 clubs

Football in Turkey	
	Atatürk Olympic Stadium has capacity of 74,753 spectators.
Country Turkey	
Governing body	TFF
National team(s)	Turkey
First played	1898
National competitions	
Leagues	
Men's:	
Süper Lig	
TFF First League	
TFF Second League	
TFF Third League	
Women's:	
Women's Super League	
Women's First League	
Women's Second League	
Women's Third League	
Cups	
Turkish Cup	
Turkish Super Cup	
International competitions	
Club	
FIFA Club World Cup	
UEFA Champions League	
UEFA Europa League	

- Seniors' Second Amateur League: 1743 clubs
- Seniors' Third Amateur League: 1 club
- Women's League: 9 clubs
- Juniors' First Amateur League: 27 clubs
- Juniors' Second Amateur League: 100 clubs
- Juniorsclubs

- Antalya: 10 clubs
- Bursa: 16 clubs
- Istanbul: 18 clubs
- İzmir: 12 clubs
- Diyarbakır: 7 clubs
- Trabzon: 13 clubs
- Samsun: 10 clubs

[UEFA Europa Conference League](#)
[UEFA Super Cup](#)
National team
[FIFA World Cup](#)
[UEFA European Championship](#)
[UEFA Nations League](#)



Rams Park is home stadium of club
[Galatasaray](#).

Amateur clubs are put into leagues included in the Amateur League system and are eligible for promotion to the Turkish Third League.

Largest football stadiums in Turkey

#	Image	Stadium	Capacity	City	Home team(s)	Opened
1		Atatürk Olympic Stadium	74,753 ^[3]		Turkey, Fatih Karagümrük SK	2002
2		Rams Park	52,223 ^[4]	Istanbul	Galatasaray SK	2011
3		İzmir Atatürk Stadium	51,337 ^[5]	İzmir	Karşıyaka SK	1971
4		Şükrü Saracoğlu Stadium	47,834 ^[6]	Istanbul	Fenerbahçe SK	1908
5		Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Stadium	43,361 ^[7]	Bursa	Bursaspor	2015
6		Vodafone Park	42,590 ^[8]	Istanbul	Beşiktaş JK	2016
7		Konya Metropolitan Municipality Stadium	42,000 ^[9]	Konya	Konyaspor	2014
8		Şenol Güneş Sports Complex	40,782 ^[10]	Trabzon	Trabzonspor	2017

#	Image	Stadium	Capacity	City	Home team(s)	Opened
9		Samsun 19 Mayıs Stadium	33,919	Samsun	Samsunspor	2017
10	Gaziantep Stadium		33,502	Gaziantep	Gaziantep F.K.	2017

Cup competitions

The two major cup competitions are the [Turkish Cup](#) and [Turkish Super Cup](#). The Turkish Cup includes clubs from every division. The Super Cup is an annual match held between the winners of the Süper Lig and Turkish Cup.

Now-defunct Turkish cup competitions include the [Prime Minister's Cup](#), [Atatürk Cup](#), [Istanbul Football Cup](#) and [Spor Toto Cup](#).

Qualification for European competitions

Competition	Who Qualifies	Notes
UEFA Champions League group stage	Club finishing 1st in the Süper Lig	
UEFA Champions League third qualifying round	Club finishing 2nd in the Süper Lig	
UEFA Europa League third qualifying round	Club finishing 3rd in the Süper Lig	
UEFA Conference League second qualifying round	Club finishing 4th in the Süper Lig	
UEFA Europa League group stage	Winner of the Turkish Cup	If the winner is already guaranteed a place in Europe, the highest ranked club in Süper Lig which did not qualify to UEFA Champions League will replace them.
UEFA Europa League	Süper Lig club with the best UEFA Fair Play ranking that has not already qualified for Europe, but only if Turkey has the best fair play ranking or has a fair play score of above 8 and is one of the two countries drawn out of the hat	

In addition, once in a European competition, it becomes possible to qualify for others:

- All the losers of the Champions League third qualifying round go forward to the UEFA Europa League Play-off round
- All the losers of the Champions League play-off round go forward to the UEFA Europa League group stage
- Any clubs playing in the Champions League that finish third in the group stage go into the UEFA Europa League round of 32

European Competition Records

The following teams have made the last eight of European competitions:

UEFA Super Cup

- Galatasaray (2000 – Champions)

European Cup / UEFA Champions League

- Galatasaray (1988–89 – Semi-finals)
- Galatasaray (1962–63 – Quarter-finals)
- Galatasaray (1969–70 – Quarter-finals)
- Besiktaş (1986–87 – Quarter-finals)
- Galatasaray (1993–94 – Group stage)†
- Galatasaray (2000–01 – Quarter-finals)
- Fenerbahçe (2007–08 – Quarter-finals)
- Trabzonspor (2011–12 – Group stage)*
- Galatasaray (2012–13 – Quarter-finals)

‡ Galatasaray was one of the eight teams in the group stage of the 1993–94 UEFA Champions League, however, UEFA does not consider this a quarter-final participation.

*Fenerbahçe excluded due to matchfixing scandal

UEFA Cup / Europa League

- Galatasaray (1999–00 – Champions)
- Fenerbahçe (2012–13 – Semi-finals)
- Besiktaş (2002–03 – Quarter-finals)
- Besiktaş (2016–17 – Quarter-finals)

Inter-Cities Fairs Cup

- Göztepe (1968–69 – Semi-finals)

Balkans Cup

- Fenerbahçe (1966–67 – Champions)
- Sarıyer spor (1991–92 – Champions)
- Samsunspor (1993–94 – Champions)
- Eskişehirspor (1975 – Runners-up)

UEFA Cup Winners Cup

- Fenerbahçe (1963–64 – Quarter-finals)
- Göztepe (1969–70 – Quarter-finals)
- Bursaspor (1974–75 – Quarter-finals)

- Galatasaray (1991–92 – Quarter-finals)

UEFA Intertoto Cup

- Kayserispor (2006 – Joint Winners)
- Trabzonspor (2007 – Runners-up)
- Sivasspor (2008 – Runners-up)
- İstanbulspor (1997 – Semi-finals)
- Samsunspor (1998 – Semi-finals)
- Trabzonspor (1999 – Semi-finals)
- Bursaspor (1995 – Quarter-finals)

Turkey national team

The Turkey national team made its debut on October 26, 1923. The match ended in a 2–2 draw against the Romania. Turkey have qualified for the FIFA World Cup twice: 1954 and 2002. Their longest duration of competing for the Cup was coming third in the 2002 FIFA World Cup. Turkey also finished third in the 2003 Confederations Cup, reached the semi-finals of Euro 2008 and played in the quarter-finals of Euro 2000.^{[11][12][13][14][15]}

Women's football

Records

Seasons

1900s:					1904–05	1905–06	1906–07	1907–08	1908–09	1909–10
1910s:	1910–11	1911–12	1912–13	1913–14	1914–15	1915–16	1916–17	1917–18	1918–19	1919–20
1920s:	1920–21	1921–22	1922–23	1923–24	1924–25	1925–26	1926–27	1927–28	1928–29	1929–30
1930s:	1930–31	1931–32	1932–33	1933–34	1934–35	1935–36	1936–37	1937–38	1938–39	1939–40
1940s:	1940–41	1941–42	1942–43	1943–44	1944–45	1945–46	1946–47	1947–48	1948–49	1949–50
1950s:	1950–51	1951–52	1952–53	1953–54	1954–55	1955–56	1956–57	1957–58	1958–59	1959–60
1960s:	1960–61	1961–62	1962–63	1963–64	1964–65	1965–66	1966–67	1967–68	1968–69	1969–70
1970s:	1970–71	1971–72	1972–73	1973–74	1974–75	1975–76	1976–77	1977–78	1978–79	1979–80
1980s:	1980–81	1981–82	1982–83	1983–84	1984–85	1985–86	1986–87	1987–88	1988–89	1989–90
1990s:	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–00
2000s:	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
2010s:	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
2020s:	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24						

See also

- List of Turkish football champions
- List of football clubs in Turkey

- Sport in Turkey
- Big Three (Turkey)
- Amputee football in Turkey

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External links

- TurkishFootballNews.com - your source for the latest in Turkish football (<http://www.turkishfootballnews.com/>)

- [Turkish soccer live scores and news and blog by Ahmet Bob Turgut](http://www.turkish-football.com/) (<http://www.turkish-football.com/>)
 - [All of results in Turkish Football](http://www.amatorfutbol.org/) (<http://www.amatorfutbol.org/>)
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Football Superleague of Kosovo

The **Football Superleague of Kosovo** (Albanian: *Superliga e Futbollit të Kosovës*), also known as the **ALBI MALL Superleague of Kosovo** (Albanian: *ALBI MALL Superliga e Kosovës*) for sponsorship reasons with Albi Mall, is the top level of the Kosovar football league system. The Superleague is organized by the Football Federation of Kosovo and the division currently has a 10-team format. The clubs play each other four times during the season for a 36-match schedule. At the end of the season, the bottom two teams in the division are relegated to the second tier, First Football League of Kosovo.

The Superleague ran outside FIFA and UEFA until Kosovo was admitted to both organizations, on 3 May 2016.^[1]

History

Prior to World War II, within Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Kosovar clubs competed in the provincial leagues of the Belgrade Football Subassociation. During World War II, between 1941 and 1944, when most of the region became part of the Albanian Kingdom, numerous Kosovar clubs played in the Albanian league system. In 1945, Kosovo was reincorporated to Serbia, and subsequently, into the SFR Yugoslavia. The league has its origins in 1945 when it became one of the subdivisions of the 5th level in the Yugoslav football league system. It gathered the best clubs from the SAP Kosovo except for those clubs competing in higher levels. In 1991, an unrecognised parallel league gathering ethnic Albanian pro-independence clubs was set, and was run till 1999. In the meantime, the best clubs competed in the leagues of FR Yugoslavia. In 1999, after the Kosovo War, a separate Kosovar league system was formed. It included most clubs from Kosovo except those from Serbian-dominated North Kosovo which remained in the Serbian football league system. Since 2000, the competition has been running continuously,

Football Superleague of Kosovo



Organising body	FFK Competitions Commission
Founded	1945 as <i>Kosovo Province League</i> 1991 as <i>Independent League of Kosovo</i>
First season	1945 as <i>Kosovo Province League</i> 1991–92 as <i>Independent League of Kosovo</i>
Country	 Kosovo
Confederation	UEFA
Number of teams	10
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	First Football League of Kosovo
Domestic cup(s)	Kosovar Cup Kosovar Supercup
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa League UEFA Europa Conference League
Current champions	Ballkani (2nd title) (2022–23)
Most championships	Prishtina (11 titles)
Most appearances	Artan Latifi (493)
TV partners	List of broadcasters
Website	ffk-kosova.com/rez/ (http://ffk-kosova.com/rez/)

Current: 2023–24 Football Superleague of Kosovo

and by 2017, after Kosovo gained membership in [FIFA](#) and [UEFA](#), began acting as the national league of Kosovo, providing clubs for international tournaments.

Names

Name		Period	Notes
Albanian	English		
Liga e Provincës së Kosovës	Kosovo Province League	1945–1991	Part of the Yugoslav football league system . ^[a]
Liga e Pavarur e Kosovës	Independent League of Kosovo	1991–1999	Unrecognised competition parallel to Serbian league system.
Superliga e Futbollit të Kosovës	Football Superleague of Kosovo	1999–present	The official name, even though from 2008 for sponsorship reasons the name changes.
Raiffeisen Superliga e Kosovës	Raiffeisen Superleague of Kosovo	2008–2016	Sponsored by Raiffeisen Bank Kosovo, a subsidiary of the Raiffeisen Bank International .
Vala Superliga e Kosovës	Vala Superleague of Kosovo	2016–2018	Sponsored by Kosovo Telecom . ^[2]
IPKO Superliga e Kosovës	IPKO Superleague of Kosovo	2018–2020	Sponsored by IPKO . ^[3]
BKT Superliga e Kosovës	BKT Superleague of Kosovo	2021–2022	Sponsored by Banka Kombëtare Tregtare . ^[4]
ALBI MALL Superliga e Kosovës	ALBI MALL Superleague of Kosovo	2022–present	Sponsored by Albi Mall, a subsidiary of the Albi Commerce. ^[5]

Previous winners

This is a list of winners of Football Superleague of Kosovo since 1945.^[6]

Kosovo Province League^[a]

Season	Club	Location
1945	<u>Jedinstvo</u>	<u>Pristina</u>
1946		
1947	<u>Trepça</u>	<u>Mitrovica</u>
1947–48	<u>Proleteri</u>	<u>Pristina</u>
1948–49	<u>Trepça</u>	<u>Mitrovica</u>
1950		
1951	<u>Kosova</u>	<u>Pristina</u>
1952	<u>Trepça</u>	<u>Mitrovica</u>
1953	<i>Not played due to change of league system</i>	
1953–54	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Pristina</u>
1954–55	<u>Trepça</u>	<u>Mitrovica</u>
1955–56	<u>Rudari</u>	<u>Stari Trg</u>
1956–57	<u>Rudniku</u>	<u>Hajvalia</u>
1957–58	<u>Rudari</u>	<u>Stari Trg</u>
1958–59	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Pristina</u>
1959–60	<u>Rudari</u>	<u>Stari Trg</u>
1960–61	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Pristina</u>
1961–62	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>Peja</u>
1962–63	<u>Drita</u>	<u>Gjilan</u>
1963–64	<u>Slloga</u>	<u>Lipjan</u>
1964–65		
1965–66	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>Peja</u>
1966–67	<u>Obiliq</u>	<u>Obiliq</u>
1967–68	<u>Vëllaznimi</u>	<u>Gjakova</u>
1968–69		
1969–70		
1970–71		
1971–72	<u>Obiliq</u>	<u>Obiliq</u>
1972–73	<u>Fushë Kosova</u>	<u>Kosovo Polje</u>
1973–74	<u>Vëllaznimi</u>	<u>Gjakova</u>
1974–75	<u>Liria</u>	<u>Prizren</u>
1975–76	<u>RHMK Obiliq</u>	<u>Obiliq</u>
1976–77	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Pristina</u>
1977–78	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>Peja</u>
1978–79	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Pristina</u>
1979–80	<u>Vëllaznimi</u>	<u>Gjakova</u>
1980–81	<u>Liria</u>	<u>Prizren</u>
1981–82	<u>Vëllaznimi</u>	<u>Gjakova</u>
1982–83	<u>KNI Ramiz Sadiku</u>	<u>Pristina</u>

Independent League of Kosovo^[b]

Season	Club	Location
1991–92	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Prishtina</u>
1992–93	<u>Trepça</u>	<u>Mitrovica</u>
1993–94	<u>Dukagjini</u>	<u>Klina</u>
1994–95	<u>Liria</u>	<u>Prizren</u>
1995–96	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Prishtina</u>
1996–97		
1997–98	<i>Competition not held due to Kosovo War</i>	
1998–99		
Establishment as top-league after UNMIK take-over of Kosovo		
1999–2000	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Prishtina</u>
2000–01		
2001–02	<u>Besiana</u>	<u>Podujevo</u>
2002–03	<u>Drita</u>	<u>Gjilan</u>
2003–04	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Prishtina</u>
2004–05	<u>Besa</u>	<u>Peja</u>
2005–06		
2006–07		
2007–08	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Prishtina</u>
2008–09		
2009–10	<u>Trepça</u>	<u>Mitrovica</u>
2010–11	<u>Hysi</u>	<u>Podujevo</u>
2011–12	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Prishtina</u>
2012–13		
2013–14	<u>Vushtrria</u>	<u>Vushtrri</u>
2014–15	<u>Feronikeli</u>	<u>Drenas</u>
2015–16		
After membership in UEFA and FIFA		
2016–17	<u>Trepça'89</u>	<u>Mitrovica</u>
2017–18	<u>Drita</u>	<u>Gjilan</u>
2018–19	<u>Feronikeli</u>	<u>Drenas</u>
2019–20	<u>Drita</u>	<u>Gjilan</u>
2020–21	<u>Prishtina</u>	<u>Prishtina</u>

Kosovo Province League^[a]

Season	Club	Location
1983–84	Liria	Prizren
1984–85	Crvena Zvezda	Gjilan
1985–86	Vëllaznimi	Gjakova
1986–87	Liria	Prizren
1987–88	Crvena Zvezda	Gjilan
1988–89	Budućnost	Peja
1989–90	Vëllaznimi	Gjakova
1990–91	Fushë Kosova	Kosovo Polje

Independent League of Kosovo^[b]

Season	Club	Location
2021–22	Ballkani	Suva Reka
2022–23		

Clubs (2023–24)

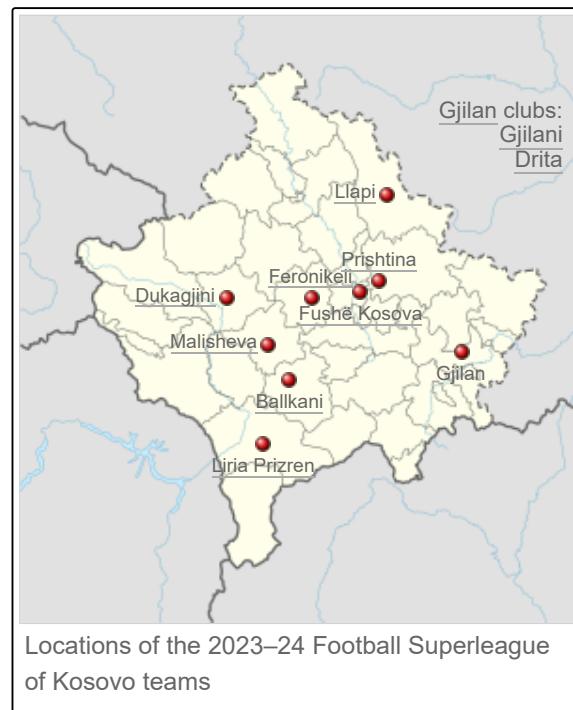
The league consisted of ten teams – the top seven teams from the previous season and three teams promoted from the 2022–23 Kosovo First League. Ballkani entered the season as the defending champions.

The two directly promoted teams were Feronikeli and Fushë Kosova, winners of the 2022–23 Kosovo First League groups A and B, respectively. They replaced the 2022–23 Kosovo Superleague bottom two teams, Drenica and Trepça '89.^[7] The First League Group A runners-up, Liria Prizren, won the Kosovo Superleague play-off to also earn promotion, defeating eighth-placed Superleague team Ferizaj to take their place in the league.

Stadiums and locations

Note: Table lists in alphabetical order.

Club	Town	Stadium and capacity	UEFA license ^[8]
Ballkani	Suva Reka	Suva Reka City Stadium	✓
Drita	Gjilan	Gjilan City Stadium ^[c]	✓
Dukagjini	Klina	18 June Stadium	✓
Feronikeli	Drenas	Rexhep Rexhepi Stadium	✗
Fushë Kosova	Kosovo Polje	Ekrem Grajqevci Stadium	✗
Gjilani	Gjilan	Gjilan City Stadium ^[c]	✓
Liria Prizren	Prizren	Përparim Thaçi Stadium	✗
Llapi	Podujevo	Zahir Pajaziti Stadium	✓
Malisheva	Mališevo	Liman Gegaj Stadium	✓
Prishtina	Pristina	Fadil Vokri Stadium	✗



Notes

- a. It was one of the leagues forming the 4th level of the Yugoslav football league system. The champion would gain promotion to Yugoslav Inter-Republic League East, one of Yugoslav 3rd tiers.
- b. Unrecognised competition parallel to Serbian league system.

c. Drita and Gjilan use this stadium together and have named the stadium with different names. Drita and their fans named the stadium as Selami Osmani-Bezi Stadium, while Gjilan and their fans named the stadium as Agim Ramadani Stadium, but officially the stadium is named Gjilan City Stadium.^[9]

Personnel and kits

Club	Manager	Captain	Kit manufacturer	Shirt sponsor ^[a]	
Ballkani	 Ilir Daja	 Edvin Kuč	 Uhlsport	 Cima Construction	
Drita	 Zekirija Ramadani	 Rron Broja	 Macron	 AirTiketa	 ALBTECH
Dukagjini	 Armend Dallku	 Altin Merlaku	 Jako	 Chio Kosova	
Feronikeli	 Shefki Kuqi	 Lapidar Lladrovci	 Jako	none	
Fushë Kosova	 Shpëtim Bajrami	 Nasuf Berisha	 14fourteen	 Jona Med	
Gjilani	 Gentian Mezani	 Edison Kqiku	 Jako	 ALBA Petrol	 VALI RANCH
Liria Prizren	 Ali Güneş	 Valon Bytyqi	 MS SPORTS	 ABI Prizren	
Llapi	 Tahir Batatina	 Benjamin Emini	 Sporttex	 N.N.SH "Batatina"	
Malisheva	 Qëndrim Kida	 Dreni Kryeziu	 Givova	 ISP Broadcast	 Patroni
Prishtina	 Ndubuisi Egbo	 Mërgim Pefqeli	 Phoenix Sport	 IPKO	 NLB Banka Prishtina

Notes

a. On the front of shirt

Seasons in Football Superleague of Kosovo

There are 35 teams that have taken part in the Football Superleague of Kosovo since 1999. Prishtina is the only team that has played in every season since 1999. As of 2023/24 season; teams in **bold** are part of current season.

- 25 seasons: **Prishtina**
- 23 seasons: Drenica
- 22 seasons: Trepça '89
- 21 seasons: **Besa, Drita**
- 19 seasons: **Gjilani**
- 16 seasons: Ferizaj, Liria
- 15 seasons: Vëllaznimi, Flamurtari
- 14 seasons: Vushtrria
- 13 seasons: **Llapi**
- 11 seasons: **Feronikeli**
- 10 seasons: Trepça
- 9 seasons: Besiana, KEK
- 8 seasons: Hysi, Kosova Prishtinë, Ballkani
- 5 seasons: Hajvalia, Dukagjini
- 3 seasons: 2 Korriku, Istogu, Malisheva, Fushë Kosova
- 2 seasons: Shqiponja, Beselidhja
- 1 seasons: Lepenci, Ulpiana, Vllaznia Pozheran, KF Uniteti, Kika, KF Getoari, Vëllazëria, Rahoveci

Titles by club

Number of titles since Independent League of Kosovo became the first tier of Kosovar league system.

Club	Wins	Winning Years
Prishtina 	11	1991–92, 1995–96, 1996–97, 1999–00, 2000–01, 2003–04, 2007–08, 2008–09, 2011–12, 2012–13, 2020–21
Besa	3	2004–05, 2005–06, 2006–07
Feronikeli		2014–15, 2015–16, 2018–19
Drita		2002–03, 2017–18, 2019–20
Trepça	2	1992–93, 2009–10
Ballkani		2021–22, 2022–23
Dukagjini	1	1993–94
Liria		1994–95
Besiana		2001–02
Hysi		2010–11
Vushtrria		2013–14
Trepça '89		2016–17

UEFA rankings

Country coefficient

As of 19 July 2023[10][11]

Ranking			Member association (L: League, C: Cup)	Coefficient						Teams ^[a]	Places in 2025–26 season			
2024	2023	Mvmt		2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	Total		UCL ^[b]	UEL	UECL	Total
34	35	⬆ +1	Latvia (L, C)	2.250	1.375	2.625	2.750	0.500	9.500	4	1	0	3	4
35	34	⬇ +1	Liechtenstein (C)	2.500	0.500	0.000	6.500	0.000	9.500	1	0	0	1	1
36	33	⬇ +3	Kosovo (L, C)	1.500	1.833	2.333	2.875	0.625	9.166	4	1	0	3	4
37	39	⬆ +2	Armenia (L, C)	2.750	1.375	1.875	2.375	0.750	9.125					
38	30	⬆ +8	Kazakhstan (L, C)	3.375	1.000	2.875	1.125	0.625	9.000					

Club coefficient

As of 28 August 2022[12][13]

Ranking		Club	Coefficient								
Nat'l	UEFA		2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total	Country Part
1	192	Drita	^[c]	DNQ	1.500	DNQ	2.000	1.500	1.500	6.500	2.058
2	298	Prishtina		0.250	1.000	0.500	0.500	2.000	DNQ	4.000	2.058
3	353	Ballkani		DNQ				2.500	2.500	2.058	
4	370	Llapi		DNQ			1.000	1.000	2.000	2.058	
5	371	Gjilani		DNQ		1.000	DNQ	1.000	2.000	2.058	
6	372	Feronikeli		DNQ	1.500	DNQ		1.500	2.000	2.058	
7	NR ^[d]	Trepça '89		0.500	DNQ			0.500	2.000	2.058	

Kosovo football clubs in European competitions

Active

UEFA Champions League

Season	Team	Round	Opponent	Home	Away	Agg.
2017–18	Trepça '89	1Q	Víkingur Gøta	1–4	1–2	2–6
2018–19	Drita	PR	FC Santa Coloma	2–0 (a.e.t.)		
			Lincoln Red Imps	4–1 (a.e.t.)		
		1Q	Malmö	0–3	0–2	0–5
2019–20	Feronikeli	PR	Lincoln Red Imps	1–0		
			FC Santa Coloma	2–1		
		1Q	The New Saints	0–1	2–2	2–3
2020–21	Drita	PR	Inter d'Escaldes	2–1		
			Linfield	0–3 (awarded)		
2021–22	Prishtina	PR	Folgore	2–0		
			Inter d'Escaldes	2–0		
		1Q	Ferencváros	1–3	0–3	1–6
2022–23	Ballkani	1Q	Žalgiris	1–1	0–1 (a.e.t.)	1–2
2023–24		1Q	Ludogorets Razgrad	2–0	0–4	2–4

UEFA Europa League

Season	Team	Round	Opponent	Home	Away	Agg.	
2017–18	Prishtina	1Q	Norrköping	0–1	0–5	0–6	
2018–19		PR	Europa	5–0	1–1	6–1	
		1Q	Fola Esch	0–0 (4–5 p)	0–0	0–0 (4–5 p)	
2019–20	Drita	2Q	F91 Dudelange	1–1	1–2	2–3	
	Prishtina	PR	St Joseph's	1–1	0–2	1–3	
	Feronikeli	2Q	Slovan Bratislava	0–2	1–2	1–4	
2020–21	Prishtina	PR	Lincoln Red Imps	0–3 (awarded)			

Gjilani		 Tre Penne	3–1		
	1Q	 APOEL	0–2 (a.e.t.)		
	2Q	 Sileks	2–0		
	3Q	 Legia Warsaw	0–2		

UEFA Europa Conference League

Season	Team	Round	Opponent	Home	Away	Agg.
2021–22	Llapi	1Q	 Shkupi	1–1	0–2	1–3
	Drita		 Dečić	2–1	1–0	3–1
	Prishtina	2Q	 Feyenoord	0–0	2–3	2–3
			 Connah's Quay Nomads	4–1	2–4	6–5
2022–23	Prishtina	3Q	 Bodø/Glimt	2–1	0–2	2–3
	Gjilani	1Q	 Liepāja	1–0	1–3	2–3
	Llapi		 Budućnost Podgorica	2–2	0–2	2–4
	Drita		 Inter Turku	3–0	0–1	3–1
	Ballkani	2Q	 Antwerp	0–2	0–0	0–2
			 La Fiorita	6–0	4–0	10–0
		3Q	 KÍ	3–2	1–2 (a.e.t.)	4–4 (4–3 p)
		PO	 Shkupi	1–0	2–1	3–1
		GS	 Slavia Prague	0–1	2–3	4th
			 CFR Cluj	1–1	0–1	
			 Sivasspor	1–2	4–3	
2023–24	Gjilani	1Q	 Progrès Niederkorn	0–2	2–2	2–4
	Dukagjini		 Europa	2–1	3–2	5–3
	Ballkani	2Q	 Rijeka	0–1	1–6	1–7
			 Viktoria Plzeň	1–2	0–0	1–2
		3Q	 Larne	3–0	4–1	7–1
		PO	 Lincoln Red Imps	2–0	3–1	5–1
		GS	 BATE Borisov	4–1	0–1	4–2
			 Dinamo Zagreb	2–0	0–3	4th
			 Viktoria Plzeň	0–1	0–1	
			 Astana	1–2	0–0	

Defunct

Mitropa Cup

Season	Team	Round	Opponent	Home	Away	Agg.
1983–84	Prishtina	RR	 Eisenstadt	3–3	2–4	Runners-up ^[17]
			 Vasas	4–2	1–1	
			 Teplice	2–0	1–1	

Notes and references

Notes

- a. The number of teams from the association that can qualify in the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League or UEFA Europa Conference League.
- b. Beginning in the 2024–25 season, 1 additional team from each of the 2 associations with the highest 1-year association coefficient will be awarded a berth in the Champions League group stage.
- c. Kosovo was not a UEFA member until 3 May 2016.^{[14][15]}
- d. In the last UEFA 5-year Club Ranking, it was in the 400th place.^[16]

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External links

- [Official website](http://www.ffk-kosova.com/) (<http://www.ffk-kosova.com/>) (in Albanian and English)
- [League summary](https://int.soccerway.com/national/kosovo/superliga/) (<https://int.soccerway.com/national/kosovo/superliga/>) – Soccerway

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Football_Superleague_of_Kosovo&oldid=1204900789"

■

Greece national football team

The **Greece national football team** (Greek: Εθνική Ελλάδας, *Ethniki Elladas*) represents Greece in men's international football matches, and is controlled by the **Hellenic Football Federation**, the governing body for football in Greece. Starting in 2023, Greece play their home matches in **Nea Filadelfeia**, a suburb of Athens, at the newly built **Agia Sophia Stadium**. Greece is one of only **ten** national teams to have been crowned **UEFA European Champions**.

Greece had a small presence in international football. From the 1980s they have experienced the first taste, but not a banquet, of football achievement. Their first appearance in a major tournament was at **UEFA Euro 1980** where they were knocked out in the group stage. Their qualification to the then eight-team **UEFA European Championship** gave them a position in the top eight European football nations that year. Greece did not qualify for another major tournament until the **1994 FIFA World Cup** and after an undefeated qualifying campaign, they produced a poor performance in the finals, losing all three group matches without scoring.

UEFA Euro 2004 marked the highest point in Greece's football history when they won the tournament in only their second participation. Dismissed as rank outsiders before the tournament, Greece defeated some of the favourites in the competition including defending European champions **France** and hosts **Portugal** twice. During the tournament, Greece defeated the hosts in both the **opening game** of the tournaments and again in the **final**. Their triumph earned them a place in the **2005 FIFA Confederations Cup**.

In the decade after the **2004** victory, Greece qualified for the finals tournaments of all but one major competition entered, reaching the quarter-finals at the **UEFA Euro 2012** and the round of 16 at the **2014 FIFA World Cup**. During that period, they occupied a place in the top 20 of the **FIFA World Rankings** for all but four months, and reached an all-time high of eighth in the world from April to June 2008, as well as in October 2011.

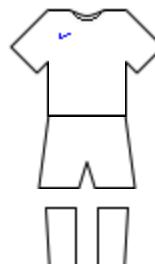
History

First years

On 12 April 1896, a Greek XI represented by Podilatikos Syllogos Athinon lost to a **Denmark XI** by either **9–0** or **15–0**, at the **Neo Phaliron Velodrome** in Athens in a demonstration game during the **1896 Olympic Games**.^[4]

Greece



Nickname(s)	Piratiko (The Pirate Ship) Ethniki (The National) Galanolefki (The Sky Blues and Whites)
Association	Hellenic Football Federation (HFF) <i>(Ελληνική Ποδοσφαιρική Ομοσπονδία – ΕΠΟ)</i>
Confederation	UEFA (Europe)
Head coach	Gus Poyet
Captain	Anastasios Bakasetas
Most caps	Giorgos Karagounis (139)
Top scorer	Nikos Anastopoulos (29)
Home stadium	Agia Sophia Stadium
FIFA code	GRE
First colours	
Second colours	
Third colours	
FIFA ranking	
Current	49  2 (15 February 2024) ^[1]
Highest	8 ^[2] (April 2008, October 2011)

The first three editions of the Olympic football event (1900–06) had an unofficial status, as the event was not yet open for national football teams to compete, and only had limited participation of three or four club teams from a few nations. Greece had no club team invited in the 1900 Olympics and the 1904 Olympics, but then hosted the 1906 Olympics, competing against a Danish club team again (DBU Copenhagen) and two club teams from the Ottoman Empire (Smyrna and Thessaloniki). The team to represent Greece compiled of players from Athens, hence the **Athens City** selection, and in the final they conceded 9 goals from the Denmark XI in the first half alone, and thereby they withdrew from the final at half time, and were then invited to a play-off in a match to decide the second place, but Athens declined and were promptly ejected from the tournament.^[5]

Greece had to wait 13 years for their next (unofficial) appearance when they participated in the Inter-Allied Games in Paris in 1919, following the end of World War I, and once again it was a disaster as the team conceded twenty goals without reply in their first two games, although this time with a silver lining since Greece managed to beat Romania in their third and final match with a dramatic 3–2 win.^[6] In the following year, Greece participated in the 1920 Summer Games of Antwerp, being knocked out in the first round by Sweden with yet another heavy defeat (9–0). This match is recognized as their first official match by FIFA.^[7] Notable figures during these years was Giorgos Kalafatis, player and later manager of the team, and Giannis Andrianopoulos.

The Greece national team's first official match came on 7 April 1929 in a 1–4 loss to Italy B, with Alvertos Nahmias being the author of the nation's first-ever official goal.^[8]

1930s Balkan Cups

Between 1929 and 1936, Greece participated in six Balkan Cups, with their best campaign coming in the 1934–35 Balkan Cup when they finished second just one point short of Yugoslavia. A notable figure during these years was Kostas Choumis, who scored a total of 7 goals in the Balkan Cup, being among the all-time top goal scorers in the competition's history.^[9]

1950s Mediterranean Cups

Between 1949 and 1958, Greece participated in three Mediterranean Cups, with their best campaign coming in the 1950–53 Mediterranean Cup when they finished second just one point short of Italy B. A notable figure during these years was Georgios Darivas, who was the top goal scorer of the 1950–53 edition with 4 goals, a tally that includes a hat-trick against Turkey.^[10]

Lowest	66 (September 1998)	
First international		
Greece 1–4 Italy	 (Piraeus, Greece; 7 April 1927)	
Biggest win		
Greece 8–0 Syria	 (Athens, Greece; 25 November 1949)	
Biggest defeat		
Hungary 11–1 Greece	 (Budapest, Hungary; 25 March 1938)	
World Cup		
Appearances	3 (first in 1994)	
Best result	Round of 16 (2014)	
European Championship		
Appearances	4 (first in 1980)	
Best result	Champions (2004)	
Olympic Games		
Appearances	3 (first in 1920)	
Best result	Group stage (2004)	
FIFA Confederations Cup		
Appearances	1 (first in 2005)	
Best result	Group stage (2005)	
Medal record	[show]	
Men's football		
UEFA European Championship		
G	2004 Portugal	Team
Mediterranean Games		
G	1951 Alexandria	Team
G	1991 Athens	Team
Mediterranean Cup		
S	1950–53 Mediterranean Cup	
Balkan Cup		
S	1934–35 Balkan Cup	
B	1929–31 Balkan Cup	
B	1935 Balkan Cup	
B	1936 Balkan Cup	

In 1951, Greece also won the 1st edition of the Mediterranean Games men's football tournament, held in Alexandria, Egypt, defeating both Syria and the hosts Egypt on their way to the title.^[11] The star of the Greece team was Nikos Lekatsas, who was the top goal scorer with 4 goals, a tally that includes a hat-trick against Syria.



The national team for the Inter-Allied Games in Paris, 1919.

1970s World Cups near misses

During the following decades, Greece had passion but little international success in the sport, as the nation's economical and social situations after World War II did not allow for successful development of a national team.

At its best, Greece narrowly missed qualifying for two FIFA World Cup competitions: 1970 (despite a quality team, including some of its greatest-ever players, such as Mimis Domazos, Giorgos Sideris, Giorgos Koudas and Mimis Papaioannou), and 1978.



Greece squad for the 1970 Olympics.

Euro 1980

Greece, under the guidance of Alketas Panagoulias, made its first appearance in a major tournament at the Euro 1980 in Italy, after qualifying top of a group that included the Soviet Union and Hungary, both world football powers.^[12] In the final tournament, Greece was drawn into group A with West Germany, the Netherlands, and Czechoslovakia. In their first game, Greece held the Dutch until the only goal of the game was scored with a penalty kick by Kist, in the 65th minute. Three days later Greece played Czechoslovakia in Rome. After holding the Czechoslovaks 1–1 at the end the first half, Greece eventually lost 3–1. In their last game, Greece earned a 0–0 draw against eventual winners West Germany, concluding what was considered a decent overall performance in the team's maiden presence in a final phase of any football competition.



Alketas Panagoulias led Greece to the Euro 1980 and 1994 FIFA World Cup.

Wilderness before 1994

Greece failed to qualify for six competitive tournaments: three World Cups and three Euros, during which the Greeks largely produced poor performance. Despite this, Greece did have some surprisingly good results, such as a shock away draw to Italy in the 1982 FIFA World Cup qualification; a 3–2 win away over Hungary and a goalless draw away to England for the UEFA Euro 1984 qualifying; a goalless home draw to Belgium in the 1986 FIFA World Cup qualification; a surprise 1–0 home victory over Poland in the UEFA Euro 1988 qualifying; a 1–0 shock home win over Bulgaria and a 1–1 draw to Denmark in the 1990 FIFA World Cup qualification; and a heroic 3–2 comeback victory over Portugal. However, Greece suffered from shortage of quality strikers and its defence was largely disorganized at best, resulting in Greece botching important games and thus failed to qualify.

1994 World Cup

The team's success in qualifying for the 1994 FIFA World Cup in the United States, marked the first time they had made it to the FIFA World Cup finals.^[13] Greece finished first and undefeated in their qualifying group, surpassing Russia in the final game. In the final tournament Greece were drawn into Group D with Nigeria, Bulgaria, and Argentina. After the successful qualifying campaign, expectations back in Greece were high as no one could imagine the oncoming astounding failure.^[14] Most notable reason for this complete failure was the

fact that Alketas Panagoulias opted to take a squad full of those players – though most of them aging and out of form – that helped the team in the qualifying instead of new emerging talents seeing it as a reward for their unprecedented success. Furthermore, they had the disadvantage of being drawn into a "group of death", with runners-up at the 1990 FIFA World Cup Argentina, later semifinalists Bulgaria, and Nigeria, one of the strongest African teams. It is worth mentioning that all players of the squad, including the three goalkeepers, took part in those three games, something very rare. This tournament was humiliating for the Greece squad, though it was understandable (if not say predictable) given its maiden appearance and the vast disparity of quality of opponents. In their first game against Argentina at Foxboro Stadium just outside Boston, they lost 4–0. Four days later Greece suffered another 4–0 blow from Bulgaria at Soldier Field in Chicago, and then, in what would be their final game, they lost to Nigeria 2–0 at Foxboro Stadium again. In the end, Greece were eliminated in the first round by losing all three games, scoring no goals and conceding ten.

Near misses

Greece failed to qualify for the Euro 1996 finishing third in the group behind Russia and Scotland. In their 1998 World Cup qualifying tournament the team finished only one point shy of second-placed Croatia after a 0–0 draw by the eventual Group winners, the Danish. Croatia and Denmark would make the Semi-Finals and Quarter-Finals respectively, of that World Cup. In their Euro 2000 qualifying group, Greece finished again in third place, two points behind second-placed Slovenia in a highly disappointing campaign that saw the team lose at home to Latvia. In the 2002 World Cup qualifying Greece finished a disappointing fourth in their group behind England, Germany and Finland, which led to the sacking of coach Vasilis Daniil,^[15] replaced by Otto Rehhagel. Highlights of the campaign included a 5–1 defeat in Finland and the 2–2 draw that followed in England, the first of two games the Greece national team would be under the reins of the German coach.

European Champions: Euro 2004 triumph



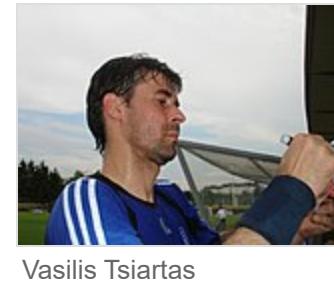
Greece line-up in Euro 2004

Qualification

Greece started the UEFA Euro 2004 qualification campaign with defeats at home to Spain and away to Ukraine, both with a 2–0 scoreline. The team went on to win their remaining six games, including a 1–0 away win over Spain in Zaragoza, securing first place in the group and an appearance in the European Championship finals for the first time in 24 years.

Before the tournament

Greece were the second-least favorite in the competition to win, with Latvia being the least favorite. Greece were also considered as outsiders and underdogs and were given odds of 150–1 of winning before the tournament.^[16] They were drawn in Group A, ending up with Portugal, Spain and Russia, a "group of death"; Portugal, hosts and favourites to win, Spain, former European champions, and Russia, who won the first-ever Euro as the Soviet Union. Very few people expected Greece to proceed to the quarter-finals, let alone win the tournament.



Vasilis Tsiartas



Thodoris Zagorakis, captain of the national team and "player of the tournament" in Euro 2004.

Group stage

In the opening match against hosts Portugal, Greece achieved a surprise 2–1 victory,^[17] receiving the nickname "pirate ship" (Το Πειρατικό) used by Greek sportscasters in reference to the floating ship used in the tournament's opening ceremony. Greece won with a 25-yard strike by Giorgos Karagounis and a penalty by Angelos Basinas. Four days later, Greece stunned Spain in front of a largely Spanish crowd with a 1–1 draw after being down 1–0 at half time.^[18] Greece fell behind from a defensive lapse, which allowed Fernando Morientes to score. However a sublime diagonal pass by playmaker Vasilis Tsiartas allowed Angelos Charisteas to score an equaliser in the second half, giving Greece hope of qualifying. In the final group match Greece fell behind 2–0 to Russia (who were already eliminated) within the first ten minutes of the game but managed to pull one back through Zisis Vryzas and thus progressed to the next round, at the expense of Spain, on goals scored. Dmitri Kirichenko had the chance to eliminate Greece in the final minutes of this match, but his stretched effort squeezed just wide.

Quarter-finals

In the quarter-finals Greece faced off with the undefeated and reigning champions France. At 65 minutes Greece took the lead. Angelos Basinas played a perfect pass to captain Thodoris Zagorakis, who flicked the ball high in the air, past veteran French defender Bixente Lizarazu, and sent a perfect cross to Angelos Charisteas for the header and goal. Greece held on to win despite a late French onslaught, with close efforts by Thierry Henry, thus knocking France out of Euro 2004 and becoming the first team ever to defeat both the hosts and defending champions in the same tournament.^[19]

Semi-finals

Greece reached the semi-finals to face the Czech Republic, who were the only team to defeat all of their opponents to that point. The Czech record included a convincing 3–2 win over the Netherlands, a 2–1 win over Germany, and a 3–0 win over Denmark in the quarter-finals. At this stage in the tournament the Czechs were favourites to take the trophy. The game began nervously for Greece, as the Czech Republic applied much pressure. Tomáš Rosický hit the bar in the opening minutes, and Jan Koller had several efforts saved by Antonis Nikopolidis. The Czechs chances were dealt a blow when influential midfielder Pavel Nedvěd left the pitch injured in the first half. After 90 minutes the game ended 0–0, despite the Czechs having most of the game's missed chances. In the final minute of the first half of extra time, a close range silver goal header by Traianos Dellas from a Vasilis Tsiartas corner ended the Czech campaign, putting Greece into the final of Euro 2004 and sending their fans into euphoria.^{[20][21][22]}

Final

For the first time in history the final was a repeat of the opening match, with Greece and hosts Portugal facing off in a rematch. In the 57th minute Charisteas gave Greece the lead with a header from a corner by Angelos Basinas.^[23] Portugal had much of the possession, but the Greece defence was solid and dealt with most attacks. Cristiano Ronaldo had a good chance to equalise in the dying moments, but could not apply a finish. Greece held on to win 1–0, winning the tournament, an achievement considered by many to be one of the greatest football upsets in history, if not the greatest.^{[24][25][26]} Greece captain Zagorakis was named the player of the tournament, having led Greece and made the most tackles in the entire tournament.^[27]



Angelos Charisteas scoring Greece's winning goal in the Euro 2004 final.

Recognition



Greece starting line-up against Portugal at the UEFA Euro 2004 Final.

Greece's victory shot them up in the [FIFA World Rankings](#) from 35th in June 2004 to 14th in July 2004. This is one of the largest upward moves in a single month in the top echelon of the rankings. The triumph of Greece at Euro 2004 is the biggest sporting achievement in the country's history for a team sport, along with the successes of the [Greece national basketball team](#) in the European Championships of [1987](#), [2005](#) and [2006](#) FIBA World Championship and the [World Championship](#) title of [Greece women's national water polo team](#) in [2011](#). The team has appeared on stamps and received medals from Konstantinos Stephanopoulos (the President of Greece), Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens, and an ecstatic ovation from the country's population which came out to see the team drive with the trophy from the [Athens airport](#) to the [Panathenaic Stadium](#) where the Greek political and religious leadership was awaiting them.^{[28][29][30][31]} The Euro 2004 winners were selected as "World Team of the Year" at the [2005 Laureus World Sports Award](#) for Team of the Year.^[32]

2005 Confederations Cup

As European champions, Greece qualified for the [2005 FIFA Confederations Cup](#) in Germany and were drawn into Group B along with [2002 FIFA World Cup](#) champions [Brazil](#), [2004 AFC Asian Cup](#) champions [Japan](#), and [2003 CONCACAF Gold Cup](#) champions [Mexico](#). Greece lost their first two matches 3–0 to Brazil and 1–0 to Japan before drawing 0–0 with Mexico to finish at the bottom of the group. The squad included players such as [Stathis Tavlaridis](#), [Loukas Vyntra](#), [Michalis Sifakis](#), [Giannis Amanatidis](#) and [Fanis Gekas](#), all of whom earned their first call ups or maiden caps in the national squad.

2006 World Cup qualifying

After winning the [Euro 2004](#), Greece faced [Ukraine](#), [Turkey](#), [Denmark](#), [Albania](#), [Georgia](#) and [Kazakhstan](#) in Group 2 of the [2006 FIFA World Cup](#) qualification tournament. Greece opened their campaign with a 2–1 loss to Albania in Tirana before draws with Turkey (0–0) and Ukraine (1–1) followed by a 3–1 victory over Kazakhstan.

In 2005, Greece resumed their campaign with three victories, defeating Denmark 2–1; Georgia 3–1; and Albania 2–0; before earning a goalless away draw with Turkey. Just prior to the [2005 FIFA Confederations Cup](#), Greece lost 1–0 at home to Ukraine after a late goal from [Andriy Husin](#).^[33] Following a 2–1 away win against [Kazakhstan](#), the team experienced a setback after a 1–0 defeat to Denmark in [Copenhagen](#) diminished their chances of qualification.

In their last game, Greece defeated Georgia, finishing in fourth place, four points behind first-placed Ukraine, two behind Turkey, and a point behind Denmark. Throughout the match, fans in the [Karaiskakis Stadium](#) chanted the name of [Otto Rehhagel](#) in their utmost support and he said afterwards "*Even if 10 years pass, part of my heart will be Greek*".^[34]

Euro 2008

Greece was the highest-ranked seed for the [UEFA Euro 2008](#) qualifying tournament and was drawn with [Turkey](#), [Norway](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Hungary](#), [Moldova](#) and [Malta](#).

They began their [Euro 2008](#) qualification campaign with victories over Moldova, Norway and Bosnia and Herzegovina before suffering a 4–1 home loss against Turkey in [Athens](#). Greece went on to win away to Malta, with the only goal coming in the 66th minute from an [Angelos Basinas](#) penalty, beat Hungary and Moldova at home and drew 2–2 away to Norway despite having hit the goalpost three times in this match. The draw in [Oslo](#)

was followed by a 3–2 home win against Bosnia-Herzegovina and a 1–0 away win to Turkey, securing its presence to the Euro 2008 finals at their old rival's home ground.^[35] In the last two matches, Greece overcame Malta 5–0 in Athens and defeated Hungary with an away 2–1 win, finishing first in their group with a total of 31 points, the most points gained among any team in qualifying.

As defending European champions, Greece were top seed for the final tournament and were drawn with Sweden, Spain, and Russia in Group D.

In the tournament, Greece team lost all three games and scored only one goal. Greece underperformed in the opening match against Sweden and lost 2–0 before losing 1–0 to Russia. Having already been eliminated, Angelos Charisteas opened the scoring for Greece against Spain, but lost 2–1, becoming the first defending champion not to earn a single point in the next European Championship.



Greece vs Spain in Red Bull Arena during UEFA Euro 2008.

2010 World Cup

Despite the scoring prowess of Europe's top 2010 World Cup qualifying goal-scorer Fanis Gekas—who produced 10 goals in as many games—Greece took second place to Switzerland in Group 2 of UEFA qualification, thus advancing to a home-and-away playoff round, where they faced Ukraine. After a scoreless draw at home in the first match, the second leg in Donetsk saw Greece triumph with a 1–0 win, sending the Greece to the 2010 FIFA World Cup.^[36] At the 2010 World Cup draw in Cape Town, South Africa on 4 December 2009, Greece found itself grouped with two familiar opponents from its first World Cup appearance in 1994. Argentina and Nigeria were yet again drawn into group stage play alongside Greece, this time into Group B with South Korea replacing Greece's third 1994 opponent, Bulgaria.^[37]

In its World Cup opener, Greece lost 2–0 to South Korea after a dismal performance characterized by excessive long-ball attacks and a lack of offensive creativity. In the second fixture against Nigeria, Greece won 2–1,^[38] coming from behind after conceding an early goal. Dimitris Salpingidis scored Greece's first-ever goal in the World Cup finals in the 44th minute of the first half to tie the match at 1–1.^[39] Vasilis Torosidis scored the winning goal in the 71st minute, securing the first points and first victory for Greece in tournament history. In the third match against heavily favoured Argentina, Greece needed a combination of results to advance to the next round. As expected, in what would be his final game as Greece's national team head coach, Otto Rehhagel conjured up a very defensive-minded strategy, leaving Georgios Samaras with nearly all offensive responsibilities as the lone striker. The strategy nearly paid off in the second half with the score still locked at 0–0 when Samaras beat the last Argentine defender on a quick long-ball counter-attack but curled a rushed shot just wide of the far post. Greece held Argentina scoreless until the 77th minute but ultimately lost 2–0, finishing third in Group B.

Greece moved from 13th to 12th in the FIFA World Rankings following the tournament. Russia, Croatia and France dropped lower than Greece while Uruguay and Chile jumped ahead of

Twenty-four hours removed from Greece's World Cup loss to Argentina, Otto Rehhagel stepped away from his post as Greece national team manager.^[40] Eight days later a new era in Greece football was ushered in as the Hellenic Football Federation named former AEK Athens and PAOK boss Fernando Santos the new manager.^[41] Under Santos the Greece immediately went to work on an unprecedented streak of success, setting a senior-club record by going unbeaten in Santos' first seventeen matches as manager. While Greece's proficiency in stifling opposition attacks seemed to wane toward the end of Rehhagel's tenure, the emergence of Santos seemed to galvanize Greece defending once more. Through seven international friendlies and ten Euro 2012 qualifiers, Greece kept nine clean sheets and conceded just one goal in each of the remaining eight contests. From start to

end of their unbeaten run, Santos' national side moved from No. 12 to No. 8 in FIFA's world rankings, equaling the highest mark in history credited by FIFA to Greece. Only one match from their streak featured a team (other than Greece) that appeared at the 2010 World Cup, a 1–0 defeat of Serbia in Belgrade.



Fernando Santos

Euro 2012

Qualifying

With its late-game comeback victory over Georgia in October 2011, Greece padded its historic football tournament résumé, most importantly by sealing an automatic berth into UEFA's 2012 European Football Championship tournament. For the second time in team history the national side won its qualifying group for a major football tournament without a single loss incurred, as Greece also went undefeated in 1994 World Cup qualifiers. Adding to its 1980, 2004 and 2008 Euro qualifying campaigns, the Georgia triumph marked the fifth time overall that Greece has won its qualification group for a major tournament. Although their tendency to produce positive results remained steady throughout qualifying, so too did the Greece proclivity to start games slowly and concede early goals. This habit would plague Greece through qualifying and eventually tarnish their Euro 2012 performances.

Over two qualifying contests, Greece trailed Georgia on the scoreboard for 130 of 180 minutes and still managed to grab four of six possible points in the standings by way of three late strikes. Goals scored in the dying minutes of games, often coming from defenders, became somewhat of a Greek signature on Group F's table. In fact Greece was able to take and keep a first-half lead just once in ten games, the 3–1 home defeat of Malta which was ranked 50th of 53 teams in Europe. In Malta, a last-second tie-breaking strike from defender Vasilis Torosidis pocketed a crucial extra two points in the standings for Greece, the same number of points it held over Croatia at the end of qualifying. Despite allowing weaker teams in the group to bring the game to them, Greece admirably held powerful Croatia scoreless through two meetings and deservedly won Group F four days after a decisive 2–0 home win versus the second-place Croats. Fanis Gekas, who retired from national team service in 2010 after Fernando Santos' third game as manager, came out of retirement in time to contribute a goal to the result. Gekas was eventually included in Santos's 23-man Euro 2012 roster, leaving out Euro 2004 hero Angelos Charisteas who scored the group-clinching goal in the aforementioned Greece qualifying victory in Georgia.

Group stage in Poland

"Shades of 2004" was a commonly perceived theme regarding the buildup to Euro 2012 for Greece and their progression through the tournament. As in 2004 Greece was drawn into the same group as the host nation, Poland on this occasion, and also had the pressure of playing in the tournament's opening match. Two familiar foes from its 2004 championship run, Russia and Czech Republic, joined Greece and Poland in Group A on 2 December 2011 at the tournament's final draw in Kiev. Upon drawing the lowest-ranked teams from Pots 1 and 2 as well as the second-lowest from Pot 4, Greece's prospects of passing the group stage at Euro 2012 were given a boost.



Greece players singing the Greek national anthem in Euro 2012 opening match against the hosts Poland (1–1).

Ideas of steering "To Piratiko" to a dream start in host-nation territory as Greece did in Portugal eight years before, rapidly turned sour during the opening match's first half. From the outset Greece appeared uncomfortable holding the ball for long spells and seemed content to allow hosts Poland to push numbers forward with the ball, hoping to score through counter-attacks. However, Poland made the most of its early possession, as top scorer Robert Lewandowski converted a header from a goal line cross past a scurrying Kostas Chalkias. Hope and momentum continued to tip in favor of Poland when Sokratis Papastathopoulos received his second yellow card of the game in just the 44th minute from Spanish

referee Carlos Velasco Carballo. Greece began to boss the game after halftime while playing down a man. Dimitris Salpingidis made the greatest impact on the game for Greece as a second-half substitute, making brilliant penetrating runs behind the Polish defense, eventually bringing the game level 1–1 on a mistake by Poland keeper Wojciech Szczęsny. Salpingidis was then responsible for levelling up the numbers for Greece when Szczęsny made a red-card foul on Salpingidis' breakaway attempt on goal in the 68th minute. But Greece captain Giorgos Karagounis' subsequent penalty kick was turned away by substitute keeper Przemysław Tytoń. A second goal by Salpingidis was disallowed as he was assisted by an offside Kostas Fortounis, denying Greece's best opportunity to take three points from what ended as an improbable 1–1 draw.

The Czech Republic exploited Greece's weakness at the left-defender position early in the second group stage match, notching two goals in the first six minutes. Just as Poland had, the Czechs repeatedly penetrated Greece back line behind left-side defender José Cholevas, scoring on a through-ball and a cross from Cholevas' side. Petr Čech's gaffe on a Georgios Samaras cross in the second half turned into a gift goal for Fanis Gekas. The Czechs then eased off on their early pressure, opting to sit back and guard their lead for much of the second half, but Gekas' goal was too little too late. Greece lost the match 2–1, placing them at the foot of Group A in need of a victory over the attack-minded Russians to advance to the knockout rounds.

After thrashing the Czech Republic 4–1 and displaying more offensive potency in a 1–1 draw with Poland, the Russians were favored to earn the one point they needed to advance against the Greeks, especially since defeating the team in both of the previous two European Championships. However, Greece delivered a trademark 1–0 defensive victory and advanced to the Euro 2012 quarterfinals.^[42] Greece scored when Russia defender Sergei Ignashevich errantly headed a Greece throw-in behind the Russian defense for Giorgos Karagounis to pounce on. Greece's captain sprinted in on goal and struck the ball at the back post under keeper Vyacheslav Malafeev in first-half stoppage time to send the Russians reeling into the locker rooms. Ignashevich appeared to have conceded an additional golden scoring opportunity for Greece upon tripping Karagounis in the Russian penalty area early in the second half, but referee Jonas Eriksson instead booked Karagounis for what he believed to be simulation. This being Karagounis' second yellow card of the tournament, Greece was to be without its suspended captain in the next round. With that victory, Greece qualified to the quarterfinals for a second time after their successful Euro 2004 campaign.

Quarter-finals

In the quarter-finals, Greece met with a Germany side that won all three of its group matches against Portugal, Denmark and the Netherlands. Greece applied very little pressure in the midfield in the opening period, slowing the tempo of the game and affording Germany the majority of possession. Young Sotiris Ninis switched off momentarily in defence, allowing German captain Philipp Lahm to cut infield and open the scoring with a long-distance strike. Greece remained calm as in Georgios Samaras they carried a constant threat. On the counter-attack, they pulled level early in the second half; regaining possession in their defensive third, Giorgos Fotakis found Dimitris Salpingidis streaking 40 yards deep into German territory. Salpingidis delivered a ball five yards in front of goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, which Samaras was able to meet and power underneath Neuer for the equalizer. Twenty minutes later, however, the Germans led 4–1.



Greece played against Germany for a place in the semi-finals of Euro 2012 but they were eliminated after a 4–2 loss in the quarter-final match.

Greece scored an 89th-minute penalty kick by Salpingidis, but the match ended 4–2 to the Germans, ending Greece's Euro 2012 campaign.

2014 World Cup

Qualifying

To reach the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, Greece had to contend with a team on the rise in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a dangerous Slovakian side seemingly in decline since its memorable 2010 World Cup qualifying and finals performances. Latvia, a familiar qualification foe for Greece in its previous two major tournaments (2010 World Cup, Euro 2012), joined the fray as well. Ahead of those aforesaid tournaments, Bosnia twice narrowly missed out on its first major international tournament appearance due to consecutive playoff defeats at the hands of Portugal. No playoff would be necessary for Bosnia in 2013, as it won its qualifying group over Greece on goal difference. The decisive match was in Bosnia on 22 March, when Greece succumbed to three set-piece goals (two free-kick headers and one penalty miss rebound) in a 3–1 defeat. Greece's defense proved rigid throughout qualifying, conceding zero goals in open play. Four goals were allowed by Greece in ten games, the first of which was a penalty by Latvia, and yet four goals were too many for a relatively unproductive Grece attack to overcome. Though Greece was shut out just once, the team only managed to score 12 goals, an output Bosnia reached in its second game.

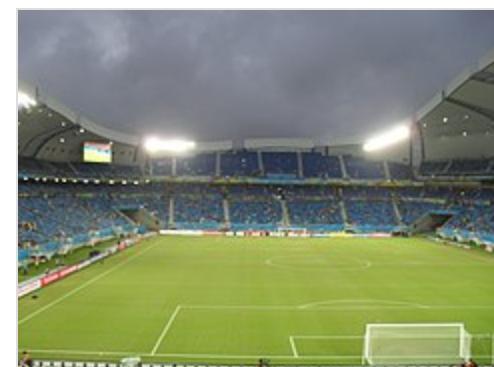


Greece national team in 2013

Following group play Romania, which claimed second place over Hungary and Turkey in a group dominated by the Dutch, awaited Greece in a two-legged playoff. The last time the two sides met in late 2011, Romania came into Greece and dealt Fernando Santos his first defeat as Greece manager in his 18th game at the helm. Greece reversed the prior 3–1 result in their favour this time, scoring each goal through skillful one-touch passing and finishing. Kostas Mitroglou accounted for three of Greece's four goals in a 4–2 aggregate playoff victory, though none were actual game-winners. Dimitris Salpingidis notched the game winner in Athens, while the second leg finished 1–1 in Bucharest.^[43]

Finals

Aracaju was chosen as the team's base camp for the tournament in Brazil.^{[44][45][46]} Greece was drawn into Group C with Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire and Japan and ultimately created an extraordinarily similar tournament experience as it did two years prior at Euro 2012. Greece conceded an early goal in their first game against Colombia, but Panagiotis Kone narrowly missed equalizing just one minute after Colombia's fifth-minute goal. Trailing 2–0 in the 63rd minute, Fanis Gekas' header from six yards struck the crossbar for Greece's best chance of the match. The Colombians proved to be the more clinical finishers, prevailing 3–0 despite an even number of shots for both teams and a slight possession advantage in Greece's favor.^[47] To stave off the threat of elimination, the Greece needed to earn at least a point in their second match with Japan, who sat alongside them at the bottom of Group C. The task grew more difficult once captain Kostas Katsouranis received two yellow cards, reducing Greece to ten men in the 38th minute. Greece held out for a 0–0 draw and remained tied with Japan on points. The draw made it necessary for Greece to defeat Ivory Coast in their final group match in order to reach the round of 16 for the first time in their history. An early injury to midfielder Panagiotis Kone brought on young Olympiacos midfielder Andreas Samaris, who would score his first international goal after intercepting a poor back-pass by an Ivorian



Arena das Dunas before the Japan vs Greece match.

defender. Swansea City striker Wilfried Bony equalized for Ivory Coast in the 73rd minute. In the first minute of stoppage time, Ivory Coast striker Giovanni Sio obstructed a Samaras shot by clipping him from behind in the Ivorian penalty area, resulting in a Greece penalty kick which Samaras converted with 30 seconds remaining in the game, prompting wild celebrations in Greece.^[48]

As Group C runners-up Greece was paired in the round of 16 with Group D shock winners Costa Rica, who won their first-ever World Cup group stage ahead of former world champions Uruguay, Italy and England. Trailing 1–0 but handed an advantage by the dismissal of Costa Rican Óscar Duarte, Greece forced extra time through a Sokratis Papastathopoulos equalizer ten seconds into stoppage time. This was the only goal that Costa Rica goalkeeper Keylor Navas conceded in open play throughout the tournament. Navas thwarted several opportunities for Greece throughout the 30 minutes of extra time and saved Fanis Gekas' penalty in the game's concluding penalty shootout. Costa Rica claimed its first World Cup knockout stage victory and denied Greece its first by defeating Greece 5–3 on penalties.

Post Brazil 2014

Euro 2016 qualifying: Reorganization and decline

The team appointed Claudio Ranieri as head coach in July 2014. He was sacked in November of the same year after a shocking home defeat to the Faroe Islands.^[49] Sergio Markarián was appointed in his place, but he too has come under fire, after the team's terrible performances in the remaining UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying. The team's form after September 2014 proved to be abysmal, with no wins in over a year. Greece finished in bottom place in their Euro Qualifying group, earning just one victory against Hungary in the final round, and failing to qualify for the tournament. Greece, along with the Netherlands and Bosnia and Herzegovina were the only nations from Pot 1 not to qualify for the finals. Those three had taken part in the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Incidentally, the three teams would also fail to qualify for the World Cup in 2018.

2018 World Cup qualifying: Resurgence

In attempting to qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, Greece would suffer a second successive failure to reach a major tournament, despite improvements and some positive results. They finished second in Group H of the European qualifying stages, nine points behind runaway leaders Belgium and two points clear of third placed Bosnia and Herzegovina. Greece were subsequently drawn against Croatia in the play-off round, where they were knocked out over two legs; a 4–1 away defeat set the tone for Greece's campaign, and in the second leg they drew a blank in a 0–0 stalemate against the Croats to signify the end of their World Cup hopes.^[50]

2018–19 Nations League and Euro 2020 qualifying: Inconsistency, fall and promising finish

Greece had to start their UEFA Nations League in League C due to previously poor performance. Greece won and lost three games each to these opponents altogether, and only finished third in the Nations League and was unable to promote to League B when the UEFA revised the format.

Greece's qualification campaign for UEFA Euro 2020 commenced with the team being placed in Group J. Due to disappointing results, John van 't Schip decided not to call-up some of the leading members of the squad, such as Sokratis Papastathopoulos and Kostas Manolas for their final matches. A more youthful Greek showed a massive improvement in their attacking and pressing style of play. In the final three games Greece achieved successive victories. Greece finished third in the final table but this was still not enough to earn a play-off spot.

2020–21 Nations League and 2022 World Cup Qualifying

Having been forced to remain in League C due to poor performance, Greece had to start its campaign on their quest to be promoted. Greece needed a win in the last game against Slovenia at home to achieve promotion to League B. The match ended on 0–0, with Greece failing to promote a second consecutive time, despite being unbeaten and having conceded just one goal.

Greece was put in Group B for the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. The campaign started with an upset away 1–1 draw against group favourites Spain, but was followed by two 1–1 draws to Georgia at home and Kosovo away. A 2–1 home win over Sweden kept the hopes for qualification alive, and was followed by a 2–0 away win against Georgia. At the crucial away match in Stockholm, Greece made a good performance in the first half but eventually lost 2–0 to Sweden. Another loss, 1–0 at home to group winners Spain ratified Greece's elimination from the finals, with Greece failing to qualify for a World Cup for the second consecutive time.

2022–23 UEFA Nations League and Euro 2024

Under the instructions of manager Gus Poyet, Greece had a successful run in the Group C2 of the 2022–23 competition. The Galanolefki secured promotion to League B by topping the group ahead of Kosovo, Northern Ireland, and Cyprus.^{[51][52]}

Their Nations League success guaranteed them a playoff spot should they not qualify directly. They subsequently were put into the Group B for the Euro 2024 qualifiers along with the Netherlands, France, the Republic of Ireland, and Gibraltar.^{[53][54]} After they finished third in their group, they qualified for the playoffs due to their Nations League success.^{[55][56]}

Home stadium

Traditionally, Greece has spent most of its history playing its home matches in different stadiums primarily in or near Athens, but also in several other cities around the country. The home ground of the national team was the Karaïskakis Stadium in Piraeus, since its reconstruction in 2004 until 2017.^[57]



The Karaïskakis Stadium in Piraeus, the home ground of Greece from 2004 until 2017.

Since their first international fixture in 1929 and for the next 33 years, Greece regularly used Leoforos Alexandras Stadium as their home ground. Their first home match away from it was played at the Nikos Goumas Stadium in 1962, while the Karaïskakis Stadium was used for the first time in 1964 when it was renovated. In 1966, Kaftanzoglio Stadium in Thessaloniki became the first stadium outside of the Athens area to be used. Since then all of these stadiums were alternately used until the early 1980s, while a few other stadiums were inaugurated by the national team as well such as Thessaloniki's Toumba Stadium and Harilaou Stadium in 1975 and 1977 respectively. Greece also held matches at other home grounds outside of the two major cities in 1976, such as Panachaiki Stadium in Patras and Kavala Stadium in Kavala. In 1982, Georgios Kamaras Stadium was added to the list of home grounds for the national team, the first in Athens out of the three major stadiums.

On 16 November 1983, the newly built Athens Olympic Stadium, to date the largest stadium in the country, housed the national team for the first time in a qualifier for UEFA Euro 1984 against Denmark. It served as the primary home ground for the team for the rest of the 1980s and the 1990s, until 2001 when it was closed for renovations. Meanwhile, a large number of matches were held in various stadiums including old choices and some new ones in provincial cities all over the country, something that did not change until the early 2000s, when the Athens Olympic Stadium was almost abandoned. From the start of 2000 until the qualifiers games of Euro 2004, the Greek National Team used Leoforos Stadium as its home. Since 2004 Greece has mainly used Karaïskakis Stadium, with very few of Greece's matches being played in other stadiums. They returned to OAKA in 2018 for a friendly against Switzerland and announced they would play their home matches for the new UEFA

Nations League there, as well.^[58] For the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifiers, they were slated to split time between OAKA in Athens, and the Pankritio Stadium in Heraklion on the island of Crete, but with the latter requiring upgrades to be fit for FIFA standards, the entire campaign was held in Athens. They remained at OAKA until 2021, before making a temporary move to the Georgios Kamaras Stadium in late 2021 for the UEFA Nations League campaign, also hosting two matches in Volos.

On 7 March 2023, it was announced that the new Agia Sophia Stadium in the Nea Filadelfeia section of Athens would become the new home of the Ethniki.

Team image

Greece's traditional colors are blue and white, originating from the Greece flag. Although blue was used as the home kit since the team's inception, white became the primary home color following UEFA Euro 2004. In recent decades, Greece has worn either a set of white jerseys, shorts and socks, or an all-blue combination. Formerly, the kit consisted of a combination of blue jerseys and white shorts and vice versa. Meanwhile, Greece's kit has occasionally featured stripes, crosses, or other designs, as well as various values of blue.

On 10 April 2013, the Hellenic Football Federation announced a partnership with American manufacturer Nike, which is Greece's current official supplier, with their first kit debuting on 7 June 2013 in the away match to Lithuania.^{[59][60]} On 4 March 2014, Greece unveiled their latest kit also worn at the 2014 FIFA World Cup.^[61]

The crest (*εθνόσημο* means "national sign"),^[62] which is used in the kit, is the official emblem of the national team.^[63]

Kit sponsorship

Supplier	Period
Asics	1980–1981
Puma	1982–1987
Adidas	1988–1989
Asics	1989–1991
Diadora	1991–1998
Lotto	1998–2001
Le Coq Sportif	2001–2003
Adidas	2003–2012
Nike	2013–present

Nicknames

Traditionally, Greece is referred to by the media and the Greeks in general simply as *Ethniki* (Εθνική) in Greek, which means 'National'. The team is often called *Galanolefki* (Sky blue-white) due to the use of the colors of the Greece flag as kit colors. Both nicknames are used for the country's national teams in other sports as well.



Flag of Greece held by fans

During the opening ceremony at the UEFA Euro 2004, which took place right before the inaugural game of the tournament between Greece and hosts Portugal, a replica of a 16th-century ship was used referring to the expeditions of the Portuguese explorers of that time. Greek radio sports journalist Georgios Helakis, while broadcasting the

opening match, commented that "since the Portuguese team appeared in such a ship, it's time for us to become pirates and steal the victory". Eventually, Greece beat the hosts and the team was described as *Piratiko*, meaning the 'Pirate ship', which emerged as the new nickname of the team repeated with every win during the tournament. Especially after Greece won in the final to Portugal, the new nickname was established to commemorate the coronation of Greece as European champions.

Rivalries

Greece has a historical rivalry with Turkey; having played them a total of 13 matches, winning three, drawing three, and losing seven games.^[64] Both countries have been described as "punching above their weight"; with Greece winning Euro 2004 despite being classified as underdogs before the competition, and Turkey followed-up their World Cup semi-final appearance in 2002 by advancing to the semi-finals of Euro 2008, where they were knocked out by Germany. The relationship with Turkey is very intense overall. It is fueled by a dispute between the two countries, the dispute over Cyprus, and several incidents occurring during matches between Turkish and Greek clubs, it has been described as one of the international football rivalries.^[65]

Greece has also a football rivalry with Romania because it is the team that has been met the most times in their history (36 times). Greece has won 8 matches and Romania has won 18 matches (10 matches between them ended in a draw).

Media coverage

Greece's qualifying matches and friendlies are currently televised by Nova Sports and Alpha TV, a trademark of Digea.

Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 12 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win Draw Loss Fixture

2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	24 March 2023 20:45	Gibraltar  0–3  Greece <small>Report (ht Masouras 11' tps://ww Siopis 45' w.uefa.co Bakasetas 58' m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203629 3/)</small>	Faro/Loulé, Portugal	[show]
Friendly	27 March 2023 18:00 UTC+2	Greece  0–0  Lithuania <small>Report (ht tps://glob alsportsar chive.co m/match/ soccer/20 23-03-27/ greece-vs -lithuania/ 2929442/)</small>	Nea Filadelfeia, Greece	[show]

UEFA Euro 2024	16 June 2023	Greece  2–1  Republic of Ireland	Nea Filadelfeia, Greece	[show]
qualifying		21:45 UTC+3 Bakasetas  15' (pen.) Report (h Masouras  49' ttps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203633 8/)	Stadium: Agia Sofia (OPAP Arena) Attendance: 17,452 Referee: Harald Lechner (Austria)	
UEFA Euro 2024	19 June 2023	France  1–0  Greece	Saint-Denis, France	[show]
qualifying		20:45 Mbappé  55' (pen.) Report (ht De Roon  17' Report (ht Gakpo  31' ttps://ww Weghorst  39' w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203636 1/)	Stadium: Stade de France Attendance: 76,500 Referee: Antonio Mateu Lahoz (Spain)	
UEFA Euro 2024	7 September 2023	Netherlands  3–0  Greece	Eindhoven, Netherlands	[show]
qualifying		20:45 De Roon  17' Report (ht Gakpo  31' ttps://ww Weghorst  39' w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203638 5/)	Stadium: Philips Stadion Attendance: 32,079 Referee: Michael Oliver (England)	
UEFA Euro 2024	10 September 2023	Greece  5–0  Gibraltar	Nea Filadelfeia, Greece	[show]
qualifying		21:45 UTC+3 Pelkas  9' Report (ht Mavropanos  23', 82' ttps://ww Masouras  70', 90+1' w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203640 8/)	Stadium: Agia Sofia (OPAP Arena) Attendance: 9,774 Referee: Manfredas Lukjančukas (Lithuania)	
UEFA Euro 2024	13 October 2023	Republic of Ireland  0–2  Greece	Dublin, Republic of Ireland	[show]
qualifying		19:45 UTC+1 Report (ht Giakoumakis  20' Masouras  45+4' ttps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203643 1/)	Stadium: Aviva Stadium Attendance: 41,239 Referee: Glenn Nyberg (Sweden)	
UEFA Euro 2024	16 October 2023	Greece  0–1  Netherlands	Nea Filadelfeia, Greece	[show]
qualifying		21:45 UTC+3 Report (ht Van Dijk  90+3' (pen.) ttps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203645 3/)	Stadium: Agia Sofia (OPAP Arena) Attendance: 24,967 Referee: Alejandro Hernández Hernández (Spain)	
Friendly	17 November 2023	Greece  2–0  New Zealand	Athens, Greece	[show]
	19:00 UTC+2 Konstantelias  10' Report (ht Giakoumakis  29' ttps://ww w.skyspor ts.com/fo	Stadium: Georgios Kamaras Stadium Attendance: 5,625		

otball/gre
ece-vs-ne
w-zealan
d/stats/49
9427/)

Referee: Luca Cibelli
(Switzerland)

UEFA Euro 21 November 2023
2024 qualifying

21:45 UTC+2

Greece  2–2  France

Bakasetas  56' Report (ht Kolo Muani  42'
Ioannidis  61' tps://ww
w.uefa.co
m/europe
an-qualifi
ers/matc
h/203649
9/)

Nea Filadelfeia, Greece [\[show\]](#)

Stadium: Agia Sofia (OPAP
Arena)
Attendance: 24,820
Referee: Daniel Siebert
(Germany)

2024

UEFA Euro 2024 21 March 2024
qualifying play-offs

21:45 UTC+2

Greece  v  Kazakhstan

Nea Filadelfeia, Greece [\[show\]](#)

Report (ht
tps://ww
w.uefa.co
m/europe
an-qualifi
ers/matc
h/203964
2/)

Stadium: Agia Sofia (OPAP
Arena)

2024–25 7 September 2024
UEFA Nations League B – Group 2

21:45 UTC+3

Greece  v  Finland

Nea Filadelfeia, Greece [\[show\]](#)

Report (ht
tps://ww
w.uefa.co
m/uefanat
ionsleagu
e/match/2
040067--
greece-vs
-finland/)

Stadium: Agia Sophia Stadium

2024–25 10 September 2024 **Republic of Ireland**

19:45 UTC+1



 Greece

Dublin, Ireland

[\[show\]](#)

Report (ht
tps://ww
w.uefa.co
m/uefanat
ionsleagu
e/match/2
040085--r
epublic-of
-ireland-v
s-greece/)

Stadium: Aviva Stadium

2024–25 UEFA 10 October 2024
Nations League B – Group 2

19:45 UTC+1

England  v  Greece

London, England

[\[show\]](#)

Report (ht
tps://ww
w.uefa.co
m/uefanat
ionsleagu
e/match/2
040103--
england-v
s-greece/)

Stadium: Wembley Stadium

2024–25 13 October 2024
UEFA Nations League B – Group 2

Greece 



Republic of Ireland

Nea Filadelfeia, Greece

[\[show\]](#)

2024–25 14 November 2024
 UEFA Nations League B – Group 2
 21:45 UTC+3

Greece  v  **England**

Nea Filadelfeia, Greece [\[show\]](#)

Report (ht
tps://ww
w.uefa.co
m/uefanat
ionsleagu
e/match/2
040151--
greece-vs
-england/)

Stadium: Agia Sophia Stadium

2024–25 17 November 2024
 UEFA Nations League B – Group 2
 19:00 UTC+2

Finland  v  **Greece**

Helsinki, Finland [\[show\]](#)

Report (ht
tps://ww
w.uefa.co
m/uefanat
ionsleagu
e/match/2
040175--fi
nland-vs-
greece/)

Stadium: Helsinki Olympic
Stadium

Coaching staff

As of 3 January 2022

Position	Name
Manager	 Gus Poyet
Assistant manager	 Gerard Nus
Assistant manager	 Mauricio Taricco
Assistant manager	 Diego Poyet
Goalkeeping coach	 Fanis Katergiannakis
Chief Analyst	 Dimitris Goumas
Technical director	 Konstantinos Konstantinidis
Sporting director	 Takis Fyssas

Coaching history

The following table lists all assigned football managers for the national team and their records since Greece's first international game in April 1929.

Updated 21 November 2023



Manager Otto Rehhagel, under whose guidance Greece were crowned European champions in 2004.



Alketas Panagoulias, with whom Greece first appeared at the European Championship (1980) and the World Cup (1994).

Name	Greece career	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Win %	Major competitions
Apostolos Nikolaidis	1929	5	1	1	3	6	13	20%	
	1934–1935								
Jan Kopřiva	1929–1930	3	1	1	1	4	10	33.3%	
Josef Švejk	1930	1	0	0	1	0	3	0%	
Hellenic Football Federation	1930–1931	5	1	0	4	12	15	20%	
Loukas Panourgias	1932	4	0	0	4	2	14	0%	
Kostas Negrepontis	1933–1934	16	5	1	10	23	25	31.3%	
	1938								
	1948–1950								
	1953								
Kostas Konstantaras	1935	4	0	1	3	6	16	0%	
József Künszler	1936	2	0	0	2	6	10	0%	
Alan Buckett	1938	1	0	0	1	1	11	0%	
Antonis Migiakis	1951	12	3	4	5	13	16	17%	
	1952–1953								
	1954–1955								
	1958								
	1961								
Nikos Katrantzos	1951	1	1	0	0	1	0	100%	
Giannis Chelmis	1951	8	3	1	4	9	10	37.5%	
	1954								
	1955								
Kostas Andritsos	1956	1	0	0	1	1	7	0%	
Rino Martini	1957–1958	7	2	1	4	8	17	28.6%	
Paul Baron	1959–1960	5	1	0	4	4	15	20%	
Tryfon Tzanetis	1960–1961	11	5	1	5	19	25	45.5%	
	1962–1964								
Lakis Petropoulos	1964–1965	35	6	9	20	34	62	17.1%	
	1967								
	1969–1971								
	1976–1977								
Panos Markovic	1966–1967	2	2	0	0	6	1	100%	

Name	Greece career	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Win %	Major competitions
Flag of Greece Kostas Karapatis	1968	1	0	0	1	0	1	0%	
Flag of Greece Dan Georgiadis	1968–1969	8	3	4	1	19	13	37.5%	
Flag of Greece Billy Bingham	1971–1973	12	2	3	7	11	23	16.7%	
Flag of Greece Alketas Panagoulias	1973–1976	74	23	20	31	89	121	31.1%	Flag of Greece 1980 European Championship—Group stage
	1977–1981								Flag of Greece 1994 World Cup— Group stage
	1992–1994								
Flag of Greece Christos Archontidis	1982–1984	21	5	3	13	17	33	23.8%	
Flag of Greece Miltos Papapostolou	1984–1988	46	14	15	17	46	61	30.4%	
Flag of Greece Alekos Sofianidis	1988–1989	7	3	1	3	13	10	42.9%	
Flag of Greece Antonis Georgiadis	1989–1991	30	11	9	10	34	38	36.7%	
	1992								
Flag of Greece Stefanos Petritsis	1992	1	0	0	1	0	1	0%	
Flag of Greece Kostas Polychroniou	1994–1998	34	17	6	11	56	32	50%	
Flag of Romania Anghel Iordănescu	1998–1999	7	4	2	1	11	7	57.1%	
Flag of Greece Vasilis Daniil	1999–2001	30	14	8	8	46	34	46.7%	
Flag of Greece Nikos Christidis	2001	1	0	1	0	0	0	0%	
Flag of Germany Otto Rehhagel	2001–2010	106	53	23	30	138	111	50%	Flag of Greece 2004 European Championship—Champions
									Flag of Greece 2008 European Championship—Group stage
									Flag of Greece 2010 World Cup— Group stage
Flag of Portugal Fernando Santos	2010–2014	49	26	17	6	56	36	53.1%	Flag of Greece 2012 European Championship—Quarter-final
									Flag of Greece 2014 World Cup— Round of 16
Flag of Italy Claudio Ranieri	2014	4	0	1	3	1	5	0%	
Flag of Greece Kostas Tsanas	2014, 2015	5	1	1	3	5	9	20%	
Flag of Uruguay Sergio Markarián	2015	3	0	2	1	1	2	0%	
Flag of Germany Michael Skibbe	2015–2018	27	11	5	11	30	26	40.7% ^[66]	
Flag of Greece Angelos Anastasiadis	2018–2019	7	2	1	4	8	11	28.6%	
Flag of Netherlands John van 't Schip	2019–2021	26	11	9	6	29	23	42.3%	

Name	Greece career	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Win %	Major competitions
Flag of Greece Gus Poyet	2022–	20	11	3	6	30	15	55.0%	
Total	1929–present	642	242	154	246	796	885	37.7%	
Santos has the national record of 17 consecutive unbeaten games.									

Players

Current squad

The following players were called for the friendly match against  New Zealand on 17 November 2023 and the UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying match against  France on 21 November 2023.^[67]

Caps and goals correct as of 21 November 2023, after the match against the France.^{[68][69]}

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Odysseas Vlachodimos	26 April 1994	39	0	Nottingham Forest
12	GK	Alexandros Paschalakis	28 July 1989	5	0	Olympiacos
13	GK	Sokratis Dioudis	3 February 1993	2	0	Zagłębie Lubin
	GK	Giorgos Athanasiadis	7 April 1993	0	0	AEK Athens
2	DF	Panos Retsos	9 August 1998	11	0	Olympiacos
	DF	Dinos Koulierakis	28 November 2003	5	0	PAOK
	DF	Dinos Mavropanos	11 December 1997	24	2	West Ham United
	DF	Lazaros Rota	23 August 1997	12	0	AEK Athens
17	DF	Pantelis Chatzidiakos	18 January 1997	31	0	Cagliari
18	DF	Giorgos Tzavellas	26 November 1987	50	3	Atromitos
19	DF	Dimitris Goutas	4 April 1994	3	0	Cardiff City
21	DF	Manolis Saliakas	12 September 1996	3	0	St. Pauli
22	DF	Dimitris Giannoulis	17 October 1995	26	0	Norwich City
	DF	Kostas Tsimikas	12 May 1996	32	0	Liverpool
	DF	George Baldock	9 March 1993	10	0	Sheffield United
	DF	Giorgos Vagiannidis	12 September 2001	0	0	Panathinaikos
5	MF	Andreas Bouchalakis	5 April 1993	42	1	Hertha BSC
6	MF	Kostas Galanopoulos	28 December 1997	8	1	AEK Athens
10	MF	Zeca	31 August 1988	34	2	Panathinaikos
11	MF	Tasos Bakasetas <i>(captain)</i>	28 June 1993	63	13	Panathinaikos

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
14	MF	Sotiris Alexandropoulos	26 November 2001	9	0	Olympiacos
20	MF	Giannis Konstantelias	5 March 2003	4	1	PAOK
23	MF	Charis Tsingaras	20 August 2000	0	0	PAOK
	MF	Petros Mantalos	31 August 1991	58	6	AEK Athens
	MF	Dimitris Kourbelis	2 November 1993	36	1	Fatih Karagümrük
	MF	Dimitris Pelkas	26 October 1993	34	3	İstanbul Başakşehir
	MF	Manolis Siopis	14 May 1994	28	1	Cardiff City
7	MF	Giorgos Masouras	1 January 1994	39	9	Olympiacos
8	FW	Fotis Ioannidis	10 January 2000	8	1	Panathinaikos
9	FW	Vangelis Pavlidis	21 November 1998	36	6	AZ
16	MF	Tasos Chatzgiovanis	31 May 1997	13	0	Ankaragücü
19	FW	Giorgos Giakoumakis	9 December 1994	20	4	Atlanta United
	FW	Taxiarchis Fountas	4 September 1995	18	1	Trabzonspor

Recent call-ups

The following players have also been called up to the Greece squad within the last twelve months.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
MF	Giannis Papanikolaou	18 November 1998	4	0	Raków Częstochowa	v. Gibraltar, 10 September 2023
MF	Kostas Fortounis	16 October 1992	56	9	Olympiacos	v. Lithuania, 27 March 2023
FW	Dimitris Limnios	27 May 1998	24	3	Panathinaikos	v. Gibraltar, 10 September 2023
FW	Tasos Douvikas	2 August 1999	15	1	Celta Vigo	v. Republic of Ireland, 16 June 2023

Notes

- PRE = Preliminary squad/standby.

Player records

As of 10 September 2023^[70]

Players in **bold** are still active with Greece.

Most capped players

Rank	Name	Caps	Goals	Position	Career
1	Giorgos Karagounis	139	10	MF	1999–2014
2	Theodoros Zagorakis	120	3	MF	1994–2007
3	Kostas Katsouranis	116	10	MF	2003–2015
4	Vasilis Torosidis	101	10	DF	2007–2019
5	Angelos Basinas	100	7	MF	1999–2009
6	Stratos Apostolakis	96	5	DF	1986–1998
7	Antonis Nikopolidis	90	0	GK	1999–2008
	Sokratis Papastathopoulos	90	3	DF	2008–2019
9	Angelos Charisteas	88	25	FW	2001–2011
10	Dimitris Salpingidis	82	13	FW	2005–2014



Greece's iconic midfielder and former captain Giorgos Karagounis is the most capped player in the history of the national team with 139 caps.

Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Period
1	Nikos Anastopoulos	29	74	0.39	1977–1988
2	Angelos Charisteas	25	88	0.28	2001–2011
3	Theofanis Gekas	24	78	0.31	2005–2014

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Period
4	Dimitris Saravakos	22	78	0.28	1982–1994
5	Mimis Papaioannou	21	61	0.34	1963–1978
6	Nikos Machlas	18	61	0.3	1993–2002
7	Demis Nikolaidis	17	54	0.31	1995–2004
	Kostas Mitroglou	17	65	0.26	2009–2019
9	Panagiotis Tsalouchidis	16	76	0.21	1987–1995
10	Giorgos Sideris	14	28	0.5	1958–1970



Nikos Anastopoulos, the top goalscorer of the national team.

Captains

List of captaincy periods of the various captains throughout the years.



Angelos Charisteas, scorer of Greece's winning goal in Euro 2004 Final and second all-time scorer of Greece with 25 goals.

Name	Period	Notes
Andreas Mouratis	1951–1953	
Thanasis Bebis	1953–1954	
Ilias Rosidis	1954–1960	
Kostas Polychroniou	1961–1967	
Giorgos Sideris	1968–1970	
Mimis Domazos	1970–1979	
Giorgos Koudas	1979–1982	European Championship captain (1980) First captain of Greece national football team in a major competition
Anthimos Kapsis	1982	
Nikos Anastopoulos	1983–1988	
Tasos Mitropoulos	1988–1994	World Cup captain (1994) First captain of Greece national football team in a World Cup
Stratos Apostolakis	1994–1998	
Demis Nikolaidis	1998–1999	
Nikos Machlas	1999	
Marinos Ouzounidis	1999–2001	
Theodoros Zagorakis	2001–2007	European Championship winning captain (2004)
Angelos Basinas	2007–2009	European Championship captain (2008)
Giorgos Karagounis	2009–2014	World Cup captain (2010) European Championship captain (2012) World Cup captain (2014)
Dimitris Salpingidis	2014	
Vasilis Torosidis	2014–2019	
Kostas Stafylidis	2019–2020	
Tasos Bakasetas	2020–	

Competitive record

Competitive results

These are Greece's results in the major competitions that they have participated in. The results in the main tournaments have been listed directly in the total column.

Updated 21 November 2023

Competition	Total							Home				Away					
	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	W	D	L	GF	GA	W	D	L	GF	GA
FIFA World Cup	146	58	35	53	172	199	-27	35	16	17	95	62	23	19	36	77	137
UEFA European Championship	143	65	29	49	199	164	+35	39	5	20	117	71	26	24	29	82	93
UEFA Nations League	18	11	3	4	20	8	+12	6	2	1	12	2	5	1	3	8	6
FIFA Confederations Cup	3	0	1	2	0	4	-4	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	2	0	4
Olympic Games	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	1	2
Mediterranean Games	2	2	0	0	6	0	+6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mediterranean Cup	17	4	5	8	15	31	-16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balkan Cup	24	3	4	17	36	76	-40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	354	143	77	134	449	488	-39	80	23	38	224	135	54	45	71	168	242

FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record										Qualification record					
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1930	Did not enter										Declined invitation				
1934	Did not qualify										1	0	0	1	0
1938	Did not qualify										3	2	0	1	5
1950	Did not enter										Did not enter				
1954											4	2	0	2	3
1958											4	0	1	3	2
1962											4	1	0	3	3
1966											6	2	1	3	10
1970	Did not qualify										6	2	3	1	13
1974											4	0	0	4	5
1978											4	1	1	2	2
1982											8	3	1	4	10
1986											6	1	2	3	5
1990											6	1	2	3	3
1994	Group stage	24th	3	0	0	3	0	10	Squad						
1998	Did not qualify										8	4	2	2	11
2002	Did not qualify										8	2	1	5	7
2006											12	6	3	3	15
2010	Group stage	25th	3	1	0	2	2	5	Squad						

2014	Round of 16	13th	4	1	2	1	3	5	Squad	12	9	2	1	16	6	
2018	<i>Did not qualify</i>										12	5	5	2	18	10
2022	<i>Did not qualify</i>										8	2	4	2	8	8
2026	<i>To be determined</i>										<i>To be determined</i>					
2030	<i>To be determined</i>										<i>To be determined</i>					
2034	<i>To be determined</i>										<i>To be determined</i>					
Total	Round of 16	3/22	10	2	2	6	5	20	—	136	56	33	47	167	179	

*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

Greece's World Cup history [show]

First Match	Argentina 4–0 Greece (Foxborough, United States; 21 June 1994)
Biggest Win	Greece 2–1 Nigeria (Bloemfontein, South Africa; 17 June 2010) Greece 2–1 Ivory Coast (Fortaleza, Brazil; 24 June 2014)
Biggest Defeat	Argentina 4–0 Greece (Foxborough, United States; 21 June 1994) Greece 0–4 Bulgaria (Chicago, United States; 26 June 1994)
Best Result	Round of 16 (2014)
Worst Result	Group stage (1994, 2010)

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record											Qualifying record						
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA		
1960	Did not qualify											2	0	1	1	2	8
1964	Did not enter											Did not enter					
1968	Did not qualify											5	2	1	2	7	8
1972	Did not qualify											6	1	1	4	3	8
1976	Did not qualify											6	2	3	1	12	9
1980	Group stage	8th	3	0	1	2	1	4	Squad	6	3	1	2	13	7		
1984	Did not qualify											8	3	2	3	8	10
1988	Did not qualify											8	4	1	3	12	13
1992	Did not qualify											8	3	2	3	11	9
1996	Did not qualify											10	6	0	4	23	9
2000	Did not qualify											10	4	3	3	13	8
2004	Champions	1st	6	4	1	1	7	4	Squad	8	6	0	2	8	4		
2008	Group stage	16th	3	0	0	3	1	5	Squad	12	10	1	1	25	10		
2012	Quarter-finals	7th	4	1	1	2	5	7	Squad	10	7	3	0	14	5		
2016	Did not qualify											10	1	3	6	7	14
2020	To be determined											10	4	2	4	12	14
2024	To be determined											8	4	1	3	14	8
2028	To be determined											To be determined					
2032	To be determined											127	60	25	42	184	144
Total	1 Title	4/16	16	5	3	8	14	20	—								

*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

Greece's European Championship history

[show]

First Match	 Netherlands 1–0 Greece  (Naples, Italy; 11 June 1980)
Biggest Win	 Portugal 1–2 Greece  (Porto, Portugal; 12 June 2004)  France 0–1 Greece  (Lisbon, Portugal; 25 June 2004)  Greece 1–0 (a.e.t.) Czech Republic  (Porto, Portugal; 1 July 2004)  Portugal 0–1 Greece  (Lisbon, Portugal; 4 July 2004)  Greece 1–0 Russia  (Warsaw, Poland; 16 June 2012)
Biggest Defeat	 Greece 1–3 Czechoslovakia  (Rome, Italy; 14 June 1980)  Greece 0–2 Sweden  (Salzburg, Austria; 10 June 2008)  Germany 4–2 Greece  (Gdańsk, Poland; 22 June 2012)
Best Result	Champions (2004)
Worst Result	Group stage (1980, 2008)

UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record											
Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK	
2018–19	C	2	6	3	0	3	4	5	=	33rd	
2020–21	C	3	6	3	3	0	6	1	=	37th	
2022–23	C	2	6	5	0	1	10	2	▲	34th	
2024–25	B	<i>To be determined</i>									
Total			18	11	3	4	20	8	33rd		

*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

Greece's Nations League history [show]

First Match	Estonia 0–1 Greece  (Tallinn, Estonia; 8 September 2018)
Biggest Win	Greece 3–0 Cyprus  (Volos, Greece; 9 June 2022)
Biggest Defeat	Finland 2–0 Greece  (Tampere, Finland; 15 October 2018)
Best Result	—
Worst Result	—

FIFA Confederations Cup

FIFA Confederations Cup record										
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	
 1992										
 1995										
 1997										
 1999										
 2001										
 2003										
 2005	Group stage	7th	3	0	1	2	0	4	Squad	
 2009										
 2013										
 2017										
Total	Group stage	1/10	3	0	1	2	0	4	—	

*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

Greece's Confederations Cup history [show]

First Match	 Brazil 3–0 Greece  (Leipzig, Germany; 16 June 2005)
Biggest Win	None
Biggest Defeat	 Brazil 3–0 Greece  (Leipzig, Germany; 16 June 2005)
Best Result	Group stage (2005)
Worst Result	Group stage (2005)

Olympic Games

Olympic Games record										
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	
 1896	<i>No football tournament was held</i>									
 1900										
 1904	<i>Did not enter</i>									
 1908										
 1912										
 1920	Preliminary round	14th	1	0	0	1	0	9	Squad	
 1924	<i>Did not enter</i>									
 1928										
 1932	<i>No football tournament was held</i>									
 1936	<i>Did not enter</i>									
 1948										
 1952	Preliminary round	21st	1	0	0	1	1	2	Squad	
 1956	<i>Did not enter</i>									
 1960										
 1964										
 1968										
 1972	<i>Did not qualify</i>									
 1976										
 1980										
 1984										
 1988										
Since 1992	See Greece national under-23 football team									
Total	Preliminary round	2/19	2	0	0	2	1	11	—	

FIFA ranking history

Greece's history in the [FIFA World Rankings](#). The table shows the position that Greece held in December of each year (and the current position as of 202), as well as the highest and lowest positions annually.

[show] Year	Position	Highest	Lowest
1993	34	32	36
1994	28	28	37
1995	34	23	34
1996	35	30	45
1997	42	29	46
1998	53	42	66
1999	34	30	46
2000	42	31	42
2001	57	43	61
2002	48	46	59
2003	30	26	48
2004	18	14	36
2005	16	12	20
2006	16	14	32
2007	11	11	16
2008	20	8	20
2009	13	11	20
2010	11	11	13
2011	14	8	14
2012	13	10	15
2013	12	11	16
2014	24	10	25
2015	41	24	44
2016	42	37	52
2017	47	38	47
2018	43	42	47
2019	54	43	60
2020	53	53	54
2021	55	53	55
2022	51	48	55

- FIFA-ranking yearly averages for Greece^[71]

Head-to-head record

As of 21 November 2023, after the match against  France.

Positive Record Neutral Record Negative Record

Against	[show]	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Albania ^[72]		15	6	3	6	13	16
Argentina		2	0	0	2	0	6
Armenia		6	4	1	1	7	3
Australia		11	4	3	4	14	14
Austria		13	4	5	4	20	18
Belarus		2	1	0	1	1	1
Belgium		11	3	4	4	11	13
Bolivia		2	1	1	0	2	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina		11	5	5	1	17	9
Brazil		2	0	1	1	0	3
Bulgaria		24	6	6	12	31	43
Cameroon		1	0	0	1	0	3
Canada		4	3	1	0	5	0
Ivory Coast		1	1	0	0	2	1
Chile		1	1	0	0	1	0
Colombia		2	0	0	2	0	5
Costa Rica		1	0	1	0	1	1
Croatia		8	2	4	2	9	10
Cyprus		29	19	6	4	55	27
Czech Republic		5	2	2	1	3	2
Czechoslovakia		5	0	0	5	2	11
Denmark		16	3	4	9	18	34
East Germany		8	2	0	6	7	12
Ecuador		1	0	1	0	1	1
Egypt		10	5	2	3	18	12
El Salvador		2	2	0	0	6	1
England		9	0	2	7	3	23
England (olympic team)		2	1	0	1	5	3
Estonia		6	3	2	1	9	5
Ethiopia		3	3	0	0	7	3
Faroe Islands		4	2	0	2	11	4
Finland		18	9	3	6	29	22
France		10	1	2	7	9	26
France (2nd team)		6	1	2	3	2	4
Total		641	241	155	247	793	885

Against	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Georgia	9	7	2	0	17	6
Germany	3	0	0	3	4	10
Gibraltar	4	4	0	0	16	1
Great Britain	1	1	0	0	4	2
Ghana	1	0	1	0	1	1
Honduras	1	1	0	0	2	1
Hungary	22	10	6	6	33	37
Hungary (2nd team)	1	0	0	1	2	4
Iceland	3	2	0	1	4	3
Republic of Ireland	5	4	1	0	6	1
Italy	12	1	4	7	6	22
Italy (2nd team)	7	0	2	5	4	20
Israel	17	9	5	3	26	20
Japan	2	0	1	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	3	3	0	0	7	2
Kosovo	6	3	3	0	7	3
North Korea	1	0	1	0	2	2
South Korea	4	0	1	3	1	6
Latvia	8	5	2	1	13	6
Libya	1	1	0	0	4	0
Liechtenstein	5	4	1	0	8	1
Lithuania	4	2	1	1	4	2
Luxembourg	9	8	0	1	17	3
Malta	11	7	3	1	24	7
Mexico	4	1	2	1	4	4
Moldova	7	6	1	0	13	2
Morocco	1	0	1	0	0	0
Montenegro	2	1	0	1	2	2
Netherlands	11	1	1	9	3	24
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	2	0
Nigeria	4	2	1	1	4	3
Northern Ireland	9	6	0	3	13	11
Norway	9	5	2	2	13	10
Palestine	2	2	0	0	4	1
Total	641	241	155	247	793	885

Against	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Paraguay	1	0	0	1	0	2
Poland	18	4	4	10	13	30
Portugal	14	5	5	4	18	16
Qatar	1	1	0	0	1	0
Romania	36	8	10	18	41	73
Russia	11	2	5	4	10	14
San Marino	2	2	0	0	6	0
Saudi Arabia	3	1	1	1	6	4
Scotland	2	1	0	1	1	1
Serbia	2	1	0	1	1	2
Slovakia	5	3	1	1	6	4
Slovenia	7	3	4	0	11	3
Spain	12	1	3	8	11	21
Spain (2nd team)	2	1	0	1	3	7
Senegal	1	0	0	1	0	2
Soviet Union	11	2	0	9	4	25
Sweden	8	3	3	2	10	11
Switzerland	15	2	4	9	12	20
Syria	2	2	0	0	12	0
Turkey	13	3	3	7	11	18 ^[66]
Ukraine	6	2	2	2	3	4
United States	1	0	1	0	1	1
Wales	2	1	0	1	3	4
West Germany	6	0	3	3	5	11
Yugoslavia	2	0	1	1	1	3
Yugoslavia	20	2	2	16	18	61
Total	641	241	155	247	793	885

The game against Great Britain's Olympic Team (1952) was recognized as an official game of the Greece National Team by the Hellenic Football Federation

Honours

Major

- **UEFA European Championship**

- ① **Champions (1): 2004**

- Quarter-finalists (1): 2012

Other

▪ UEFA Nations League

- Promotion (1): 2022–23 UEFA Nations League C

▪ Mediterranean Games

- **1** Champions (2): 1951, 1991

▪ Mediterranean Cup

- **2** Runners-up (1): 1950–53

▪ Balkan Cup

- **2** Runners-up (1): 1934–35

- **3** Third place (3): 1929–31, 1935, 1936



The Greece national team at the UEFA Euro 2004 trophy ceremony

Awards

▪ World Soccer (magazine) – Men's World Team of the Year

- **1** Winners (1): 2004

▪ Laureus World Sports Award for Team of the Year

- **1** Winners (1): 2005

▪ FIFA Confederations Cup FIFA Fair Play Trophy

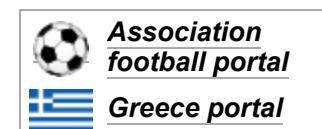
- **1** Winners (1): 2005

▪ Unofficial Football World Championships

- Matches won as Champions: 11^[73]

See also

- List of Greece international footballers
- Greece national under-23 football team (Greece Olympic team)
- Greece national under-21 football team
- Greece national under-20 football team
- Greece national under-19 football team
- Greece national under-17 football team
- Greece–Turkey football rivalry



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External links

- [Official website](http://www.epo.gr/) (<http://www.epo.gr/>) (in Greek)
- [Greece](https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/GRE) (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/GRE>) at [FIFA](#)
- [Greece](https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/GRE/) (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/GRE/>) at [UEFA](#)
- [greecechampion.com](https://www.greecechampion.com/html/welcome_en.htm) (https://www.greecechampion.com/html/welcome_en.htm) [Greece Champions Euro 2004](#)

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Kategoria Superiore

The **Kategoria Superiore**, (lit. Superior Category) officially known as **Abissnet Superiore** for sponsorship reasons, is a professional league for men's association football clubs. At the top of the Albanian football league system, it is the country's primary football competition. It is contested by 10 clubs, and operates on a system of promotion and relegation with the **Kategoria e Parë**. Seasons run from August to May, with teams playing 36 matches each (playing each team in the league four times, twice at home and twice away).

The competition was founded in 1930 as the **Albanian National Championship** during the reign of King Zog, shortly after the creation of the **Albanian Football Association**. Since 1930, 45 clubs have competed in recognised competitions, while only nine clubs have won the title: Tirana (26), Dinamo Tirana (18), Partizani (17), Vllaznia (9), Skënderbeu (8), Elbasani (2), Teuta (2), Flamurtari (1), and Kukësi (1). The current champions are Partizani, who won their 17th title in 2022–23.

History

Early history

Football was first introduced to Albania by an English-Maltese priest named Gut Ruter, who visited the Saverian college in Shkodër in 1908. The first football club in Albania was Indipendenca, founded in Shkodër in 1912 by Palokë Nika.^[2] The first 90-minute game to be played with two 45 minute halves took place in October 1913 between Indipendenca Shkodër and the occupying Austro-Hungarian Imperial Navy. The game is considered to be the first international game to be played in Albania, and it ended in a 2–1 loss for Indipendenca, with the captain and founder of the club Palokë Nika scoring the only goal for the Albanians.^{[2][3]}

World War II championships

Albania was invaded by Italy in April 1939 and World War II soon broke out, meaning the **Albanian Football Association**, much like the other organisations in the country, ceased operating. Despite the war, three championships were held between 1939 and 1942, with Tirana winning the championships in 1939 and 1942 and

Kategoria Superiore

Organising body	<u>FSHF</u>
Founded	6 June 1930
Country	<u>Albania</u>
Confederation	<u>UEFA</u>
Number of teams	10
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	<u>Kategoria e Parë</u>
Domestic cup(s)	<u>Albanian Cup</u> <u>Albanian Supercup</u>
International cup(s)	<u>UEFA Champions League</u> <u>UEFA Europa Conference League</u>
Current champions	<u>Partizani</u> (17th title) (2022–23)
Most championships	<u>Tirana</u> (26 titles)
Top goalscorer	<u>Vioresin Sinani</u> (207 goals) ^[a]
TV partners	<u>MCN TV</u>
Website	<u>fshf.org/abissnet-superiore</u> (http://fshf.org/competition/abissnet-superiore/)

Current: 2023–24 Kategoria Superiore

Shkodra winning in 1940. Despite calls to recognise these championships, the Albanian Football Association maintains the position that the championships were not organised by them and cannot be formally recognised.^{[4][5][6]}

Names

Name		Period	Notes
Albanian	English		
Kampionati Kombëtar Shqiptar	Albanian National Championship	1930–2003	—
Kategoria Superiore	Superior Category	2003–present	The official name, even though from 2021 for sponsorship reasons the name changes.
Abissnet Superiore		2021–present	Sponsored by Abissnet. ^[7]

Records

Most points in a season 84 points. KF Tirana (2004–05)

Most points without winning the league title 79 points. KF Elbasani (2004–05)

First Albanian team to qualify for a European competition proper stage. KF Skenderbeu (2017–18) Europa League

Competition format

Since the 2014–15 Kategoria Superiore, the league consists of 10 clubs, who face each other four times in a conventional round-robin tournament for a total of 36 matches. At the end of the season, the two lowest-placed teams are relegated to the Kategoria e Parë, while two highest-placed teams of the Kategoria e Parë are promoted in their place. The 8th ranked team qualifies to the play-off round, which they play against the Kategoria e Parë play-off winner. Teams are ranked by total points, then head-to-head record, then goal difference, and then goals scored.

Clubs (2023–2024)

Current members

The following teams are competing in the Kategoria Superiore during the 2023–24 season.^[8]

Club	Position in 2023–24
Dinamo	2nd (Kategoria e Parë)
Egnatia	3rd
Erzeni	8th
Kukësi	7th
Laçi	5nd
Partizani	1st
Skënderbeu	1st (Kategoria e Parë)
Teuta	6th
Tirana	2nd
Vllaznia	4th



2023–24 Kategoria Superiore teams.

List of champions

Group tournament format

Season was not played

Season is not officially recognised

Season	Champion	Runner-up	Third place	Top scorer(s)	Goals
1930	KF Tirana (1)	Skënderbeu	Bashkimi Shkodran	Selman Stërmasi	5
1931	KF Tirana (2)	Teuta	<i>Uneven group format</i>	Teli Samsuri	9
1932	KF Tirana (3)	Bashkimi Shkodran	Teuta	Selman Stërmasi	11
1933	Skënderbeu (1)	Bashkimi Shkodran	Teuta	Teofik Agaj	7
1934	KF Tirana (4)	Skënderbeu	Bashkimi Shkodran	Mark Gurashi	22
1935	<i>Season was not played</i>				
1936	KF Tirana (5)	Vllaznia	Besa	Riza Lushta	11
1937	KF Tirana (6)	Vllaznia	Besa	Riza Lushta	25
1938	<i>Season was not played</i>				
1939	<i>Season played, but not officially recognised</i>				
1940	<i>Season played, but not officially recognised</i>				
1941	<i>Season was not played</i>				
1942	<i>Season played, but not officially recognised</i>				
1943	<i>Season was not played</i>				
1944	<i>Season was not played</i>				
1945	Vllaznia (1)	SK Tirana	Besa	Xhevdet Shaqiri	9
1946	Vllaznia (2)	Flamurtari	17 Nëntori	Xhevdet Shaqiri	11
1947	Partizani (1)	Vllaznia	Dinamo Korçë	Zihni Gjinali	13
1948	Partizani (2)	Flamurtari	<i>Uneven group format</i>	Zihni Gjinali	12
1949	Partizani (3)	Vllaznia	Ylli i Kuq Durrës	Zihni Gjinali	14
1950	Dinamo (1)	Partizani	Shkodra	Loro Boriçi	6
1951	Dinamo (2)	Partizani	Puna Tiranë	Refik Resmja	59
1952	Dinamo (3)	Partizani	<i>Uneven group format</i>	Refik Resmja	10
1953	Dinamo (4)	Partizani	Puna Tiranë	Refik Resmja	9
1954	Partizani (4)	Dinamo	Puna Tiranë	Refik Resmja	13
1955	Dinamo (5)	Partizani	Puna Tiranë	Refik Resmja	14
1956	Dinamo (6)	Partizani	Puna Tiranë	Refik Resmja	17
1957	Partizani (5)	Dinamo	Puna Korçë	Niko Bespalla	12
1958	Partizani (6)	Besa	17 Nëntori	Skënder Jareci	13
1959	Partizani (7)	17 Nëntori	Flamurtari	Panajot Pano	9
1960	Dinamo (7)	Partizani	17 Nëntori	Skënder Jareci	13
1961	Partizani (8)	Dinamo	17 Nëntori	Panajot Pano	14
1962–63	Partizani (9)	Dinamo	Besa	Panajot Pano	12
1963–64	Partizani (10)	Dinamo	Besa	Robert Jashari	18
1964–65	KF Tirana (7)	Partizani	Dinamo	Robert Jashari	19
1965–66	KF Tirana (8)	Partizani	Dinamo	Iliaz Çeço	12
1966–67	Dinamo (8)	17 Nëntori	Besa	Josif Kazanxhi	17
1968	KF Tirana (9)	Partizani	Dinamo	Medin Zhega	19

Season	Champion	Runner-up	Third place	Top scorer(s)	Goals
1969–70	KF Tirana (10)	Partizani	Vllaznia	Skënder Hyka	19
1970–71	Partizani (11)	Dinamo	Vllaznia	Panajot Pano	18
1971–72	Vllaznia (3)	17 Nëntori	Dinamo	Ilir Pernaska	19
1972–73	Dinamo (9)	Partizani	Besa	Ilir Pernaska	17
1973–74	Vllaznia (4)	Partizani	Besa	Ilir Pernaska	12
1974–75	Dinamo (10)	Vllaznia	Partizani	Ilir Pernaska	16
1975–76	Dinamo (11)	17 Nëntori	Vllaznia	Ilir Pernaska	19
1976–77	Dinamo (12)	Skënderbeu	Vllaznia	Ilir Pernaska	17
1977–78	Vllaznia (5)	Luftetari	Partizani	Agim Murati	12
1978–79	Partizani (12)	17 Nëntori	Besa	Agim Murati	13
1979–80	Dinamo (13)	17 Nëntori	Vllaznia	Përparim Kovaçi	18
1980–81	Partizani (13)	Dinamo	17 Nëntori	Dashnor Bajaziti	12
1981–82	KF Tirana (11)	Flamurtari	Dinamo	Vasil Ruci	12
1982–83	Vllaznia (6)	Partizani	17 Nëntori	Dashnor Bajaziti	16
1983–84	Elbasani (1)	KF Tirana	Partizani	Vasil Ruci	12
1984–85	KF Tirana (12)	Dinamo	Vllaznia	Arben Minga, Faslli Fakja	13
1985–86	Dinamo (14)	Flamurtari	17 Nëntori	Kujtim Majaci	20
1986–87	Partizani (14)	Flamurtari	Vllaznia	Arben Arbëri	14
1987–88	KF Tirana (13)	Flamurtari	Labinoti	Agustin Kola	18
1988–89	KF Tirana (14)	Partizani	Dinamo	Agustin Kola	19
1989–90	Dinamo (15)	Partizani	Flamurtari	Kujtim Majaci	19
1990–91	Flamurtari (1)	Partizani	Besa	Kliton Bozgo	29
1991–92	Vllaznia (7)	Partizani	Teuta	Edmir Bilali	22
1992–93	Partizani (15)	Teuta	Besa	Edmond Dosti	21
1993–94	Teuta (1)	KF Tirana	Flamurtari	Edi Martini	14
1994–95	KF Tirana (15)	Teuta	Partizani	Arben Shehu	21
1995–96	KF Tirana (16)	Teuta	Partizani	Altin Çuko	21
1996–97	KF Tirana (17)	Vllaznia	Flamurtari	Viktor Paço	14
1997–98	Vllaznia (8)	Tirana	Partizani	Dorjan Bubeqi	26
1998–99	KF Tirana (18)	Vllaznia	Bylis	Artan Bano	23
1999–00	KF Tirana (19)	Tomori	Teuta	Klodian Arbëri	18
2000–01	Vllaznia (9)	Tirana	Dinamo	Indrit Fortuzi	30
2001–02	Dinamo (16)	Tirana	Partizani	Indrit Fortuzi	24
2002–03	KF Tirana (20)	Vllaznia	Partizani	Mahir Halili	20
2003–04	KF Tirana (21)	Dinamo	Vllaznia	Vioresin Sinani	36
2004–05	KF Tirana (22)	Elbasani	Dinamo	Dorian Bylykbashi	24
2005–06	Elbasani (2)	Tirana	Dinamo	Hamdi Salihi	29
2006–07	KF Tirana (23)	Teuta	Vllaznia	Vioresin Sinani	23

Season	Champion	Runner-up	Third place	Top scorer(s)	Goals
2007–08	Dinamo (17)	Partizani	Besa	Vioresin Sinani	20
2008–09	KF Tirana (24)	Vllaznia	Dinamo	Migen Memelli	22
2009–10	Dinamo (18)	Besa	Tirana	Daniel Xhafaj	18
2010–11	Skënderbeu (2)	Flamurtari	Vllaznia	Daniel Xhafaj	18
2011–12	Skënderbeu (3)	Teuta	Tirana	Roland Dervishi	20
2012–13	Skënderbeu (4)	Kukësi	Teuta	Migen Memelli	19
2013–14	Skënderbeu (5)	Kukësi	Laçi	Pero Pejić	20
2014–15	Skënderbeu (6)	Kukësi	Partizani	Pero Pejić	31
2015–16	Skënderbeu (7)	Partizani	Kukësi	Hamdi Salihi	27
2016–17	Kukësi (1)	Partizani	Skënderbeu	Pero Pejić	27
2017–18	Skënderbeu (8)	Kukësi	Luftëtarë	Ali Sowe	21
2018–19	Partizani (16)	Kukësi	Teuta	Reginaldo	13
2019–20	KF Tirana (25)	Kukësi	Laçi	Kyrian Nwabueze	23
2020–21	Teuta (2)	Vllaznia	Partizani	Dejvi Bregu	16
2021–22	KF Tirana (26)	Laçi	Partizani	Saliou Guindo Taulant Seferi	19
2022–23	Partizani (17)	KF Tirana	Egnatia	Florent Hasani	16

Since 1930, the competition has not been played a total of 9 times: 1935, 1938–44, 1949, 1962. Furthermore, the champion award was not given during the 1968–69 season.

Performance by club

Club	Champions	Runners up	Third places	Seasons
Tirana 	26*	14	14	1930, 1931, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1937, 1939, [b] 1942, [b] 1964–65, 1965–66, 1968, 1969–70, 1981–82, 1984–85, 1987–88, 1988–89, 1994–95, 1995–96, 1996–97, 1998–99, 1999–2000, 2002–03, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2006–07, 2008–09, 2019–20, 2021–22
Dinamo 	18	9	10	1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1966–67, 1972–73, 1974–75, 1975–76, 1976–77, 1979–80, 1985–86, 1989–90, 2001–02, 2007–08, 2009–10
Partizani 	17	21	11	1947, 1948, 1949, 1954, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962–63, 1963–64, 1970–71, 1978–79, 1980–81, 1986–87, 1992–93, 2018–19, 2022–23
Vllaznia	9*	12	13	1940, [b] 1945, 1946, 1971–72, 1973–74, 1977–78, 1982–83, 1991–92, 1997–98, 2000–01
Skënderbeu	8	3	3	1933, 2010–11, 2011–12, 2012–13, 2013–14, 2014–15, 2015–16, 2017–18
Teuta	2	6	7	1993–94, 2020–21
Elbasani	2	1	1	1983–84, 2005–06
Flamurtari	1	7	4	1990–91
Kukësi	1	6	1	2016–17
Besa	-	2	12	-
Laçi	-	1	2	-
Luftëtari	-	1	1	-
Tomori	-	1	-	-
Bylis	-	-	1	-
Egnatia	-	-	1	-

- Tirana and Vllaznia would have accordingly 28 and 10 titles, if the three seasons played during WW2 are officially recognised from AFA.

All time table

The all-time table of football clubs that have participated in the Kategoria Superiore, prior to the 2022–2023 season. The ranking is based on the total accumulated points by each club. Teams in **bold** are part of the 2023–24 season.^[9]

Club was disbanded

No.	Club	Apps.	Matches	Wins	Ties	Losses	Goals +/-	GDif.	Points	Titles
1	<u>Tirana</u>	83	2096	1079	543	474	3438:1873	+1565	3132	26
2	<u>Partizani</u>	70	1778	1087	352	308	3148:1547	+1601	2832	17
3	<u>Vllaznia</u>	82	2063	938	497	650	3267:2128	+1139	2743	9
4	<u>Teuta</u>	82	2088	775	592	741	2092:2331	-239	2410	2
5	<u>Dinamo</u>	62	1751	858	478	387	2790:1566	+1224	2378	18
6	<u>Flamurtari</u>	73	1906	663	516	727	2150:2320	-170	2060	1
7	<u>Skënderbeu</u>	66	1565	524	411	620	1674:1904	-230	1681	8
8	<u>Besa</u>	63	1575	542	444	589	1790:1908	-118	1670	—
9	<u>Elbasani</u>	65	1593	513	423	654	1673:2029	-356	1626	2
10	<u>Lushnja</u>	41	1139	299	326	511	1069:1559	-490	1046	—
11	<u>Luftëtari</u>	43	1132	322	270	550	1047:1616	-569	1014	—
12	<u>Laçi</u>	23	747	283	168	296	830:918	-88	959	—
13	<u>Tomori</u>	44	1052	297	321	471	1026:1487	-461	938	—
14	<u>Apolonia</u>	37	989	277	232	465	984:1505	-521	879	—
15	<u>Shkumbini</u>	18	553	211	107	228	660:708	-48	713	—
16	<u>Kukësi</u>	11	383	186	97	94	536:356	+180	654	1
17	<u>Bylis</u>	16	484	151	123	211	517:638	-121	570	—
18	<u>Kastrioti</u>	15	494	155	107	231	469:660	-191	527	—
19	<u>Besëlidhja</u>	22	575	148	167	260	556:721	-165	497	—
20	<u>Naftëtari</u>	16	384	90	109	185	322:635	-313	289	—
21	<u>Shkëndija</u>	10	258	68	87	103	217:283	-66	223	—
22	<u>Albpetrol</u>	6	167	49	33	85	158:259	-101	136	—
23	<u>Erzeni</u>	7	134	30	36	68	140:256	-116	123	—
24	<u>Pogradeci</u>	9	210	38	39	133	167:466	-299	118	—
25	<u>Egnatia</u>	3	108	29	28	51	102:129	-27	115	—
26	<u>Sopoti</u>	4	112	36	25	51	107:150	-43	110	—
27	<u>Kamza</u>	4	98	23	21	54	72:139	-67	90	—
28	<u>Burreli</u>	5	109	23	23	63	96:183	-87	77	—
29	<u>Luftëtari Tiranë</u>	5	50	19	7	24	60:64	-4	45	—
30	<u>Spartaku Tiranë</u>	3	66	10	17	39	68:132	-64	37	—
31	<u>Spartaku Shkodër</u>	2	38	12	10	16	45:82	-37	34	—
32	Dinamo Shkodër	1	30	13	7	10	46:41	+5	33	—
33	Dinamo Durrës	3	40	8	13	19	30:71	-41	29	—
34	<u>Selenica</u>	1	30	10	7	13	33:54	-21	27	—
35	<u>Gramozi</u>	1	33	6	8	19	25:43	-18	26	—
36	<u>Kombinati Tiranë</u>	2	30	7	11	12	28:39	-11	25	—

No.	Club	Apps.	Matches	Wins	Ties	Losses	Goals +/-	GDif.	Points	Titles
37	Korabi	2	58	3	13	42	21:116	-95	21	—
38	Tërbuni	1	36	4	6	26	22:81	-59	18	—
39	Dinamo Vlorë	1	20	6	4	10	19:48	-29	16	—
40	Iliria	1	30	7	2	21	22:64	-42	16	—
41	24 Maj Përmet	1	26	4	5	1	9:44	-35	13	—
42	Ylli Shkodër	1	10	5	1	4	29:15	+14	11	—
43	Liria Korçë	1	10	3	2	5	16:15	+1	8	—
44	Studenti	1	26	1	6	19	9:43	-34	8	—
45	Spartaku Korçë	1	12	2	1	9	10:45	-35	5	—

UEFA rankings

Current rankings (2022–23)

UEFA Country Ranking for league participation in 2022–23 European football season (Previous year rank in italics).

- 37 (42) League of Ireland Premier Division
- 38 (39) Macedonian First Football League
- 39 (36) Armenian Premier League
- 40 (37) Latvian Higher League
- 41 (38) Kategoria Superiore
- 42 (48) NIFL Premiership
- 43 (44) Ervnuli Liga
- 44 (43) Veikkausliiga
- 45 (41) Moldovan National Division

See also

- [List of football clubs in Albania](#)
- [List of Kategoria Superiore all-time goalscorers](#)

Notes and references

Notes

- a. 208 goals according to [Albanian media](#).^[1]
- b. Not yet officially recognized from [Albanian Football Association](#).

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Kosovo national football team



The **Kosovo national football team** (Albanian: *Kombëtarja e futbollit të Kosovës*; Serbian: Фудбалска репрезентација Косова, romanized: *Fudbalska reprezentacija Kosova*) represents Kosovo in men's international football. The team is controlled by the [Football Federation of Kosovo](#), the governing body for [football in Kosovo](#), and is under the jurisdiction of [FIFA](#) globally.

History

Pre-independence

First ever match

On 29 November 1942, Kosovo for first time in its history played a friendly match as part of the celebrations for 30th Anniversary of the Independence of Albania against Tirana^[a] and the match ended with a 2–0 away defeat and the starting line-up of that match was Mustafa Daci (GK), Ballanca, Ahmet Zaimi, Mazlum Xerxa, Veseli, Hajdar Hamza, Nabil Dylatahu, Ramadan Vraniqi, Dobrica Barbaroga,^[b] Bajrami and Henci.^{[5][6][4]}

Yugoslav era

On 8 November 1967, Kosovo for first time as autonomous province of SFR Yugoslavia played a friendly match against Yugoslavia and the match ended with a 3–3 home draw and the starting line-up of that match was a mix between Albanian and Serbian players as Milosavlević, Stevanović, Mušikić, Abrashi, S. Džukić, V. Džukić, Brovina, Hatibi, Radović, Prekazi and Pindović, for Yugoslavia this match it was a pre-preparation before the [UEFA Euro 1968](#) qualifying match against [Albania](#).

As part of Yugoslavia national team

Yugoslav squads at international competitions often included players from Kosovo, such as [Fadil Vokrri](#) and [Stevan Stojanović](#). Three other footballers from Kosovo, Fahrudin Jusufi, Milutin Šoškić and Vladimir Durković, were part of the Yugoslav team that won the gold medal at the [1960 Summer Olympics](#) and silver medal at the [1960 European Nations' Cup](#).

After breakup of Yugoslavia

On 20 January 1993, The Football Federation of Kosovo signed a cooperation protocol with the [Albanian Football Association](#) and in the framework of this protocol it was decided to play on 14 February a friendly match between Albania and Kosovo, which was the first match of Kosovo following the breakup of Yugoslavia,^[7] and this match ended with a 1–3 defeat and the starting line-up of that match was Ahmet Beselica (GK), Arđan Kozniku, Bardhec Seferi, Fadil Berisha, Gani Llapashtica, Genc Hoxha, Isa Sadriu, Kushtrim Munishi, Muhamrem Sahiti, Sadullah Ajeti and Selajdin Jerliu.^[8]

After Kosovo War

On 7 September 2002, Kosovo for first time after the [Kosovo War](#) played a friendly match against Albania and the match ended with a 0–1 home minimal defeat and the starting line-up of that match was Ahmet Beselica (GK), Arđan Kozniku, Arsim Abazi, Besnik Kollari, Fadil Ademi, Faruk Statovci, Ismet Munishi, Mehmet Dragusha, Sunaj Keqi, Xhevdet Llumnica and Zenun Selimi.^[10]

One of the most important international matches was a 1–0 win over [Saudi Arabia](#) played on 15 June 2007. It was the first time that Kosovo played against a team that has taken part in the [FIFA World Cup](#) and the winning goal was scored by [Kristian Nushi](#) from the penalty kick on

Kosovo



Nickname(s)	Dardanët (Dardanians)
Association	Football Federation of Kosovo (FFK)
Confederation	UEFA (Europe)
Head coach	Franco Foda
Captain	Vedat Muriqi
Most caps	Amir Rahmani (55)
Top scorer	Vedat Muriqi (26)
Home stadium	Fadil Vokrri Stadium
FIFA code	KOS ^[1]
First colours	
Second colours	
Third colours	
FIFA ranking	
Current	102 ▼ 1 (15 February 2024) ^[2]
Highest	101 (November 2023 ^[3])
Lowest	190 (July–August 2016 ^[3])
First international	
Unofficial	
Official	Albania 3–1 Kosovo (Tirana, Albania; 14 February 1993)
Biggest win	
Unofficial	
Official	Monaco 1–7 Kosovo (Cap d'Ail, France; 22 April 2006)
Biggest win	
Unofficial	
Official	Malta 0–5 Kosovo (Ta' Qali, Malta; 17 November 2018)

the 84th minute.^[11] On 22 April 2006, Kosovo achieved their biggest win, defeating Monaco 7–1. If one included matches played before Kosovo became a FIFA member, this scoreline is their best result yet.^[12]

 Kosovo 5–0 Burkina Faso 
(Pristina, Kosovo; 24 March 2022)

Biggest defeat

 Kosovo 0–6 Croatia 
(Shkodër, Albania; 6 October 2016)

After independence

First match

On 17 February 2010, for the first time since its declaration of independence, Kosovo played a friendly match against Albania (the match ended with a 2–3 home defeat for Kosovo). The starting line-up of that match was Kushtrim Mushica (GK), Anel Rashkaj, Dukagjin Gashi, Enis Zabergja, Fisnik Papuci, Ilir Nallbani, Liridon Kukaj, Robert Gjeraj, Shpëtim Hasani and Yll Hoxha. This match had a charity character as the profits gathered from this meeting went to those affected by floods in Shkodër.^[13]

"The reason of this friendly match is that we wanted to face with a team that has the same temperament and character as Albania national team."

—The reasoning of the then head coach of Yugoslavia, Rajko Mitić for the reason for organizing the Kosovo–Yugoslavia match.^[4]

Efforts for internationalization

On 6 May 2008, after its declaration of independence from Serbia, Kosovo applied for FIFA membership. On 24 October 2008, Kosovo's application was discussed at the FIFA Congress in Zürich and Kosovo's bid was rejected. At the occasion, FIFA's determined Kosovo could not even play friendly matches against FIFA members' national teams.^[14]

In September 2012, Albania international Lorik Cana, along with Swiss internationals Granit Xhaka, Valon Behrami and Xherdan Shaqiri, all of them with Kosovo Albanian origin, wrote a declaration to FIFA President Sepp Blatter, asking him to allow Kosovo to play friendly matches. The declaration was also signed by eight other Albanian footballers hailing from Kosovo as Ahmed Januzi, Alban Meha, Armend Dallku, Burim Kukeli, Etrit Berisha, Fatmire Bajramaj, Lorik Cana, Mërgim Mavraj and Samir Ujkani.^[15] Some players, especially Kosovo Serbs as Milan Biševac and Miloš Krasić, continued to play for Serbia.^{[16][17]}

"I am very pleased with the team's performance even though we had predicted a stronger opponent. However, I want to emphasize that our players have been fantastic. The fact that we do not play many international matches may have inspired the players to give it their all this time."

—Opinion of the then coach Muharrem Sahiti after the match against Monaco.^[9]

Permission by FIFA to play friendlies

On 6 February 2013, FIFA decided to allow Kosovan club teams to play friendly games against clubs from countries whose national teams were members of FIFA.^[20] However, it was stipulated that Kosovan clubs and teams could not display national symbols such as the Kosovan flag, emblem, etc., or play the Kosovan anthem.^[20]

On 5 March 2014, the Kosovan football team was finally allowed by FIFA to play its first international friendly match, against Haiti; the match ended in a 0–0 draw.^{[21][22]} Before the match, some players of Kosovo posed with guns at a shooting range, causing a stir in Serbia.^[23] On the eve of the match, supporters of Kosovo burned the flag of Serbia.^[24] This incident prompted the Football Association of Serbia to request that FIFA revoked Kosovo's right to play international friendlies.^[25]

After the match against Haiti, six more matches were held in 2014, against Turkey, Senegal, Oman, Equatorial Guinea and Albania. The first win in these friendlies was against Oman, by 1–0,^[26] while the biggest defeat a 1–6 against Turkey.^[27]



Kosovo starting line-up in first international friendly against Haiti (4–3–3)^{[18][19]}

Membership in UEFA and FIFA

In September 2015, at an UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Malta, the request from Kosovo for admission in UEFA was scheduled for deliberation in the next Ordinary Congress, to be held in Budapest.^[28] On 3 May 2016, at the Ordinary Congress, Kosovo was accepted into UEFA after members voted 28–24 in favor of Kosovo.^{[29][30]} Ten days later, Kosovo was accepted in FIFA during their 66th Congress in Mexico, with 141 votes in favour and 23 against.^[31]

First tournament

Debut in World Cup qualification and nearly successful first Euro attempt

Kosovo began to make their debut in the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification, where Kosovo was assigned with Croatia, Finland, Iceland, Turkey and Ukraine.^{[32][33]} The Kosovars created its first major surprise, holding host Finland to a 1–1 draw,^[34] but it turned to be the lone point of Kosovo in the qualification, as the team lost the remaining games and finished last.

Following the failure to qualify for 2018 FIFA World Cup, Kosovo participated in the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League D sharing group with Azerbaijan, Faroe Islands and Malta,^{[37][38]} where the Kosovars topped their group undefeated to reach the country's first-ever play-offs in its attempt to qualify for UEFA Euro 2020.^[39] After the successful Nations League, Kosovo entered the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying, where they shared group A with Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Montenegro and 2018 World Cup fourth place finisher England.^[40] As the dark horse of the qualification, Kosovo however created a major phenomenon, managed to beat Bulgaria, Montenegro and especially, a shock home win over the Czechs to take the second place behind England, being 15 matches and on that time nearly two years without defeat winning 11 of these 15 matches. The game against England away even saw the Kosovars took an early lead in the surprise, even though they were unable to protect it and fell 3–5 away, ending the longest unbeaten run in the football history of Kosovo.^[41] In the decisive match against the Czechs away, which Kosovo needed a win to directly qualify for the first time, Kosovo gained a shock lead, but failed to protect it again as they lost 1–2 and could only participate in the play-off,^[42] but this remained to be Kosovo's greatest success up to date.



Setback

After successfully obtained a play-off position, Kosovo headed to the 2020–21 UEFA Nations League C, being drawn with Greece, Moldova and Slovenia.^[43] After impressive performance in the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying, Kosovo was tipped favorably to promote to League B. Yet, Kosovo began the Nations League with a disappointing 1–1 away draw to Moldova,^[44] before the team which was halved due to the absences of key players suffered a 1–2 home loss against Greece.^[45]

In Kosovo's first ever competitive UEFA Euro play-offs, Kosovo was drawn against North Macedonia.^[42] However, Kosovo was eliminated after losing 1–2 to the Macedonians in Skopje.^[46] After the elimination in the play-off's semifinals, the Kosovo's setback continues and the year 2020 was ended six losses, two draws and a victory in the last match of the year against Moldova, a victory which secured the attitude even for another season in the League C of the UEFA Nations League.^[47]

Team image

Nicknames

The Kosovo national football team has been known or nicknamed as the "*Dardanët*" ("Dardanians"). In addition to the official nickname, the Kosovo national team had different nicknames in different periods as:

- "Shqipëria B" ("Albania B") — During the period before 2016, the national teams of Kosovo and Albania have exchanged players with each other, which influenced these two teams to be nicknamed reserve (B) teams of each other, the Kosovo national team was nicknamed Albania B due to many players came to play for Kosovo as they had no space to play for Albania, but the same thing happened with the Albanian national team which was nicknamed Kosovo B due to of the large number of players of Kosovo Albanian descent in its composition.^[48]
- "Ekipi i Kosovës" ("Team Kosovo") — The Kosovo national team during the 2009–10 period was introduced with the nickname that was used as an alternative name in order to avoid possible sanctions by UEFA and FIFA against Kosovo and the opponents that Kosovo played. After Kosovo was allowed on 6 February 2013 by FIFA to play against FIFA member associations in international friendlies,^[20] this alternative name was no longer used.
- "Brazili i Ballkanit" ("Brazil of the Balkans") — The Kosovo national team was nicknamed the Brazil of the Balkans during their fifteen-match unbeaten run during the 2018–19 season.^{[36][49][50]}

Kits and crest



The Kosovo kit has been mostly red and black before declaration of independence with few changes throughout the years and after the independence the kits are mostly blue and yellow. On 5 October 2016, Kosovo signed with Spanish sportswear company [Kelme](#) to a four-year contract and was the first official kit suppliers of Kosovo after membership in UEFA and FIFA.^[51] On 23 February 2022, Kosovo signed with Italian sportswear company [Erreà](#) to a three-year contract for it to be the kit suppliers of Kosovo.^[52]

Kit sponsorship

Kit supplier	Period	Contract	
		Announcement	Duration
 Legea	2014	March 2014	
 Puma	2014	May 2014	
 Legea	2014	September 2014	
 Umbro	2015	October 2015	November 2015
 Puma	2016	June 2016	
 Kelme	2016–2018	5 October 2016	2016–2020 (4 years)
 Fourteen	2018–2022	16 June 2018	2018–2022 (4 years)
 Erreà	2023–present	23 February 2023	2023–2026 (3 years)

Home stadium



Fadil Vokrri Stadium

Loro Borici Stadium

Adem Jashari Olympic Stadium

Kosovo's home stadium is the Fadil Vokrri Stadium. The stadium capacity is 13,500, which makes it the second largest national stadium in Kosovo. Kosovo's previous national stadium was the Adem Jashari Olympic Stadium which is currently under renovation. Kosovo also used Loro Borici Stadium during the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign,^{[53][54]} and this happened after the two stadiums in Pristina and Mitrovica at that time were under renovation and do not meet UEFA standards.^[55] On 12 July 2019, the construction of Kosovo National Stadium began,^[56] and two days later the project of this stadium was presented which would have a capacity of 30,000 seats,^[57] but after the presentation, the construction was suspended for political reasons related to the location.^[58]

As of 9 September 2023^[59]

Kosovo national football team home stadiums													
Stadium	Capacity	Location	Pld	W	D	L	Win %	First match		Last match		UEFA category	Ref
								Opponent	Date	Opponent	Date		
Fadil Vokrri Stadium	13,500	Pristina, Kosovo	35	15	10	10	42.86	 Yugoslavia	8 November 1967	 Israel	12 November 2023		[60]
Loro Borici Stadium	16,000	Shkodër, Albania	5	0	0	5	0.00	 Croatia	6 October 2016	 Ukraine	6 October 2017		[61]
Adem Jashari Olympic Stadium	18,500	Mitrovica, Kosovo	3	1	1	1	33.33	 Haiti	5 March 2014	 Latvia	13 November 2017		[62]

Rivalries

Albania

This derby is otherwise known as Brotherly derby (Albanian: *Derbi vëllazëror*), also known as the Brotherly (Albanian: *Vëllazërorja*). The documented beginnings of this derby date back to the time during the World War II, respectively on 29 November 1942, where they played a friendly match as part of the celebrations for 30th Anniversary of the Independence of Albania and the match ended with a 2–0 win for

Tirana,[a][5][6][4] this derby is back 50 years after the first match, when the Football Federation of Kosovo signed a cooperation protocol with the Albanian Football Association and in the framework of this protocol it was decided to play on 14 February a friendly match between these two national teams,[7] and this match ended with a 3–1 win for Albania.[8]

Media coverage

Current

Broadcaster	Television channel	Period	Broadcast matches	
			Qualifying	Friendly
SuperSport Albania	SuperSport 1	2014–present ^[63]	✓	✗
	SuperSport 3		✓	✗
ArtMotion	ArtSport 1	2022–present ^[64]	✓	✓
	Klan Kosova		✓	✓

Previous

Broadcaster	Television channel	Period
Radio Television of Kosovo	RTK 1	2014–2022
	RTK 2	2016–2022

Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 12 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win Draw Loss Fixture

2023

Euro 2024 qualifying	25 March 18:00 (20:00 UTC+3)	Israel  1–1 Kosovo  Peretz 56' Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036308/)	Tel Aviv, Israel Stadium: Bloomfield Stadium Attendance: 28,935 Referee: Willie Collum (Scotland)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	28 March 20:45	Kosovo  1–1 Andorra  Zhegrova 59' Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036332/)	Pristina, Kosovo Stadium: Fadil Vokri Stadium Attendance: 12,600 Referee: Sebastian Gishamer (Austria)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	16 June 20:45	Kosovo  0–0 Romania  Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036355/)	Pristina, Kosovo Stadium: Fadil Vokri Stadium Attendance: 12,600 Referee: Danny Makkelie (Netherlands)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	19 June 20:45	Belarus  2–1 Kosovo  Morozov 73' Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036378/)	Budapest, Hungary ^[c] Stadium: Szusza Ferenc Stadion ^[c] Attendance: 0 ^[c] Referee: Julian Weinberger (Austria)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	9 September 20:45	Kosovo  2–2 Switzerland  Muricqi 65', 90+4' Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036401/)	Pristina, Kosovo Stadium: Fadil Vokri Stadium Attendance: 12,700 Referee: Jakob Kehlet (Denmark)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	12 September 20:45	Romania  2–0 Kosovo  Stanciu 83' Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036424/)	Bucharest, Romania Stadium: Arena Națională Attendance: 29,982 Referee: Willy Delajod (France)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	12 October	Andorra  0–3 Kosovo 	Andorra la Vella, Andorra	[show]

	20:45		Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036446/)	Rashica 26', 71' Zeqiri 83'	Stadium: Estadi Nacional Attendance: 1,207 Referee: Nick Walsh (Scotland)
Euro 2024 qualifying	12 November [d] 20:45	Kosovo  1–0 Israel 	Rashica 41' Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036470/)		Pristina, Kosovo Stadium: Fadil Vokrri Stadium Attendance: 5,245 Referee: Ivan Kružliak (Slovakia)
Euro 2024 qualifying	18 November 20:45	Switzerland  1–1 Kosovo 	Vargas 47' Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036492/)	Hyseni 82'	Basel, Switzerland Stadium: St. Jakob-Park Attendance: 33,000 Referee: António Nobre (Portugal)
Euro 2024 qualifying	21 November 20:45	Kosovo  0–1 Belarus 	Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036516/)	Antilevsky 43'	Pristina, Kosovo Stadium: Fadil Vokrri Stadium Attendance: 5,026 Referee: Georgi Kabakov (Bulgaria)

2024

Friendly	22 March	Armenia  v Kosovo 	Report (http://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18759)	Yerevan, Armenia Stadium: Vazgen Sargsyan Republican Stadium	[show]
Friendly	26 March	Hungary  v Kosovo 	Report (http://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18740)	Budapest, Hungary Stadium: Puskás Aréna	[show]
Friendly	5 June	Norway  v Kosovo 	Report (http://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18758)	Oslo, Norway Stadium: Ullevaal Stadion	[show]
2024–25 Nations League	6 September 20:45	Kosovo  v Romania 	Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040053/)	TBD	[show]
2024–25 Nations League	9 September 20:45 (21:45 UTC+3)	Cyprus  v Kosovo 	Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040082/)	Cyprus	[show]
2024–25 Nations League	12 October 15:00	TBD ? v Kosovo 	Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040112/)	TBD	[show]
2024–25 Nations League	15 October 20:45	Kosovo  v Cyprus 	Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040143/)	TBD	[show]
2024–25 Nations League	15 November 20:45 (21:45 UTC+2)	Romania  v Kosovo 	Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040143/)	Romania	[show]

2024–25 Nations League 18 November
20:45

Kosovo v TBD

[show]

Report (<http://www.uefa.com/uefanationsleague/match/2040184/>)

Coaching staff

Current coaching staff

Position	Name
Head coach	Franco Foda
Assistant coach(es)	Thomas Kristl
	Robert Ibertsberger
Goalkeeping coach	Ahmet Beselica
Team manager	Bajram Shala
Sports director	Muharrem Sahiti
	Samir Ujkani



Franco Foda, the current head coach of Kosovo national football team.

Manager history

No.	Name	Period	Record				
			G	W	D	L	Win %
1	Ajet Shosholli	1993–2002	1	0	0	1	0.00
2	Bylbyl Sokoli	2002–2005	1	0	0	1	0.00
3	Muharrem Sahiti	2005–2006	3	2	0	1	66.67
4	Edmond Rugova	2006–2009	1	1	0	0	100.00
5	Albert Bunjaki	2009–2017	18	3	3	12	16.67
C	Muharrem Sahiti	2017–2018	1	1	0	0	100.00
6	Bernard Challandes	2018–2021	40	17	8	15	42.50
	→ Muharrem Sahiti ^[e]	2020					
C	Primož Gliha	2021–2022	2	0	1	1	0.00
7	Alain Giresse	2022–2023	14	4	6	4	28.57
8	Primož Gliha	2023	6	2	2	2	33.33
9	Franco Foda	2024–present	0	0	0	0	—



Muharrem Sahiti has been the manager of the national team in three separate stints.

Players

Current squad

- The following players were called up for the UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying matches against Israel, Switzerland and Belarus, on 12, 18, and 21 November 2023.^[72]
- Caps and goals are correct as of 21 November 2023 after the match against Belarus.^[73]

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Visar Bekaj	24 May 1997	7	0	Hatayspor
16	GK	Kenan Haxhihamza	28 December 1996	0	0	Dukagjini
15	DF	Mërgim Vojvoda	1 February 1995	53	2	Torino
3	DF	Fidan Aliti (captain)	3 October 1993	52	1	Alanyaspor
2	DF	Florent Hadergjonaj	31 July 1994	32	1	Alanyaspor
4	DF	Lirim Kastrati	2 February 1999	15	0	Widzew Łódź
13	DF	Lumbardh Dellova	1 January 1999	7	0	Ballkani
5	DF	Ilir Krasniqi	2 April 2000	5	0	Llapi
6	DF	Kreshnik Hajrizi	28 May 1999	4	0	Lugano
23	MF	Bernard Berisha	21 October 1991	26	1	Akhmat Grozny
8	MF	Florent Muslija	6 July 1998	23	1	SC Freiburg
19	MF	Florian Loshaj	13 August 1996	22	0	İstanbulspor
10	MF	Zymer Bytyqi	11 September 1996	22	1	Antalyaspor
20	MF	Meriton Korenica	15 December 1996	5	0	Ballkani
17	MF	Qëndrim Zyba	3 February 2001	4	0	Legia Warsaw
22	MF	Altin Zeqiri	18 July 2000	3	1	Çaykur Rizespor
18	MF	Alban Ajdini	9 July 1999	1	0	Stade Lausanne Ouchy
11	FW	Elbasan Rashani	9 May 1993	27	5	Clermont
21	FW	Ermal Krasniqi	7 September 1998	4	0	Rapid Bucureşti
14	FW	Muhamed Hyseni	6 February 2001	2	1	Llapi

Recent call-ups

The following players have been called up for the team within the last 12 months and are still available for selection.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Arijanet Muric	7 November 1998	36	0	+ Burnley	v. Switzerland, 18 November 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Leart Paqarada	10 August 1994	30	1	1. FC Köln	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Betim Fazliji	25 April 1999	22	0	+ St. Gallen	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023
DF	Ismajl Beka	31 October 1999	1	0	+ Luzern	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Amir Rahmani	24 February 1994	55	6	‑ Napoli	v. Romania, 12 September 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Ibrahim Drešević	24 January 1997	25	0	‑ Machida Zelvia	v. Romania, 12 September 2023
DF	Valon Zumberi	24 November 2002	0	0	+ Schaffhausen	v. Switzerland, 9 September 2023 ^{U21}
DF	Andi Hoti	2 March 2003	0	0	1. FC Magdeburg	v. Switzerland, 9 September 2023 ^{U21}
DF	Mirlind Kryeziu	26 January 1997	11	0	+ Zürich	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023
DF	Amar Gérxhaliu	26 April 2002	0	0	‑ Antalyaspor	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023 ^{U21}
MF	Milot Rashica	28 June 1996	53	11	‑ Beşiktaş	v. Switzerland, 18 November 2023 ^{INJ}
MF	Edon Zhegrovë	31 March 1999	34	4	‑ Lille	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023 ^{INJ}
MF	Valon Berisha	7 February 1993	40	4	‑ LASK	v. Romania, 12 September 2023
MF	Arbër Zeneli	25 February 1995	33	9	Unattached	v. Romania, 12 September 2023
MF	Bersant Celina	9 September 1996	37	2	‑ AIK	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023
MF	Hekuran Kryeziu	12 February 1993	29	0	Unattached	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023
MF	Donat Rrudhani	2 May 1999	10	2	+ Lausanne-Sport	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023
MF	Blendi Idrizi	2 May 1998	6	0	1. FC Schalke 04	v. Andorra, 28 March 2023
FW	Vedat Muriqi	24 April 1994	51	26	‑ Mallorca	v. Switzerland, 18 November 2023 ^{INJ}
FW	Albion Rahmani	31 August 2000	2	0	‑ Rapid Bucureşti	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023 ^{INJ}
FW	Shkelqim Vladi	21 September 2000	0	0	+ Lugano	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023 ^{INJ}
FW	Jetmir Topalli	7 February 1998	6	0	‑ Manisa	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023

Notes

- INJ = Not part of the current squad due to injury.
- U21 = Was called up from national U21 squad.

Records

As of 21 November 2023^{[74][75]}

Players in **bold** are still active with Kosovo.

Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Pos.	Career
1	<u>Amir Rahmani</u>	55	6	DF	2014–present
2	<u>Milot Rashica</u>	53	11	MF	2016–present
	<u>Mërgim Vojvoda</u>	53	2	DF	2017–present
4	<u>Fidan Aliti</u>	52	1	DF	2017–present
5	<u>Vedat Muriqi</u>	51	26	FW	2016–present
6	<u>Valon Berisha</u>	40	4	MF	2016–present
7	<u>Bersant Celina</u>	37	2	MF	2014–present
8	Samir Ujkani	36	0	GK	2014–2022
	<u>Arianet Muric</u>	36	0	GK	2018–present
10	<u>Besar Halimi</u>	34	3	MF	2015–present
	<u>Edon Zhegrovë</u>	34	4	FW	2018–present



Milot Rashica is the joint second-most capped player in the history of Kosovo with 53 appearances.

Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	<u>Vedat Muriqi</u>	26	51	0.51	2016–present
2	<u>Milot Rashica</u>	11	53	0.21	2016–present
3	<u>Arbër Zeneli</u>	9	33	0.27	2016–present
4	<u>Amir Rahmani</u>	6	55	0.11	2014–present
5	<u>Elbasan Rashani</u>	5	27	0.19	2015–present
6	<u>Benjamin Kololi</u>	4	24	0.17	2016–present
	<u>Edon Zhegrovë</u>	4	34	0.12	2018–present
	<u>Valon Berisha</u>	4	40	0.1	2016–present
9	Albert Bunjaku	3	6	0.5	2014–2016
	Atdhe Nuhiu	3	19	0.16	2017–2020
	<u>Besar Halimi</u>	3	34	0.09	2015–2021



Vedat Muriqi is the top scorer in the history of Kosovo with 26 goals.

Captains

As of 21 November 2023^[76]



Samir Ujkani is the joint-most capped player as captain in the history of Kosovo, with 30 appearances. Anel Rashkaj is the first captain who led Kosovo in the first international match against Haiti.

Rank	Pos.	Player	As captain		Total	
			Career	Caps	Career	Caps
1	GK	Samir Ujkani	2015–2022	30	2014–2022	36
	DF	Amir Rahmani	2019–present	30	2014–present	55
3	DF	Fidan Aliti	2020–present	3	2017–present	52
	MF	Valon Berisha	2018–present	3	2016–present	40
6	MF	Anel Rashkaj	2014	3	2014–2020	14
	FW	Vedat Muriqi	2022–present	2	2016–present	51
9	MF	Herolind Shala	2019–2020	2	2016–2021	27
	GK	Visar Bekaj	2021–present	2	2015–present	7
9	MF	Hekuran Kryeziu	2019–present	1	2015–present	30
	MF	Florian Loshaj	2021–present	1	2020–present	22
	DF	Lirim R. Kastrati	2022–present	1	2017–present	15
	MF	Enis Alushi	2014	1	2014–2017	10
	MF	Besnik Hasi	2007	1	2007	1
	MF	Genc Hoxha	1993	1	1993	1

Competitive record

FIFA World Cup

On 9 June 2016, the UEFA Emergency Panel decided that Kosovo would join Croatia, Finland, Iceland, Turkey and Ukraine in Group I, and also decided that Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia should not play against Kosovo for security reasons.^{[32][33]} On 5 September 2016, Kosovo made its debut in FIFA World Cup qualification with a 1–1 away draw against Finland, with Kosovo's equalizing goal being scored by newcomer Valon Berisha from a penalty kick in the 60th minute.^[34] On 2 September 2021, Kosovo achieved their first win in the FIFA World Cup qualifications a 1–0 away win against Georgia.^[77]

FIFA World Cup record									Qualification record										
Year	Round	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA			
1930 to 1938		Part of Kingdom of Yugoslavia									Part of Kingdom of Yugoslavia								
1950 to 1990		Part of SFR Yugoslavia									Part of SFR Yugoslavia								
1994 to 2002		Part of Yugoslavia									Part of Serbia and Montenegro								
2006		Part of Serbia and Montenegro									Not a FIFA member								
2010		Not a FIFA member									Part of Serbia and Montenegro								
2014		Did not qualify									Not a FIFA member								
2018		Did not qualify									To be determined								
2022		To be determined									To be determined								
2026		To be determined									To be determined								
2030 ^[1]		To be determined									To be determined								
2034		To be determined									To be determined								
Total	—	0/2	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	2/2	18	1	3	14	8	39			

■ Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks; correct as of 14 November 2021 after the match against Greece.^[79]

UEFA European Championship

On 2 December 2018, in Dublin, it was decided that Kosovo should be part in Group A of the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying, together with Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Montenegro and 2018 World Cup fourth place finisher England.^[40] On 25 March 2019, Kosovo made their debut on UEFA European Championship qualifying with a 1–1 home draw against Bulgaria and the draw goal was scored by Arbëri Zeneli on the 61st minute.^[80] On 11 June 2019, Kosovo won their first ever qualifying match for a major tournament by defeating Bulgaria 3–2.^[81]

UEFA European Championship record										
Year	Round	Pos	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	
1960 to 1992				<i>Part of SFR Yugoslavia</i>						
1996 to 2000				<i>Part of Yugoslavia</i>						
2004				<i>Part of Serbia and Montenegro</i>						
2008				<i>Part of Serbia</i>						
2012				<i>Not a UEFA member</i>						
2016				<i>Not a UEFA member</i>						
2020				<i>Did not qualify</i>						
2024				<i>Did not qualify</i>						
2028				<i>To be determined</i>						
2032				<i>To be determined</i>						
Total	—	0/2	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	

Qualification record						
Pos	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
<u>Part of  SFR Yugoslavia</u>						
<u>Part of  Yugoslavia</u>						
<u>Part of  Serbia and Montenegro</u>						
<u>Part of  Serbia</u>						
<i>Not a UEFA member</i>						
3rd (PO)	9	3	2	4	14	18
5th	10	2	5	3	10	10
<i>To be determined</i>						
2/2	19	5	7	7	24	28

- Draws include knockout matches decided via penalty shoot-out; correct as of 21 November 2023 after match against Belarus.^[82]

UEFA Nations League

On 24 January 2018, in Lausanne, it was decided that Kosovo should be part of League D in Group 3 of the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League, together with Azerbaijan, Faroe Islands and Malta.^{[37][38]} On 7 September 2018, Kosovo made their debut in the UEFA Nations League with a 0–0 away draw against Azerbaijan.^[83] On 10 September 2018, Kosovo achieved their first win in the UEFA Nations League, which was also the team's first-ever competitive win, a 2–0 home win against the Faroe Islands.^[84] Kosovo finished the league unbeaten (with four wins and two draws) and will be promoted to the next tier (C league) for the next edition.^[39]

Kosovo's Nations League record			
First match	 Azerbaijan 0–0 Kosovo  (Baku, Azerbaijan; 7 September 2018)		
Biggest win	 Malta 0–5 Kosovo  (Ta' Qali, Malta; 17 November 2018)		
Biggest defeat	Three matches  Kosovo 1–2 Greece  (Pristina, Kosovo; 6 September 2020)  Slovenia 2–1 Kosovo  (Ljubljana, Slovenia; 15 November 2020)  Northern Ireland 2–1 Kosovo  (Belfast, Northern Ireland; 24 September 2022)		[show]
Best result	39th place in <u>2022–23</u>		
Worst result	44th place in <u>2020–21</u>		

UEFA Nations League record																					
League phase											Finals										
Season	LG	Grp	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK	Year	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	
2018–19	D	3	1st	6	4	2	0	15	2	▲	42nd	Flag of Portugal	2019								
2020–21	C	3	3rd	6	1	2	3	4	6	=	44th	Flag of Italy	2021								
2022–23	C	2	2nd	6	3	0	3	11	8	=	39th	Flag of Spain	2023								
2024–25	C	2	To be determined								Did not qualify										
Total				18	8	4	7	30	16		39th	Flag of Portugal	2025	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	—

- Draws include knockout matches decided via penalty shoot-out; correct as of 27 September 2022 after match against Cyprus.^[85]

Non-FIFA Tournament

Kosovo for first time after the Kosovo War participated in a tournament held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cyprus Turkish Football Association. Kosovo lost against the host with result 1–0 and won against Sàpmi with result 4–1.^[86]

Year	Round	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad
KTFF 50th Anniversary Cup	Runners-up	2nd	2	1	0	1	4	2	Squad
Total	Runners-up	1/1	2	1	0	1	4	2	—

FIFA ranking history

As of 29 October 2023^[3]

Best ranking Worst ranking Best mover Worst mover

Rank	Year	Pld	W	D	L	Win %	Ranking		Move	
							Best	Worst	Best (+)	Worst (-)
101	2023	10	2	5	3	20.00	101	111	30 (November)	21 (September)
107	2022	10	4	3	3	40.00	106	109	2 (February)	1 (October)
111	2021	14	5	2	7	35.71	109	120	6 (September)	4 (October)
117	2020	9	1	2	6	11.11	115	117	0 (February)	1 (October)
115	2019	10	4	3	3	40.00	114	130	6 (June)	1 (November)
131	2018	9	7	2	0	77.78	131	178	24 (August)	1 (January)
177	2017	7	1	0	6	14.29	164	184	9 (November)	6 (April)
165	2016	5	1	1	3	20.00	164	190	22 (September)	190 (July)

Head-to-head record

As of 21 November 2023 after the match against Belarus.^[73]

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	Reference
1993–present									
Albania	6	1	1	4	9	11	-2	16.67	H2H results [6][87][88]
Andorra	2	1	1	0	4	1	+3	50.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=5)
Armenia	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=9)
Azerbaijan	2	1	1	0	4	0	+4	50.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=15)
Bulgaria	2	1	1	0	4	3	+1	50.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=32)
Belarus	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=36)
Burkina Faso	2	2	0	0	7	0	+7	100.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=306)
Croatia	2	0	0	2	0	7	-7	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=47)
Cyprus	2	2	0	0	7	1	+6	100.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=49)
Czech Republic	2	1	0	1	3	3	+0	50.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=95)
Denmark	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=56)
England	2	0	0	2	3	9	-6	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=60)
Equatorial Guinea	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	100.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=300)
Faroe Islands	4	2	2	0	5	1	+4	50.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=129)
Finland	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=70)
Gambia	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=158)
Georgia	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	50.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=85)
Gibraltar	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=90)
Greece	6	0	3	3	3	7	-4	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=175)
Guinea	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=184)
Haiti	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=96)
Iceland	2	0	0	2	1	4	-3	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=103)
Israel	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	50.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=210)
Jordan	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=118)
Latvia	1	1	0	0	4	3	+1	100.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=231)
Lithuania	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	100.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=234)
Madagascar	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=362)
Malta	3	3	0	0	10	2	+8	100.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=136)
Moldova	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	50.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=138)
Monaco	1	1	0	0	7	1	+6	100.00	H2H results (https://www.national-football-teams.com/encounter/teams/219/259/Monaco_vs_Kosovo.html)
Montenegro	2	1	1	0	3	1	+2	50.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=140)
North Macedonia	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=236)
Northern Ireland	2	1	0	1	4	4	+0	50.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=148)
Northern Cyprus	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0.00	H2H results (https://www.national-football-teams.com/encounter/teams/259/239/Kosovo_vs_Northern_Cyprus.html)
Oman	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=151)
Romania	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=165)
San Marino	1	1	0	0	4	1	+3	100.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=173)
Sápmi	1	1	0	0	4	1	+3	100.00	
Saudi Arabia	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	H2H results (https://www.national-football-teams.com/encounter/coach/161/259/58250/Saudi_Arabia_vs_Kosovo_under_Helio_Dos_Anjos.html)
Senegal	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=255)
Slovenia	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_match.php?id=17024)
Spain	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=185)
Sweden	3	0	0	3	0	7	-7	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=191)
Switzerland	3	0	3	0	4	4	+0	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=194)

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	Reference
1993–present									
 Turkey	3	0	0	3	2	12	-10	0.00	H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=203)
 Ukraine	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0.00	H2H results* (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&oppo=204)
46 countries	87	30	20	37	120	121	-1	34.48	All H2H results (https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&data=1)

See also

Men's

- [Under-21](#)
- [Under-19](#)
- [Under-17](#)
- [Under-15](#)
- [Futsal](#)

Women's

- [National team](#)
- [Under-19](#)
- [Under-17](#)

Notes and references

Notes

- a. The alternative name of the [Albania national team](#) that was used during this match.^[4]
- b. Dobrica Barbaroga was the Albanianized full name of Dobrica Barbarović by the media of that time, which seems to be expression of peaceful coexistence with national minorities even in Kosovo at that time.^[5]
- c. Due to the [country's involvement in the Russian invasion of Ukraine](#), Belarus are required to play their home matches at neutral venues and [behind closed doors](#) until further notice.^[65]
- d. The Kosovo v Israel match, originally scheduled to be played on 15 October 2023, was postponed to 12 November 2023 due to the [Israel–Hamas war](#).^{[66][67]}
- e. On 11 November 2020, [Bernard Challandes](#) tested positive with COVID-19 and [Muharrem Sahiti](#) was named as his replacement for the November 2020 matches,^[68] against [Albania](#) (2–1 away defeat),^[69] [Slovenia](#) (2–1 away defeat),^[70] and [Moldova](#) (1–0 home win).^[71]
- f. Additional matches are scheduled to be played in [Argentina](#), [Paraguay](#), and [Uruguay](#) in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the [first world cup](#), however they are not considered to be official hosts of the tournament.^[78]

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External links

- [Official website](http://www.ffk-kosova.com/) (<http://www.ffk-kosova.com/>) (in Albanian and English)
- [Kosovo](https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/KOS) (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/KOS>) at FIFA
- [Kosovo](https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/KOS/) (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/KOS/>) at UEFA
- [Kosovo](http://www.national-football-teams.com/country/259/Kosovo.html) (<http://www.national-football-teams.com/country/259/Kosovo.html>) at National-Football-Teams.com
- [Kosovo](https://www.rsssf.org/tablesk/kosovo-intres.html) (<https://www.rsssf.org/tablesk/kosovo-intres.html>) at RSSSF

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kosovo_national_football_team&oldid=1211300514"



Liga I

The **Liga I** (Romanian pronunciation: [ˈliga inˈtij]; *First League*), also spelled as **Liga 1**, is a Romanian professional league for men's association football clubs. Currently sponsored by betting company Superbet, it is officially known as the **SuperLiga**.^[1] It is the country's top football competition, being contested by 16 clubs which take part in a promotion and relegation system with the **Liga II**. The teams play 30 matches each in the regular season, before entering the championship play-offs or the relegation play-outs according to their position in the regular table.

The Liga I was established in 1909 and commenced play for the 1909–10 campaign, being currently 25th in UEFA's league coefficient ranking list. It is administered by the **Liga Profesionistă de Fotbal**, also known by the acronym LPF. Before the 2006–07 season, the competition was known as *Divizia A*, but the name had to be changed following the finding that someone else had registered that trademark.^[2]

The best performer to date is **FCSB** with 26 titles, followed by longtime cross-town rival **Dinamo Bucureşti** with 18 trophies. Furthermore, of the remaining 21 clubs which came victorious in the competition, eight have won it on at least three occasions—**CFR Cluj** (eight trophies), **Venus Bucureşti** (seven), **Chinezul Timişoara** and **UTA Arad** (six each), **Ripensia Timişoara**, **Universitatea Craiova** and **Petrolul Ploieşti** (four each), and **Rapid Bucureşti** (three).

Competition format

Starting with 2020, the Liga I has been expanded to a 16-team format. After each team plays the others twice for 30 fixtures, they are ranked by total points and then divided according to their position to enter either the championship play-offs or the relegation play-outs. At this stage, the points are halved and criteria such as goal difference, goals scored etc. are erased completely.

The six clubs which enter the championship play-offs play ten games, while the remaining ten in the relegation play-outs will only play each other once, resulting in nine fixtures. The championship play-offs winners are also crowned winners of the season's Liga I. The 9th and 10th positions in the play-out are relegated directly to the **Liga II**, while the 7th- and 8th-placed teams will play a two-legged tie against the 3rd and 4th teams from the second league's table.

Liga I

Organising body	<u>Liga Profesionistă de Fotbal</u> (Liga I)
Founded	1909
Country	<u>Romania</u>
Confederation	<u>UEFA</u>
Number of teams	16 (from 2020–21)
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	<u>Liga II</u>
Domestic cup(s)	<u>Cupa României</u> <u>Supercupa României</u>
International cup(s)	<u>UEFA Champions League</u> <u>UEFA Europa League</u> <u>UEFA Europa Conference League</u>
Current champions	<u>Farul Constanța</u> (1st title) (2022–23)
Most championships	<u>FCSB</u> (26 titles) ^[note 1]
Most appearances	<u>Ionel Dănciulescu</u> (515)
Top goalscorer	<u>Dudu Georgescu</u> (252 goals)
TV partners	<u>Digi Sport</u> <u>Prima Sport</u> <u>Orange Sport</u>
Website	<u>lpf.ro</u> (http://lpf.ro)

Current: 2023–24 Liga I

Also, the 1st and 2nd teams from the play-out phase will play a one-legged game between each other and the winner will face the last team that completed the play-off phase in a European spot. The winner of that one-legged match will play next season in the UEFA Europa Conference League.^[3]

History

Early championships (1909–1921)

The first official national football tournament was organized in 1909 by the recently founded Romanian Football Federation, then called the *Association of Athletic Societies in Romania* (Romanian: *Asociația Societăților Atletice din România*). The final matches of the first *Romanian Football Championship* were held between December 1909 and January 1910 in Bucharest.^{[4][5]} The three pioneer clubs were *Olympia* and *Colentina* from Bucharest and *United* from Ploiești. Each team played a fixture against the other two clubs, totaling a number of three matches disputed, with *Olympia București* being crowned as champions of the first Romanian Football Championship.^{[4][6]} In the following years, the tournament was structured into regional groups with the winners of each group participating in a playoff with the eventual winners being declared champions. From 1909 until 1921, the championship was organized as a cup with the winner being crowned as *Champions of Romania*,^{[4][6]} except for between 1916 and 1919, when the competition was suspended due to *World War I*.^[7] The champions of this period were *Olympia* and *Colentina*, each with two titles, and *United*, *Prahova*, *Venus*, *Unirea Tricolor București* and *Româno-Americana*, with one title each.^{[4][6]}



Prima echipă de fotbal românescă: Olympia F. C (1909). De la stânga spre dreapta. În rândul de sus: Neagu Boerescu (civil), Cominovici, Rusu, N. Apostolescu, Gr. Georgescu, Goga Dragomirulescu, Lazar Breuer (civil), în mijloc: H. Roman, Th. Darila, Bărbulescu. În față: Mario Gebauer, Neltner și Vlăreț.

Olympia București, the 1909 champions.

organized as a cup with the winner being crowned as *Champions of Romania*,^{[4][6]} except for between 1916 and 1919, when the competition was suspended due to *World War I*.^[7] The champions of this period were *Olympia* and *Colentina*, each with two titles, and *United*, *Prahova*, *Venus*, *Unirea Tricolor București* and *Româno-Americana*, with one title each.^{[4][6]}

Divizia A (1921–2006)

The 1921–22 season marked the first time when a league consisting of seven teams was formed. The championship, which had been confined to several regional leagues, became a national competition in 1921 with the foundation of *Divizia A* and *Divizia B*. The inaugural *Divizia A* season was won by *Chinezul Timișoara*.^[8] Before the 1931–32 season, the competition was dominated by *Chinezul* and *Venus București*, with *Chinezul* winning six championships and *Venus* two championships during the eleven seasons.^{[4][8]} The 1932–33 season saw the rise of another successful team, *Ripensia Timișoara*, which alongside rivals *Venus*, won eight of the following nine championships, before the competition was suspended in 1940 due to *World War II*.^{[4][8]}

The post-war years were dominated by *UTA Arad*, *CCA București* and *Petrolul Ploiești*. The 1960s saw the gradual emergence of *Dinamo București*, with the help from strikers *Gheorghe Ene* and *Florean Dumitracă*—both of whom became some of *Divizia A*'s top all-time scorers. The 1970s saw the rise of *Dudu Georgescu*, from *Dinamo București*, who was *Divizia A*'s leading scorer for four seasons between 1974 and 1978. He scored an impressive 156 goals and won the *European Golden Shoe* award for the top scorer in Europe twice, in 1975 and 1977.^{[9][10]} *Dinamo București* also had two more European Golden Shoe winners in the 1986–87 season in the name of *Rodion Cămătaru* and in the 1988–89 season in the name of *Dorin Mateuț*, with the latter being the last Romanian winner of the trophy.^[9] From the 1959–60 season all the way to the 1999–2000



UTA Arad during 1946–1947.

season all the league championships were won by only seven teams: Steaua (16 titles), Dinamo (14 titles), Universitatea Craiova (4 titles), Rapid Bucureşti, FC Argeş and UTA Arad (2 titles each), and Petrolul Ploieşti (one title).^[4]

Dinamo Bucureşti was the first Romanian team to qualify into the European Champions Cup in the 1956–57 season of the competition and Universitatea Craiova was the last team from Romania to qualify in the 1991–92 season, before the competition changed its name to the UEFA Champions League. Romanian teams qualified to 35 of the 37 seasons of the European Champions Cup, with Dinamo Bucureşti having thirteen appearances, Steaua Bucureşti having ten appearances, Universitatea Craiova having four appearances, Petrolul having three appearances, UTA Arad and FC Argeş having two appearances and Rapid Bucureşti having one appearance. The most important results for a Romanian team in this competition were achieved by Steaua Bucureşti which won the trophy in the 1985–86 season, and reached the semi-finals in the 1987–88 season and another final in the 1988–89 season.^[5] Other important achievements include Universitatea Craiova which reached the quarter-finals in the 1981–82 season and Dinamo Bucureşti which reached the semi-finals in the 1983–84 season.^{[11][12]} However, after the change of the format in 1992–93 to the current Champions League format, Romanian champions have achieved limited successes, with Steaua only reaching the group stage three times before the 21st century.

The beginning of the 2000s were dominated by teams from the capital, with Steaua, Dinamo and Rapid winning all the league titles between 2000 and 2007.^[4]

Liga I (2006–present)

At the beginning of the 2006–07 season the competition was forced to change its name from Divizia A to **Liga I** due to a trademark dispute over the name.^[2] The change was made on 15 May 2006, and the Romanian Football Federation decided to also rename the lower leagues; thus Divizia B became **Liga II**, Divizia C became **Liga III**, and so on.^[2] The 2006–07 season marked the 16th straight time a team from Bucharest won the championship, with Dinamo winning the title. Both 2007–08 and 2008–09 saw new title winners as CFR Cluj and Unirea Urziceni were crowned champions for the first time.^[4] CFR Cluj won their second championship in 2009–10, while the 2010–11 saw another new winner, Oțelul Galați. Oțelul is the first and only club from the region of Moldavia to win a national title so far.

CFR Cluj, the 2007–08 winner became the first Romanian team to qualify directly into the 2008–09 group stage of the UEFA Champions League, and the first team other than Steaua to qualify to this stage since the beginning of the new Champions League format in 1992–93.^[13] The 2009–10 champions as well as 2010–11 ones were guaranteed a direct qualification spot into the group stage as well.^[14] The best results in the group stage was obtained by CFR Cluj in the 2012–13 UEFA Champions League with ten points and third place in a group with Manchester United, Braga, and Galatasaray.

The 2010s also brought new league winners in Liga I, with Astra Giurgiu and Viitorul Constanţa clinching the titles in 2015–16 and 2016–17 respectively.^[15] Since 2017 onwards, CFR Cluj won five consecutive Liga I titles, amassing a total number of eight national titles as of 2022. CFR Cluj obtained the best result of a Romanian team in the group stage in the 2019–2020 season of Europa League - 12 points. Also, CFR Cluj became the first Romanian team to qualify to UEFA Conference League group stage, when they obtained 4 points in the inaugural season (i.e. 2021–2022).^[16]



CFR Cluj (pictured at Stamford Bridge in a 2008–09 UEFA Champions League match against Chelsea) won eight championships under the new name of Liga I.

In June 2022, Liga I officially changed its name into "SuperLiga" for sponsorship reasons, due to Romanian sporting bets agency Superbet sponsoring the competition.

Clubs

Wins by club

Bold indicates clubs currently playing in 2023–24 Liga I. Teams in *italics* no longer exist.

Club	Wins	Winning years
FCSB ★ ★	26	1951, 1952, 1953, 1956, 1959–60, 1960–61, 1967–68, 1975–76, 1977–78, 1984–85, 1985–86, 1986–87, 1987–88, 1988–89, 1992–93, 1993–94, 1994–95, 1995–96, 1996–97, 1997–98, 2004–05, 2005–06, 2012–13, 2013–14, 2014–15
Dinamo Bucureşti ★	18	1955, 1961–62, 1962–63, 1963–64, 1964–65, 1970–71, 1972–73, 1974–75, 1976–77, 1981–82, 1982–83, 1983–84, 1989–90, 1991–92, 1999–2000, 2001–02, 2003–04, 2006–07
CFR Cluj	8	<u>2007–08, 2009–10, 2011–12, 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22</u>
Venus Bucureşti	7	1919–20, 1928–29, 1931–32, 1933–34, 1936–37, 1938–39, 1939–40
UTA Arad	6	1946–47, 1947–48, 1950, 1954, 1968–69, 1969–70
<i>Chinezul Timișoara</i>	6	1921–22, 1922–23, 1923–24, 1924–25, 1925–26, 1926–27
Universitatea Craiova	4	1973–74, 1979–80, 1980–81, 1990–91
Petrolul Ploieşti	4	1929–30, 1957–58, 1958–59, 1965–66
Ripensia Timișoara	4	1932–33, 1934–35, 1935–36, 1937–38
Rapid Bucureşti	3	1966–67, 1998–99, 2002–03
Argeş Piteşti	2	1971–72, 1978–79
<i>Unirea Tricolor Bucureşti</i>	2	1920–21, ^[17] 1940–41
Prahova Ploieşti	2	1911–12, 1915–16
<i>Colentina Bucureşti</i>	2	1912–13, 1913–14
<i>Olympia Bucureşti</i>	2	1909–10, 1910–11
Farul Constanţa	1	2022–23
<i>Viitorul Constanţa</i>	1	2016–17
<i>Astra Giurgiu</i>	1	2015–16
Otelul Galaţi	1	2010–11
<i>Unirea Urziceni</i>	1	2008–09
<i>Club Athletic Oradea</i>	1	1948–49
<i>CSM Reşiţa</i>	1	1930–31
<i>Colțea Brașov</i>	1	1927–28
<i>Româno-Americană Bucureşti</i>	1	1914–15

2023–24 season

The following 16 clubs are competing in the Liga I during the 2023–24 season.

Club	Position in 2022–23	First season in Liga I	Number of seasons Liga I	First season of current spell in Liga I	Top division titles	Last Liga I title
Botoșani	12th	2013–14	11	2013–14	0	—
CFR Cluj	3rd	1947–48	29	2004–05	8	2021–22
Dinamo București	4th in Liga II	1948–49	74	2023–24	18	2006–07
Hermannstadt	11th	2018–19	5	2022–23	0	—
Oțelul Galați	3rd in Liga II	1986–87	28	2023–24	1	2010–11
Politehnica Iași	1st in Liga II	2012–13	9	2023–24	0	—
Sepsi OSK	6th	2017–18	7	2017–18	0	—
FCSB	2nd	1947–48	75	1947–48	26	2014–15
Universitatea Craiova	4th	1964–65	38	2014–15	3	1980–81
UTA Arad	12th	1946–47	42	2020–21	6	1969–70
Farul Constanța	1st	2012–13	12	2012–13	2	2022–23
Voluntari	9th	2015–16	9	2015–16	0	—
Petrolul Ploiești	8th	1933–34	60	2022–23	4	1965–66
Universitatea Cluj	10th	1932–33	58	2022–23	0	—
FC U Craiova	7th	1991–92	22	2021–22	1	1990–91
Rapid București	5th	1932–33	69	2021–22	3	2002–03

Sponsorship

On 19 December 1998, SABMiller bought the naming rights for four and a half seasons, becoming the first sponsor in the history of the competition. SABMiller changed the name of the competition to "Divizia A Ursus", to promote their Ursus beer.^[18]

Starting with the 2004–05 season, European Drinks & Foods, a Romanian \$1.3 billion USD revenue company, took over as main sponsor and changed the league's name to "Divizia A Bürger", to promote their Bürger beer.^[19]

On 11 May 2008, Realitatea Media bought the naming rights and changed the name of the competition to "Liga I Realitatea", to promote their Realitatea TV station.^[20]

In late 2008, European Drinks & Foods again bought the rights and the league was renamed as the "Liga I Frutti Fresh", after one of their soft drinks brand.^[21]

For the 2009–10 season, the online betting firm Gamebookers purchased the league naming rights and renamed the division "Liga 1 Gamebookers.com".^[22]

In July 2010, Bergenbier, a StarBev Group company, bought the naming rights for four seasons and changed the name of the competition to "Liga I Bergenbier", to promote their Bergenbier beer.^[23]

From the 2015–16 season, the French telecommunications corporation Orange became the main sponsor of the Romanian first league, after purchasing the league naming rights, for two years, and renamed the league in **Liga 1 Orange**.^[24]

From the 2017–18 season, the international online gaming operator Betano became the main sponsor of the Romanian first league, after purchasing the league naming rights, for two years, and renamed the league in 'Liga 1 Betano'.

For the 2019–20 season, the national online gaming operator Casa Pariurilor became the main sponsor of the Romanian first league, after purchasing the league naming rights, and renamed the league in 'Casa Liga 1'.

For the 2022-23 season the operator of games in Romania Superbet is the sponsor of the leagues and the name changes to Superliga Romaniei

Media coverage

In 2004, Telesport, a small TV network, bought the broadcasting rights for \$28 million. The four seasons contract ended in the summer of 2008. Telesport sold some of the broadcasting rights for matches to other Romanian networks, including, TVR1, Antena 1, Național TV, and Kanal D.

On 31 March 2008, Antena 1 with RCS & RDS outbid Realitatea Media and Kanal D in the broadcasting rights auction with a bid of €102 million for a three seasons contract.^[25]

In 2011, the broadcasting rights were bought by RCS & RDS for their channels Digi Sport 1, Digi Sport 2 and Digi Sport 3. These channels aired broadcasting of seven of the nine matches from each stage of the championship. The other two matches were broadcast by Antena 1 (an Intact Media Group channel) and Dolce Sport (a channel owned by Telekom Romania).

In March 2014, LPF announced that the rights were sold for a five-year period to a company from the European Union, without specifying the company's name.^[26] A month later, Look TV and Look Plus were revealed as the TV stations that would broadcast the games from Liga I and Cupa Ligii between 2014 and 2019.^[27]

EA Sports

On 27 August 2019, Liga I signed a contract with EA Sports for the rights of the league for *FIFA 20*. It was the first time that the Liga I had been featured in a sports video game.^[28] Liga I has been featured in every FIFA installment since then.

Records

Players

Top Ten Players With Most Appearances

As of 2 January 2024^{[29][30][31]}

	Player	Period	Club	Games
1	Ionel Dănciulescu	1993–14	Electroputere Craiova, Dinamo, Steaua	515
2	Costică Ștefănescu	1968–88	Steaua, Craiova, Brașov	490
3	Floreia Ispir	1969–88	ASA Târgu Mureș	485
4	László Böloni	1971–88	ASA Târgu Mureș, Steaua	484
5	Costel Câmpeanu	1987–05	Bacău, Dinamo, Bistrița, Național, Ceahlăul	470
6	Petre Marin	1993–12	Sportul, Național, Rapid, Steaua, Urziceni, Chiajna	468
7	Paul Cazan	1972–88	Sportul	465
8	Cornel Dinu	1966–83	Dinamo	454
9	Constantin Stancu	1976–90	Argeș	447
10	Ion Dumitru	1967–88	Rapid, Steaua, Timișoara, Craiova	442

Top Ten Highest Goalscorers

As of 2 January 2024^{[29][32]}

	Player	Period	Club	Goals
1	Dudu Georgescu	1970–87	Progresul, Reșița, Dinamo, Bacău, Buzău, Moreni	252 (Ø 0,68)
2	Ionel Dănciulescu	1993–14	Electroputere Craiova, Dinamo, FCSB	214 (Ø 0,41)
3	Rodion Cămătaru	1974–89	Craiova, Dinamo	198 (Ø 0,52)
4	Marin Radu	1974–89	Argeș, Olt Scornicești, Steaua, Sibiu	190 (Ø 0,49)
5	Floreia Dumitache	1966–83	Dinamo, Jiul, Corvinul	170 (Ø 0,47)
5	Ion Oblemenco	1963–77	Rapid, Craiova	170 (Ø 0,62)
7	Mircea Sandu	1970–87	Național, Sportul	167 (Ø 0,41)
8	Victor Pițurcă	1975–89	Olt Scornicești, FCSB	166 (Ø 0,55)
9	Mihai Adam	1962–76	U Cluj, Vagonul Arad, CFR	160 (Ø 0,45)
10	Titus Ozon	1947–64	Unirea Tricolor, Dinamo, Brașov, Național, Rapid	157 (Ø 0,58)

Top Ten Foreign Players With Most Appearances

As of 2 January 2024 [33][34][35]

Player	Period	Club	Games
1  <u>Mário Camora</u>	2011–	<u>CFR</u>	382
2  <u>Takayuki Seto</u>	2009–	<u>Astra</u> , <u>Petrolul</u>	327
3  <u>Júnior Moraes</u>	2010–23	<u>Astra</u> , <u>FCSB</u> , <u>Rapid</u>	317
4  <u>Ousmane Viera</u>	2008–21	<u>CFR Cluj</u> , <u>International</u> , <u>Pandurii</u> , <u>Sepsi OSK</u> , <u>Hermannstadt</u>	235
5  <u>Eric de Oliveira</u>	2008–21	<u>Gaz Metan</u> , <u>Pandurii</u> , <u>Viitorul Constanța</u> , <u>Voluntari</u>	222
6  <u>Radoslav Dimitrov</u>	2015–	<u>Botoșani</u> , <u>Universitatea Craiova</u> , <u>Sepsi OSK</u> , <u>U Cluj</u>	213
7  <u>Filipe Teixeira</u>	2010–19	<u>Brasov</u> , <u>Rapid</u> , <u>Petrolul Ploiești</u> , <u>Astra</u> , <u>FCSB</u>	209
8  <u>Tha'er Bawab</u>	2010–19	<u>Gloria Bistrița</u> , <u>Gaz Metan</u> , <u>U Craiova</u> , <u>FCSB</u> , <u>Dinamo</u> , <u>Chiajna</u>	207
9  <u>Adnan Aganović</u>	2008–	<u>Brașov</u> , <u>Viitorul Constanța</u> , <u>FCSB</u> , <u>Sepsi OSK</u>	205
10  <u>Ricardo Cadú</u>	2006–14	<u>CFR</u>	202

Player obtained Romanian citizenship and represented Romania internationally

Player obtained Romanian citizenship, but did not represent Romania internationally

Top Ten Highest Foreign Players Goalscorers

As of 2 January 2024^{[36][37]}

Player	Period	Club	Goals
1 Eric de Oliveira	2008–21	Gaz Metan, Pandurii, Viitorul, Voluntari	66 (Ø 0,29)
2 Wesley	2008–15	Vaslui, Politehnica Iași	64 (Ø 0,52)
3 Harlem Gnohéré	2015–20	Dinamo, FCSB	58 (Ø 0,42)
4 Bojan Golubović	2011–18	Ceahlăul, Politehnica Iași, FCSB, Gaz Metan, FC Botoșani	55 (Ø 0,27)
5 Pantelis Kapetanos	2008–14	FCSB, CFR	48 (Ø 0,38)
6 Kehinde Fatai	2007–	Farul Constanța, Astra Giurgiu, Argeș Pitești, Oțelul Galați	46 (Ø 0,25)
7 Adam Nemec	2016–	Dinamo București, Voluntari	43 (Ø 0,24)
8 Tha'er Bawab	2010–19	Gloria Bistrița, Gaz Metan, U Craiova, FCSB, Dinamo, Chiajna	42 (Ø 0,20)
9 Marko Dugandžić	2020–23	Botoșani, CFR Cluj, Rapid	39 (Ø 0,51)
10 Mike Temwanjera	2006–14	Vaslui	39 (Ø 0,22)

Player obtained Romanian citizenship, but did not represent Romania internationally

Top Ten Youngest Debutants

As of 2 June 2023. The teams written in bold are the ones the players debuted at^{[38][39][40][41][42]}

Player	Age	Match	Season	Date
1 Nicolae Dobrin	14 years, 10 months and 5 days	Știința Cluj - Dinamo Pitești 5–1	1961–62	1 July 1962
2 Alexandru Stoian	14 years, 10 months and 13 days	FC U Craiova - Farul Constanța 1–2	2022–23	28 October 2022
3 Alexandru Bota	14 years, 11 months and 13 days	CFR Cluj - Universitatea Cluj 4–0	2022–23	13 March 2023
4 Rareș Lazăr	15 years, one month and 19 days	Ceahlăul Piatra Neamț - FC Vaslui 2–0	2013–14	17 May 2014
5 Răzvan Popa	15 years, 2 months and 13 days	Dinamo - Sportul Studențesc 1–3	2011–12	17 March 2012
6 Codrin Epure	15 years, 2 months and 21 days	FC Vaslui - Astra 1–4	2013–14	19 May 2014
7 Vasile Chitaru	15 years, 4 months and 14 days	SC Bacău - Jiul Petroșani 3–0	1973–74	19 May 1974
8 Stefan Harsanyi	15 years, 4 months and 22 days	Bihor Oradea - Sportul Studențesc 2–0	1982–83	2 July 1983
9 Dorel Zamfir	15 years, 5 months and 16 days	FC Constanța - Steaua București 0–1	1976–77	16 March 1977
10 Enes Sali	15 years, 5 months and 17 days	Farul Constanța - Sepsi OSK 1–0	2021–22	9 August 2021

Managers

Top Ten Managers With Most Appearances

As of 2 January 2024^[43]

Manager		Period	Matches	Victories	Draws	Losses	Victory percentage
1	Florin Halagian	1972–11	878	432	176	270	59%
2	Ilie Oană	1952–79	572	232	124	216	51%
3	Nicolae Dumitru	1962–93	558	250	120	188	55%
4	Ion V. Ionescu	1967–94	496	194	89	213	48%
5	Viorel Hizo	1990–13	488	221	85	182	53%
6	Ioan Andone	1994–17	456	207	80	169	54%
7	Florin Marin	1993–17	456	166	103	187	47%
8	Valentin Stănescu	1962–84	455	206	101	148	56%
9	Sorin Cârțu	1989–13	454	175	114	165	51%
10	Angelo Niculescu	1953–82	445	196	101	148	55%

Referees

Top Ten Referees With Most Appearances

As of 2 January 2024^{[44][45][46]}

Referee		Period	Matches
1	Alexandru Tudor	1999–18	381
2	Sebastian Colțescu	2003–	378
3	Cristian Balaj	2000–16	341
4	István Kovács	2008–	337
5	Ovidiu Hațegan	2006–	302
6	Radu Petrescu	2007–	270
7	Sorin Corpodean	1997–09	268
8	Nicolae Rainea	1964–84	267
9	Marius Avram	2007–20	246
10	Adrian Porumboiu	1984–97	239

International competitions

Performance in international competitions

From the quarter-finals onwards.

Club	Results
FCSB 2 cups and 2 finals	<p><u>European Cup/UEFA Champions League (1) + (1):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - winners in 1986 - <i>finalists in 1989</i> - semi-finalists in 1988 <p><u>UEFA Cup Winners' Cup</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quarter-finalists in 1972 and 1993 <p><u>UEFA Super Cup (1):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - winners in 1986 <p><u>Intercontinental Cup (1):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>finalists in 1986</i>
Dinamo Bucureşti	<p><u>European Cup/UEFA Champions League:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - semi-finalists in 1984 <p><u>UEFA Cup Winners' Cup:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - semi-finalists in 1990 - quarter-finalists in 1989
Universitatea Craiova	<p><u>European Cup/UEFA Champions League:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quarter-finalists in 1982 <p><u>UEFA Cup/UEFA Europa League:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - semi-finalists in 1983
Rapid Bucureşti <i>1 final</i>	<p><u>UEFA Cup Winners' Cup:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quarter-finalists in 1973 <p><u>UEFA Cup/UEFA Europa League:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quarter-finalists in 2006 <p><u>Mitropa Cup: (1)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>finalists in 1940</i>
Petrolul Ploieşti	<p><u>Inter-Cities Fairs Cup</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quarter-finalists in 1963
FCM Bacău	<p><u>Inter-Cities Fairs Cup</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quarter-finalists in 1970
UTA Arad	<p><u>UEFA Cup/UEFA Europa League:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quarter-finalists in 1972
Victoria Bucureşti	<p><u>UEFA Cup/UEFA Europa League:</u></p>

	- quarter-finalists in 1989
<u>Vaslui</u> 1 cup	<u>UEFA Intertoto Cup (1):</u> - winners in 2008
<u>Oțelul Galați</u> 1 cup	<u>UEFA Intertoto Cup (1):</u> - winners in 2007
<u>CFR Cluj</u> 1 final	<u>UEFA Intertoto Cup (1):</u> - finalists in 2005
<u>Farul Constanța</u> 1 final	<u>UEFA Intertoto Cup (1):</u> - finalists in 2006
<u>Gloria Bistrița</u> 1 final	<u>UEFA Intertoto Cup (1):</u> - finalists in 2007

UEFA ranking

UEFA League Ranking for the period of 2018–2023:^[47]

- 24. (28)  [Ekstraklasa](#)
- 25. (27)  [Nemzeti Bajnokság I](#)
- 26. (25)  [Liga I](#)
- 27. (24)  [First Professional Football League](#)
- 28. (30)  [Slovak Super Liga](#)

See also

- [Football records and statistics in Romania](#)
- [List of foreign Liga I players](#)
- [List of Romanian expatriate footballers](#)
- [List of attendance figures at domestic professional sports leagues](#)
- [Liga II](#)
- [Liga III](#)
- [Liga IV](#)
- [Liga I Feminin](#)

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Notes

1. [UEFA](#) and [LPF](#) attribute the league titles won up to 2003 by the historic Steaua București to [FCSB](#). The [CSA Steaua București](#) sports club, which refounded their [football team](#) in 2017, also asserts the ownership of the 21 trophies from that period and won them in a domestic court case—this would make the latter team the most successful one in Romania and leave FCSB with only five titles.

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External links

- [Liga Profesionistă de Fotbal official website \(<http://lpf.ro>\)](http://lpf.ro)
 - [Results and statistics from 1932 onwards at labtof.ro \(<http://www.labtof.ro>\)](http://www.labtof.ro)
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Macedonian First Football League

The **Macedonian First Football League** (**Македонија**: Прва македонска фудбалска лига, **Albanian**: *Liga e Parë e Futbollit të Maqedonisë*), also called **Macedonian First League**, **1. MFL**, and **Prva Liga**, is the highest professional football competition in Macedonia. It is a professional league competition for football clubs located at the top of the Macedonian football league system and has been operating since the 1992–93 season. It is organized by the Football Federation of North Macedonia.

Format

Throughout the 1. MFL history, the number of clubs competing at the top level has been gradually decreased until the 2020–21 season. Below is a complete record of how many teams played in each season throughout the league's history:

- 18 clubs = **1992–1993**
- 16 clubs = **1993–1995**
- 15 clubs = **1995–1996**
- 14 clubs = **1996–2001**
- 12 clubs = **2001–2014**
- 10 clubs = **2014–2020**
- 12 clubs = **2020–present**

The league has 12 teams, and each team plays the other sides three times, for a total of 33 matches each.^[2]

Due to the UEFA ranking coefficients ranking (shown below), the winners of the league enter the 1st qualifying round of the **Champions League**, while the second and third placed teams enter the 1st qualifying round of the **UEFA Europa Conference League** alongside the winner of the **Macedonian Football Cup**. At the end of the season, the bottom 2 teams are relegated to the **Macedonian Second League** while the eighth placed team enter a play-off with the winner of the tie between second placed teams of the two groups in the **Macedonian Second League**.

UEFA rankings

UEFA country ranking for league participation in 2021–22 European football season (Previous year rank in italics)^{[3][4]}

- 52  (52) Besta-deild karla
- 53  Macedonian First League

Macedonian First Football League Прва македонска фудбалска лига



Founded	1992
First season	1992–93
Country	 North Macedonia
Confederation	UEFA
Number of teams	12
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	2. MFL
Domestic cup(s)	Macedonian Football Cup
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa Conference League
Current champions	Struga (1st title) (2022–23)
Most championships	Vardar (11 titles)
Top goalscorer	Besart Ibraimi (173 goals)
TV partners	MRT Arena Sport ^[1] Sport Klub
Website	ffm.mk (http://ffm.mk/)

Current: 2023–24

- 54 ↓ (53)  Montenegrin First League
- 55 ↓ (55)  Campionato Sammarinese di Calcio



Macedonian
First League's
former logo

Current teams (2023–24)

Club ^[5]	Position in 2022–23 ^[6]
Bregalnica Štip	5th
Brera Strumica	9th
Gostivar	2nd in 2. MFL
Makedonija G.P.	7th
Rabotnički	8th
Sileks	4th
Shkëndija	3rd
Shkupi	2nd
Struga	1st
Tikvesh	6th
Vardar	3rd in 2. MFL
Voska Sport	1st in 2. MFL



History

In 1923, the first national Yugoslav Football Championship was held, and regional championships were also played. The clubs of the Vardar Banovina, territorially similar to present day Macedonia, played within the Belgrade Football Subassociation league until 1927,^[7] when a separate Skopje Football Subassociation league was formed.^[8] The champions of the subassociation leagues were granted a place in the qualifiers to the Yugoslav Championship. Gragjanski Skopje became the only Macedonian club to participate in the national league, first in 1935–36 when the championship was played in a cup format,^[9] and then in 1938–39, when it was played in a normal league system with Gragjanski finishing 10th out of 12 teams.^[10] In 1939, the Yugoslav league system was changed, with the creation of separate Serbian and Croato-Slovenian leagues which served as qualifying leagues for the final phase of the Yugoslav Championship.^[11] The clubs from the Skopje Subassociation aimed to qualify to the Serbian League, however only Gragjanski managed to participate, in 1939–40 (5th place)^[12] and 1940–41 (8th place).^[13]

List of seasons

Most titles

The titles won by clubs since independence are shown in the following table:^{[14][15]}

Club	Titles	Runners-up	Winning years
Vardar Skopje	11	2	1992–93, 1993–94, 1994–95, 2001–02, 2002–03, 2011–12, 2012–13, 2014–15, 2015–16, 2016–17, 2019–20
Shkupi (<i>FK Sloga Jugomagnat</i> 1927–2009)	4	4	1998–99, 1999–2000, 2000–01, 2021–22
Rabotnički Skopje	4	3	2004–05, 2005–06, 2007–08, 2013–14
Shkendija	4	2	2010–11, 2017–18, 2018–19, 2020–21
Sileks Kratovo	3	5	1995–96, 1996–97, 1997–98
Pobeda Prilep	2	2	2003–04, 2006–07
Makedonija Gjorce Petrov	1	1	2008–09
Renova Djepchishte	1	–	2009–10
Struga	1	–	2022–23
<i>Metalurg Skopje</i>	–	3	–
<i>Milano Kumanovo</i>	–	2	–
Belasica Strumica	–	2	–
Horizont Turnovo	–	1	–



Macedonian First League Trophy

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External links

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 - Football Federation of Macedonia (<http://ffm.mk>) (in Macedonian)
 - Macedonian First Football League (<https://www.instagram.com/mfl.mk/>) on Instagram
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Montenegrin First League

The **First League of Montenegro** (*Montenegrin: Prva crnogorska fudbalska liga — Prva CFL — 1. CFL*; pronounced [pr̩va: t̩srno̩ gorska: fûdba:lska: li̩:ga]) is the top professional football league in Montenegro. Founded in 2006, competition is headed by the Football Association of Montenegro. 10 teams participate in this league. The winner of the Montenegrin First League starts the qualifications for the UEFA Champions League from the second round. The second and third placed teams and Montenegrin Cup winner play in the qualifying rounds of the UEFA Conference League. The last placed team is directly relegated to the Montenegrin Second League, and the two next lowest ranked teams play in Montenegrin First League playoffs.

History

Before independence

As a part of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Montenegrin clubs played in the Montenegrin Football Championship which was formed in 1922.^{[1][2][3]} Despite the presence of the nationwide Yugoslav Football Championship, Montenegrin teams did not partake in it. Montenegrin Football Championship played until the beginning of World War II.

The most successful teams at that period were SK Crnogorac Cetinje (10 titles), GSK Balšić Podgorica (7), FK Lovćen Cetinje (5), FK Budućnost Podgorica (4) and FK Arsenal Tivat (1). While SK Crnogorac and GSK Balšić played all the seasons, work of FK Budućnost and FK Lovćen was forbidden in 1935, as they were recognized as workers' clubs by Kingdom of Yugoslavia government and forbidden.

After World War II and the formation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the top league became the Yugoslav First League. Montenegrin teams were allowed to partake in the nationwide league structure, with a Montenegrin Republic League acting as a lower-tier division with promotion and relegation between the Yugoslav league system. The most prominent clubs from Montenegro in this period were FK Budućnost and FK Sutjeska.

FK Budućnost was among the founders of Yugoslav First League and a member of its inaugural season. During the most of SFRY era, FK Budućnost played in First League, while another team from Montenegro in top-tier was FK Sutjeska. Other teams played in Yugoslav Second League or lower ranks. Among them, most successful was FK Lovćen, who played twice in First League qualifiers, but without success at the end of campaigns.

Below is the list of performances of Montenegrin teams in Yugoslav First League from 1946 to 1992, with final placements on every single season.

Montenegrin First League



meridianbet
1.CFL

Official logo

Founded	2006
Country	 Montenegro
Confederation	UEFA
Number of teams	10
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	Montenegrin Second League
Domestic cup(s)	Montenegrin Cup
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa Conference League
Current champions	Budućnost (6th title) (2022–23)
Most championships	Budućnost (6 titles)
Most appearances	Ivan Novović (440)
Top goalscorer	Žarko Korać (112 goals)
TV partners	RTCG, Arena Sport
Website	fscg.me/takmicanja/meridianbet-1-cfl/ (https://fscg.me/takmicanja/meridianbet-1-cfl/)

Current: 2023–24 Montenegrin First League

Club	47	49	50	56	57	58	59	60	63	65	67	72	73	76	77
Budućnost	10	6	10	11	9	10	9	11	14	-	-	-	-	15	9
Sutjeska	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15	16	18	-	-

Club	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92
Budućnost	11	6	11	6	8	14	14	15	14	7	9	14	10	17	12
Sutjeska	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	10	10	17	-	-	-	13

In 1992 when SFR Yugoslavia dissolved the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was formed. Serbian and Montenegrin teams played in its national league, although it was still named Yugoslav First League. In 2003, FR Yugoslavia became Serbia and Montenegro and the football league was renamed. Montenegrin clubs played in the First League with Serbian clubs from 1992 to 2006. In that period, representatives of Montenegro in the Yugoslav/Serbia and Montenegro First League were FK Budućnost, FK Sutjeska, FK Rudar, FK Mogren, FK Zeta, FK Kom and FK Jedinstvo.

Below is the list of performances of Montenegrin teams in FR Yugoslavia First League from 1992 to 2006, with final placements on every single season.

Club	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>
<u>Budućnost</u>	10	6	11	14	10	8	14	12	15	-	-	-	6	14
<u>Sutjeska</u>	16	18	19	-	20	21	-	5	7	11	4	8	15	-
<u>Mogren</u>	13	20	-	-	-	-	15	19	-	-	16	-	-	-
<u>Rudar</u>	-	13	20	-	-	20	-	-	-	7	17	-	-	-
<u>Zeta</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	5	8	11	3	5
<u>Kom</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-
<u>Jedinstvo</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16

For 2004–05, restructuring of the Serbo-Montenegrin football league system saw the dissolution of the national second league, instead being replaced by two regional divisions for both republics of the union with promotion to the still-united First League.

Montenegrin teams which played in European competitions during Yugoslav era were FK Budućnost, FK Sutjeska and FK Zeta.

After independence

In 2006, after the Independence referendum, Montenegro split from Serbia. Following that, Montenegrin First League is founded as top-tier national competition. On inaugural season, members of League became three teams from former First League of Serbia and Montenegro, seven from Second League, and two from Montenegrin Republic League.

Between 2006 and 2017, the league consisted on 12 clubs, which played 33 matches during the season. From the 2017-18 season the number of participants in the Montenegrin First League was reduced to 10, with a 36 week-long competition.

20 clubs have participated in the Montenegrin First League. The most successful are FK Sutjeska with five titles and FK Budućnost five national titles too. FK Rudar and FK Mogren won two titles. Other winners were FK Zeta and OFK Titograd with one title.

2006–16

The first game in Prva CFL was played on 11 August 2006 in Pljevlja. In front of 5,000 spectators, a game between the home side FK Rudar and FK Budućnost, finished with a victory of the away team (0-2). In the fifth minute of that match, Ivan Čarapić (Budućnost) scored the first goal in the history of Prva CFL.



Official logo
2007-2018

The first champion of the top-tier CFL was Zeta, who won the trophy on the championship's final weekend, after a hard struggle with neighbouring Budućnost. Game between FK Berane and FK Budućnost was not even finished, after the crowd disturbances during the second half.^[4] A third derby between Budućnost and Zeta in Podgorica was attended by 10,000 spectators, which is a record-high attendance in the history of CFL. During the season, many games were disrupted by crowd disturbances^[5] and a match between Zeta and Budućnost in Golubovci was not played, after the decision was made by the home team not to open their stadium following discussion with Football Association of Montenegro.^[6]

Next season started with incidents during the Montenegrin Derby in Nikšić. Budućnost won the title, with the same number of points as Zeta and Mogren. But, Budućnost had the best score against two opponents from the top of the table. This marked the first trophy for the team from Podgorica.^[7] Their manager at that time Branko Babić became the first foreign coach to win the Prva CFL title. With an average attendance of 4,250 for their home games, Budućnost made a Montenegrin First League all-time record.

The title winners for season 2008–09 became Mogren,^[8] the first-ever club from the coastal Montenegro to win the title. The race for the champions' trophy lasted until the final week, when Mogren won an away game against Jedinstvo (2-1). At the end of season, they had four points more than second-placed Budućnost and 11 more than the third-place team - Sutjeska.

A year later Rudar^[9] won the first title in their club's history. They won the trophy after dramatic struggle with Budućnost, and only two points decided the championship race. During that year, Ivan Bošković from Grbalj scored 28 goals, which is the all-time record for one single season. During the last week of season, his team made another record, with the highest victory ever in Montenegrin

First League, against Kom (11-0).^[10] During that game, Bošković scored four goals - which is another Prva CFL record, shared with FK Zeta's player Miljan Vlaisavljević and OFK Titograd's player Zoran Petrović.

Mogren became first club to win a second champion trophy in Prva CFL. The team from Budva won the title on season 2010–11, but with equal number of points as second-placed Budućnost: (73).^[11] In the end, head-to-head scores compared, Mogren were victorious over Budućnost (2-1; 2-0; 1-2).

Budućnost won their second trophy in season 2011–12,^[12] whilst also setting records for highest number of points in CFL by single season (80) and highest number of scored goals by season (83). But, the team from Podgorica didn't win the trophy easily - they were followed by Rudar, who trailed by three points at the end of season. Additionally, Budućnost failed to beat Rudar during the season (0-2; 2-2; 1-1)

Sutjeska became the first club to win two consecutive titles of CFL champion - both times with Dragan Radojičić as head coach. The team from Nikšić won the title for seasons 2012–13 and 2013–14. Sutjeska headed to their first title with five points more than Budućnost, but secured the trophy on last week of the season.^[13] During that season, Sutjeska for the first time in the First League played city derbies against Čelik (1-0; 0-3; 0-1), who placed third at the end of competition. Second trophy, Sutjeska won after the dramatic spring half-season and struggle with Lovćen. The title winner was decided a week before the end of season, after a draw between Sutjeska and Lovćen (1-1).^[14] That was the first season on which Budućnost didn't finish in first or second position.

At the end of season 2014–15, Rudar^[15] won the second title in the club's history. The team from Pljevlja won the race against title holders Sutjeska, who finished second. The team at the bottom of the table - Berane at the end of season had only 13 points with 78 goals conceded, which were negative records of Prva CFL at that time. After the relegation playoffs, Mogren were relegated to the Second League. This was the first time in history of Prva CFL that former champions were relegated.

The tenth edition of Prva CFL finished with a shock, as OFK Titograd from Podgorica won their first-ever national title.^[16] During this era, OFK Titograd played under the name *Mladost Podgorica*. They won the champions' race against city rivals from Budućnost and during the season, OFK Titograd won all three games against them (3-1; 1-0; 2-0). After the last week, OFK Titograd had four points more than the second-placed team.

In the period from 2006 to 2016, FK Budućnost, FK Sutjeska, FK Rudar and FK Mogren won two champion titles, and FK Zeta and OFK Titograd one. During that time, 19 clubs participated in Prva CFL.

2016–present

FK Budućnost won their third champions' title on season 2016–17, but with equal number of points as Zeta and OFK Titograd. During the season, six points were deducted from FK Zeta because of irregularities,^[17] so they weren't able to win the trophy. Week before the end of season, on Budućnost - OFK Titograd match, ultras of home team burned a part of north stand at Podgorica City Stadium, and the game was interrupted and registered with result 0–3.^[18] But, that epilog did not have influence on final placement, as Budućnost finished on the top of the table, with better head-to-head score against OFK Titograd and Zeta.

Next season, FK Sutjeska won their third title.^[19] Team from Nikšić dominated from the very beginning of championship and secured the trophy after 30 weeks. Except that, Sutjeska made a new league record with 11 games without conceded goal. They finished season with 22 points more than second-placed Budućnost.

Season 2018–19 started with the poorest performances of Montenegrin clubs in European competitions since independence. Four teams played 10 games in Champions league and Europa League qualifiers, but without any single win. During the season, FK Sutjeska and FK Budućnost have battle for champions' title and 100th Montenegrin Derby in Nikšić was followed by huge incidents after the game, with numerous wounded ultras and policemen.^{[20][21][22][23]} Week before the end, FK Sutjeska won the title - fourth in team's history. At the same time, Nikola Rakojević became the first manager to win three titles. That was the second time in Prva CFL that one club retained the title - both times it did Sutjeska. During the same season, Mornar finished with 12 points and only one victory from 36 games, which is the all-time negative record in Prva CFL.

Season 2019–20 started with the title race between FK Budućnost and FK Sutjeska, but the championship was interrupted in March 2020, after 23 weeks, due to the coronavirus pandemic. At that time, FK Budućnost was a leader, with 11 points more than FK Sutjeska. Two months after that, Football Association of Montenegro decided that Prva CFL will be continued on 30 May and that the season will last until 28 July.^[24] But, at the beginning of July, due to COVID-19 case among FK Budućnost players, Football Association of Montenegro decided to stop every official competition. Because of that, placement after 31 week was the final one.^[25] Therefore, FK Budućnost became a new champion. The team from Podgorica secured the title before the final interruption, as they have 18 points more than second-placed squad. Except that, FK Sutjeska, FK Iskra and FK Zeta qualified for European competitions, too. Last-placed OFK Grbalj was directly relegated to Druga CFL and FK Kom after the playoff games against FK Jezero.^[26]

FK Budućnost defended the trophy on season 2020–21 with 28 points more than second-placed FK Sutjeska. For the first time in teams' history, FK Dečić and FK Podgorica participated in European competition. From the other side, OFK Titograd was directly relegated, while FK Iskra and OFK Petrovac survived via playoffs.

After three years, FK Sutjeska won the new title on season 2021–22. FK Budućnost, which won previous two editions, finished as runner-up. Except them, FK Dečić and FK Iskra qualified for European competitions. Big battle for avoiding the relegation lasted until the final week and at the end, first champion of Montenegro, FK Zeta, directly went to Druga CFL, while FK Podgorica was relegated after the playoffs.

Changes in league structure

- Number of teams:
 - 2006–07 to 2006–17: **12**
 - Since 2017–18: **10**
- Number of teams relegated:
 - 2006–07 to 2016–17: 1 automatic plus the 10th and 11th placed team in the First League played a two-leg relegation matches against the second and third placed team of the Second League.
 - Since 2017–18: 1 automatic plus the 8th and 9th placed team in the First League plays a relegation matches against the second and third placed team of the Second League.

Rivalries

The main rivalry in the Montenegrin First League is between Budućnost and Sutjeska, often called the Montenegrin Derby. The first edition of the derby in official competitions was played at 1932,^[27] and the two clubs have played derbies in the highest-tier competitions of SFR Yugoslavia, FR Yugoslavia and in the Montenegrin First League.

Another traditional rivalry is between FK Budućnost and FK Lovćen Cetinje, because the two clubs have played important games since the 1920s. That rivalry is further fuelled by the fact that Budućnost is the major club from the capital Podgorica, while Lovćen is the main club from the former royal capital, Cetinje.

During the first two seasons of Montenegrin First League, there was a strong rivalry between Budućnost and Zeta. The two clubs from the territory of the Capital Podgorica were the main candidates for the title during the 2006–07 and 2007–08 seasons, and their match from the spring 2007 was attended by more than 10,000 spectators at Podgorica City Stadium. That is the highest attendance in the history of Montenegrin First League.

During the seasons of 2012–13 and 2013–14, there was a big local derby in Nikšić, between Sutjeska and Čelik. At that time, their matches were often attended by more than 7,000 supporters.

In the new period, there was a strong title races between Rudar and Budućnost or Sutjeska and Rudar.

Champions by season

Champions

Since its inception in the 2006–07 season, six clubs have won the title. As of the culmination of the 2020–21 season, Budućnost have won 5 titles, followed by Sutjeska with 4, while Rudar and Mogren each won 2. Only Budućnost and Sutjeska managed to retain their title in the following season; furthermore, Sutjeska managed to do so twice.

Key

† League champions also won the Montenegrin Cup.



FK Budućnost supporters at Montenegrin Derby game

Season	Champions	Runners up	Third place
2006–07	<u>Zeta</u> (1)	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>Grbalj</u>
2007–08	<u>Budućnost</u> (1)	<u>Zeta</u>	<u>Mogren</u>
2008–09	<u>Mogren</u> (1)	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>Sutjeska</u>
2009–10	<u>Rudar</u> (1)	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>Mogren</u>
2010–11	<u>Mogren</u> (2)	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>Rudar</u>
2011–12	<u>Budućnost</u> (2)	<u>Rudar</u>	<u>Zeta</u>
2012–13	<u>Sutjeska</u> (1)	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>Čelik</u>
2013–14	<u>Sutjeska</u> (2)	<u>Lovčen</u>	<u>Čelik</u>
2014–15	<u>Rudar</u> (2)	<u>Sutjeska</u>	<u>Budućnost</u>
2015–16	<u>OFK Titograd</u> (1)	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>Rudar</u>
2016–17	<u>Budućnost</u> (3)	<u>Zeta</u>	<u>OFK Titograd</u>
2017–18	<u>Sutjeska</u> (3)	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>OFK Titograd</u>
2018–19	<u>Sutjeska</u> (4)	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>Zeta</u>
2019–20	<u>Budućnost</u> (4)	<u>Sutjeska</u>	<u>Iskra</u>
2020–21	<u>Budućnost</u> (5)	<u>Sutjeska</u>	<u>Dečić</u>
2021–22	<u>Sutjeska</u> (5)	<u>Budućnost</u>	<u>Dečić</u>
2022–23	<u>Budućnost</u> (6)	<u>Sutjeska</u>	<u>Arsenal</u>

Performance by club

Budućnost has won most titles, six in total; it is the only club which finished as a champion or runner-up more than 10 times. FK Lovčen is the only team which finished as a runner-up but never won any title.

Club	City	Champions	Runners-up	Winning years
<u>FK Budućnost</u>	Podgorica	6	9	<u>2007–08, 2011–12, 2016–17, 2019–20, 2020–21, 2022–23</u>
<u>FK Sutjeska</u>	Nikšić	5	4	<u>2012–13, 2013–14, 2017–18, 2018–19, 2021–22</u>
<u>FK Rudar</u>	Pljevlja	2	1	<u>2009–10, 2014–15</u>
<u>FK Mogren</u>	Budva	2	-	<u>2008–09, 2010–11</u>
<u>FK Zeta</u>	Golubovci	1	2	<u>2006–07</u>
<u>OFK Titograd</u>	Podgorica	1	-	<u>2015–16</u>
<u>FK Lovčen</u>	Cetinje	-	1	

Top scorers

Every season, the best scorer of Prva CFL is awarded with Radio Montenegro Trophy.

The most goals during a single season were scored by Ivan Bošković (28) during the season 2009–10. In two seasons, two players were joint top-scorers. Žarko Korać and Admir Adrović are the only players who were top-scorers in two seasons. The majority of top scorers during the single seasons were from Budućnost (4), followed by 3 which played for Sutjeska, OFK Titograd and Zeta.

Season	Top scorer(s)	Club	Goals
2006–07	Damir Čakar Žarko Korać	Rudar Žeta	16
2007–08	Ivan Jablan	Lovćen	13
2008–09	Fatos Bećiraj	Budućnost	18
2009–10	Ivan Bošković	Grbalj	28
2010–11	Ivan Vuković	Budućnost	20
2011–12	Admir Adrović	Budućnost	22
2012–13	Admir Adrović Žarko Korać	Budućnost Žeta	15
2013–14	Stefan Mugoša	OFK Titograd	15
2014–15	Goran Vujović	Sutjeska	21
2015–16	Marko Šćepanović	OFK Titograd	19
2016–17	Zoran Petrović	OFK Titograd	14
2017–18	Igor Ivanović	Sutjeska	14
2018–19	Nikola Krstović	Zeta	17
2019–20	Marko Ćetković	Sutjeska	10
2020–21	Božo Marković	Sutjeska	16
2021–22	Adnan Bašić	Petrovac	14
2022–23	Tyrone Conraad	Sutjeska	26

Players and managers

Players

Appearances

Ivan Novović, with 440 appearances, is the most capped player in the history of the league.

Rank	Player	Club(s)	Games	First	Last
1	Ivan Novović	Zeta, OFK Titograd, Dečić, Budućnost	440	2007–08	2022–23
2	Miroje Jovanović	OFK Titograd, Kom, Rudar, Iskra	420	2006–07	2020–21
3	Milan Đurišić	Budućnost, OFK Titograd, Lovćen, Iskra	418	2006–07	2021–22
4	Miloš Lakić	Kom, Petrovac, OFK Titograd, Lovćen, Iskra	399	2006–07	2020–21
5	Draško Božović	Budućnost, Mogren, OFK Titograd, Lovćen, Sutjeska, Rudar, Dečić	380	2006–07	2022–23
6	Luka Mirković	Lovćen, OFK Titograd, Budućnost	378	2008–09	2022–23

As of the end of 2022–23 season.

First = First season in Prva CFL; Last = Last season in Prva CFL

Sources: [28] [29] [30] [10] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35] [36] [37] [38]

Goalscorers

Since the foundation of Prva CFL, most goals in competition scored Admir Adrović. Playing for six teams, he scored overall 110 goals. Below is a list of the 5 best all-time goalscorers.

Rank	Player	Club(s)	Goals	Games	First	Last
1	Admir Adrović	Berane, Sutjeska, Budućnost, OFK Titograd, Dečić, Podgorica	110	303	2006–07	2021–22
2	Žarko Korać	Zeta, Grbalj, Jedinstvo	103	190	2006–07	2022–23
3	Ivan Vuković	Budućnost, OFK Titograd, Grbalj, Iskra	95	287	2006–07	2021–22
4	Božo Marković	Sutjeska, OFK Titograd, Dečić, Mornar	83	291	2009–10	2022–23
5	Ivan Jablan	Petrovac, Lovćen, Grbalj	76	298	2006–07	2018–19

As of the end of 2022–23 season.

Clubs = Only Prva CFL teams for which every player scored at least one goal; First = Season of player's first goal in Prva CFL;

Last = Season of player's last goal in Prva CFL

Sources: [28][29][30][10][31][32][33][34][35][36][37][38]

Goalkeepers

From the first edition of Prva CFL, many goalkeepers made runs without conceded goals during the three or more games. Below is the list of three biggest runs from 2006 to 2007 edition until now, classified by minutes without conceded goal.

Rank	Goalkeeper	Season	Club	Minutes
1	Vladan Giljen	2017–18	Sutjeska	1019
2	Mileta Radulović	2012–13	Grbalj	845
3	Mladen Božović	2006–07	Budućnost	795

Managers

During the history, 12 managers have won the title of Montenegrin First League champions. Among them, Nikola Rakojević won three titles. Dragan Radojičić, Mladen Milinković and Dejan Vukićević did it twice. Rakojević and Radojičić are the managers which won more than one title with the same team (both with FK Sutjeska).

Manager	Club(s)	Wins	Winning years
Nikola Rakojević	OFK Titograd, Sutjeska	3	2015–16, 2017–18, 2018–19
Dragan Radojičić	Sutjeska	2	2012–13, 2013–14
Dejan Vukićević	Zeta, Mogren	2	2006–07, 2008–09
Mladen Milinković	Budućnost	2	2019–20, 2020–21
Branko Babić	Budućnost	1	2007–08
Miodrag Radulović	Budućnost	1	2011–12
Miodrag Vukotić	Budućnost	1	2016–17
Nebojša Vignjević	Rudar	1	2009–10
Mirko Marić	Rudar	1	2014–15
Branislav Milačić	Mogren	1	2010–11
Milija Savović	Sutjeska	1	2021–22
Miodrag Džudović	Budućnost	1	2022–23

Awards

Every year, Football Association of Montenegro is organising awards ceremony for best player and best manager in Montenegrin First League. Best player and manager are chosen by coaches and captains of First League members.

Player of the Year

- 2008 Nikola Vujović (Mogren)^[39]

Manager of the Year

- 2008 Dejan Vukićević (Mogren)^[39]

- 2009 Ivan Vuković (Budućnost)^[40]
- 2010 Ivan Vuković (Budućnost)^[41]
- 2011 Dragan Bošković (Budućnost)^[42]
- 2012 Blažo Igumanović (Rudar)^[43]
- 2013 Darko Zorić (Čelik)^[44]
- 2014 Vladimir Jovović (Sutjeska)^[45]
- 2015 Marko Šćepanović (Titograd)^[46]
- 2016 Radomir Đalović (Budućnost)^[47]
- 2017 Igor Ivanović (Sutjeska)^[48]
- 2018 Stefan Lončar (Sutjeska)^[49]
- 2019 Marko Ćetković (Sutjeska)^[50]
- 2009 Dejan Vukićević (Mogren)^[40]
- 2010 Nebojša Vignjević (Rudar)^[41]
- 2011 Dragan Radojičić (Rudar)^[51]
- 2012 Slavoljub Bubanja (Čelik)^[43]
- 2013 Dragan Radojičić (Sutjeska)^[44]
- 2014 Dragan Radojičić (Budućnost)^[45]
- 2015 Mirko Marić (Rudar)^[46]
- 2016 Nikola Rakojević (Titograd)^[47]
- 2017 Miodrag Vukotić (Budućnost)^[48]
- 2018 Nikola Rakojević (Sutjeska)^[49]
- 2019 Nikola Rakojević (Sutjeska)^[50]

All time tables

Montenegrin clubs in Yugoslav First League (1946–2006)

In period from 1946 to 2006, Montenegrin clubs played in the First league of SFR Yugoslavia (1946–1992), FR Yugoslavia (1992–2001) and Serbia and Montenegro (2001–2006). Below is the list of all matches and seasons by every single club in the First league from 1946 until 2006.

Club	Town	Season	First	Last	Pld	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Budućnost	Podgorica	37	1946–47	2005–06	1152	386	266	500	1274:1625	1424
Sutjeska	Nikšić	20	1964–65	2004–05	671	217	136	318	776:1029	787
Zeta	Golubovci	6	2000–01	2005–06	188	83	34	71	269:250	283
Rudar	Pljevlja	6	1993–94	2002–03	206	66	41	99	217:277	239
Mogren	Budva	5	1993–94	2002–03	170	44	35	91	171:289	167
Kom	Podgorica	1	2003–04	2003–04	30	4	2	24	21:67	14
Jedinstvo	Bijelo Polje	1	2005–06	2005–06	30	3	2	25	18:72	11

Prva CFL (2006–present)

Since its inauguration in 2006–07 season, 20 clubs have played in Montenegrin First League. Clubs that played all the seasons are Budućnost, Sutjeska, Rudar and Petrovac.

Rank	Club	Town	Ssn	First	Last	Pld	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Budućnost	Podgorica	17	2006–07	2022–23	574	337	137	100	977:474	1148
2	Sutjeska	Nikšić	17	2006–07	2022–23	574	266	155	153	790:529	953
3	Rudar	Pljevlja	17	2006–07	2022–23	574	238	138	198	695:602	852
4	Zeta	Golubovci	16	2006–07	2021–22	538	221	143	174	670:573	805
5	Petrovac	Petrovac	17	2006–07	2022–23	574	170	167	227	589:767	677
6	Grbalj	Radanovići	14	2006–07	2019–20	466	165	134	167	550:518	629
7	Titograd	Podgorica	13	2006–07	2020–21	436	148	120	168	488:516	564
8	Dečić	Tuzi	13	2006–07	2022–23	441	128	121	192	423:562	505
9	Mogren	Budva	9	2006–07	2014–15	297	132	73	93	402:335	469
10	Lovćen	Cetinje	11	2007–08	2018–19	366	122	91	153	362:428	457
11	Iskra	Danilovgrad	8	2015–16	2022–23	277	92	81	104	289:321	357
12	Mornar	Bar	9	2009–10	2022–23	306	79	73	154	269:451	309
13	Kom	Podgorica	6	2006–07	2019–20	199	50	51	98	178:273	201
14	Bokelj	Kotor	5	2007–08	2016–17	165	49	39	77	154:202	186
15	Jezero	Plav	4	2008–09	2022–23	141	45	34	62	135:180	169
16	Jedinstvo	Bijelo Polje	5	2006–07	2022–23	168	38	43	87	149:275	157
17	Podgorica	Podgorica	3	2019–20	2021–22	103	31	33	39	111:126	126
18	Čelik	Nikšić	2	2012–13	2013–14	66	30	17	19	88:63	107
19	Berane	Berane	4	2006–07	2014–15	132	26	22	84	110:229	100
20	Arsenal	Tivat	1	2022–23	2022–23	36	13	11	12	39:59	50
21	Bar	Bar	1	2010–11	2010–11	33	7	11	15	30:43	32

▪ Note: As of the end of 2022–23 season

League or status for 2022–23 season [hide]

2022–23 Montenegrin First League
2022–23 Montenegrin Second League
2022–23 Montenegrin Third League
No longer exists

Ssn = Number of seasons; First = First season; Last = Last season; Pld = Matches played; W = Matches won; D = Matches drawn; L = Matches lost; GF = Goals for; GA = Goals against; GD = Goal difference; Pts = Points

Participants by season

Club	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<u>Arsenal</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
<u>Bar</u>	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<u>Berane</u>	12	-	-	11	-	11	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<u>Bokelj</u>	-	10	-	-	-	12	-	-	8	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<u>Budućnost</u>	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	4	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	
<u>Čelik</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<u>Dečić</u>	10	7	11	9	6	10	-	12	-	6	5	10	-	-	3	3	4	
<u>Grbalj</u>	3	4	4	5	7	9	4	7	5	7	7	4	6	10	-	-	-	
<u>Iskra</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	6	7	5	3	8	4	10	
<u>Jedinstvo</u>	11	-	12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	5	
<u>Jezero</u>	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	7	
<u>Kom</u>	7	9	8	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	9	-	-	-	
<u>Lovćen</u>	-	6	7	6	8	6	9	2	6	9	11	-	9	-	-	-	-	
<u>Mogren</u>	5	3	1	3	1	4	10	10	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<u>Mornar</u>	-	-	-	10	10	-	11	11	10	12	-	-	10	-	-	5	8	
<u>Petrovac</u>	6	8	6	8	9	5	7	5	7	11	9	9	7	6	9	7	6	
<u>Podgorica</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	9	-	
<u>Rudar</u>	4	5	5	1	3	2	5	6	1	3	8	5	8	7	7	8	9	
<u>Sutjeska</u>	8	11	3	7	11	8	1	1	2	5	4	1	1	2	2	1	2	
<u>Titograd</u>	9	12	-	-	5	7	6	9	4	1	3	3	4	8	10	-	-	
<u>Zeta</u>	1	2	9	4	4	3	8	8	9	8	2	6	3	4	6	10	-	

Relegation and promotion

At the end of every season, the last placed team are relegated to the Montenegrin Second League, while the winner of Second League is promoted to highest-rank. Additionally, another two teams from First and Second League every season are participating in the playoffs.

Directly promoted and relegated teams

Below is the list of directly promoted and relegated teams by every single season. Relegated were last-placed teams in First League, while directly promoted teams were the champions of Montenegrin Second League.

Year	 Directly relegated	 Directly promoted
2007	<u>FK Berane</u>	<u>FK Lovćen</u>
2008	<u>FK Mladost Podgorica</u>	<u>FK Jezero</u>
2009	<u>FK Jedinstvo</u>	<u>FK Berane</u>
2010	<u>FK Kom</u>	<u>FK Mladost Podgorica</u>
2011	<u>OFK Bar</u>	<u>FK Bokelj</u>
2012	<u>FK Bokelj</u>	<u>FK Čelik</u>
2013	<u>FK Jedinstvo</u>	<u>FK Dečić</u>
2014	<u>FK Dečić</u>	<u>FK Bokelj</u>
2015	<u>FK Berane</u>	<u>FK Iskra</u>
2016	<u>FK Mornar</u>	<u>FK Jedinstvo</u>
2017	<u>FK Jedinstvo</u>	<u>FK Kom</u>
2018	<u>FK Dečić</u>	<u>FK Mornar</u>
2019	<u>FK Mornar</u>	<u>FK Podgorica</u>
2020	<u>OFK Grbalj</u>	<u>FK Dečić</u>
2021	<u>OFK Titograd</u>	<u>FK Mornar</u>
2022	<u>FK Zeta</u>	<u>FK Jedinstvo</u>
2023	<u>FK Iskra</u>	<u>OFK Mladost DG</u>

Playoffs

Montenegrin First League playoffs is a two legs tournament between the teams from Montenegrin First League which above direct relegation, and the teams from Montenegrin Second League which below the direct promotion. Below is the list of playoffs participants by every single season.

†	Playoffs winners.
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Season	First League Participants		Second League Participants	
2007	<u>FK Dečić</u>	<u>FK Jedinstvo</u>	<u>FK Bokelj</u>	<u>FK Ibar</u>
2008	<u>FK Sutjeska</u>	<u>FK Bokelj</u>	<u>FK Jedinstvo</u>	<u>FK Čelik</u>
2009	<u>FK Dečić</u>	<u>FK Jezero</u>	<u>FK Mornar</u>	<u>OFK Titograd</u>
2010	<u>FK Berane</u>	<u>FK Mornar</u>	<u>FK Bratstvo</u>	<u>OFK Bar</u>
2011	<u>FK Sutjeska</u>	<u>FK Mornar</u>	<u>FK Berane</u>	<u>FK Jedinstvo</u>
2012	<u>FK Dečić</u>	<u>FK Berane</u>	<u>FK Mornar</u>	<u>FK Jedinstvo</u>
2013	<u>FK Mogren</u>	<u>FK Mornar</u>	<u>FK Bokelj</u>	<u>FK Zabjelo</u>
2014	<u>FK Mogren</u>	<u>FK Mornar</u>	<u>FK Berane</u>	<u>FK Jezero</u>
2015	<u>FK Mornar</u>	<u>FK Mogren</u>	<u>FK Dečić</u>	<u>OFK Igalo</u>
2016	<u>FK Iskra</u>	<u>OFK Petrovac</u>	<u>FK Cetinje</u>	<u>FK Bratstvo</u>
2017	<u>OFK Petrovac</u>	<u>FK Rudar</u>	<u>FK Otrant</u>	<u>FK Ibar</u>
2018	<u>FK Kom</u>	<u>OFK Petrovac</u>	<u>FK Podgorica</u>	<u>FK Lovćen</u>
2019	<u>FK Rudar</u>	<u>FK Lovćen</u>	<u>FK Kom</u>	<u>FK Bokelj</u>
2020	<u>OFK Titograd</u>	<u>FK Kom</u>	<u>FK Jezero</u>	<u>FK Bokelj</u>
2021	<u>FK Iskra</u>	<u>OFK Petrovac</u>	<u>FK Arsenal</u>	<u>FK Igalo</u>
2022	<u>FK Rudar</u>	<u>FK Podgorica</u>	<u>FK Arsenal</u>	<u>OFK Mladost DG</u>
2023	<u>FK Mornar</u>	<u>FK Rudar</u>	<u>FK Kom</u>	<u>FK Berane</u>

Records and statistics

Champions

- **Highest number of points when becoming a champions:** 85 by Budućnost, season 2020–21
- **Lowest number of points when becoming a champions:** 57 by Budućnost, season 2016–17
- **Highest number of games left when becoming a champions:** 7 by Budućnost, season 2020–21 (Secured title: 11 April 2021).
- **Lowest number of seasons before becoming champions after being promoted:** 5 by OFK Titograd (Promotion: 2010–11; Champions: 2015–16)
- **Lowest number of seasons before getting relegated for the champions::** 5 by Mogren (Champions: 2010–11; Relegation: 2014–15); OFK Titograd (Champions: 2015–16; Relegation: 2020–21)

Records by seasons

- **Most points:** 85, Budućnost, season 2020–21
- **Least points:** 12, Mornar, season 2018–19
- **Highest number of wins:** 27, Budućnost, season 2020–21
- **Lowest number of wins:** 1, Mornar, season 2018–19
- **Highest number of draws:** 17, Rudar, season 2018–19
- **Lowest number of draws:** 3, Kom, season 2009–10
- **Highest number of losses:** 26, Berane, season 2014–15
- **Lowest number of losses:** 1, Budućnost, season 2006–07
- **Highest number of scored goals:** 82, Budućnost, season 2011–12
- **Lowest number of scored goals:** 16, Kom, season 2009–10; OFK Titograd, season 2007–08
- **Highest number of conceded goals:** 78, Berane, season 2014–15
- **Lowest number of conceded goals:** 12, Budućnost, season 2006–07
- **Player with highest number of scored goals by single season:** 28, Ivan Bošković, Grbalj, season 2009–10

Runs

- **Longest unbeaten run:** 23 matches, Budućnost, 22 September 2020 - 20 March 2021, season 2020–21

- **Longest run without win:** 30 matches, **OFK Titograd**, 19 May 2007 - 3 May 2008, seasons 2006–07, 2007–08
- **Longest winning streak:** 10 matches, **Budućnost**, 17 March 2012 - 9 May 2012, season 2011–12; **Budućnost**, 31 October 2020 - 17 December 2020, season 2020–21
- **Longest losing streak:** 12 matches, **Mornar**, 17 March 2019 - 25 May 2019, season 2018–19
- **Longest run without conceded goal:** 11 matches, **Sutjeska**, 16 September 2017 - 6 December 2017, season 2017–18
- **Longest run without scored goal:** 11 matches, **Kom**, 30 September 2009 - 7 March 2010, season 2009–10
- **Longest run of goalless matches (0–0):** 3 matches, **Grbalj**, 15 September 2012 - 6 October 2012, season 2012–13; **Grbalj**, 13 October 2012 - 10 November 2012, season 2012–13

Single game

- **Biggest league victory/defeat:** 11–0, **Grbalj vs. Kom**, 29 May 2010 (season 2009–10)
- **Biggest league victory away:** 0–7, **Mornar vs. Grbalj**, 23 May 2015 (season 2014–15)
- **Most goals on a single game:** 11, **Grbalj vs. Kom** 11–0, 29 May 2010 (season 2009–10); **Zeta vs. Bokelj** 8–3, 17 May 2008 (season 2007–08)
- **Player with most goals on a single game:** 4, **Ivan Bošković (Grbalj)**, Grbalj vs. Kom 11–0, 29 May 2010 (season 2009–10); **Miljan Vlaisavljević (Zeta)**, Zeta vs. Mogren 5–0, 4 April 2015 (season 2014–15); **Zoran Petrović (OFK Titograd)**, OFK Titograd vs. Lovćen 7–2, 27 May 2017 (season 2016–17); **Tyrone Conrad (Sutjeska)**, Sutjeska vs. Jedinstvo 5–0, 1 October 2022 (season 2022–23)^[52]
- **Fastest goal:** **Aleksa Marušić (Sutjeska)**, 00:16; Titograd vs. Sutjeska 0–4, 03.04.2021 (season 2020–21)
- **Oldest top scorer:** **Ivan Jablan (Lovćen)**, 39 yrs 143 days; **Grbalj vs. Lovćen** 3–2, 08.12.2018 (season 2018–19)

Attendance

- **Highest average attendance by season:** 1,178 (overall: 229,800 / 195 matches), season 2006–07
- **Highest single game attendance:** 10,000, **Budućnost vs. Zeta** 1:0, 08.04.2007, Podgorica (season 2006–07)
- **Lowest single game attendance:** 50, **OFK Titograd vs. Grbalj** 1:2, 08.12.2007, Podgorica (season 2007–08)
- **Highest average home attendance:** 4,250 (16 home games), **Budućnost** during 2007–08 season
- **Lowest average home attendance:** 206 (18 home games), **Mornar** during 2018–19 season

Attendance by season

Season	Avg	Overall	M	H	CH	CL
2006–07	1,178	229,800	195	10,000	Budućnost (2,470)	Petrovac (477)
2007–08	1,064	205,400	193	9,000	Budućnost (4,250)	OFK Titograd (281)
2008–09	1,101	216,850	197	6,000	Budućnost (4,117)	Petrovac (364)
2009–10	1,105	215,550	195	8,000	Budućnost (2,623)	Kom (297)
2010–11	851	167,600	197	4,000	Budućnost (2,058)	Grbalj (335)
2011–12	873	169,350	194	5,000	Budućnost (2,607)	Petrovac (276)
2012–13	871	165,400	190	7,000	Sutjeska (2,529)	Petrovac (281)
2013–14	746	143,300	192	4,500	Sutjeska (2,230)	Grbalj (313)
2014–15	656	127,150	194	4,000	Rudar (1,512)	Mogren (256)
2015–16	693	137,150	198	4,000	Budućnost (1,195)	Grbalj (288)
2016–17	883	171,300	194	5,000	Budućnost (2,015)	Grbalj (354)
2017–18	707	123,800	175	4,000	Rudar (1,233)	Grbalj (283)
2018–19	513	92,300	180	3,500	Budućnost (1,067)	Mornar (206)
2019–20	580	66,700	115	3,000	Budućnost (1,050)	Grbalj (259)
2020–21	Without attendance due to the coronavirus pandemic					
2021–22	548 ^[53]	98,600	180	3,000	Budućnost (1,056)	Jezero (317)
2022–23	786	133,600	170	4,000	Budućnost (1,489)	Jezero (427)
2023–24	611	57,400	94	4,000	Budućnost (1,650)	Jezero (350)

Current season (2023–24)

The **2023–24 Montenegrin First League** is the 18th season of top-tier football in Montenegro. FK Budućnost are the defending champions. The season will begin in July 2023 and will end in May 2024. At the end of season, last-placed team will directly be relegated, and 9th and 8th club from the table will participate in playoffs.

The following 10 clubs compete in First League 2023–24.

Club	City	Founded	Position in 2022–23	Seasons in top division	First season in top division	Stadium	Floodlights
Arsenal	Tivat	1914	3rd	2	2022–23	Stadion u parku (2,000)	No
Budućnost	Podgorica	1925	1st	55	1946–47	Stadion pod Goricom (15,230)	Yes
Dečić	Tuzi	1926	4th	14	2006–07	Stadion Tuško Polje (2,000)	Yes
Jedinstvo	Bijelo Polje	1922	5th	7	2005–06	Gradski Stadion (4,000)	Yes
Jezero	Plav	1934	7th	5	2008–09	Stadion Pod Racinom (2,500)	No
Mladost DG	Podgorica	2019	1st in 2. CFL 	1	2022–23	DG Arena (4,300)	Yes
Mornar	Bar	1923	8th	10	2009–10	Stadion Topolica (2,500)	Yes
Petrovac	Petrovac	1969	6th	18	2006–07	Stadion pod Malim brdom (1,630)	Yes
Rudar	Pljevlja	1920	9th	24	1993–94	Stadion pod Golubinjom (5,140)	Yes
Sutjeska	Nikšić	1920	2nd	38	1964–65	Stadion kraj Bistre (5,214)	Yes

Seasons in top division - including the season 2023–24.

Montenegrin clubs in European football competitions

History

Montenegrin football clubs have played in three UEFA competitions - the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League (formerly UEFA Cup) and Intertoto Cup.

Champions of Montenegro have never played in the group-phase of UEFA Champions League, and the most successful in the qualifiers was FK Zeta Golubovci in the 2007–08 season and FK Sutjeska Nikšić in 2019–20.

FK Zeta had the best performances in the UEFA Europa League: reaching the playoffs, and OFK Titograd, FK Budućnost and FK Sutjeska which played in Round 3. The most successful in the Intertoto Cup was Budućnost, which was among the winners during the 1981 season.

Below is a table with Montenegrin clubs' scores in UEFA competitions.

Team	Seasons	G	W	D	L	GD	Pts
<u>FK Budućnost Podgorica</u>	18	57	19	12	26	69:82	69
<u>OFK Titograd</u>	6	20	6	5	9	18:34	23
<u>FK Zeta Golubovci</u>	10	28	6	5	17	25:56	23
<u>FK Sutjeska Nikšić</u>	11	33	3	11	19	18:46	20
<u>FK Mogren Budva</u>	4	12	5	1	6	15:24	16
<u>FK Rudar Pljevlja</u>	8	20	3	5	12	13:33	14
<u>OFK Grbalj Radanovići</u>	2	6	1	2	3	8:10	5
<u>FK Podgorica</u>	1	2	1	0	1	1:3	3
<u>OFK Petrovac</u>	1	4	1	0	3	5:10	3
<u>FK Čelik Nikšić</u>	3	8	0	2	6	6:36	2
<u>FK Dečić Tuzi</u>	2	4	0	1	3	3:6	1
<u>FK Bokelj Kotor</u>	1	2	0	1	1	1:6	1
<u>FK Lovćen Cetinje</u>	1	2	0	1	1	0:1	1
<u>FK Bokelj Kotor</u>	1	2	0	1	1	1:6	1
OVERALL	200	45	47	108	183:353	182	

As of the end of UEFA competitions 2022–23 season.

Except the official UEFA competitions, teams from Montenegro represented SFR Yugoslavia in the Balkans Cup, former regional football competition (1960-1994). Teams from Montenegro which played in Balkans Cup were FK Budućnost Podgorica and FK Sutjeska Nikšić. Biggest success made FK Budućnost, who played in the final 1991, after eliminated Galatasaray SK.

UEFA rankings

UEFA Country Ranking for league participation in 2019–20 European football season (Previous year rank in italics)

- 47 (45) Erovnuli Liga
- 48 (50) Welsh Premier League
- 49 (44) Montenegrin First League
- 50 (51) Faroe Islands Premier League
- 51 (52) Gibraltar Premier Division

Stadiums

Prva CFL has been played in 20 stadiums since its first edition. The biggest stadium, used by FK Budućnost, is Podgorica City Stadium. It is the only stadium whose capacity is more than 10,000 seats. There are four other stadiums with a capacity of more than 5,000 seats, while five stadiums meet UEFA criteria - Podgorica City Stadium, Stadium in Nikšić, Sveti Petar Cetinjski, DG Arena and Stadium in Petrovac. Below is the list of stadiums on which members of Prva CFL have played from season 2006-07 until now.



Podgorica City Stadium (11,264)

Prva CFL stadiums by seating capacity [[show](#)]

	Stadium	Club(s)	City	Opened	Capacity	Floodlights
1	<u>Podgorica City Stadium</u>	<u>FK Budućnost</u>	<u>Podgorica</u>	1945	11,264	Yes
2	<u>Berane City Stadium</u>	<u>FK Berane</u>	<u>Berane</u>	1981	7,466	Yes
3	<u>Sveti Petar Cetinjski</u>	<u>FK Lovćen</u>	<u>Cetinje</u>	1957	5,192	Yes
4	<u>Nikšić City Stadium</u>	<u>FK Sutjeska</u>	<u>Nikšić</u>	1946	5,214	Yes
5	<u>Pljevlja City Stadium</u>	<u>FK Rudar</u>	<u>Pljevlja</u>	1946	5,140	Yes
6	<u>DG Arena</u>	<u>FK Podgorica</u>	<u>Podgorica</u>	2018	4,300	Yes
7	<u>Bijelo Polje City Stadium</u>	<u>FK Jedinstvo</u>	<u>Bijelo Polje</u>	2005	4,000	No
8	<u>Trešnjica</u>	<u>FK Zeta</u>	<u>Golubovci</u>	1996	4,000	Yes
9	<u>Topolica</u>	<u>FK Mornar, OFK Bar</u>	<u>Bar</u>	1980	2,500	Yes
10	<u>Braća Velašević</u>	<u>FK Iskra</u>	<u>Danilovgrad</u>	1947	2,500	Yes
11	<u>Pod Racinom</u>	<u>FK Jezero</u>	<u>Plav</u>	1948	2,500	No
12	<u>Tuško Polje</u>	<u>FK Dečić</u>	<u>Tuzi</u>	2006	2,000	Yes
13	<u>Željezara Stadium</u>	<u>FK Čelik</u>	<u>Nikšić</u>	1957	2,000	No
14	<u>Pod Malim brdom</u>	<u>OFK Petrovac</u>	<u>Petrovac</u>	1969	1,630	Yes
15	<u>Lugovi</u>	<u>FK Mogren</u>	<u>Budva</u>	1960	1,500	No
16	<u>Donja Sutvara</u>	<u>OFK Grbalj</u>	<u>Radanovići</u>	1995	1,500	No
17	<u>Cvijetin Brijeg / demolished</u>	<u>OFK Titograd</u>	<u>Podgorica</u>	1997	1,500	No
18	<u>Mladost Stadium</u>	<u>OFK Titograd</u>	<u>Podgorica</u>	2007	1,250	Yes
19	<u>Zlatica</u>	<u>FK Kom</u>	<u>Podgorica</u>	2016	1,200	Yes
20	<u>Pod Vrmcem</u>	<u>FK Bokelj</u>	<u>Kotor</u>	1922	1,000	Yes

Logo and sponsorships

Official logo and equipment

Since establishment, the Montenegrin First League has had two official logos.

The first logo was presented in 2006. Rebranding of the league came in 2018, together with the new logos of the [Montenegrin Cup](#), [Montenegrin Second League](#) and youth leagues.^[54]

The official ball of the competition is produced under the *Derbystar* brand, while the official equipment of referees is a product of [Legea](#).

Sponsorships

Name of the competition

Since foundation, the main sponsor of Montenegrin First League has been Montenegrin 'Telekom' which operates under the T-Com / T-Mobile brand. Since July 2022, the main sponsor of the First Montenegrin Football League is Meridianbet company.

- 2006–2011: [T-Com 1. CFL](#)
- 2011–2022: [Telekom 1. CFL](#)

- 2022–present: [Meridianbet \(https://meridianbet.me/\)](https://meridianbet.me/) 1. CFL

Broadcasting rights

Since the foundation of the competition, official broadcaster of First Montenegrin League matches is the national television station of Montenegro - [RTCG](#). Matches of 1. CFL are directly broadcasting at RTCG channel 2, with most important matches on satellite programming.

From season 2017–18, broadcaster of matches is regional group [Arena Sport](#). Every weekend, one game is broadcast live on Arena Sport channel.^[55]

Since season 2018–19, some games of Prva CFL are broadcast by cable-network channel [MNE Sport TV](#).

See also

- [Montenegrin First League playoffs](#)
- [Montenegrin Cup](#)
- [Montenegrin clubs in European football competitions](#)
- [Montenegrin Derby](#)
- [Montenegrin Second League](#)
- [Football in Montenegro](#)
- [Montenegrin Women's League](#)
- [Montenegrin clubs in Yugoslav football competitions \(1946-2006\)](#)
- [Montenegrin Football Championship \(1922-1940\)](#)
- [Montenegrin Republic League](#)
- [Montenegrin Futsal First League](#)

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-

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Montenegro national football team

The **Montenegro national football team** (Montenegrin: *Fudbalska reprezentacija Crne Gore*) has represented Montenegro in men's international football since 2007. It is controlled by the [Football Association of Montenegro](#), the governing body for football in Montenegro. Montenegro's home ground is Podgorica City Stadium in Podgorica.

Montenegro is one of the world's youngest international teams, having joined [FIFA](#) and [UEFA](#) in 2007, following the restoration of [Montenegrin independence](#) in 2006. Montenegro played its first official international match against [Hungary](#) in March 2007, and competed in their first [FIFA World Cup](#) qualifiers in 2010.

History

Formation

Following the [independence of Montenegro from Serbia and Montenegro](#), Serbia was set to represent both Serbia and Montenegro in the [Euro 2008 qualifying stage](#). [UEFA](#), however, would be willing to include Montenegro as a late entry if [FIFA](#) ratified a separate [Montenegrin Football Association](#) before September 2006. However, this did not occur before the competition began.^{[3][4][5]}

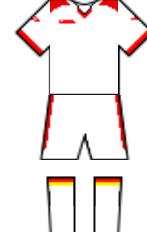
In October 2006, Montenegro was granted provisional membership of [UEFA](#), with a debate regarding full membership scheduled at a full [UEFA Congress](#) in January 2007.^[6] Montenegro's first [FIFA World Ranking](#) was joint 199th place, the last place on the list by default.

First matches

On 26 January 2007, the Montenegro FA was granted full membership of [UEFA](#).^[7] The team played its first [FIFA-recognized friendly match](#) against [Hungary](#) on 24 March 2007 at Stadion Pod Goricom in Podgorica. Montenegro won 2–1 in front of 12,000 spectators. Striker [Mirko Vučinić](#) scored the country's first goal in the 62nd minute.^{[8][9]} On 31 May 2007, Montenegro was admitted as [FIFA's 208th member](#).^[10] Montenegro's first coach was [Zoran Filipović](#). In 23 matches, Filipović recorded eight victories, eight draws and seven defeats. He left in January 2010 when his contract expired. During his tenure, Montenegro rose to 73rd position in the [FIFA rankings](#). Montenegro played at the 2007 [Kirin Cup](#), but finished in last place behind [Japan](#) and [Colombia](#). On 26 March 2008, Montenegro recorded one of its best results with a 3–1 win over [Norway](#).

First competitive matches

On 6 September 2008, Montenegro played their first [World Cup qualifier](#) against [Bulgaria](#) at the Podgorica City Stadium. Bulgaria took the lead in the 11th minute with a goal from [Stiliyan Petrov](#). Mirko Vučinić scored in the 61st minute to tie the game, before [Igor Burzanović](#) put Montenegro ahead 82nd minute from a penalty. However, a last-minute equalizer from [Blagoy Georgiev](#) denied Montenegro their first competitive win. In their next match on 10 September, they achieved another notable result when they held the [Republic of Ireland](#) to a 0–0 draw. Another near-upset came in a narrow 2–1 loss against [Italy](#). After Alberto Aquilani's early strike, Vučinić quickly equalized, but Aquilani scored the

Montenegro	
	
Nickname(s)	<i>Hrabri sokoli / Храбри соколи</i> (The Brave Falcons)
Association	Football Association of Montenegro (FSCG)
Confederation	UEFA (Europe)
Head coach	Robert Prosinečki
Captain	Stevan Jovetić
Most caps	Fatos Bećiraj (86)
Top scorer	Stevan Jovetić (34)
Home stadium	Podgorica City Stadium
FIFA code	MNE
	
First colours	Second colours
FIFA ranking	
Current	72  2 (15 February 2024) ^[11]
Highest	16 (June 2011)
Lowest	199 (June 2007)
First international	
 Montenegro	2–1 Hungary 
(Podgorica, Montenegro; 24 March 2007)	
Biggest win	
 San Marino	0–6 Montenegro 
(Serravalle, San Marino; 11 September 2012)	

Biggest defeat

England 7–0 Montenegro 
(London, England; 14 November 2019)

World Cup

Appearances 2 (*first in 1998 as FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro*
Never qualified as Montenegro)

Best result As FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro: Round of 16 (1998)
As Montenegro: 3rd in qualification group (2014 qualifying, 2018 qualifying)

European Championship

Appearances 1 (*first in 2000 as FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro*
Never qualified as Montenegro)

Best result As FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro: Quarter-finals (2000)
As Montenegro: Play-off finals (2012)



Montenegro national team squad in
EURO 2020 qualifiers

winning goal ten minutes later. Their second match against Italy ended 2–0 in favour of the world champions. Another disappointment came when the team could only draw 0–0 against Georgia, followed by a 2–2 draw against Cyprus after being two goals down. On 5 September 2009, Montenegro took an early lead against Bulgaria in Sofia with Stevan Jovetić putting them 1–0 up, only for Bulgaria to recover and win 4–1. After drawing 1–1 with Cyprus, Montenegro finally registered their first competitive win, beating Georgia 2–1. They then drew 0–0 with the Republic of Ireland at Croke Park. They finished fifth in the group with nine points, below Cyprus on goal difference.

Golden era

During the UEFA Euro 2012 qualification campaign, the team recorded further success. They opened their campaign with a 1–0 victory over Wales; Mirko Vučinić scored the only goal. A few days later, the team defeated Bulgaria 1–0 in Sofia. The next month, they beat Switzerland 1–0 and then recorded a 0–0 draw in London against England. On 4 June 2011, Montenegro drew 1–1 against Bulgaria, with Radomir Đalović scoring for Montenegro early in the second half, but Ivelin Popov scoring minutes later, to keep Montenegro second in the group, behind England on goal difference. Montenegro were beaten 2–1 by Wales in Cardiff. They were still second in Group G, but Switzerland closed the gap between them to only three points. In the June 2011 FIFA rankings, Montenegro recorded their highest ranking of 16th. On 7 October, Montenegro came back from 2–0 down to draw 2–2 against England in Podgorica, after Wayne Rooney was sent off. Wales beat Switzerland 2–0 to ensure Montenegro won a play-off place, putting the team two matches away from qualifying for Euro 2012. In their last match in the qualifiers, Montenegro lost 2–0 to Switzerland in Basel. On 13 October, the draw for the UEFA Euro 2012 qualifying play-offs was held in Kraków, Poland. Montenegro were paired with the Czech Republic, but they lost 3–0 on aggregate and failed to qualify. Montenegro were drawn in Group H in the qualifiers, along with England, Poland, Ukraine, Moldova and San Marino. In their first match, Montenegro tied against Poland in a 2–2 draw. On 11 September, Montenegro played against San Marino in Seravalle. In a one-sided match, Montenegro won 6–0,^[11] the biggest win in the team's history. Montenegro then beat Ukraine 1–0 in Kyiv,^[12] with the only goal scored by Dejan Damjanović. In their last match in 2012, Montenegro faced San Marino in Podgorica on 14 November, and won 3–0. Montenegro played their fifth qualifier match against Moldova in Chișinău on 22 March 2013, winning 1–0 through Mirko Vučinić's goal. Montenegro then returned to Podgorica to play the second-placed England. The outcome was a 1–1 draw. Leading their World Cup qualifying group, Montenegro hosted Ukraine on 7 June 2013. They suffered their first defeat in the group, losing 4–0. The match also saw Montenegro finish the match with nine men after Vladimir Volkov and Savo Pavićević were sent off. Their last four matches yielded just a single point; a 1–1 draw in Poland. Their 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign finished with a 5–2 home defeat to Moldova, and they finished third behind England and Ukraine.

Ups and downs

On 23 February 2014 in Nice, Montenegro were drawn for qualification in UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying Group G alongside Russia, Sweden, Austria, Moldova and Liechtenstein. Though they opened their campaign with a 2–0 win over Moldova, they failed to qualify with a 0–0 tie against Liechtenstein, a 1–0 loss to Austria and a 1–1 tie at home to Sweden. On 27 March 2015, Montenegro's home match against Russia was abandoned after 67 minutes due to crowd violence, after the Russian left-back Dmitri Kombarov was hit by a projectile. The score was 0–0 and Russia had missed a penalty moments before the match was abandoned. The Russian goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev was hit by a flare, causing a second 33-minute delay.^[13] The abandoned match was ruled a 3–0 win in Russia's favour. Montenegro finished fourth at the end of the campaign and placed 95th on the FIFA ranking list. Montenegro participated in the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification and were placed with Poland, Denmark, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Romania. Poland and Romania had been participants in the UEFA Euro 2016, but Montenegro began by drawing 1–1 away to Romania, beating Kazakhstan 5–0 at home and defeating Denmark 1–0.

However, they then lost 3–2 away to Armenia despite leading 2–0, and were defeated 2–1 at home by Poland. Montenegro then rebounded, beating Armenia 4–1 and Kazakhstan 3–0. They later eliminated Romania with a 1–0 victory, but losses to the Danes and Poles ended Montenegro's chance of qualifying.

Having failed to reach the World Cup, Montenegro had a dismal performance in the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League C. The team was grouped with Serbia, Romania and Lithuania. Montenegro only managed two victories, all against Lithuania, and suffered two losses to Serbia, one defeat to Romania at home and an away draw to the Romanian side as well. This effectively denied Montenegro a chance to qualify to the UEFA Euro 2020 playoff.



Mirko Vučinić was the first captain of Montenegro

Worst campaign

The Euro 2020 qualifiers for Montenegro have been the worst in the team's short history. After an unsuccessful Nations League campaign, the team started off with a 1–1 away draw to Bulgaria, following a controversial penalty for the hosts. It was followed with a 1–5 loss at home to England despite having taken an early lead. On the day of the match with Kosovo, Serbian coach Ljubiša Tumbaković and two players originated from Serbia, due to political reasons, abandoned the national team, betraying the squad in unprecedented condition before the two crucial matches for qualifiers. Montenegro managed to avoid defeat against Kosovo (1–1), however they lost to Czech Republic 0–3. The same result occurred in the rematch, one month later. With no chances to qualify directly, Montenegro failed to win the match against last placed Bulgaria (0–0), and lost to Kosovo (0–2). At the end of their worst campaign, Montenegro suffered their biggest defeat in history. On 14 November 2019, they were defeated against England in London 7–0. Not only did they finish the qualifying campaign without a single victory, Montenegro managed to score only three goals in eight matches, but conceded 22. Also, throughout the entire qualifying campaign the team had troubles with injuries to key players, most notably Stevan Jovetić and Stefan Savić.

Comeback

The team topped the group in 2020–21 UEFA Nations League above Luxembourg, Azerbaijan and Cyprus and were promoted into League B. They were also an important team in fight to qualify for 2022 FIFA World Cup. They were 4th of 6 teams in group with Netherlands, Turkey, Norway, Latvia and Gibraltar.

Stadium and facilities

Montenegro play home matches at the Podgorica City Stadium (Montenegrin: *Stadion pod Goricom*). The stadium's capacity is 15,230, but international matches reduce this to between 10,700 and 13,000.

Camp FSCG

The Football Association of Montenegro owns Camp FSCG, a Montenegrin training ground. Built in 2007, the centre has a total area of 54,000 square metres.^[14] It is located on Ćemovsko polje, a plain located in the outskirts of Podgorica outskirts between the settlements of Stari Aerodrom and Konik. It consists of six pitches with stands and floodlights,^[15] and *House of Football* – the seat of the Football Association of Montenegro.^[16]

The camp currently represents an important asset for the whole Montenegrin football system. The grounds are home to all Montenegrin national teams (men and women) and numerous local teams from Podgorica. CAMP FSCG meets the criteria for Montenegrin First League games and UEFA competitions for young players.

Team image

Nickname

Under the official [FIFA Trigramme](#), the team's name is abbreviated as **MNE**, which is also the country's [ISO 3166-1 code](#). The team's nickname is "The Brave Falcons" (Montenegrin: *Hrabri Sokoli*).



Montenegrin supporters

Kits and colours

Montenegro's traditional home colours are red, with a gold trim. This reflects the country's flag. The team's away kits have usually been white, with a red trim.

The current kit is produced by the Italian company [Legea](#).

Manufacturer	Period
 daCapo	2007–2008
 Legea	2008–present

Supporters

At competitive matches, the Montenegrin home ground [Podgorica City Stadium](#) is often filled to capacity. The stadium is regarded as too small to meet the needs of the national team. Demand for the World Cup qualifier against Italy in 2009 was 30,000 tickets; 40,000 for the Euro 2012 qualifying match against England in 2011.

Montenegro's loudest and most loyal supporters are named *Ultra Crna Gora* (Ултра Црна Гора; *Ultra Montenegro*). As an ultras group, their support consists of standing up and singing for 90 minutes both home and away. They occupy the north and south stands of [Podgorica City Stadium](#). Choreography is usually performed at the beginning of games. *Ultra Crna Gora* consists of many subgroups, mostly named after Podgorica's neighborhoods and [Montenegrin towns](#) in other parts of the country.

Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 12 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win Draw Loss Fixture

2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	24 March 2023 21:45 UTC+2	Bulgaria  0–1  Montenegro	Razgrad, Bulgaria	[show]
		Report (https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/match/203630/ 2/)	Stadium: Huvepharma Arena Attendance: 9,234 Referee: Aliyar Aghayev (Azerbaijan)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	27 March 2023 20:45 UTC+1	Montenegro  0–2  Serbia	Podgorica, Montenegro	[show]
		Report (https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/match/203632/ 6/)	Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 9,831 Referee: Clément Turpin (France)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 June 2023 18:00 UTC+2	Montenegro  0–0  Hungary	Podgorica, Montenegro	[show]
		Report (https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/match/203634/ 6/)	Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 6,761 Referee: Jesús Gil Manzano (Spain)	

Friendly	20 June 2023 20:45 UTC+2	Montenegro 🇩🇪 1–4 Czech Republic	Report (htt ps://int.soc cerway.co m/matche s/2023/06/ 20/world/fri endlies/mo ntenegro/c zech-repub lic/402666 4/)	Podgorica, Montenegro Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 1,792 Referee: Matthew De Gabriele (Malta)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	7 September 2023 21:45 UTC+3	Lithuania 🇳୍ଯ 2–2 Montenegro	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qu alifiers/mat ch/203639 5/)	Kaunas, Lithuania Stadium: Darius and Girėnas Stadium Attendance: 11,328 Referee: Mohammed Al-Hakim (Sweden)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	10 September 2023 18:00 UTC+2	Montenegro 🇩🇪 2–1 Bulgaria	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qu alifiers/mat ch/203641 7/)	Podgorica, Montenegro Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 4,232 Referee: Harm Osmers (Germany)	[show]
Friendly	12 October 2023 18:00 UTC+2	Montenegro 🇩🇪 3–2 Lebanon	Report (htt ps://int.soc cerway.co m/matche s/2023/10/ 12/world/fri endlies/mo ntenegro/le banon/423 4317/)	Podgorica, Montenegro Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 1,337 Referee: Eldorjan Hamiti (Albania)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 October 2023 20:45 UTC+2	Serbia 🇷🇸 3–1 Montenegro	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qu alifiers/mat ch/203646 3/)	Belgrade, Serbia Stadium: Rajko Mitić Stadium Attendance: 25,884 Referee: Szymon Marciniak (Poland)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 November 2023 18:00 UTC+1	Montenegro 🇩🇪 2–0 Lithuania	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qu alifiers/mat ch/203648 7/)	Podgorica, Montenegro Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 3,647 Referee: Artur Soares Dias (Portugal)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 November 2023	Hungary 🇭🇺 3–1 Montenegro		Budapest, Hungary	[show]

15:00 UTC+1

Szoboszlai 66', 68' Report (htt
 Nagy 90+3' Rubežić 36'
[ps://www.u
 efa.com/eu
 ropean-qu
 alifiers/mat
 ch/203650
 9/\)](http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036509/)

Stadium: Puskás Aréna
 Attendance: 59,600
 Referee: Danny Makkelie
 (Netherlands)

2024

Friendly	21 March	Montenegro	v	Belarus	Antalya, Turkey	[show]
Friendly	26 March	Montenegro	v	North Macedonia	Antalya, Turkey	[show]
Friendly	5 June	Belgium	v	Montenegro	Brussels, Belgium	[show]
Friendly	9 June	Montenegro	v	Georgia	Podgorica, Montenegro	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	6 September	Iceland	v	Montenegro	Iceland	[show]
	18:45 UTC±0					
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	9 September	Montenegro	v	Wales	Montenegro	[show]
	19:45 UTC±0					
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	11 October	Turkey	v	Montenegro	Turkey	[show]
	21:45 UTC+3					
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	14 October	Wales	v	Montenegro	Wales	[show]
	19:45 UTC±0					
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	16 November	Montenegro	v	Iceland	Montenegro	[show]
	18:00 UTC+1					
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	19 November	Montenegro	v	Turkey	Montenegro	[show]
	20:45 UTC+1					

Coaching history

Manager	Career	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	GF	GA	Win %
Zoran Filipović	2006–2009	23	8	8	7	28	31	34.78%
Zlatko Kranjčar	2010–2011	13	6	2	5	14	11	46.15%
Branko Brnović	2011–2015	34	11	9	14	44	50	32.35%
Ljubiša Tumbaković	2016–2019	26	7	7	12	33	33	26.92%
Miodrag Džudović	2019 (acting)	2	0	1	1	1	4	00.00%
Faruk Hadžibegić	2019–2020	13	5	4	4	13	16	38.46%
Miodrag Radulović	2020–2023	23	6	4	13	22	35	26.08%
Robert Prosinečki	2024–present	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%

Players

In international football, players can normally only play for one national team once they play in all or part of any match recognised as a full international by FIFA. However, an exception is made in cases where one or more newly independent states are created out of a former state. Based on current FIFA rules, a player will be eligible to play for Montenegro, even if he had previously represented Serbia and Montenegro or any other country, if at least one of the following statements applies:^[17]

- The player was born in Montenegro;

- At least one of their parents and/or at least one of their grandparents was born in Montenegro;
- The player has lived in Montenegro continuously for any five-year period.

Due to mixed ancestries, it is likely that a high percentage of the players eligible to play for Montenegro will also remain eligible to play for Serbia, and vice versa. However, once they have played for either Serbia or Montenegro in any competitive fixture, they are no longer eligible to play for any other nation.

Current squad

The following players were called up for games against Lithuania on 16 November and against Hungary on 19 November 2023.^[18]

Caps and goals as of 19 November 2023, after the match against Hungary.^{[19][20]}

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Milan Mijatović	26 July 1987	36	0	Železničar Pančevo
22	GK	Filip Đukić	6 August 1999	1	0	Hvidovre
12	GK	Nikola Ivezić	1 April 2003	0	0	Lommel
15	DF	Stefan Savić (<i>vice-captain</i>)	8 January 1991	72	9	Atlético Madrid
13	DF	Žarko Tomašević	22 February 1990	64	5	Free Agent
7	DF	Marko Vešović	28 August 1991	50	2	Qarabağ
3	DF	Risto Radunović	4 May 1992	33	1	FCSB
5	DF	Igor Vujačić	8 August 1994	31	0	Rubin Kazan
2	DF	Andrija Vukčević	11 October 1996	7	0	Juárez
23	DF	Miloš Milović	22 December 1995	4	0	Qingdao Hainiu
	DF	Slobodan Rubežić	21 March 2000	3	1	Aberdeen
19	DF	Marko Tući	4 December 1998	3	0	Gangwon
	MF	Vladimir Jovović	26 October 1994	54	0	Sogdiyona Jizzakh
10	MF	Marko Janković	9 July 1995	45	1	Qarabağ
4	MF	Marko Vukčević	7 June 1993	20	1	Varaždin
6	MF	Miloš Raičković	2 October 1993	18	0	Budućnost
20	MF	Stefan Lončar	19 February 1996	13	0	Debrecen
18	MF	Driton Camaj	7 March 1997	12	1	Kisvárda
14	MF	Edvin Kuč	27 October 1993	4	3	Ballkani
16	MF	Andrija Radulović	3 July 2002	3	0	Vojvodina
	MF	Vladan Bubanja	21 February 1999	1	0	Lokomotiva
8	FW	Stevan Jovetić (<i>captain</i>)	2 November 1989	74	34	Olympiacos
21	FW	Milutin Osmajić	25 July 1999	22	2	Preston North End
11	FW	Nikola Krstović	5 April 2000	14	2	Lecce
9	FW	Dušan Bakić	23 February 1999	5	0	Omonia Nicosia
17	FW	Viktor Đukanović	29 January 2004	3	0	Hammarby

Recent call-ups

The following players have been called on the last 12 months.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Danijel Petković	25 May 1993	25	0	Kisvárda	v. Lithuania, 16 November 2023 ^{INJ}
GK	Suad Ličina	8 February 1995	0	0	Mladost DG	v. Serbia, 17 October 2023
GK	Miloš Dragojević	3 February 1989	2	0	Budućnost Podgorica	v. Bulgaria, 10 September 2023
GK	Matija Šarkić	23 July 1997	7	0	Millwall	v. Bulgaria, 10 September 2023
GK	Lazar Carević	16 March 1999	2	0	Vojvodina	v. Hungary, 17 June 2023 ^{PRE}
DF	Adam Marušić	17 October 1992	57	3	Lazio	v. Lithuania, 16 November 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Nikola Šipčić	17 May 1995	7	0	Tenerife	v. Lebanon, 12 October 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Jonathan Drešaj	15 March 2000	0	0	Dečić	v. Czech Republic, 20 June 2023
MF	Nebojša Kosović	24 February 1995	33	1	Meizhou Hakka	v. Serbia, 17 October 2023
MF	Marko Bakić	1 November 1993	24	0	OFI	v. Serbia, 17 October 2023
MF	Aleksandar Šćekić	12 December 1991	40	0	Partizan	v. Bulgaria, 10 September 2023
MF	Sead Hakšabanović	4 May 1999	33	1	Stoke City	v. Bulgaria, 10 September 2023
MF	Vukan Savićević	29 January 1994	19	0	Vojvodina	v. Bulgaria, 10 September 2023
MF	Novica Eraković	12 November 1999	4	0	Omonia	v. Czech Republic, 20 June 2023
MF	Aleksandar Boljević	12 December 1995	26	2	Željezničar	v. Serbia, 27 March 2023
FW	Stefan Mugoša	23 February 1992	53	15	Incheon United	v. Lithuania, 16 November 2023 ^{INJ}
FW	Uroš Đurđević	2 March 1994	12	0	Sporting Gijón	v. Bulgaria, 10 September 2023

Notes

- INJ = Withdrawn due to injury
- PRE = Preliminary squad/standby
- RET = Retired from the national team
- SUS = Serving suspension
- WD = Player withdrew from the squad due to non-injury issue.

Player records

As of 19 November 2023^[21]

Players in bold are still active with Montenegro.

Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	Fatos Bećiraj	86	15	2009–2022
2	Stevan Jovetić	74	34	2007–present
3	Stefan Savić	72	9	2010–present
4	Žarko Tomašević	64	5	2010–present
5	Elsad Zverotić	61	5	2008–2017
6	Adam Marušić	57	3	2015–present
7	Vladimir Jovović	54	0	2013–present
8	Stefan Mugoša	53	15	2015–present
9	Nikola Vukčević	51	1	2014–present
10	Marko Simić	50	2	2013–present
	Marko Vešović	50	2	2013–present



Fatos Bećiraj is Montenegro's most capped player.

Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Average	Career
1	Stevan Jovetić	34	74	0.46	2007–present
2	Mirko Vučinić	17	46	0.37	2007–2017
3	Stefan Mugoša	15	53	0.28	2015–present
	Fatos Bećiraj	15	86	0.17	2009–2022
5	Stefan Savić	9	72	0.13	2010–present
6	Dejan Damjanović	8	30	0.27	2008–2015
7	Radomir Đalović	7	26	0.27	2007–2012
8	Andrija Delibašić	6	21	0.29	2009–2013
9	Elsad Zverotić	5	61	0.08	2008–2017
	Žarko Tomašević	5	64	0.08	2014–present



Stevan Jovetić is the national team top scorer.

Competitive record

Montenegro have participated in seven qualification rounds for World Cup or European Championship tournaments. Montenegro have never qualified, and their biggest success was reaching the play-offs for Euro 2012.

Montenegro first tried to qualify for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, but they finished fifth in their group. They had more success in the Euro 2012 qualifiers, when they finished second in their group to reach the play-offs, but lost to the Czech Republic.

In the qualifiers for the 2014 World Cup, Montenegro finished third, and two years later, in the qualifiers for Euro 2016, they finished fourth in their group. They again finished third in their 2018 World Cup qualifying group. Worst performance came in the qualifiers for Euro 2020, as Montenegro finished last-placed in the group without single victory.

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
FIFA World Cup qualifiers	40	13	13	14	61	58	+3
UEFA European Championship qualifiers	43	8	9	16	25	51	-26
UEFA Nations League	16	7	3	6	20	12	+8
Friendly games	50	18	13	18	59	62	-3
Overall	139	46	39	54	165	183	-18

Updated: 19 November 2023

FIFA World Cup

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record | Qualification record | Qualification play-offs record

Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1960																						
1964																						
1968																						
1972																						
1976																						
1980																						
1984																						
1988																						
1992																						
1996																						
2000																						
2004																						
2008																						
2012																						
2016																						
2020																						
2024																						
2028																						
2032																						
Total	0/4															—	34	9	10	15	29	53
																—	2	0	0	2	0	3

UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record										
Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK
2018–19	C	4	6	2	1	3	7	6	=	35th
2020–21	C	1	6	4	1	1	10	2	▲	34th
2022–23	B	3	6	2	1	3	6	6	=	28th
2024–25	B	To be determined								
Total			18	8	3	7	23	14		28th

Head-to-head record

Below is a summary of Montenegrin national team results against every opponent country.

As of 19 November 2023

Opponent	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %
Albania	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0.00
Armenia	3	1	0	2	6	5	+1	33.33
Austria	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0.00
Azerbaijan	3	2	1	0	4	0	+4	66.67
Belarus	4	2	2	0	4	1	+3	50.00
Belgium	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	0.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	0	3	1	1	2	-1	0.00
Bulgaria	8	3	4	1	9	9	+0	37.50
Colombia	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0.00
Cyprus	5	2	3	0	9	3	+6	40.00
Czech Republic	5	0	0	5	1	13	-12	0.00
Denmark	3	1	0	2	2	3	-1	33.33
England	6	0	3	3	5	19	-14	0.00
Estonia	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00
Finland	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0.00
Georgia	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	50.00
Ghana	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00
Gibraltar	2	2	0	0	7	1	+6	100.00
Greece	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	50.00
Hungary	5	2	2	1	8	8	+0	40.00
Iceland	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	100.00
Israel	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0.00
Iran	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	0.00
Italy	2	0	0	2	1	4	-3	0.00
Japan	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0.00
Kazakhstan	4	3	1	0	11	0	+11	75.00
Kosovo	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	0.00
Latvia	4	2	2	0	5	2	+3	50.00
Lebanon	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	100.00
Liechtenstein	2	1	1	0	2	0	+2	50.00
Lithuania	4	3	1	0	10	3	+7	75.00
Luxembourg	3	2	0	1	6	3	+3	66.67
Moldova	4	3	0	1	7	5	+2	75.00
North Macedonia	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	33.33
Netherlands	2	0	1	1	2	6	-4	0.00
Northern Ireland	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	100.00
Norway	4	1	0	3	4	6	-2	25.00
Poland	4	0	2	2	6	9	-3	0.00
Republic of Ireland	2	0	2	0	0	0	+0	0.00
Romania	7	3	2	2	7	6	+1	42.86
Russia	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0.00

Opponent	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %
San Marino	2	2	0	0	9	0	+9	100.00
Serbia	4	0	0	4	2	9	-7	0.00
Slovakia	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	0.00
Slovenia	3	0	1	2	1	4	-3	0.00
Sweden	3	0	1	2	3	6	-3	0.00
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	50.00
Turkey	4	0	2	2	5	7	-2	0.00
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	1	4	-3	50.00
Uzbekistan	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00
Wales	3	2	0	1	4	3	+1	66.67
51 Teams	144	48	39	57	172	190	-18	33.33

FIFA rankings

See also

- [Montenegro men's national football team results](#)
- [Montenegro men's national football team records and statistics](#)
- [List of Montenegro international footballers](#)
- [Montenegro women's national football team](#)
- [Montenegro women's national under-17 football team](#)
- [Football in Montenegro](#)
- [Sport in Montenegro](#)



Association
football portal

Notes

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External links

- Football Association of Montenegro (<http://www.fscg.me/>) (in Montenegrin)
- Montenegro (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/MNE>) on *FIFA.com* (in English)
- Montenegro (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/MNE/>) on *UEFA.com* (in English)
- List of players (<http://www.football-lineups.com/country/me/Players/>) (in English)
- Montenegro national team match reports (http://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=140) (in English)

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North Macedonia national football team

The **North Macedonia men's national football team** (Macedonian: Фудбалска репрезентација на Северна Македонија, romanized: *Fudbalska reprezentacija na Severna Makedonija*, represents North Macedonia in men's international football, and is administered by the [Football Federation of Macedonia](#). The team play their home matches at the [Toše Proeski National Arena](#) in Skopje.

North Macedonia have been rising in football in recent years, reaching [Euro 2020](#) (their first major tournament) and the European qualifying play-off final of the [2022 World Cup](#) (after defeating [Germany](#) in Duisburg and [Italy](#) in Palermo).^[3]

History

The National team was represented within the Federal team since 1919. Between 1945 and 1992, [SR Macedonia](#) was ineligible to play as a team for official matches. The team had mostly played exhibition matches against teams from other republics of [SFR Yugoslavia](#) and was represented by Macedonian players under the traditional red, yellow and white colors. As an independent team, it started to compete on international level after the split of the federation in 1991.

Early years (1993–96)

In 1994, the Republic of Macedonia became a single member of [FIFA](#) and [UEFA](#) after the independence and split of the [Yugoslavia](#). They recorded their first match as a 4–1 victory against Slovenia in a friendly on 13 October 1993 under coach [Andon Dončevski](#).^[4]

They went on to win their next two friendlies against Slovenia and [Estonia](#).

Euro 1996 qualifiers

The [Euro '96 qualifiers](#) was the first major qualifying tournament that Macedonia participated in as an independent nation, grouped with [Spain](#), [Denmark](#), [Belgium](#), [Cyprus](#) and [Armenia](#). In their opening game, which was also their first ever official match, Macedonia played the reigning European champions Denmark, finishing 1–1 after Macedonia led for most of the game.^[5] In Euro '96 qualifying, Macedonia suffered one of its worst-ever defeats, 5–0 to Belgium on 7 June 1995.^[6] They failed to qualify for [Euro '96](#), finishing fourth in the group with seven points.^[7]

Hadžievski, Kanatlarovski and Jovanovski's era (1996–2001)

1998 World Cup qualifiers

Macedonia's first qualifying attempt for the [World Cup](#) saw them grouped with [Romania](#), [Republic of Ireland](#), [Lithuania](#), [Iceland](#), and [Liechtenstein](#).

The tournament began on 24 April 1996 with a 3–0 win at home against Liechtenstein. On 9 November 1996, Macedonia recorded their biggest ever, an 11–1 thrashing of Liechtenstein.^[8] Macedonia defeated the Republic of Ireland 3–2 at home, their first win over a major European team, but failed again to qualify for the [1998 World Cup](#) in France, finishing fourth in the group on 13 points.^[9]

Euro 2000 qualifiers

Macedonia's journey to qualify for the [Euro 2000](#) tournament in the Netherlands and Belgium saw them grouped with [FR Yugoslavia](#), [Republic of Ireland](#), [Croatia](#), and [Malta](#). They once again opened their qualifying campaign with a win after beating Malta 4–0 at home on 6 September 1998. Their most notable result in the campaign was a 1–1 draw against Croatia in June 1999, with an equalizer of [Gjorgji Hristov](#) 10 minutes before the end of the game. They helped Yugoslavia to qualify directly and eliminate Croatia because they drew 1–1 against the Republic of Ireland with a last-minute equalizer of [Goran Stavrevski](#). However, they failed to qualify again, finishing fourth in the group with eight points.^[10]

2002 World Cup qualifiers

North Macedonia



Nickname(s) Рисови
Risovi (Lynxes)
Лавови
Lavovi (Lions)

Association Football Federation of Macedonia

Confederation UEFA (Europe)

Head coach Blagoja Milevski

Captain Enis Bardhi

Most caps Goran Pandev (122)

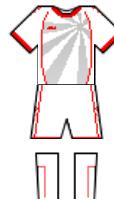
Top scorer Goran Pandev (38)

Home stadium Toše Proeski Arena

FIFA code MKD



First colours



Second colours

FIFA ranking

Current 68 ▼ 3 (15 February 2024)^[11]

Highest 46 (October 2008)

Lowest 166 (March 2017)

First international

Slovenia 1–4 Macedonia
(Kranj, Slovenia; 13 October 1993)

Biggest win

Liechtenstein 1–11 Macedonia
(Eschen, Liechtenstein; 9 November 1996)

Biggest defeat

England 7–0 North Macedonia
(Manchester, England; 19 June 2023)

European Championship

Appearances 1 (first in 2020)

Best result Group stage (2020)

Website ffm.mk (<https://ffm.mk/>)

Macedonia's [2002 World Cup](#) qualifying campaign saw them grouped with Sweden, Turkey, Slovakia, Moldova, and Azerbaijan. They were unsuccessful in their opening match, going down to Slovakia 2–0 in Bratislava on 3 September 2000. The Macedonians once again failed to qualify for the 2002 World Cup as they finished fourth in the group with seven points.^[11]



Ups and downs (2001–06)

Euro 2004 qualifiers

The Euro 2004 Qualifiers saw Macedonia grouped alongside England, Turkey, Slovakia, and Liechtenstein. Macedonia played England in Southampton, England's first home game in Southampton in almost 100 years. Macedonia grabbed the lead early in the first half after [Artim Šakiri](#) scored directly from a corner kick. England soon leveled the game, before Macedonia led again. The game eventually ended 2–2.^[12] Macedonia lost to England 2–1 at home in the return leg, which took place in September 2003.^[13] Macedonia's only win of the campaign came on 7 June 2003, when they beat Liechtenstein 3–1 at home.

2006 World Cup qualifiers

Macedonia was drawn in Group 1 and was grouped with the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Romania, Finland, Armenia, and Andorra. They managed to open their campaign with a comfortable 3–0 win at home against Armenia on 18 August 2004. Macedonia did not win another home game for more than three years.

On 9 October 2004, Macedonia managed to hold the Netherlands to a surprise 2–2 draw in Skopje in front of a crowd of 17,000 at the Skopje City Stadium,^[14] but just four days later, they suffered a 1–0 loss away to Andorra.^[15] Macedonia then set a new team record for most goals conceded in a game when they lost 6–1 away to the Czech Republic in June 2005.

Macedonia went on to concede a further eight goals in the next two qualifying games, both against Finland. On 23 August 2005, coach [Slobodan Santrač](#) resigned as coach of Macedonia after just five months due to personal problems, with former player [Boban Babunski](#) temporarily taking over as coach. The resignation came just days after they were beaten 3–0 by Finland in Skopje. Despite failing to qualify for the 2006 World Cup, Macedonia was the only team in the group to not lose against the Netherlands.

Iran tournament

Following the completion of the 2006 World Cup qualifying tournament, in November 2005, Macedonia took part in a friendly tournament in [Iran](#) consisting of four teams: Macedonia, [Iran](#), Paraguay, and [Togo](#). In their opening match, they won 2–1 against host nation Iran, booking a spot in the final against Paraguay, where they lost 1–0.



Agim wearing a yellow jersey away kit

Srečko Katanec's era and best FIFA ranking (2006–10)

Euro 2008 qualifiers

On 17 February 2006, former Slovenian national team coach [Srečko Katanec](#) was appointed as the head coach and was given a two-year contract.

In the lead-up to the beginning of the qualifiers for Euro 2008, Macedonia managed two wins in friendlies, against [Ecuador](#) 2–1 in [Madrid](#), and 1–0 [Turkey](#). Macedonia was placed in Group E for the [Euro 2008](#) qualifiers alongside [England](#), [Croatia](#), [Russia](#), [Israel](#), [Estonia](#), and [Andorra](#).

Macedonia opened its [UEFA Euro 2008](#) qualifying campaign with a 1–0 win away to Estonia on 16 August 2006. Macedonia hosted England on 6 September in their second game of the qualifiers. England went on to win 1–0; this was the first time that Macedonia failed to score against England.^[16]

A month later, on 7 October 2006, the two teams met once again in [Manchester](#), where England was held to a 0–0 draw in front of 72,062 people.^[17] On 17 October 2007, Macedonia recorded their first win on home soil since August 2004 when they defeated [Andorra](#) 3–0 in Skopje.^[18]

Macedonia then recorded one of their most impressive wins to date when they picked up a 2–0 victory over eventual group winners Croatia on 17 November 2007; it was also a first win for Macedonia over a side that was ranked in the top ten of the [FIFA World Rankings](#).^[19] Despite this, Macedonia failed to qualify for Euro 2008 after finishing fifth in the group with 14 points.^[20]

2010 World Cup qualifiers

On 25 November 2007, just days after Macedonia completed its qualifying campaign for Euro 2008, the groups for European qualifiers for the [2010 World Cup](#) were held in [Durban](#), [South Africa](#), where Macedonia was seeded in Pot 4 and grouped along with the [Netherlands](#), [Scotland](#), [Norway](#) and [Iceland](#).^[21] Manager Srečko Katanec received a two-year extension on 21 December 2007, which meant he would be under contract through the end of the 2010 World Cup qualifiers.^[22] In the lead up to the campaign, Macedonia played three friendlies against [Serbia](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and [Poland](#), which all ended in draws.

Macedonia opened their campaign with a 1–0 home win against Scotland on 6 September 2008 when [Ilčo Naumoski](#) scored on a rebound after a missed free-kick by [Goce Sedloški](#). Following these impressive results, Macedonia moved up 10 places to 46 in the [FIFA World Rankings](#) list for October 2008 which was their highest ever ranking. [Srečko Katanec](#) left the team following a 4–0 loss to the Netherlands in [Amsterdam](#) in April 2009 for allegedly

getting into an argument with Goran Pandev.^[23]

Soon afterward, the manager of the under-21 squad, Mirsad Jonuz, became the new coach of the Macedonian senior team and was signed until the end of the World Cup qualifying campaign.^[24] On 12 August 2009, a friendly match against Spain was held at the newly built City Park Stadium in Skopje. The defending European champions won 3–2 after being 2–0 down at halftime.^[25] In September, Macedonia lost 2–0 to Scotland and then to Norway; Macedonia missed the World Cup again.



Vancho Shikov

Fall and resurgence (2010–2018)

Euro 2012 qualifiers

On 7 February 2010, Macedonia was placed in Group B for the Euro 2012 qualifiers alongside Russia, Slovakia, Republic of Ireland, Armenia and Andorra.^[26] In the lead up to the qualifiers, an under-strength Macedonia side played friendlies against Azerbaijan, Romania, and Malta, winning the first two 3–1 and 1–0 respectively, and tied 1–1 against Malta later the summer.

Macedonia finished in fifth in the group with only two wins against minnows Andorra and two draws, against Armenia and Slovakia, both at home. Manager Mirsad Jonuz was dismissed on 18 June 2011^[27] and replaced by John Toshack.^[28]



Veliche Shumulikoski

2014 World Cup qualifiers

Macedonia's 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign saw them grouped with Croatia, Serbia, Belgium, Scotland and Wales.^[29] In August 2012, prior to the qualifications, John Toshack would leave as manager^[30] and would be replaced by Čedomir Janevski.^[31] The national team would begin the qualification round with a loss to Croatia in Zagreb and would go on to draw against Scotland in Glasgow. They lost again to Croatia and won against Serbia in Skopje after a penalty kick taken by Agim Ibraimi.^[32] Later in qualification, the national team would go on to lose twice to the eventual group winners Belgium.

Macedonia would win against Wales and lose against Scotland at home. Around the end of September 2013, Janevski would leave the team for Belgian club R.A.E.C. Mons^[33] and would be replaced by Zoran Stratev for the last two matches.^[34] Away losses to Wales and Serbia meant they would finish last in their group.

After the qualification run, Goran Pandev, Nikolče Noveski, Veliče Šumulikoski and others would retire from the national team due to turbulent relations with the Football Federation of Macedonia.^[35] In November 2013, Boško Gjurovski would be appointed the new national team manager.^[36]

Euro 2016 qualifiers

On 23 February 2014, Macedonia was placed in Group C for the Euro 2016 qualifiers alongside Spain, Ukraine, Slovakia, Belarus and Luxembourg.^[37] With 5–1 loss to Spain in Valencia, the only win they collected was against Luxembourg in Skopje.

After that match, Macedonia was brought into a run of a four losses; manager Boško Gjurovski was dismissed on 7 April 2015^[38] and replaced by Ljubinko Drulović.^[39] Further losses ensued against Slovakia and surprisingly Luxembourg by late goal of Sébastien Thill.

In the last match against Belarus in Barysaw, Macedonia played a draw that broke the streak of seven losses. The team still ended qualification last of the group.

2018 World Cup qualifiers

On 25 July 2015, in the middle of the Euro 2016 qualifying, the group draws for European qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup were held in Saint Petersburg. Macedonia was seeded in Pot 5 and grouped along with Spain again, for the first

time with Italy, along with Albania, Israel and Liechtenstein.^[40]

In October 2015, Drulović left the national team to join Serbian club Partizan^[41] and the manager place was taken over by the former manager of Rabotnički, Igor Angelovski.^[42] That same month, 2010 UEFA Champions League champion Goran Pandev came back to the national team after two years of absence.^[43]

Macedonia started with another disappointing performance with a loss to Albania in Shkodër, with a goal scored by Bekim Balaj in the last moments of the game, in a match that was played over two days because of interruption in the 76th minute due to weather.^{[44][45]} Later on they also lost to Israel at home after missing a penalty kick by Adis Jahović.^[46] After that, the national team also lost to Italy beside their 2–1 lead with the goals scored by Ilja Nestorovski and Ferhan Hasani.^[47] At the end of 2016, Macedonia was outclassed by Spain in Granada 4–0;^[48] Macedonia had not scored a single point, the worst qualifying start in the history of the national team.^[49]

The National team before a match with Ukraine 2014

time with Italy, along with Albania, Israel and Liechtenstein.^[40]

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Finally, in March 2017, Macedonia recorded their first win in qualifying against Liechtenstein, 3–0.^[50] Then they lost to Spain in Skopje 2–1.^[51] They also defeated Israel away through the lone goal by Goran Pandev, which was also a first ever win against Israel.^[52] Macedonia later tied Albania in Strumica 1–1.^[53]

2018–present

2018–19 UEFA Nations League D

In the first edition of the UEFA Nations League, Macedonia played in League D, the lowest division.^[54] Macedonia were drawn in Group 4 with Armenia, Liechtenstein and Gibraltar.^[55] The national team won the group with five wins and one loss, and were promoted to the League C for the next edition of the Nations League. North Macedonia were assured of a UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying play-offs place.^[56]



Goran Pandev the captain

Euro 2020 qualifiers

For UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying North Macedonia were placed in Group G, along with Austria, Israel, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia.^[57] North Macedonia managed two first impressive results, drawing Slovenia 1–1 away^[58] and before that, defeated Latvia 3–1 at home.^[59] However, North Macedonia would soon fall 1–0 to Poland^[60] and 4–1 to Austria.^[61] Then, the recently renamed country recorded a 1–1 away draw to Israel,^[62] and a 2–1 win over Slovenia at home.^[63] North Macedonia then lost 2–0 away to Poland,^[64] and 2–1 away to Austria, ending up in third place.^[65]

However, due to having successfully taken first place in the UEFA Nations League earlier, North Macedonia was able to reach the country's first ever competitive playoff in history and was scheduled against Kosovo. Eventually, in the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying play-offs first game, North Macedonia overcame Kosovo 2–1 at home. Then they faced Georgia in the final of Path D's play-offs on 13 November, winning 1–0.^[66]



Stefan Ristovski

2020–21 UEFA Nations League C

After winning the League D group in the first edition of the UEFA Nations League, North Macedonia were promoted to the third division of the competition, League C. North Macedonia was drawn in Group 2 together with Armenia, Estonia and Georgia.^[67]

UEFA Euro 2020

North Macedonia made their Euros debut in 2020, postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All three Group C matches ended up in a loss, to Austria, Ukraine and the Netherlands; Goran Pandev equalized against Austria in the 28th minute and Ezgjan Alioski scored against Ukraine. North Macedonia was the second debutant, after Finland.

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	Netherlands (H)	3	3	0	0	8	2	+6	9	Advance to knockout phase
2	Austria	3	2	0	1	4	3	+1	6	
3	Ukraine	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3	
4	North Macedonia	3	0	0	3	2	8	-6	0	

Source: UEFA (<https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/standings/#grp-2006440>)

(H) Hosts

- 13 June 2021 at Arena Națională, Bucharest: Austria 3–1 North Macedonia
- 17 June 2021 at Arena Națională, Bucharest: Ukraine 2–1 North Macedonia
- 21 June 2021 at Johan Cruyff Arena, Amsterdam: North Macedonia 0–3 Netherlands^[68]

2022 World Cup qualifiers

For the 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign, North Macedonia was drawn in Group J with Germany, Romania, Iceland, Armenia and Liechtenstein.^[69] On matchday 3, North Macedonia inflicted a 2–1 defeat on Germany in Duisburg, which was Germany's first World Cup qualification defeat since 2001 and only the third in their history.^{[70][71]} In the last two games against Armenia and Iceland, North Macedonia won both (5–0 away against Armenia, 3–1 against Iceland) to put them in 2nd in Group J. Qualifying for the play-offs, they defeated reigning European champions Italy in Palermo on 24 March 2022, and faced Portugal in the play-off final on 29 March where they lost 2–0.^{[72][73]}



The starting lineup against Austria in group C at the UEFA Euro 2020

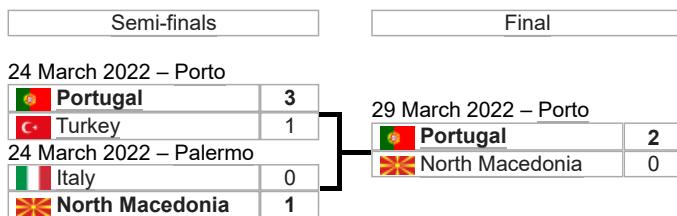


Ezgjan Alioski

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification	Germany	North Macedonia	Romania	Armenia	Iceland	Liechtenstein
1	Germany	10	9	0	1	36	4	+32	27	Qualification for 2022 FIFA World Cup	—	1–2	2–1	6–0	3–0	9–0
2	North Macedonia	10	5	3	2	23	11	+12	18		0–4	—	0–0	0–0	3–1	5–0
3	Romania	10	5	2	3	13	8	+5	17		0–1	3–2	—	1–0	0–0	2–0
4	Armenia	10	3	3	4	9	20	-11	12		1–4	0–5	3–2	—	2–0	1–1
5	Iceland	10	2	3	5	12	18	-6	9		0–4	2–2	0–2	1–1	—	4–0
6	Liechtenstein	10	0	1	9	2	34	-32	1		0–2	0–4	0–2	0–1	1–4	—

Source: [FIFA](https://www.fifa.com/tournaments/mens/worldcup/qatar2022/qualifiers/uefa) (<https://www.fifa.com/tournaments/mens/worldcup/qatar2022/qualifiers/uefa>), [UEFA](https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/standings/#grp-2008227) (<https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/standings/#grp-2008227>)

Rules for classification: [Tiebreakers](#)



2022–23 UEFA Nations League C

North Macedonia played in the [UEFA Nations League](#) against Georgia, Gibraltar, and Bulgaria. In the end they managed to get the third place.

Euro 2024 qualification

Team image

Stadiums



Number of matches	Stadium	First international	Last international
122	Toše Proeski Arena, Skopje ^[74]	23 March 1994	20 November 2023
5	Stadion Goce Delčev, Prilep ^[75]	27 March 1996	15 November 2011
5	Stadion Mladost, Strumica ^[76]	12 April 1995	17 October 2023
1	Gradski stadion, Tetovo ^[77]	14 May 1994	14 May 1994
1	Gradski stadion, Kumanovo ^[78]	29 September 1998	29 September 1998

Kit sponsorship

Kit supplier	Period
Adidas	1992–1993
Gems	1994–1998
Puma	1998–2014
Jako	2015–present



Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 12 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win Draw Loss Fixture

2023

Euro 2024 qualifying	23 March 20:45	North Macedonia 2–1 Malta Elmas 66' Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036295/) Churlinov 72'	Skopje, North Macedonia Stadium: Toše Proeski Arena Attendance: 9,991 Referee: Kristo Tohver (Estonia)	[show]
Friendly	27 March 18:00	North Macedonia 1–0 + Faroe Islands Mioski 82' Report (http://www.uefa.com/macedonianfootball.com/mkd-fro-match-report/)	Skopje, North Macedonia Stadium: Toše Proeski Arena Attendance: 500 Referee: Miloš Savović (Montenegro)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	16 June 20:45	North Macedonia 2–3 Ukraine Bardhi 31' (pen.) Report (http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036303/) Elmas 39'	Skopje, North Macedonia Stadium: Toše Proeski Arena Attendance: 14,370 Referee: Lukas Fähndrich (Switzerland)	[show]

Euro 2024 qualifying	19 June 20:45	England 7–0 North Macedonia	Kane 29', 73' (pen.) Report (http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifieds/match/20363638) Saka 38', 47', 51' Rashford 45' Phillips 64' atch/20363638	Manchester, England Stadium: Old Trafford Attendance: 70,708 Referee: István Kovács (Romania)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	9 September 20:45	North Macedonia 1–1 Italy	Bardhi 81' Report (http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifieds/match/203638) atch/203638	Skopje, North Macedonia Stadium: Toše Proeski Arena Attendance: 28,126 Referee: Felix Zwayer (Germany)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	12 September 20:45	Malta 0–2 North Macedonia	Report (http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifieds/match/203641) Elmas 5' Manev 41'	Ta' Qali, Malta Stadium: National Stadium Attendance: 3,158 Referee: Henrik Nalbandyan (Armenia)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	14 October 15:00	Ukraine 2–0 North Macedonia	Sudakov 30' Report (http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifieds/match/203643) Karavayev 90+5' atch/203643	Prague, Czech Republic Stadium: Stadion Letná Attendance: 12,939 Referee: Slavko Vinčić (Slovenia)	[show]
Friendly	17 October 15:00	North Macedonia 3–1 Armenia	Trajkovski 43' Report (http://www.int.soccerway.com/matches/2023/10/17/worldfriendly/macedonia-armenia/420947) Ristovski 59' Daci 88' atch/203647	Strumica, North Macedonia Stadium: Stadion Blagoj Istatov Attendance: 2,000 Referee: Nikola Dabanović (Montenegro)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	17 November 20:45	Italy 5–2 North Macedonia	Darmian 17' Report (http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifieds/match/203647) Chiesa 41', 45+2' Raspadori 81' El Shaarawy 90+3' atch/203647	Rome, Italy Stadium: Stadio Olimpico Attendance: 56,364 Referee: Felix Zwayer (Germany)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	20 November 20:45	North Macedonia 1–1 England	Bardhi 41' Report (http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifieds/match/203650) atch/203650	Skopje, North Macedonia Stadium: Toše Proeski Arena Attendance: 27,982 Referee: Filip Glova (Slovakia)	[show]

2024

Friendly	21 March	Moldova v North Macedonia		Antalya, Turkey	
Friendly	25 March	Montenegro v North Macedonia		Antalya, Turkey	
Friendly	3 June	Croatia v North Macedonia		Rijeka, Croatia	[show]
Friendly	10 June	Czech Republic v North Macedonia		Prague, Czech Republic	[show]
				Stadium: TBD	
2024–25 Nations League	7 September 14:00 UTC+1	Faroe Islands v North Macedonia		Tórshavn, Faroe Islands	[show]
				Stadium: Tórsvøllur	
2024–25 Nations League	10 September 20:45 UTC+2	North Macedonia v Armenia		North Macedonia	[show]
				Stadium: TBD	
2024–25 Nations League	10 October 21:45 UTC+3	Latvia v North Macedonia		Latvia	[show]
				Stadium: TBD	
2024–25 Nations League	13 October 20:00 UTC+4	Armenia v North Macedonia		Armenia	[show]
				Stadium: TBD	
2024–25 Nations League	14 November 20:45 UTC+1	North Macedonia v Latvia		North Macedonia	[show]
				Stadium: TBD	
2024–25 Nations League	17 November 15:00 UTC+1	North Macedonia v Faroe Islands		North Macedonia	[show]
				Stadium: TBD	

Coaching history

Name	First game	Last game	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	Achievements
Andon Dončevski	13 October 1993	15 November 1995	17	5	5	7	23	23	+0	29.41	
Gjoko Hadžievski	27 March 1996	9 June 1999	28	10	7	11	42	37	+5	35.71	
Dragi Kanatlarovski	5 September 1999	13 February 2005	31	8	8	15	32	37	-5	25.81	
Gjore Jovanovski	2 June 2001	10 January 2002	13	0	6	7	9	27	-18	0.00	
Nikola Ilievski	27 March 2002	11 June 2003	13	3	4	6	23	24	-1	23.08	
Slobodan Santrač	30 March 2005	17 August 2005	4	1	0	3	4	12	-8	25.00	
Boban Babunski (caretaker)	7 September 2005	10 August 2011	4	2	1	1	4	6	-2	50.00	
Srećko Katanec	1 March 2006	1 April 2009	27	9	7	11	28	29	-1	33.33	
Mirsad Jonuz	6 June 2009	4 June 2011	20	7	4	9	21	19	+2	35.00	
Vlatko Kostov (caretaker)	7 September 2010	7 September 2010	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	0.00	
John Toshack	2 September 2011	29 May 2012	8	1	4	3	4	8	-4	12.50	
Goce Sedloski (caretaker)	15 August 2012	15 August 2012	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	
Čedomir Janevski	7 September 2012	10 September 2013	14	5	1	8	15	19	-4	35.71	
Zoran Stratev (caretaker)	11 October 2013	15 October 2013	2	0	0	2	1	6	-5	0.00	
Boško Gjurovski	5 March 2014	30 March 2015	11	2	3	6	7	12	-5	18.18	
Ljubinko Drulović	14 June 2015	12 October 2015	5	0	1	4	1	6	-5	0.00	
Igor Angelovski	12 November 2015	21 June 2021	52	23	11	18	83	62	+21	44.23	UEFA Euro 2020 group stage
Blagoja Milevski	2 September 2021		21	7	6	8	30	28	+2	33.33	
Total			269	84	69	116	325	355	-30	31.23	—

Players

Current squad

- The following players were called up for the Euro 2024 qualifying matches against Italy and against England on 17 and 20 November 2023, respectively.^[80]
- Caps and goals are correct as of 20 November 2023, after the match against + England.^{[81][82]}

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Stole Dimitrevski	25 December 1993	66	0	Rayo Vallecano
12	GK	Igor Aleksovski	24 February 1995	1	0	Rabotnicki
22	GK	Damjan Shishkovski	18 March 1995	11	0	Ararat-Armenia
2	DF	Ahmed Iljazovski	31 July 1997	2	0	Hvidovre
3	DF	Stefan Ashkovski	24 February 1992	28	0	Alashkert
4	DF	Nikola Serafimov	11 August 1999	12	0	Fehérvár
6	DF	Visar Musliu	13 November 1994	57	1	SC Paderborn
8	DF	Ezgjan Alioski	12 February 1992	72	12	Al-Ahli
14	DF	Bojan Dimoski	23 November 2001	9	0	Akron
15	DF	Jovan Manev	25 January 2001	6	1	Adana Demirspor
23	DF	Todor Todoroski	26 February 1999	6	0	Politehnica Iași
5	MF	Arijan Ademi	29 May 1991	33	4	Dinamo Zagreb
7	MF	Eljif Elmas	24 September 1999	56	12	RB Leipzig
10	MF	Enis Bardhi (captain)	2 July 1995	62	16	Trabzonspor
11	MF	Darko Churlinov	11 July 2000	22	4	Schalke 04
13	MF	Dimitar Mitrovski	28 January 1999	1	0	Varaždin
16	MF	Tihomir Kostadinov	4 March 1996	20	0	Piast
17	MF	Agon Elezi	1 March 2001	9	0	VfL Bochum
18	MF	Isnik Alimi	2 February 1994	5	0	Sepsi OSK
21	MF	Jani Atanasov	31 October 1999	14	2	Cracovia
	MF	David Babunski	1 March 1994	15	0	Mezőkövesd
9	FW	Bojan Miovski	24 June 1999	20	2	Aberdeen
19	FW	Milan Ristovski	8 April 1998	22	4	Bohemians
20	FW	Erdon Daci	4 July 1998	1	1	Westerlo
	FW	Aleksandar Trajkovski	5 September 1992	86	21	Hajduk

Recent call-ups

The following players have been called up for the team within the last 12 months and are still available for selection.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Davor Taleski	19 May 1995	0	0	Shkëndija	v. Malta, 12 September 2023
GK	Dejan Iliev ^{INJ}	25 February 1995	1	0	Sarajevo	v. England, 19 June 2023
GK	Kristijan Naumovski	17 September 1988	7	0	DPMM	v. Faroe Islands, 27 March 2023
DF	Gjoko Zajkov ^{INJ}	10 February 1995	27	1	Universitatea Craiova	v. Malta, 12 September 2023
DF	Darko Velkovski	21 June 1995	48	3	Dinamo Bucureşti	v. Malta, 12 September 2023
DF	Stefan Ristovski	12 February 1992	82	2	Dinamo Zagreb	v. England, 19 June 2023
DF	Egzon Bejtulai	7 January 1994	27	0	Drita	v. England, 19 June 2023
DF	Vladica Brdarovski	7 February 1990	9	0	Vardar	v. England, 19 June 2023
DF	Kire Ristevski	22 October 1990	59	0	Ethnikos	v. Faroe Islands, 27 March 2023
MF	Valon Ethemí	3 October 1997	4	0	Konyaspor	v. Ukraine, 14 October 2023 ^{WD}
MF	Davor Zdravkovski	29 March 1998	0	0	Motherwell	v. Malta, 12 September 2023
MF	Sefer Eminí	15 July 2000	0	0	Sønderjyske	v. England, 19 June 2023
FW	Ljupcho Doriev	13 September 1995	9	0	Sogdiana	v. Armenia, 17 October 2023
FW	Ilija Nestorovski	12 March 1990	52	10	Ascoli	v. Malta, 12 September 2023
FW	Dorian Babunski	29 August 1996	7	0	Grasshopper	v. Malta, 12 September 2023
FW	Marjan Radeski	10 February 1995	17	1	Struga	v. Italy, 9 September 2023 ^{WD}

Notes

- INJ = Withdrawn due to injury
- PRE = Preliminary squad / standby
- RET = Retired from the national team
- SUS = Serving suspension
- U21 = Player called up to the U21 squad.
- WD = Player withdrew from the squad.

Statistics

As of 18 November 2023[83]

Players in **bold** are still active with Macedonia.

Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	Goran Pandev	122	38	2001–2021
2	Goce Sedloski	100	8	1996–2010
3	Aleksandar Trajkovski	86	21	2011–present
4	Veliche Shumulikoski	84	1	2002–2013
5	Stefan Ristovski	82	2	2011–present
6	Artim Shakiri	73	15	1996–2006
7	Ezgjan Alioski	72	12	2013–present
8	Igor Mitreski	70	1	2001–2011
9	Ivan Trichkovski	67	7	2010–2021
10	Stole Dimitrevski	66	0	2015–present



Goran Pandev is North Macedonia's top goalscorer and their most capped player.

Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	Goran Pandev	38	122	0.31	2001–2021
2	Aleksandar Trajkovski	21	86	0.24	2011–present
3	Gjorgji Hristov	16	48	0.33	1995–2003
	Enis Bardhi	16	62	0.26	2015–present

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
5	Artim Shakiri	15	73	0.21	1996–2006
6	Elif Elmas	12	56	0.21	2017–present
	Ezgjan Alioski	12	72	0.17	2013–present
8	Goran Maznov	10	45	0.22	2001–2009
	Ilija Nestorovski	10	52	0.19	2016–present
10	Ilcho Naumoski	9	46	0.2	2003–2012

Captains

This is a list of Macedonian captains for five or more official and friendly matches.

Player	Period	Games as captain (Total caps)	Major tournaments as captain (Games)
Darko Pančev	1993–1995	6 (6)	
Toni Micevski	1996–2001	12 (44)	
Artim Šakiri	2002–2005	10 (72)	
Goce Sedloski	2004–2009	43 (100)	
Veliče Šumulikoski	2009–2012	11 (84)	
Goran Pandev	2010–2013	22 (75)	
Tome Pachovski	2014–2015	10 (46)	
Goran Pandev	2016–2021	69 (122)	UEFA Euro 2020 (3)
Stefan Ristovski	2019–2023	16 (82)	
Enis Bardhi	2021–	12 (62)	

Note: Some of the other players to have captained the team include: [Dragi Kanatlarovski](#) (1 cap; 1993), [Ilija Najdoski](#) (3; 1994), [Dančo Celeski](#) (2; 1995), [Ljupčo Markovski](#) (4; 1995 to 1997), [Mitko Stojkovski](#) (2; 1998), [Boban Babunski](#) (2; 1996 and 1999), [Gjorgji Hristov](#) (2; 2002 to 2003), [Petar Miloševski](#) (2; 2004 and 2008), [Ilcho Naumoski](#) (1; 2008), [Igor Mitreski](#) (4; 2007 to 2010), [Aleksandar Lazevski](#) (1; 2010), [Nikolče Noveski](#) (4; 2011 to 2013), [Daniel Mojsov](#) (1; 2012), [Boban Grncharov](#) (3; 2012 to 2014), [Blazhe Ilijoski](#) (1; 2014), [Blagoja Todorovski](#) (1; 2014), [Vanche Shikov](#) (4; 2015), [Ivan Trichkovski](#) (4; 2018 to 2020), [Ilija Nestorovski](#) (1; 2019), [Darko Velkovski](#) (1; 2022) and [Elif Elmas](#) (1; 2023).

Competitive record

FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record									Qualification record							
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Position	
1930 to 1990	Part of Yugoslavia									Part of Yugoslavia						
1994	Did not enter									Did not enter						
1998	Did not qualify									10	4	1	5	22	18	4/6
2002										10	1	4	5	11	18	4/6
2006										12	2	3	7	11	24	5/7
2010										8	2	1	5	5	11	4/5
2014										10	2	1	7	7	16	6/6
2018										10	3	2	5	15	15	5/6
2022										12	6	3	3	24	13	2/6 (play-offs)
2026	To be determined									To be determined						
2030										72	20	15	37	95	115	—
2034																
Total			0/7	-	-	-	-	-								

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record									Qualification record							
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Position	
1960 to 1992	Part of Yugoslavia									Part of Yugoslavia						
1996	Did not qualify									10	1	4	5	9	18	4/6

2000		8	2	2	4	13	14	4/5
2004		8	1	3	4	11	14	4/5
2008		12	4	2	6	12	12	5/7
2012		10	2	2	6	8	14	5/6
2016		10	1	1	8	6	18	6/6
2020	Group stage	23rd	3	0	0	3	2	8
2024	<i>Did not qualify</i>							
2028	<i>To be determined</i>							
2032		78	19	18	41	84	123	—
Total	Group stage	1/8	3	0	0	3	2	8

Olympic Record

- #### ■ Within Yugoslavia Team

1920 Round 1, 1924 Preliminary, 1928 Preliminary, 1948(2nd), 1952(2nd), 1956 (2nd), 1960 Champion, 1964 1/4 finals, 1980(4th), 1984(3rd), 1988 group

- Since 1996 under 21 team plays at Olympics
 - 1996 couldn't participate
 - 2000-2020 didn't qualify

UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record												
Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P/R	RK	
2018–19	D	4	6	5	0	1	14	5	+9	▲	41st	
2020–21	C	2	6	2	3	1	9	8	+1	=	40th	
2022–23	C	4	6	2	1	3	7	7	0	=	42nd	
2024–25	C	Future event										
Total			18	9	4	5	30	20	+10		40th	

Minor tournaments

- #### ▪ **Yugoslav Football Tournament**

- 5th place: 1945

Team Macedonia

Rustenov, Bogojevski, Vidovik, Martinovski, Petrovski, Davidovski, Janevski, Adamovski, Atanaskov, Balevski, Gerov. Manager: Illes Spitz

Head-to-head record

As of 20 November 2023, after the match against England.

[show]

Macedonia all-time head-to-head record

Against	Region	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	First match	Last match
Albania	UEFA	10	4	4	2	12	7	+5	40%	14 May 1994	5 September 2017
Andorra	UEFA	6	4	1	1	9	1	+8	66.67%	13 October 2004	6 September 2011
Angola	CAF	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%		29 May 2012
Armenia	UEFA	13	6	3	4	23	18	+5	41.67%	10 May 1995	17 October 2023
Australia	AFC	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	0%	12 March 1997	30 March 2015
Austria	UEFA	3	0	0	3	3	9	-6	0%	10 June 2019	13 June 2021
Azerbaijan	UEFA	8	5	2	1	15	8	+7	62.5%	26 July 2000	20 November 2022
Bahrain	AFC	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0%		7 January 2001
Belarus	UEFA	3	1	1	1	4	2	+2	33.33%	27 March 2015	28 March 2017
Belgium	UEFA	4	0	1	3	1	9	-8	0%	16 November 1994	26 March 2013
Bosnia and Herzegovina	UEFA	5	1	3	1	8	8	0	20%	3 June 1998	26 March 2008
Bulgaria	UEFA	9	2	2	5	4	9	-5	22.22%	12 April 1995	26 September 2022
Cameroon	CAF	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0%	9 February 2011	26 May 2014
Canada	CONCACAF	2	1	0	1	3	1	+2	50%	18 May 1998	14 November 2009
China	AFC	5	0	2	3	0	4	-4	0%	27 January 2004	22 June 2014
Croatia	UEFA	8	1	2	5	9	12	-3	12.5%	14 October 1998	12 October 2012
Cyprus	UEFA	2	1	1	0	4	1	+3	50%	17 December 1994	11 October 1995
Czech Republic	UEFA	3	0	1	2	2	9	-7	0%	28 February 2001	8 June 2005
Denmark	UEFA	3	1	1	1	4	2	+2	33.33%	7 September 1994	6 February 2013
Ecuador	CONMEBOL	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	100%		28 May 2006
Egypt	CAF	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0%		29 September 1998
England	UEFA	6	0	3	3	4	13	-9	0%	16 October 2002	20 November 2023
Estonia	UEFA	6	4	2	0	13	7	+6	66.67%	1 June 1994	15 November 2020
Faroe Islands	UEFA	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100%		27 March 2023
Finland	UEFA	6	1	2	3	3	12	-9	16.67%	10 January 2002	17 November 2022
Yugoslavia	UEFA	3	0	0	3	4	9	-5	0%	5 September 1999	23 February 2000
Georgia	UEFA	5	1	2	2	3	7	-4	20%	8 September 2020	23 September 2022
Germany	UEFA	2	1	0	1	2	5	-3	50%	31 March 2021	11 October 2021
Gibraltar	UEFA	4	4	0	0	12	0	+12	100%	6 September 2018	12 June 2022
Hungary	UEFA	2	0	1	1	0	5	-5	0%	22 April 1998	14 November 2001
Iceland	UEFA	6	3	2	1	9	5	+4	50%	1 June 1996	14 November 2021
Iran	AFC	3	0	1	2	3	7	-4	0%	9 June 2000	2 June 2016
Israel	UEFA	7	2	1	4	7	9	-2	28.57%	20 November 2002	6 September 2019
Italy	UEFA	5	1	2	2	7	10	-3	20%	9 October 2016	17 November 2023
Jamaica	CONCACAF	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	100%		20 April 1998
Kazakhstan	UEFA	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	100%		4 June 2021
Kosovo	UEFA	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	100%		8 October 2020
Latvia	UEFA	3	3	0	0	7	2	+5	100%	5 March 2014	9 September 2019
Lebanon	AFC	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0%		17 November 2015
Liechtenstein	UEFA	11	10	1	0	42	5	+37	90.91%	24 April 1996	8 October 2021
Lithuania	UEFA	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	33.33%	6 September 1997	15 August 2012
Luxembourg	UEFA	4	2	0	2	8	6	+2	50%	20 August 2008	5 September 2015

Macedonia all-time head-to-head record

Against	Region	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	First match	Last match
Malta	UEFA	8	7	1	0	19	3	+16	87.5%	27 March 1996	12 September 2023
Moldova	UEFA	3	0	3	0	3	3	0	0%	11 October 2000	11 February 2009
Montenegro	UEFA	3	2	0	1	7	4	+3	66.67%	19 November 2008	15 August 2012
Netherlands	UEFA	5	0	2	3	3	11	-8	0%	9 October 2004	21 June 2021
Nigeria	CAF	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%	22 August 2007	
Norway	UEFA	4	1	1	2	3	4	-1	25%	6 June 2009	11 November 2017
Oman	AFC	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0%	30 December 2001	
Poland	UEFA	5	0	1	4	2	11	-9	0%	14 February 2003	13 October 2019
Portugal	UEFA	3	0	1	2	0	3	-3	0%	2 April 2003	29 March 2022
Qatar	AFC	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	33.33%	25 July 2001	30 May 2014
Republic of Ireland	UEFA	6	1	1	4	5	11	-6	16.67%	9 October 1996	4 June 2011
Romania	UEFA	7	1	1	5	7	14	-7	14.29%	14 December 1996	8 September 2021
Russia	UEFA	4	0	0	4	0	7	-7	0%	15 November 2006	2 September 2011
Saudi Arabia	AFC	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	0%	1 August 2001	22 October 2022
Scotland	UEFA	4	1	1	2	3	5	-2	25%	6 September 2008	10 September 2013
Serbia	UEFA	3	1	1	1	3	6	-3	33.33%	6 February 2008	15 October 2013
Slovakia	UEFA	8	0	2	6	3	16	-13	0%	3 September 2000	14 June 2015
Slovenia	UEFA	7	4	2	1	13	7	+6	57.14%	13 October 1993	1 June 2021
South Korea	AFC	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	0%	18 April 1998	7 June 2000
Spain	UEFA	7	0	0	7	4	20	-16	0%	12 October 1994	11 June 2017
Sweden	UEFA	3	0	0	3	1	4	-3	0%	24 March 2001	3 June 2013
Turkey	UEFA	8	1	2	5	9	14	-5	12.5%	31 August 1994	5 June 2017
Ukraine	UEFA	7	1	1	5	4	10	-6	25%	11 October 2003	16 October 2023
United States	CONCACAF	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%	16 May 1998	
Wales	UEFA	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	50%	6 September 2013	11 October 2013
Total	67 nations	280	87	70	123	338	382	-44	31.07%		

FIFA ranking history

FIFA-ranking yearly averages for North Macedonia. The country reached 46th in October 2008, and 166th in March 2017. As of 25 March 2022, they sit in 66th.^[84]

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
x	90	94	86	92	59	68	76	89	85
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
92	92	87	54	58	56	65	76	103	81
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
83	100	136	162	76	68	68	65	67	

See also

- [List of Macedonia international footballers](#)
- [Macedonia national football team results](#)
- [Macedonia national under-21 football team](#)
- [Macedonia national under-19 football team](#)
- [Macedonia national under-17 football team](#)

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External links

- Official website (<http://ffm.mk/>) (in Macedonian)
- Macedonia (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/MKD>) at [FIFA](#)
- Macedonia (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/MKD/>) at [UEFA](#)
- Macedonian Football (<http://www.macedonianfootball.com>)
- Fans forum (<http://www.fudbalforum.com>) (in English and Macedonian)
- Macedonia – International Results (<https://www.rsssf.org/tables/fyrom-intres.html>) (1993–present) at the [RSSSF](#)

Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The **Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina** (Bosnian: *Premijer liga Bosne i Hercegovine*; Croatian: *Premijer liga Bosne i Hercegovine*; Serbian Cyrillic: *Премијер лига Босне и Херцеговине*), officially known as the **Wwin League of Bosnia and Herzegovina** for sponsorship purposes, is the top tier football league in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is operated by the Football Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As the country's most prestigious level of football competition, the league changed format in the 2016–17 season and is contested by 12 clubs with the last two teams relegated at the end of every season.

As of the 2023–24 season, the league is represented by four clubs in European competition. The winner of the Premier League starts from the UEFA Champions League first qualifying round. The winner of the Bosnian Cup as well as the runner-up and third placed team on the table starts from the first qualifying round of the UEFA Europa Conference League.

The bottom two teams are relegated at the end of the season, while the winners of the First League of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the First League of the Republika Srpska are promoted to the Premier League.

History

War period (1992–1996)

After the breakup of Yugoslavia, and following proclamation of independence in late winter 1992, many clubs from Bosnia and Herzegovina left the Yugoslav First League. In April 1992, the N/FSBiH applied for membership with FIFA and UEFA.^[1] Meanwhile, due to the outbreak of the Bosnian War in April 1992, no games were played in the 1992–93 season. In late 1993 some parts of the country re-launched football competitions with reduced scope. But just as the country was divided along ethnic lines, so was football.

In 1993, Bosnian Croats launched the Football Federation of Herzeg-Bosnia and its First League of Herzeg-Bosnia, in which only Croat clubs competed on parochial scale within the limits of West Herzegovina and a few other enclaves. In the same year Bosnian Serbs also organized their own First League of the Republika Srpska, on a territory held by Republika Srpska at the time. Only football on a territory under the control of the then Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions and auspices of N/FSBiH, at the time

Wwin League of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Organising body	N/FSBiH
Founded	2000
First season	2000–01
Country	 Bosnia and Herzegovina
Confederation	UEFA
Number of teams	12
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	First League of FBiH First League of RS
Domestic cup(s)	Bosnian Cup
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Conference League
Current champions	Zrinjski (8th title) (2022–23)
Most championships	Zrinjski (8 titles)
Most appearances	Wagner (297)
Top goalscorer	Nemanja Bilbija (162)
TV partners	Arena Sport
Website	nfsbih.ba (http://www.nfsbih.ba/)
<i>Current: 2023–24 Premier League</i>	

consequently with Bosniak majority, apart from a brief competition for the 1994–95 season (won by Čelik Zenica), came to a standstill. Competition under auspices of the N/FSBiH did not resume until the 1995–96 season when the First League of Bosnia and Herzegovina was launched.^[1]

Post-war period (1996–2000)

These three separate football leagues were operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina until 1998, and 2000. Since FIFA and UEFA showed support only for the association operating under patronage of the official and internationally recognized state institutions, during the war and prior to the Dayton Agreement, as well as after its signage, they endorsed unification of all three organizations as the N/FSBiH. This also came as a consequence of FIFA's decision to recognize the N/FSBiH already in July 1996, while in the same year UEFA admitted the N/FSBiH as an adjacent member until 1998 when they recognized its full membership. This meant that only N/FSBiH clubs and its national team could compete at the international and official level.^[1]

Final unification was preceded by several stages. At first, a play-off was created where clubs were playing for the title under N/FSBiH auspices. The idea was that a play-off under unified N/FSBiH auspices should bring together clubs competing under three separate organizations for the first time but was rejected by the Serb association, leaving clubs from the Croat football association and the N/FSBiH participating the play-off for the seasons 1997–98 and 1999–00, while the 1998–99 play-off was canceled due to the Croat's association hesitation on the decision on which stadiums games should be played. Next season the play-off was resumed for the last time prior to the full and final agreement on a unified N/FSBiH and its competition, the Bosnian Premier League (*Premijer Liga*), in the fall of 2000.

Premier League creation (2000)

The first 2000–01 season saw clubs from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina entity only, while clubs from the Republika Srpska entity continued to compete in their own separate league as their entity association still refused to join the agreed unified N/FSBiH and its new competition. However, UEFA and FIFA never intended to recognize this separate organization nor its competition, which meant clubs could not compete outside the territory of the entity and would not compete internationally. This situation forced clubs to insist that their organization also join the N/FSBiH, and two years later they became part of the competition for the 2002–03 season. Ever since the year 2000 the Premier League is the top tier of Bosnia and Herzegovina football, with two entity-based leagues, the First League of Republika Srpska and the First League of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, being pushed to the second tier of the Bosnian football pyramid and serve as feeder leagues to the Premier League.^[1]

Premier League as Liga 12 (2016–2018)

During the seasons 2016–17 and the 2017–18, the league had entirely changed its format, reducing the number of clubs from 16 to 12, thus sometimes referred to as "**Liga 12**" (League 12), with the calendar also modified accordingly, reintroducing the play-offs (also known as the "*title playoffs*") and introducing the play out.

The number of matches was played by each club during the regular season after which, according to their position, they entered to the play-offs or the play out. The play-offs were contested by the top six clubs in the regular season, with each club playing each other twice for the title, which guaranteed Champions League qualifications, while second and third place guaranteed Europa League qualifications berths. The play out was contested by the bottom six clubs to avoid relegation, with the last two teams being relegated.

Old format (2018–present)

Since the [2018–19](#) season, after all the 12 clubs have played against each other two times, once home and once away, they play against each other one more time, playing either home or away depending on how the schedule is made. With that, the league season has 33 full rounds, instead of the 22 rounds and an additional 10 rounds in the relegation and championship games in the [2016–17](#) and [2017–18](#) seasons.^[2]

Sponsorship

On 31 July 2012, the Football Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a two-year deal with [BH Telecom](#) regarding the sponsorship of the league, effectively renaming the league **BH Telecom Premier League**.^[3] The deal was extended once more before the start of 2014–15 season. On 24 July 2020, it was announced that [Mtel](#) had become the new league sponsor for the next three years with an estimate 23 Million [BAM](#) worth,^[4] renaming the league **m:tel Premier League**.

On 9 February 2024, a five-year deal with [gambling company Wwin](#) was signed by the Bosnian FA, officially changing the league's name to the **Wwin League of Bosnia and Herzegovina**.^[5]

2023–24 Member Clubs

Team	Location	Stadium	Capacity ^[6]
Borac Banja Luka	Banja Luka	Banja Luka City Stadium	10,030
GOŠK Gabela	Gabela	Perica-Pero Pavlović	3,000
Igman Konjic	Konjic	Stadion Igmana	5,000
Posušje	Posušje	Mokri Dolac Stadium	8,000
Sarajevo	Sarajevo	Asim Ferhatović Hase	34,500
Sloga Meridian	Doboj	Luke Stadium	3,000
Široki Brijeg	Široki Brijeg	Pecara	7,000
Tuzla City	Tuzla	Tušanj	7,200
Velež Mostar	Mostar	Rođeni Stadium	7,000
Zrinjski Mostar	Mostar	Bijeli Brijeg	9,000
Zvijezda 09	Ugljevik	Ugljevik City Stadium	5,000
Željezničar	Sarajevo	Grbavica	13,146



Rankings

Source: Bert Kassies' website (<https://kassiesa.net/uefa/index.html>) (country rankings (<https://kassiesa.net/uefa/data/method5/crank2024.html>); team rankings (<https://www.uefa.com/nationalassociations/uefarankings/country/seasons/#/yr/2023>))

Country

Team

UEFA Country Ranking as of end-season of 2022–23 season.

As of 21 June 2023

Current Ranking	Last Season Ranking	Movement	League	Coefficient
37	39	▲	Armenia	8.375
38	30	▼	Kazakhstan	8.375
39	44	▲	Northern Ireland	8.083
40	41	▲	Bosnia and Herzegovina	7.750
41	43	▲	Faroe Islands	7.625
42	38	▼	Lithuania	7.375
43	47	▲	Estonia	7.082

2022–23 season

Rank	Team	Points
161	Zrinjski	8.500
189	Sarajevo	7.000
308	Borac	4.000
322	Velež	3.500
345	Široki Brijeg	3.000
363	Željezničar	2.500
398	Tuzla City	1.500
399	Radnik	1.000

Source (<https://www.uefa.com/nationalassociations/uefarankings/club/#/yr/2023>)

Bosnia and Herzegovina Champions

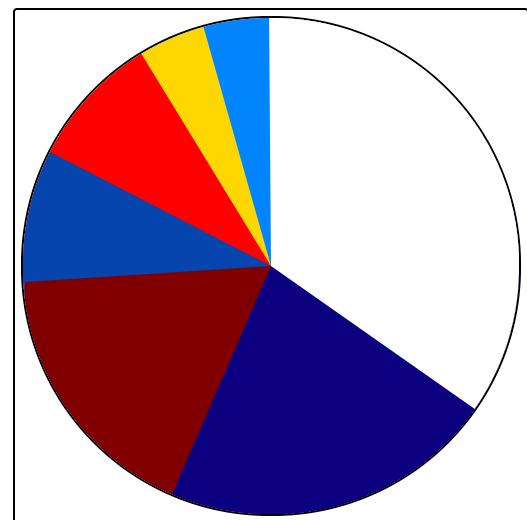
Champions of First League of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- 1994–95 - Čelik - "Champion of BiH"
- 1995–96 - Čelik - "Champion of BiH"
- 1996–97 - Čelik - "Champion of BiH"
- 1997–98 - Bosna Visoko - "Champion of First League of Bosnia and Herzegovina" (first round)
- 1997–98 - Željezničar - "Champion of First League of Bosnia and Herzegovina" (Play-Offs) - **Official champions**
- 1998–99 - Sarajevo - "Champion of BiH"
- 1999–2000 - Jedinstvo Bihać - "Champion of First League of Bosnia and Herzegovina" (first round)
- 1999–2000 - Brotnjo - "Champion of First League of Bosnia and Herzegovina" (Play-Offs) - **Official champions**

Champions of First League of Herzeg-Bosnia

- 1993–94 - Široki Brijeg^[7] – Mario Prskalo (10 goals, Široki Brijeg)
- 1994–95 - Široki Brijeg – Anđelko Marušić (15, Široki Brijeg)
- 1995–96 - Široki Brijeg – Mario Marušić (15, Grude), Dejan Džepina (15, Novi Travnik)
- 1996–97 - Široki Brijeg – Anđelko Marušić (21, Široki Brijeg)

- 1997–98 - Široki Brijeg – Stanko Bubalo (31, Široki Brijeg)
- 1998–99 - Posušje – Slađan Filipović (19, Široki Brijeg)
- 1999–2000 - Posušje – Robert Ristovski (18, Kiseljak)



Champions of First League of the Republika Srpska

Season	Champions	Runners-up	Top goalscorer	Club	Goals
1995–96	Boksit Milići	Rudar Prijedor	Siniša Đurić Zoran Majstorović	Kozara Gradiška Boksit Milići	16
1996–97	Rudar Ugljevik	Sloga Trn	Mladen Zgonjanin Marić	Sloga Trn Glasinac Sokolac	14
1997–98	Rudar Ugljevik	Borac Banja Luka	Nikola Bala	Rudar Ugljevik	31
1998–99	Radnik Bijeljina	Rudar Ugljevik	Mladen Zgonjanin	Sloga Trn	23
1999–2000	Boksit Milići	Rudar Ugljevik	Nedo Zdjelar	Sloboda Novi Grad	29
2000–01	Borac Banja Luka	Sloboda Novi Grad	Milanko Đerić	Boksit Milići	26
2001–02	Leotar	Kozara Gradiška	Pavle Delibašić Siniša Jovanović	Leotar Glasinac Sokolac	21

Champions of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Listing seasons (aside of 1998–99 season) before the creation of Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the champion was decided via a play-off played between best placed clubs who played in First League of Bosnia and Herzegovina and First League of Herzeg-Bosnia (without clubs from First League of the Republika Srpska).

Season	Winner of play-off	Runners-up of play-off	Winning manager	Top scorer(s) of play-off	
				Player(s) (Club)	Goals
1997–98 ¹	Željezničar (1)	Sarajevo	Enver Hadžibabić (1)	Stanko Bubalo (Široki Brijeg) Hadis Zubanović (Željezničar)	3
1998–99 ²		Sarajevo (1)	Nermin Hadžiahmetović (3)	—	—
1999–2000 ³	Brotnjo (1)	Budućnost	Ivo Ištuk (1)	Zikret Kuljaninović (Budućnost) Alen Škoro (Sarajevo) Halim Stupac (Jedinstvo)	5

¹ A play-off between the best placed teams of First League of Bosnia and Herzegovina and First League of Herzeg-Bosnia was played; without clubs from First League of Republika Srpska. The best two clubs got the right to play in 1998–99 UEFA Cup.

² Play-off was scheduled but was later canceled because of stadium issues. Three different leagues played, no play-off contested,

therefore no club got the right to play in European competition.

³ A play-off between the best placed teams of First League of Bosnia and Herzegovina and First League of Herzeg-Bosnia was played without clubs from First League of Republika Srpska. Three clubs got the right to play in European competition.

Premier League Champions

Since the 2000–01 season, the first tier of Bosnia and Herzegovina's football competition became the *Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina*.

Season	Champions (Premier League titles)	Runners-up	Third place	Winning manager	Top scorer(s)	
					Player(s) (Club)	Goals
2000–01 ¹	Željezničar (2)	Brotnjo	Sarajevo	Amar Osim (1)	Dželaludin Muhamremović (Željezničar)	31
2001–02 ¹	Željezničar (3)	Široki Brijeg	Brotnjo	Amar Osim (2)	Ivica Huljev (Željezničar)	15
2002–03	Leotar (1)	Željezničar	Sarajevo	Milan Jovin (1)	Emir Obuća (Sarajevo)	24
2003–04	Široki Brijeg (1)	Željezničar	Sarajevo	Ivo Ištuk (1)	Alen Škoro (Sarajevo)	20
2004–05	Zrinjski (1)	Željezničar	Široki Brijeg	Franjo Džidić (1)	Zoran Rajović (Zrinjski)	17
2005–06	Široki Brijeg (2)	Sarajevo	Zrinjski	Ivica Barbarić (1)	Petar Jelić (Modriča)	19
2006–07	Sarajevo (2)	Zrinjski	Slavija	Husref Musemić (1)	Stevo Nikolić (Modriča) Dragan Benić (Borac)	19
2007–08	Modriča (1)	Široki Brijeg	Čelik Zenica	Slaviša Božićić (1)	Darko Spalević (Slavija)	18
2008–09	Zrinjski (2)	Slavija	Sloboda Tuzla	Dragan Jović (1)	Darko Spalević (Slavija)	17
2009–10	Željezničar (4)	Široki Brijeg	Borac	Amar Osim (3)	Feđa Dudić (Travnik)	16
2010–11	Borac (1)	Sarajevo	Željezničar	Vlado Jagodić (1)	Ivan Lendrić (Zrinjski)	16
2011–12	Željezničar (5)	Široki Brijeg	Borac	Amar Osim (4)	Eldin Adilović (Željezničar)	19
2012–13	Željezničar (6)	Sarajevo	Borac	Amar Osim (5)	Emir Hadžić (Sarajevo)	20
2013–14	Zrinjski (3)	Široki Brijeg	Sarajevo	Branko Karačić (1)	Wagner (Široki Brijeg)	18
2014–15	Sarajevo (3)	Željezničar	Zrinjski	Dženan Uščuplić (1)	Riad Bajić (Željezničar)	15
2015–16	Zrinjski (4)	Sloboda Tuzla	Široki Brijeg	Vinko Marinović (1)	Leon Benko (Sarajevo)	17
2016–17	Zrinjski (5)	Željezničar	Sarajevo	Blaž Slišković (1)	Ivan Lendrić (Željezničar)	19
2017–18	Zrinjski (6)	Željezničar	Sarajevo	Blaž Slišković (2)	Miloš Filipović (Zrinjski)	16
2018–19	Sarajevo (4)	Zrinjski	Široki Brijeg	Husref Musemić (2)	Sulejman Krpić (Željezničar)	16
2019–20 ^[nb 1]	Sarajevo (5)	Željezničar	Zrinjski	Vinko Marinović (2)	Mersudin Ahmetović (Sarajevo)	16
2020–21	Borac (2)	Sarajevo	Velež	Marko Maksimović (1)	Nemanja Bilbija (Zrinjski)	17
2021–22	Zrinjski (7)	Tuzla City	Borac	Sergej Jakirović (1)	Nemanja Bilbija (Zrinjski)	33
2022–23	Zrinjski (8)	Borac	Željezničar	Krunoslav Rendulić (1)	Nemanja Bilbija (Zrinjski)	24

League champions also won the Bosnian Cup, i.e. the domestic Double.

¹ Played without clubs from the Republika Srpska entity of BiH which have only taken part in the league since 2002.

Times finished in first three

Times finished in first three from season 1997–98 onward:

Club	Winners	Runner-up	Third place	Times finished in first three
Željezničar	6	7	2	15
Sarajevo	5	4	6	15
Zrinjski	8	2	3	13
Široki Brijeg	2	5	3	10
Borac	2	1	4	7
Brotnjo	1	1	1	3
Slavija	0	1	1	2
Sloboda	0	1	1	2
Leotar	1	0	0	1
Modriča	1	0	0	1
Tuzla City	0	1	0	1
Čelik	0	0	1	1
Velež	0	0	1	1

Cities

The following table lists the champions by cities from season 1997–98 onward:

City	Titles	Winning clubs
Sarajevo	11	Željezničar (6), Sarajevo (5)
Mostar	8	Zrinjski (8)
Banja Luka	2	Borac (2)
Široki Brijeg	2	Široki Brijeg (2)
Čitluk	1	Brotnjo (1)
Trebinje	1	Leotar (1)
Modriča	1	Modriča (1)

Notable performances in Europe

In the qualifiers for the 2002–03 UEFA Champions League, Željezničar gained the first big success in Bosnian post-war club-football, going all the way to the last qualifying round for the most important club competition in Europe. After big wins over ÍA Akraness and Lillestrøm, however, they were held by Newcastle United. In the first match, held in Sarajevo, Newcastle won 0–1 with English team defeating Željezničar 4–0 in England.

The second time a Bosnian club moved into the last qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League was FK Sarajevo in 2007–08, when they lost to Dynamo Kyiv 0–4 on aggregate, after going over Maltese Marsaxlokk and Belgian side Genk.

Another remarkable season for Bosnian clubs in Europe was 2009–10. The most memorable performances were marked by Sarajevo and Slavija. While Slavija surprisingly beat Aalborg in the second qualifying round but could not overcome MFK Košice in the third round, Sarajevo was able to reach the Play-offs for the Group Stage of the newly formed UEFA Europa League after beating Spartak Trnava and Helsingborg. However, they lost there unhappily 3–2 on aggregate to CFR Cluj. Sarajevo made it again in the 2014–15 UEFA Europa League, playing all the way to the play-off round where they lost to Borussia Mönchengladbach. In the 2020–21 UEFA Europa League season, Sarajevo once again played in the play-off round, this time losing to Celtic.

After getting eliminated from the 2022–23 UEFA Champions League first qualifying round, Zrinjski Mostar made it to the 2022–23 UEFA Europa Conference League play-off round, where they got eliminated by Slovak club Slovan Bratislava following a penalty shoot-out, missing out on a chance to play in the group stage.^[9]

In August 2023, Zrinjski became the first ever club from Bosnia and Herzegovina to reach the group stages of a European club competition after eliminating Icelandic club Breiðablik in the 2023–24 UEFA Europa League third qualifying round, which assured Zrinjski of a group stage spot in the UEFA Europa Conference League as a minimum.^[10] After losing to LASK in the Europa League play-off round, Zrinjski dropped into the Conference League group stage, where they were drawn into Group E alongside Aston Villa, AZ and Legia Warsaw.^[11] On matchday one, Zrinjski pulled off an astonishing comeback against AZ. Trailing 3–0 at half time, the team made history and came back to win 4–3.^[12] This result also meant that they became the first ever Bosnian side to win a game in a UEFA club competition group stage.^[13] The team lost their next four games in the group, before ending their European campaign with a home draw against Aston Villa on 14 December 2023.^[14]

All time table of Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Counting only since the 2002–03 season, the season the league became a unified country-wide league. As of the end of the 2022–23 season. Teams in **bold** are part of the 2023–24 season.*

Ssn = Number of seasons; Pld = Matches played; W = Matches won; D = Matches drawn; L = Matches lost; GF = Goals for; GA = Goals against; GD = Goal difference; Pts = Points; HF = Highest finish

Rank	Club	Town	Ssn	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	HF
1	<u>Zrinjski</u>	Mostar	21	646	358	116	172	1,041	635	+406	1,190 (-1)	1
2	<u>Sarajevo</u>	Sarajevo	21	646	342	153	151	1,061	571	+490	1,179	1
3	<u>Željezničar</u>	Sarajevo	21	646	334	147	165	983	591	+392	1,149	1
4	<u>Široki Brijeg</u>	Široki Brijeg	21	646	312	159	175	979	628	+351	1,095	1
5	<u>Borac</u>	Banja Luka	17	521	244	96	181	661	540	+121	828 (-1)	1
6	<u>Sloboda</u>	Tuzla	19	586	216	127	243	622	673	-51	775	2
7	<u>Čelik</u>	Zenica	18	547	195	134	218	609	669	-60	716 (-3)	3
8	<u>Velež</u>	Mostar	15	459	166	103	190	542	575	-33	598 (-3)	3
9	<u>Leotar</u>	Trebinje	14	434	167	65	202	504	617	-113	566	1
10	<u>Slavija</u>	Istočno Sarajevo	12	360	137	65	158	416	493	-77	476 (-3)	2
11	<u>Travnik</u>	Travnik	12	360	122	64	174	422	538	-116	430	5
12	<u>Radnik</u>	Bijeljina	12	365	109	98	158	372	478	-106	425	5
13	<u>Olimpić</u>	Sarajevo	9	275	100	67	108	309	333	-24	367	5
14	<u>Posušje</u>	Posušje	9	284	100	54	130	325	444	-119	354	8
15	<u>Modriča</u>	Modriča	7	210	87	34	89	298	290	+8	295	1
16	<u>Orašje</u>	Orašje	7	218	85	33	100	307	325	-18	288	7
17	<u>Zvijezda</u>	Gradačac	7	210	70	49	91	248	304	-56	259	7
18	<u>Rudar (P)</u>	Prijedor	7	213	57	56	100	207	286	-79	227	10
19	<u>Žepče</u>	Žepče	6	188	62	32	94	192	274	-82	218	8
20	<u>Tuzla City</u>	Tuzla	5	154	57	42	55	187	190	-3	213	2
21	<u>Mladost (DK)</u>	Doboj, Kakanj	6	182	53	50	79	196	265	-69	209	6
22	<u>Jedinstvo</u>	Bihać	4	128	53	14	61	171	203	-32	173	7
23	<u>Vitez</u>	Vitez	5	154	39	34	81	126	210	-84	151	9
24	<u>Krupa</u>	Krupa na Vrbasu	4	130	37	36	57	141	170	-29	147	4
25	<u>Budućnost</u>	Banovići	4	128	39	21	68	139	199	-60	138	8
26	<u>GOŠK</u>	Gabela	4	125	33	32	60	110	175	-65	131	7
27	<u>Laktaši</u>	Laktaši	3	90	35	14	41	122	125	-3	119	8
28	<u>Rudar (U)</u>	Ugljevik	3	98	34	14	50	118	143	-25	116	9
29	<u>Glasinac</u>	Sokolac	2	68	25	10	33	71	103	-32	85	14
30	<u>Drina</u>	Zvornik	3	90	20	12	58	68	159	-91	72	13
31	<u>Brotnjo</u>	Čitluk	2	68	19	14	35	76	114	-38	71	13

Rank	Club	Town	Ssn	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	HF
32	Kozara	Gradiška	2	68	19	13	36	74	107	-33	70	15
33	Mladost (VO)	Velika Obarska	2	60	14	17	29	42	82	-40	59	11
34	Zvijezda 09	Ugljevik	2	55	10	16	29	45	96	-51	46	9
35	Mladost (G)	Gacko	1	38	11	6	21	40	65	-25	39	18
36	Igman	Konjic	1	33	9	10	14	42	48	-6	37	8
37	Sloga	Doboj	1	33	10	7	16	40	55	-15	37	9
38	Metalleghe	Jajce	1	32	7	11	14	25	34	-9	32	11
39	Bosna	Visoko	1	38	4	1	33	28	107	-79	13	20
40	Gradina	Srebrenik	1	30	1	6	23	17	57	-40	9	16

¹ In the 2004–05 season, Borac were deducted 1 point (Slavija were awarded 3–0 vs Borac in week 11).

² In the 2006–07 season, Zrinjski were deducted 1 point (Orašje were awarded 3–0 vs Zrinjski).

³ In the 2013–14 season, Slavija were deducted 3 points.

⁴ In the 2019–20 season, Čelik were deducted 3 points (Željezničar were awarded 3–0 vs Čelik).

⁵ In the 2021–22 season, Velež were deducted 3 points (Borac were awarded 3–0 vs Velež).

See also

- [Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Cup](#)

Notes

1. 2019–20 Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bosnia and Herzegovina; season curtailed and final standings (including Sarajevo as champions) declared by a points-per-game ratio on 1 June 2020. ^[8]

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Romania national football team

The **Romania national football team** (Romanian: *Echipa națională de fotbal a României*) represents Romania in men's international football, and is administered by the **Romanian Football Federation** (Romanian: *Federația Română de Fotbal*), also known as FRF. They are colloquially known as *Tricolorii* (The Tricolours).

Romania is one of only four national teams from Europe—the other three being Belgium, France, and Yugoslavia—that took part in the inaugural FIFA World Cup in 1930. Including that participation, Romania has qualified for seven World Cup editions, the latest in 1998. The national team's finest hour came in 1994, when led by playmaker Gheorghe Hagi it defeated Argentina 3–2 in the round of 16, before being eliminated by Sweden on a penalty shoot-out in the quarter-finals.

At the European Championships, Romania's best performance was in 2000 when they advanced to the quarter-finals from a group with Germany, Portugal, and England, before falling to eventual runners-up Italy. They also reached the last eight in 1960, 1972 and 1984, and have qualified for a total of six tournaments.

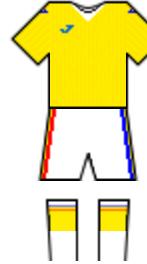
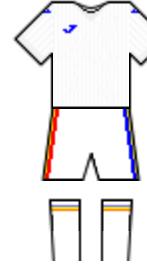
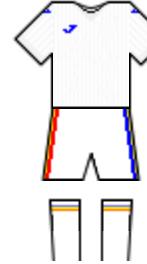
History

Early years

The Romanian Football Federation (*Federația Română de Fotbal*) was established in October 1909 in Bucharest. Romania played their first international match on 8 June 1922, a 2–1 win over Yugoslavia in Belgrade, being coached by Teofil Moraru.^[4] Several temporary coaches were employed, before Moraru resumed control in August 1924, managing the side for nearly four years. Romania enjoyed some success during the 1930s; manager Costel Rădulescu took them to the first three FIFA World Cup tournaments, a feat matched only by Brazil, Belgium and France.

World Cups in the 1930s

At the 1930 World Cup, Romania won their first match against Peru, 3–1, with goals from Adalbert Deșu, Constantin Stanciu, and Nicolae Kovács and Samuel Zauber as goalkeeper, before being thrashed 4–0 by hosts and eventual winners Uruguay.

Romania	
	
Nickname(s)	<i>Tricolorii</i> (The Tricolours)
Association	<i>Federația Română de Fotbal</i> (FRF)
Confederation	UEFA (Europe)
Head coach	<u>Edward Iordănescu</u>
Captain	<u>Nicolae Stanciu</u>
Most caps	<u>Dorinel Munteanu</u> (134)
Top scorer	<u>Adrian Mutu</u> <u>Gheorghe Hagi</u> (35)
Home stadium	Various
FIFA code	ROU
	
First colours	Second colours
	
Third colours	
FIFA ranking	
Current	45  2 (15 February 2024) ^[1]
Highest	3 (September 1997)
Lowest	57 (February 2011, September 2012)
First international	
 Kingdom of SCS 1–2 Romania  (Belgrade, Kingdom of SCS; 8 June 1922)	

Biggest win

 Romania 9–0 Finland 
(Bucharest, Romania; 14 October 1973)

Biggest defeat

 Hungary 9–0 Romania 
(Budapest, Hungary; 6 June 1948)

World Cup

Appearances 7 (first in 1930)

Best result Quarter-finals (1994)

European Championship

Appearances 6 (first in 1984)

Best result Quarter-finals (2000)

Medal record

[show]

Balkan Cup

	1929–31	Team
	1933 Romania	Team
	1936 Romania	Team
	1980 Turkey	Team
	1976 Romania	Team
	1932 Yugoslavia	Team
	1934–35 Greece	Team
	1946 Albania	Team
	1947	Team



Romania playing against Peru at the 1930 World Cup in Uruguay

Romania qualified for the next World Cup in 1934 after beating Yugoslavia 2–1 in a repeat of their first international. At the finals, Romania played only one game in a new knock-out format, losing 2–1 to Czechoslovakia in Trieste, Italy, with Stefan Dobay scoring their only goal of the tournament.

Romania qualified by default for the 1938 World Cup after their qualifying playoff opponents Egypt withdrew. They suffered a shock defeat in the finals in France, losing to minnows Cuba, who, like Romania, had only qualified due to the withdrawal of their qualifying opponents, the United States. The first match at the Stade du T.O.E.C. in Toulouse ended 3–3 after extra time, but Cuba won the replay four days later 2–1.

1970 World Cup

Despite a 3–0 thrashing by Portugal in Lisbon and two unconvincing draws against unfancied Greece, Romania was able to qualify for the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. Angelo Niculescu's promising side were given the toughest of draws, in Group 3 with holders England, giants Brazil and Czechoslovakia.

A Geoff Hurst goal gave England a narrow victory in Romania's first match at the Estadio Jalisco in Guadalajara in what was a very physical game. Chances were improved with a 2–1 win over the Czechs. After going behind early to a Ladislav Petráš goal, Romania turned it around after half-time with Alexandru Neagu and Florea Dumitache scoring to give them two vital points. Even then, only a win over the Brazilians would take them into the quarter-finals.

There were rumours before the match that Brazil might prefer Romania to progress than world champions England; after beating them 1–0 in their previous match in Guadalajara, the South American giants still viewed England as one of its biggest obstacles to tournament victory. But Brazil played some of the best football of the competition, with Pelé scoring twice and a Jairzinho goal in between. Romania battled bravely; Dumitache pulled the score back to 2–1 before the break and a late Emerich Dembrowski goal made it 3–2, but they were out.

1972 to 1978

On 26 September 1972, under new coach Valentin Stănescu, Romania suffered a significant defeat to East Germany in Leipzig. The East Germans won 2–0 to effectively seal their first ever qualification for the World Cup, which would be held over the border in West Germany. With East Germany scoring a predictable 4–1 win in Albania, Romania were out, despite a huge 9–0 win over Finland in Bucharest.

Romania continued to suffer poor form in the UEFA European Championship. In their qualifying group for the 1976 European Football Championship, they were out-qualified by Spain despite an impressive 1–1 draw in the away match. Romania failed to win matches, drawing twice with Scotland and Spain and dropping points in Denmark with a dismal goalless draw.

Romania were again beaten by Spain for a place in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. After a 1–0 win in Bucharest, Romania lost a match at home to Yugoslavia 6–4 having led 3–2 at half time. Spain won 1–0 in Belgrade to seal passage to Argentina.



Romania and the Netherlands drawing goalless at De Kuip, 1974

1984 European Championship

Romania's sole successful qualifying campaign between 1970 and 1990 was for the European Championships in 1984 in France. At the finals, Romania were drawn with Spain, holders West Germany and Portugal. Under head coach Mircea Lucescu, an encouraging opening game in Saint-Étienne saw them draw with the Spanish. Francisco José Carrasco opened the scoring from the penalty spot but Romania equalized before half-time with a goal from Laszlo Böloni.

Against the Germans in Lens, Marcel Coraş scored an equalizer in the first minute of the second half in response to Rudi Völler's opener, but Völler would score a winning goal. Their last match in Nantes was a must-win match, but Nené's late winner meant Portugal progressed with Spain, who netted a dramatic late winner against West Germany at the Parc des Princes in Paris.

Romania stuttered throughout the rest of the decade, but a stronger squad at the end of the decade saw them qualify for their fifth World Cup in 1990. A win over Denmark in their last match took Emerich Jenei's side to the finals for the first time in 20 years.

Golden Team era

1990 World Cup

With an increasing trend for big clubs in Italy and Spain buying up the best foreign talent, Romania's squad was entirely domestic-based. Midfielder Ilie Dumitrescu, striker Florin Răducioiu and genius playmaker Gheorghe Hagi, were in the squad. After world champions Argentina stunned by Cameroon in the tournament's opening match, Romania did their chances no harm with a convincing win over the Soviet Union at the San Nicola in Bari, with Marius Lăcătuş scoring in each half. The result was all the more impressive given the absence of Hagi. There was controversy, however, as Lăcătuş' second was a penalty given for a handball by Vagiz Khidiatullin that television replays clearly showed to be some way outside the penalty area.

Romania lost to Cameroon next; cult hero Roger Milla, aged 38, came on as a substitute for Emmanuel Maboang Kessack and scored twice before Gavril Balint pulled one back. Romania needed a point in their last match against improving Argentina at the San Paolo in Naples; Pedro Monzón gave Argentina the lead after an hour, but Balint quickly equalized and Romania held on to reach Round 2.

Against Jack Charlton's Republic of Ireland side in Genoa, Romania did not have the quality to break down a defensive opposition. Daniel Timofte was the only player to miss in the penalty shoot-out – his kick saved by Packie Bonner – and Romania were out.

1994 World Cup

Romania missed out on Euro 1992. Scotland qualified after Romania drew a must-win last match in Sofia against Bulgaria, with Nasko Sirakov's equalizer sealing their fate.

Romania was successful, however, in reaching another World Cup in the United States in 1994. After losing in Belgium and suffering a heavy 5–2 defeat in Czechoslovakia, Romania went into their last match at Cardiff Arms Park with Wales needing a win to pip them to a place in the finals. Goals from Gheorghe Hagi and Dean Saunders meant the game was finely balanced, before Wales were awarded a penalty. Paul Bodin of Swindon Town stepped up but hit the woodwork and Romania went on to win 2–1, Florin Răducioiu's late goal proving unnecessary as Czechoslovakia dropped a point in Belgium and were eliminated.^[5]



1994 FIFA World Cup
stamp issued by Poșta Română

At the finals, Romania were one of the most entertaining teams in the early stages, with Gheorghe Hagi, Florin Răducioiu and Ilie Dumitrescu on form. Romania beat Colombia 3–1 at the Pasadena Rose Bowl in Los Angeles (all but one of Romania's games took place in California, and they were awarded the advantage of playing most of their games in LA). Răducioiu opened the scoring before Hagi scored a spectacular second from wide on the left touchline. Adolfo Valencia pulled one back with a headed goal just before half-time, but Romania held on and Răducioiu sealed the win with a late third.

In Detroit's indoor Pontiac Silverdome, the temperature soared due to the greenhouse effect in the indoor arena. Switzerland, acclimatized after having already played the hosts there, outran Romania in the second half and turned a 1–1 half time score into a 4–1 win. Romania responded by beating the hosts 1–0 in Pasadena with an early Dan Petrescu goal.

In the Round of 16 knockout stage they faced Argentina, minus Diego Maradona who had been thrown out of the tournament for taking drugs, in Los Angeles. The suspended Răducioiu was hardly missed, as coach Anghel Iordănescu pushed Dumitrescu forward to play as a striker and the player responded by scoring twice in the first 20 minutes, one a subtle left foot flick from a right-wing Hagi cross slotted between the Argentine defenders. In between, Gabriel Batistuta scored a penalty, but after half-time Romania netted a third on the counterattack, with Hagi beating goalkeeper Luis Islas. Abel Balbo pulled one back, but Romania held on for a shock win.

Romania would suffer penalty heartbreak again in the quarter-final against Sweden in San Francisco. With just 13 minutes to play, a tight match opened up as Sweden's Thomas Brolin scored from a clever free-kick move, the ball passed outside the Romanian wall by Håkan Mild for Brolin to smash in. Iordănescu threw caution to the wind and the returning Răducioiu found a late equalizer, again from a free-kick move but this time down to a deflection and a failure of the Swedes to clear. In extra time Răducioiu scored again after a mistake by Patrik Andersson, but Sweden then scored their own late equalizer as giant striker Kennet Andersson climbed above goalkeeper Florin Prunea to head home a long ball. Prunea had come in after two matches to replace Bogdan Stelea, whose confidence was shattered by the 4–1 loss to the Swiss. In the shoot-out, Dan Petrescu and Miodrag Belodedici had their kicks saved by Thomas Ravelli and Sweden went through.

Euro 1996

At Euro 1996, held in England, Romania arrived as a highly thought-of and popular team but had a nightmare. Iordănescu's side were based in the north east, with their first two games at St James' Park in Newcastle. Against France, they lost to a Christophe Dugarry header reminiscent of Kennet Andersson's two years earlier, beating the goalkeeper to a lofted through ball. An early goal from Bulgaria striker Hristo Stoichkov at St James' Park put Romania on the back foot in Euro 1996, but Dorinel Munteanu appeared to have kept Romania in the match – and in the tournament – with a thunderbolt that hit the bar, bounced over the line, and back out. Referee Peter Mikkelsen merely waved play on, however, and Romania went on to lose the game 1–0 a defeat which sent them out of the tournament. English manager Harry Redknapp was in the crowd that day, and later said that it convinced him there and then that goal-line technology was needed in football. Romania finally

scored in their last game, Florin Răducioiu equalizing an early goal by Spain's Javier Manjarín. Spain had to win to qualify with France at the expense of Bulgaria and did so when Guillermo Amor stooped to head a late winner. Romania exited in total shame, with no points and tons of regrets of what could have been.

1998 World Cup

Despite a poor performance at Euro 1996, Romania impressed in qualifying, finishing ten points clear of the Republic of Ireland and were seeded for the final tournament of the 1998 World Cup thanks to their strong showing in 1994.

Adrian Ilie scored the only goal with a fine chip in their first match against Colombia at Lyon's Stade Gerland. In Toulouse, they met an England side starting with prodigal striker Michael Owen on the bench, with Teddy Sheringham preferred alongside Alan Shearer. A mistake by Tony Adams was punished by Viorel Moldovan, who played for Coventry City, before Owen came on to claim an equalizer. But Romania won with a wonderful late goal from Dan Petrescu, also playing in England with Chelsea, fighting off his club teammate Graeme le Saux and nutmegging goalkeeper David Seaman.

The next match was against Tunisia. With England–Colombia being the more decisive game, the Stade de France in Paris was an 80,000-strong sell out and the crowd were nearly rewarded with a shock as Skander Souayah scored an early penalty to give the north Africans the lead. Romania needed a point to win the group and, crucially, avoid Argentina in the round of 16, and got it when Moldovan volleyed a late equalizer. It did them little good, however, as in the round of 16 match at Bordeaux against Croatia, Davor Šuker scored a twice-taken penalty to eliminate Romania.

Euro 2000

Romania had a strong qualifying campaign, winning a tough Group 7 with Portugal, Slovakia, Hungary, Azerbaijan and Liechtenstein. The Romanians impressed, never losing and winning seven times, including a big upset in Porto after defeating Portugal thanks to a late goal scored by Dorinel Munteanu. In Bucharest, the score finished 1–1.

At Euro 2000, held in Belgium and the Netherlands, Romania was facing a very difficult group against 1996 champions Germany, semi-finalists England and Portugal. The chances for the Romanians to qualify through quarter-finals were seen as slim.

Romania, however, started brightly against the Germans in Liège, with Viorel Moldovan scoring from close range. A long-range Mehmet Scholl equalizer meant they had to be content with a point and their position looked shaky after Costinha headed a last minute winner for Portugal in their second match.

Emerich Jenei, back as coach, threw caution to the wind in the last match in Charleroi against England, a match which Romania had to win. Defender Cristian Chivu's cross went in off the post in the 22nd minute but, despite

Romania dominating, England led at half-time through an Alan Shearer penalty and a late Michael Owen goal after he rounded goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea to score a tap-in, both in the last five minutes of the half. Romania attacked after the break and were quickly rewarded; Dorinel Munteanu punishing a poor punch from Nigel Martyn, a late replacement for injured goalkeeper David Seaman, to equalize three minutes after the restart. England cracked under the pressure. Unable to retain possession or pose an attacking threat, they fell deep and late on Phil Neville, playing out of position at left-back, conceded a penalty scored by Ioan Ganea in the 89th minute.



Line-ups for Romania versus England at the UEFA Euro 2000

Romania's relief was tempered by tough opposition in the last eight, and Italy, who would end up seconds from being crowned European champions in an agonizing final, comfortably saw them off 2–0 in Brussels. Francesco Totti and Filippo Inzaghi scoring towards the end of the first half. In the 35th minute, Gheorghe Hagi, in his final international tournament, hit the woodwork with goalkeeper Francesco Toldo stranded off his line and, after the break, was sent off for diving. Romania's tournament was over and Emerich Jenei left his job as coach again.

2000s – World Cup dry spell

Romania failed to qualify for the next three major tournaments. They drew Slovenia, who had been surprise qualifiers for Euro 2000 in a playoff for a place in the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan. A narrow 2–1 deficit – having led through a Marius Niculae goal – after the first leg in Ljubljana was not irretrievable. With fans' hero Gheorghe Hagi now coaching the side, they were confident of getting the win they needed in Bucharest against the Balkan upstarts, but Slovenia took the lead before the hour through Mladen Rudonja. Right wing-back Cosmin Contra quickly equalized but Romania could not find the goal they needed to force extra time and Slovenia, with maverick manager Srečko Katanec, were in a major tournament again.

Euro 2004

Romania were confident of qualifying for the tournament, drawn in Group 2 with seeds Denmark, Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina and minnows Luxembourg, with Anghel Iordanescu back as coach. Despite a good start – a 3–0 win away to Bosnia in Sarajevo – Romania stuttered. Steffen Iversen's late goal gave Norway a surprise win in Bucharest and they were stunned at home by the Danes, 5–2, with Thomas Gravesen scoring a spectacular goal from around 50 yards out, despite leading twice. They recovered slightly, completing a double over the Bosnians and earning a point in Oslo, but conceded a cutting injury time equalizer in Denmark to draw 2–2. It was decisive, as they now required Norway to fail to win at home to Luxembourg to stand any realistic chance of qualifying. Eventually, the Danes got a point in Bosnia to scrape through a tight group, with Norway going to a play-off with Spain.

2006 World Cup

Romania were put in a difficult group for the qualifying tournament for the 2006 World Cup in Germany. The Netherlands and the Czech Republic were ranked first and second in Europe respectively. Early wins over Finland and Macedonia were unconvincing, and they were behind the two leaders by the time they earned a 2–0 home win over the Czechs. Despite a record of eight wins, three losses and one draw, they finished third behind the Dutch and the Czechs and missed out on another major tournament.

Euro 2008

Romania were drawn in a group with group favourites the Netherlands and tough opponents Bulgaria for Euro 2008 qualifying. Romania, however, had a good qualifying campaign, losing only away against Bulgaria and beating the Netherlands 1–0 at home with a goal scored by Dorin Goian from a suspicious off-side position not seen by referee Kyros Vassaras. On 17 October 2007, Romania became the fourth team to qualify for Euro 2008, the nation's first international tournament since Euro 2000. Coincidentally, Victor Pițurcă also led Romania to qualification for Euro 2000, only to sit back and let Emerich Jenei coach the team in the final tournament; this time, however, he stayed in the role, the first time he coached a national team in the final stages of a tournament.

Romania was drawn in the so-called "Group of death" alongside the Netherlands, world champions Italy and France, runners-up in the 2006 World Cup. Romania started with a 0–0 draw against a lacklustre France while Italy were soundly beaten by the Netherlands, 3–0. In their next match, against Italy, Adrian Mutu opened the scoring early in the second half. Their lead was a very short one, however, as Italy's Christian Panucci scored a minute later off of a corner kick. Nearing the end of the match, Daniel Niculae earned a penalty for his team, but goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon saved the subsequent Mutu penalty, leaving Romania with two points and needing a

win against the Netherlands, who defeated France 4–1 that same evening. The Netherlands beat Romania 2–0 in the final game of the group, which meant that Italy joined the Netherlands in the quarter-finals and Romania finished third, ahead of France.

2010 World Cup

Romania were drawn into the UEFA qualifying round for the [2010 World Cup](#) alongside France, [Serbia](#), [Austria](#), [Lithuania](#) and the [Faroe Islands](#). Although Romania were seeded in the second pot, they eventually finished fifth, above only the Faroe Islands. Their campaign was a disaster that began with a 3–0 home loss to Lithuania and included a 5–0 trashing in Belgrade by Serbia. Furthermore, various problems were caused during the poor campaign, such as the retirement from international football of Cosmin Contra, Mirel Rădoi and Adrian Mutu (the latter would later be recalled after a year's absence). Coach Victor Pițurcă resigned and was replaced by [Răzvan Lucescu](#).



Arena Națională, opened in 2011, the national stadium of Romania, as seen on a Romanian stamp (2011)

Euro 2012

In [Euro 2012](#) qualifying, Romania was drawn into Group D along with France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Albania and Luxembourg. Although the team initially seemed prepared to continue their awful form from their disastrous World Cup campaign, beginning with a 1–1 draw with Pot 5 members Albania and following up with a goalless draw with Belarus and a pair of losses to France and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the team was able to rebound somewhat and register their first two victories. The first was a win against Luxembourg but the second was an important win in the rematch against Bosnia and Herzegovina. Romania's last decent result came when they battled France to a goalless draw before ending the campaign the way it began – two disappointing draws with Albania and Belarus. They finished qualification in a distant third place and only one point ahead of Belarus.



Romanian fans at the new Arena Națională in June 2013

2014 World Cup

Romania was drawn into the [2014 FIFA World Cup](#) qualifying round with the Netherlands, [Turkey](#), [Hungary](#), [Estonia](#) and [Andorra](#). They made an impressive start with a 2–0 away win in Estonia followed by a 4–0 win at home against modest Andorra and another away win in Turkey (1–0). After that, Romania was defeated by the Netherlands, both at home and away, and managed to secure only a draw in Hungary, in between. Romania started the last part of the campaign with a victory at home, against Hungary, but was defeated by Turkey. The last two match days were decisive, with Romania securing its place in the play-off with two wins, against Andorra and Estonia, while qualification rivals Turkey and Hungary were both defeated by the winner of the group, the Netherlands. Romania were drawn to play Greece for a place in the World Cup finals, but a 3–1 loss in Greece and a 1–1 home draw ended its run.

Euro 2016

For the qualifying stage of the [Euro 2016](#) Romania was drawn into Group F along with Greece, [Hungary](#), [Finland](#), [Northern Ireland](#) and the [Faroe Islands](#). Romania began its first successful qualification campaign since 2008 with a win over group favourites Greece before following up with a 1–1 draw with Pot 2 member Hungary and a 2–0 win over Finland. Despite the initial success, Romania decided to part with coach Victor Pițurcă by mutual consent. Anghel Iordănescu came out of retirement to return to coach Romania for a third time.



France's 2–1 win over Romania at the Stade de France opened the UEFA Euro 2016

Under Iordănescu, Romania was able to follow up with comfortable 2–0 win over Northern Ireland and, despite a disappointing 1–0 win over the Faroe Islands and a 0–0 draw in the return game against Northern Ireland, Romania remained on top of Group F, one point above Northern Ireland and three points above third-placed Hungary. After a goalless draw in the match against Hungary in Budapest, however, the team fell back on the second place, one point behind Northern Ireland and three above Hungary, still placed third. Following a 1–1 draw clinched in overtime at home against Finland, Romania secured their spot at the final tournament in the last game after a confident 3–0 win in the Faroe Islands. Romania finished the qualification group second, one point behind group winners Northern Ireland, completing their first successful qualification campaign in eight years undefeated after five wins and five draws. With only two goals conceded, Romania had the best defence in the qualifiers.

Romania advanced to Euro 2016, where they were drawn in Group A, being named to play the opening match against the hosts France. The match began better for the Romanian side, who almost scored the first goal of the tournament in the fourth minute, after Bogdan Stancu tricked the French defence at a corner kick executed by his co-national Nicușor Stanciu and his shot was narrowly saved by the French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris. Shortly after the half-time, the match began being dominated by France, who scored the first goal of the tournament after a header of Olivier Giroud in the 57th minute. Not more than eight minutes later, Nicușor Stanciu was fouled by Patrice Evra in the French box, the Hungarian referee Viktor Kassai giving Romania a penalty which the same Bogdan Stancu scoring for the Romanian side. With the match coming to an end, just after Romania narrowly missed an opportunity after a free kick, Dimitri Payet shot hard from outside the box and scored France's second goal, crushing Romania's dream of a perfect start in Euro.

In the second match, Romania faced Switzerland, in a match that began with the Swiss side dominating. In the 17th minute, Alexandru Chipciu was fouled in the box, the second penalty of the tournament being accorded again to Romania. The same Bogdan Stancu went on and scored, giving an advantage for the Romanian side. Just after Switzerland almost scored an own goal, Admir Mehmedi scored for an equalizer in the 57th minute. The score remained the same and the match ended 1–1.

With one point accumulated and on the third place in the group before the final match, Romania needed a victory against Albania in order to be among the first four best-third-placed teams and to qualify further in Euro. The match began good for the Romanian side, but Armando Sadiku's header in the 43rd minute went past Ciprian Tătărușanu, giving Albania the lead and their first ever goal in a tournament. The despondent Romanian side failed to score in this match, with Florin Andone striking the post in the 76th minute. The negative score meant that Romania ended on the last place of the group, ending their Euro dream with no victory and after one draw, two defeats, two goals scored (both from penalties) and four conceded, with only one point, the poor results making the manager Anghel Iordănescu to resign before the matches for the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers began three months later.

2018 World Cup

For the qualification round, Romania was drawn in Group E, being in Pot 1. Romania's opponents were Denmark and Poland, Montenegro, Armenia and Kazakhstan. The qualifying campaign started with a 1–1 home draw against Montenegro followed by a thrashing away victory against Armenia, 0–5. In the next match, Romania recorded another draw (0–0), against Kazakhstan. The last match played in 2016 was a 0–3 defeat

against Poland, with Robert Lewandowski scoring a double. After an uninspiring campaign, Romania ended in the fourth place in Group E with 13 points. After 8 of the 10 games, due to lackluster performances, coach Christoph Daum was fired and replaced with Cosmin Contra.

2018–19 Nations League

Romania's poor performance previously meant that the country had to participate in the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League C, where they were grouped again with Montenegro, alongside neighbor Serbia and minnows Lithuania. Romania managed an acceptable performance, with the team beating Lithuania and Montenegro, but three draws, two against Serbia, meant that Romania was unable to gain the top spot or a direct playoff ticket. However, when UEFA revised the format, Romania was officially promoted to 2020–21 UEFA Nations League B.

Euro 2020

Romania was drawn in a group including Spain, Sweden, and Norway alongside Malta and the Faroe Islands in UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying. In the opening game, Romania suffered a 1–2 away defeat to Sweden.^[6] This was followed by an easy 4–1 victory over the Faroe Islands and a 2–2 draw with Norway in Oslo, two victories over Malta and a 1–2 loss at home to Spain. Eventually, Romania stayed on track by beating Faroe Islands 3–0 away, but it was later followed with a disappointing 1–1 home draw to the Norwegians.^[7] This had significantly reduced their chances of automatic qualification, as they had to meet the Swedish and Spanish sides for the two remaining competitive games. A 0–2 home defeat to Sweden ensured that Romania would be unable to finish in the automatic qualification places.^[8] Romania eventually qualified for the playoff, but their performance cost Cosmin Contra his coaching position, as he was sacked prior to the playoff. Romania went on to lose 1–2 to Iceland, and was eliminated from UEFA Euro 2020 contention.



Romania playing Sweden at Friends Arena, March 2019

2020–21 Nations League

On the other hand, Romania, promoted to League B thanks to UEFA's rule change despite finishing 2nd in 2018 behind Serbia, have had a lacklustre 2020–21 Nations League, showing no signs of improvement in their play. During group matches, the team was unable to win the opening match at home to Northern Ireland (1–1), conceding a late equaliser following a Northern Irish red card, and was soundly beaten in Norway (0–4) on matchday 3. However, they avoided relegation to League C at the expense of the Northern Irish thanks to a 3–2 win over Austria on matchday 2 and a 3–0 victory at home to Norway, as the Scandinavians were unable to travel to Bucharest following Omar Elabdellaoui's positive test for COVID-19 and the restrictive measures imposed by the Norwegian Ministry of Health.^[9]

World Cup 2022

For the 2022 FIFA World Cup hosted in Qatar, Romania was drawn in UEFA Group J, along with Germany, Armenia, North Macedonia, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.^[10] Romania failed to qualify, finishing in third in the group.

2022–23 Nations League and Euro 2024

Romania participated in the 2022–23 UEFA Nations League B, where they were grouped with Bosnia-Herzegovina, Finland, and Montenegro. Romania managed an acceptable performance, with the team beating Finland twice, but three losses, two against Montenegro, meant that they were relegated to League C.^[11]

Their terrible Nations League performance meant that they must realistically qualify for UEFA Euro 2024 directly. Romania, in Euro 2024 qualifiers, finished at the top of their group and unbeaten with six wins and four draws. In particular, Romania achieved two results against Switzerland (a 2–2 away draw in the first leg after trailing 0–2, and a 1–0 home win in the return on the final day to consolidate their position as leaders) and showed defensive solidity with only five goals conceded, thus marking the Tricolorii's return to a Euro final phase after an eight-year absence.^{[12][13][14][15]}

Team image

Rivalry

Romania has a long-standing rivalry with its neighbours Hungary. The rivalry between the two nations dates back from the Treaty of Trianon, where Hungary lost Transylvania to Romania, after World War I.^[16] Usually flares and matches are thrown by the two sides and that often ends in a fight between the Hungarian and Romanian supporters, however, recently also before the matches conflicts have emerged outside the stadium. They shared the same group in 1982 FIFA World Cup qualifying, UEFA Euro 2000 qualifying, 2002 World Cup qualifying, 2014 World Cup qualifying and UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying.

Romania has also a football rivalry against Greece, because it is the team that has been their opponent the most times in their history (36 times – 37 matches were played against Yugoslavia which does not exist anymore). Romania has won 18 of the matches, Greece won 8 and 10 ended in a draw.

Kits

Romania's kits have been supplied by Spanish company Joma from 2015, which replaced Adidas following a three-decade contract. In 2017, the Romanian Football Federation announced its first brand identity and a new kit; the new emblem references the coat of arms of all five Romanian provinces with the intention to symbolise the unity of Romania.^[17]

Kit provider	Period
 Le Coq Sportif	1977–1983
 Adidas	1984–2015
 Joma	2015–present

Home stadium

The Romania national team mainly plays its home games at the Arena Națională in Bucharest, the largest stadium in the country, which was opened in 2011 and has a capacity of 55,600 seats. The National Stadium is a Category 4 venue and hosted the 2012 UEFA Europa League Final and UEFA Euro 2020 matches.

Other games, including not only friendlies but also FIFA World Cup and UEFA European Championship qualifiers, have been played in recent years at other venues such as the Steaua Stadium (Bucharest), the Ion Oblemenco Stadium (Craiova), the Cluj Arena (Cluj-Napoca), or the smaller Dr. Constantin Rădulescu (Cluj-Napoca), Ilie Oană (Ploiești) and Rapid-Giulești (Bucharest) stadiums.

Romanian national team home stadiums



Arena Națională-Bucharest



Stadionul Ion Oblemenco-Craiova



Stadionul Rapid Giulești-Bucharest

Media coverage

Romania's [UEFA Nations League](#) games, major tournament qualifiers and friendlies are to be televised on [Pro TV](#) up until 2022. Between 2008 and 2014, [Antena 1](#) had the rights to broadcast the country's home matches, friendlies and qualifiers. From 2014 to 2018, Romania's qualifying matches for the European Championship and the World Cup, plus two pre-Euro and one post-Euro friendly match were taken over by [TVR](#). The friendly matches that were not broadcast by TVR were taken over by Pro TV. In March 2019, the latter took over all broadcasts of Romania's fixtures from TVR, with the effective broadcasting starting in September 2018.

Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 12 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win Draw Loss Fixture

2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	25 March 2023	Andorra 0–2 Romania	Andorra la Vella, Andorra	[show]
	20:45	Report (ht Man 35' tps://ww Alibec 50' w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203630 9/)	Stadium: Estadi Nacional Referee: Dario Bel (Croatia)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	28 March 2023	Romania 2–1 Belarus	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
	21:45	Stanciu 17' Report (ht Morozov 86' Burcă 19' tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203633 1/)	Stadium: Arena Națională Attendance: 27,837 Referee: Allard Lindhout (Netherlands)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 June 2023	Kosovo 0–0 Romania	Pristina, Kosovo	[show]
	20:45	Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co	Stadium: Fadil Vokri Stadium Attendance: 11,000	

m/europe
an-qualifi
ers/matc
h/203635
5/)

Referee: Danny Makkelie
(Netherlands)

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 June 2023	Switzerland  2–2  Romania	Lucerne, Switzerland	[show]
	20:45	Amdouni  28', 41' Report (ht Mihăilă  89', 90+2' https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203637.html 6/)	Stadium: <u>Swissporarena</u> Attendance: 14,000 Referee: <u>Daniele Orsato</u> (Italy)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	9 September 2023	Romania  1–1  Israel	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
	21:45	Alibec  27' Report (ht Gloukh  54' https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203640.html 0/)	Stadium: <u>Arena Națională</u> Attendance: 49,193 Referee: <u>Slavko Vinčić</u> (Slovenia)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	12 September 2023	Romania  2–0  Kosovo	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
	21:45	Stanciu  83' Report (ht Mihăilă  90+3' https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203642.html 4/)	Stadium: <u>Arena Națională</u> Referee: <u>Willy Delajod</u> (France)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	12 October 2023	Belarus  0–0  Romania	Budapest, Hungary	[show]
	20:45	Report (ht https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203644.html 7/)	Stadium: <u>Szusza Ferenc Stadion</u> Attendance: 0 Referee: <u>Espen Eskås</u> (Norway)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	15 October 2023	Romania  4–0  Andorra	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
	21:45	Stanciu  23' Report (ht Hagi  28' https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203646.html 9/)	Stadium: <u>Arena Națională</u> Attendance: 21,723 Referee: <u>Kristo Tohver</u> (Estonia)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	18 November 2023	Israel  1–2  Romania	Felcsút, Hungary ^[note 1]	[show]
	21:45	Zahavi  2' Report (ht Pușcaș  10' https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203649.html 3/)	Stadium: <u>Pancho Aréna</u> Attendance: 2,921 Referee: <u>François Letexier</u> (France)	

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	21 November 2023	Romania  1–0  Switzerland	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
	21:45	Alibec  50' Report (ht https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/matches/2036514/)	Stadium: Arena Națională Attendance: 50,224 Referee: Davide Massa (Italy)	

2024

Friendly	22 March 2024	Romania  –  Northern Ireland	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
Friendly	26 March 2024	Romania  –  Colombia	Madrid, Spain	[show]
Friendly	4 June 2024	Romania  –  Bulgaria	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
Friendly	8 June 2024	Romania  –  Liechtenstein	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group E	17 June 2024	Romania  – Play-off winner B	Munich, Germany	[show]
	15:00	Report (ht https://www.uefaeuro2024.com/matches/2036170/)	Stadium: Allianz Arena	
UEFA Euro 2024 Group E	22 June 2024	Belgium  –  Romania	Cologne, Germany	[show]
	21:00	Report (ht https://www.uefaeuro2024.com/matches/2036181/)	Stadium: RheinEnergieStadion	
UEFA Euro 2024 Group E	26 June 2024	Slovakia  –  Romania	Frankfurt, Germany	[show]
	18:00	Report (ht https://www.uefaeuro2024.com/matches/2036194/)	Stadium: Waldstadion	
2024–25 Nations League	6 September 2024	Kosovo  v  Romania	Kosovo	[show]
	20:45			
2024–25 Nations League	9 September 2024	Romania  v  Gibraltar/Lithuania	Romania	[show]
	21:45			
2024–25 Nations League	12 October 2024	Cyprus  v  Romania	Cyprus	[show]
	21:45			
2024–25 Nations League	15 October 2024	Gibraltar  /Lithuania  v  Romania	TBD or Lithuania	[show]
	20:45			
2024–25 Nations League	15 November 2024	Romania  v  Kosovo	Romania	[show]
	20:45 (21:45 UTC+2)			

21:45

Coaching staff

Role	Name
Head Coach	 Edward Iordănescu
Assistant Coaches	 Florin Constantinovici  Jerry Gane
Goalkeeping Coach	 Leontin Toader
Fitness Coaches	 Cristian Dragotă  Darius Hîmpea
Video Analyst	 Alexandru Radu
Data Analyst	 Michele Iannucci
Doctor	 Claudiu Stamatescu  Iulian Mircea  Gabriel Niculescu
Physiotherapists	 Ovidiu Blendea  Adrian Gherovăț  Dragoș Paraschiv
Head of Performance Analysis	 Rares Ene
Team Manager	 Cătălin Gheorghiu
Kit Manager	 Cornel Mateiaș
Technical Director	 Mihai Stoichită



Edward Iordănescu, the head coach of the Romania national team since 2022.

Coaching history

Below is the full list of all former coaches for Romania from 1922 onwards:^[18]

-  Teofil Moraru (1922–1923)
-  Costel Rădulescu (1923, 1928–1934, 1935–1938)
-  Adrian Suciu (1923–1924)
-  Teofil Moraru (1924–1928)
-  Josef Uridil (1934)
-  Peter Farmer (1934–1935)
-  Alexandru Săvulescu (1938)
-  Liviu Iuga (1938–1939, 1940)
-  Virgil Economu (1939–1940, 1941–1942, 1946)
-  Ion Lăpușneanu (1942–1943)
-  Emerich Vogl (1943, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950–1952)
-  Coloman Braun-Bogdan (1945)
-  Colea Vâlcov (1947)
-  Francisc Ronnay (1947)
-  Colea Vâlcov (1948, 1949)
-  Petre Steinbach (1948)
-  Iuliu Baratky (1948)
-  Ion Mihăilescu (1949)
-  Gheorghe Albu (1950)
-  Volodea Vâlcov (1950)
-  Gheorghe Popescu (1951–1957, 1961, 1962)
-  Augustin Botescu (1958–1960)
-  Constantin Tească (1962, 1967)
-  Silviu Ploșteanu (1962–1963)
-  Ilie Oană (1965–1966, 1967)
-  Bazil Marian (1967)
-  Angelo Niculescu (1967–1971, 1972)
-  Gheorghe Ola (1972)
-  Valentin Stănescu (1973–1975, 1980–1981)
-  Cornel Drăgușin (1975)
-  Stefan Kovács (1976–1979, 1980)
-  Florin Halagian (1979)
-  Constantin Cernăianu (1979)
-  Mircea Lucescu (1981–1986)
-  Emerich Jenei (1986–1990)
-  Gheorghe Constantin (1990)
-  Mircea Rădulescu (1990–1992)

-  [Cornel Dinu](#) (1992–1993)
-  [Anghel Iordănescu](#) (1993–1998, 2001–2004, 2014–2016)
-  [Victor Pițurcă](#) (1998–1999)
-  [Emerich Jenei](#) (2000)
-  [Ladislau Bölöni](#) (2000–2001)
-  [Gheorghe Hagi](#) (2001)
-  [Victor Pițurcă](#) (2005–2009, 2011–2014)
-  [Răzvan Lucescu](#) (2009–2011)
-  [Christoph Daum](#) (2016–2017)
-  [Cosmin Contra](#) (2017–2019)
-  [Mirel Rădoi](#) (2019–2021)
-  [Edward Iordănescu](#) (2022–present)

Players

Current squad

The following players were called up for the [UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying](#) matches against [Israel](#) and [Switzerland](#) on 18 and 21 November 2023.^[19]

Caps and goals correct as of 21 November 2023, after the match against Switzerland.

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Florin Niță	3 July 1987	19	0	Gaziantep
12	GK	Horațiu Moldovan	20 January 1998	9	0	Atlético Madrid
16	GK	Ionuț Radu	28 May 1997	4	0	Bournemouth
<hr/>						
2	DF	Andrei Rațiu	20 June 1998	15	1	Rayo Vallecano
3	DF	Radu Drăgușin	3 February 2002	13	0	Tottenham Hotspur
4	DF	Adrian Rus	18 March 1996	19	1	Pafos
11	DF	Nicușor Bancu	18 September 1992	34	2	Universitatea Craiova
15	DF	Andrei Burcă	15 April 1993	25	1	Al-Ohdood
22	DF	Vasile Mogos	31 October 1992	4	0	CFR Cluj
23	DF	Andres Dumitrescu	11 March 2001	0	0	Sepsi OSK
	DF	Bogdan Racovițan	6 June 2000	0	0	Raków Częstochowa
<hr/>						
5	MF	Vladimir Screciu	13 January 2000	4	0	Universitatea Craiova
6	MF	Marius Marin	30 August 1998	15	0	Pisa
8	MF	Alexandru Cicâldău	8 July 1997	35	4	Konyaspor
10	MF	Nicolae Stanciu (captain)	7 May 1993	66	14	Damac
13	MF	Valentin Mihăilă	2 February 2000	17	4	Parma
14	MF	Ianis Hagi	22 October 1998	31	4	Alavés
17	MF	Florinel Coman	10 April 1998	12	1	FCSB
18	MF	Răzvan Marin	23 May 1996	52	3	Empoli
20	MF	Darius Olaru	3 March 1998	15	0	FCSB
21	MF	Olimpiu Moruțan	25 April 1999	14	1	Ankaragücü

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
	MF	<u>Marius Ștefănescu</u>	14 August 1998	2	0	 <u>Sepsi OSK</u>
	MF	<u>Andrei Arteam</u>	14 August 1993	0	0	 <u>Apollon Limassol</u>
7	FW	<u>Denis Alibec</u>	5 January 1991	36	5	 <u>Muainter</u>
9	FW	<u>George Pușcas</u>	8 April 1996	40	11	 <u>Bari</u>
19	FW	<u>Denis Drăguș</u>	6 July 1999	8	2	 <u>Gaziantep</u>
	FW	<u>Florin Tănase</u>	30 December 1994	17	2	 <u>Al-Okhdood</u>

Recent call-ups

The following players have been called up for the team within the last 12 months.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Ştefan Târnovanu	9 May 2000	1	0	FCSB	v. Kosovo, 12 September 2023
GK	Mihai Aioani	7 September 1999	0	0	Rapid Bucureşti	v. Kosovo, 12 September 2023
DF	Deian Sorescu	29 August 1997	14	0	Gaziantep	v. Andorra, 15 October 2023
DF	Andrei Borza	12 November 2005	0	0	Rapid Bucureşti	v. Andorra, 15 October 2023
DF	Mário Camora <small>INJ</small>	10 November 1986	10	0	CFR Cluj	v. Belarus, 12 October 2023
DF	Cristian Manea	9 August 1997	24	2	CFR Cluj	v. Kosovo, 12 September 2023
DF	Ionuț Nedelcearu	25 April 1996	25	2	Palermo	v. Switzerland, 19 June 2023
DF	Raul Opruț	4 January 1998	3	0	Kortrijk	v. Switzerland, 19 June 2023
DF	Valentin Țicu	19 September 2000	0	0	Petrolul Ploiești	v. Switzerland, 19 June 2023
MF	Dennis Man	26 August 1998	20	6	Parma	v. Andorra, 15 October 2023
MF	Tudor Băluță	27 March 1999	12	0	Farul Constanța	v. Kosovo, 12 September 2023
MF	Octavian Popescu	27 December 2002	7	0	FCSB	v. Belarus, 28 March 2023
MF	Alex Dobre	30 August 1998	2	0	Famalicão	v. Belarus, 28 March 2023
MF	Adrian Șut	30 April 1999	0	0	FCSB	v. Belarus, 28 March 2023
FW	Daniel Bîrligeanu <small>INJ</small>	19 April 2000	1	0	CFR Cluj	v. Israel, 18 November 2023
FW	Louis Munteanu	16 June 2002	1	0	Farul Constanța	v. Belarus, 12 October 2023
Notes						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ INJ = Player withdrew from the squad due to an injury ■ COV = Player withdrawn from the squad due to positive COVID-19 test ■ RET = Player who retired from national team ■ WD = Player withdrew from the squad ■ SUS = Player suspended 						

Records

As of 18 November 2020.^[20]

Players in bold are still active with Romania.

Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	Dorinel Munteanu	134	16	1991–2007
2	Gheorghe Hagi	124	35	1983–2000
3	Gheorghe Popescu	115	16	1988–2003
4	Răzvan Raț	113	2	2002–2016
5	László Bölöni	102	23	1975–1988
6	Dan Petrescu	95	12	1989–2000
7	Bogdan Stelea	91	0	1988–2005
8	Michael Klein	89	5	1981–1991
9	Bogdan Lobonț	86	0	1998–2018
10	Marius Lăcătuș	83	13	1984–1998
	Mircea Rednic	83	2	1981–1991



Dorinel Munteanu is Romania's most capped player with 134 appearances.

Most goals



Adrian Mutu and Gheorghe Hagi are Romania's joint top goalscorers with 35 goals each.

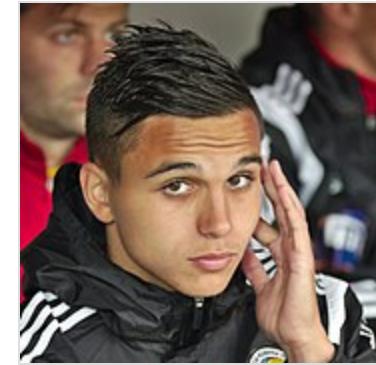
Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Average	Career
1	Adrian Mutu	35	77	0.45	2000–2013
	Gheorghe Hagi	35	124	0.28	1983–2000
3	Iuliu Bodola	31	48	0.65	1931–1939
4	Viorel Moldovan	25	70	0.36	1993–2005
	Ciprian Marica	25	72	0.35	2003–2014
6	László Bölöni	23	102	0.23	1975–1988
7	Dudu Georgescu	21	40	0.53	1973–1984
	Florin Răducioiu	21	40	0.53	1990–1996
	Anghel Iordănescu	21	57	0.37	1971–1981
	Rodion Cămătaru	21	73	0.29	1978–1990

Youngest debutants

As of 15 November 2021.^[21]

Results list Romania's goal tally first.

Rank	Player	Age on debut	Opponent	Result	Year	Ref.
1	Enes Sali	15 years, 8 months and 22 days	 Liechtenstein	2–0	2021	[22]
2	Cristian Manea	16 years, 9 months and 22 days	 Albania	1–0	2014	[23]
3	Grățian Sepi	17 years, 3 months and 15 days	 Turkey	4–2	1928	[23]
4	Ilie Balaci	17 years, 6 months and 10 days	 France	0–1	1974	[23]
5	Nicolae Kovács	17 years, 8 months and 17 days	 Bulgaria	3–2	1929	[23]



In 2014, Cristian Manea (pictured) broke Grățian Sepi's record from 1928 for being the youngest debutant of Romania. He was surpassed by Enes Sali in 2021.

Managers with the most matches

As of 8 August 2022.^[24]

Rank	Manager	Matches
1	Anghel Iordănescu	101
2	Victor Pițurcă	95
3	Mircea Lucescu	58
4	Emerich Jenei	51
5	Constantin Rădulescu	49
6	Angelo Niculescu	38
7	Valentin Stănescu	36
8	Ștefan Kovács	34
9	Gheorghe Popescu	28
10	Cosmin Contra	24



Anghel Iordănescu managed Romania with the most matches for any manager, with 101.

Competitive record

Champions Runners-up Third place

FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record									
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	
1930	Group stage	8th	2	1	0	1	3	5	
1934		12th	1	0	0	1	1	2	
1938	Round of 16	9th	2	0	1	1	4	5	
1950		<i>Did not enter</i>							
1954									
1958									
1962									
1966									
1970	Group stage	10th	3	1	0	2	4	5	
1974									
1978									
1982									
1986									
1990	Round of 16	12th	4	1	2(1*)	1	4	3	
1994	Quarter-finals	6th	5	3	1*	1	10	9	
1998	Round of 16	11th	4	2	1	1	4	3	
● 2002									
2006									
2010									
2014									
2018									
2022									
2026									
2030									
2034									
Total	Quarter-finals	7/22	21	8	5	8	30	32	

FIFA World Cup qualification record							
Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
<i>Qualified as invitees</i>							
2	2	1	1	0	4	3	
<i>Egypt withdrew^[25]</i>							
<i>Declined participation</i>							
2	4	2	0	2	5	5	
2	4	2	1	1	6	4	
<i>Withdrew</i>							
3	6	3	0	3	9	7	
1	6	3	2	1	7	6	
2	6	4	1	1	17	4	
2	4	2	0	2	7	8	
3	8	2	4	2	5	5	
3	8	3	3	2	12	7	
1	6	4	1	1	10	5	
1	10	7	1	2	29	12	
1	10	9	1	0	37	4	
Playoffs	10	5	2	3	12	10	
3	12	8	1	3	20	10	
5	10	3	3	4	12	18	
Playoffs	12	6	2	4	21	16	
4	10	3	4	3	12	10	
3	10	5	2	3	13	8	
<i>To be determined</i>							
Total	138	72	29	37	238	142	

*Denotes draws including knockout matches decided via penalty shoot-out. Normal colour indicates loss.

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record										UEFA European Championship qualifying record						
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1960									Quarter-Finals	4	1	0	3	3	7	
1964									Preliminary round	2	1	0	1	3	7	
1968									First round	6	3	0	3	18	14	
1972									Quarter-finals	9	4	3	2	15	7	
1976									First round	6	1	5	0	11	6	
1980									3	6	2	2	2	9	8	
1984	Group stage	7th	3	0	1	2	2	4	1	8	5	2	1	9	3	
1988									2	6	4	1	1	13	3	
1992									3	8	4	2	2	13	7	
1996	Group stage	15th	3	0	0	3	1	4	1	10	6	3	1	18	9	
2000	Quarter-finals	7th	4	1	1	2	4	6	1	10	7	3	0	25	3	
2004									3	8	4	2	2	21	9	
2008	Group stage	12th	3	0	2	1	1	3	1	12	9	2	1	26	7	
2012									3	10	3	5	2	13	9	
2016	Group stage	19th	3	0	1	2	2	4	2	10	5	5	0	11	2	
2020									Play-off	11	4	2	5	18	17	
2024									1	10	6	4	0	16	5	
2028									To be determined							
2032									Total	136	69	41	26	242	123	
Total	Quarter-finals	6/17	16	1	5	10	10	21								

*Red border colour indicates tournament was held on home soil.

UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record										
Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK
2018–19	C	4	6	3	3	0	8	3	▲	32nd
2020–21	B	1	6	2	2	2	8	9	≡	26th
2022–23	B	3	6	2	1	3	6	8	▼	29th
2024–25	C	Future event								
Total			18	7	6	5	22	20	26th	

Summer Olympics

Football at the Summer Olympics was first played officially in 1908. The Olympiads between 1896 and 1980 was only open for amateur players. The 1984 and 1988 tournaments were open to players with no appearances in the FIFA World Cup. After the 1988 Olympics, the football event was changed into a tournament for U23 teams, with a maximum of three older players. See [Romania Olympic football team](#) for competition records from 1992 until present day.

Host nation(s) – Year	Result	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1900 to 1920	<i>Did not enter</i>			—			
1924	Round of 16	1	0	0	1	0	6
1928 to 1948	<i>Did not qualify</i>			—			
1952	Preliminary Round	1	0	0	1	1	2
1956 to 1960	<i>Did not qualify</i>			—			
1964	Quarter-Finals	6	4	1	1	12	6
1968 to 1976	<i>Did not qualify</i>			—			
1980 to 1988	<i>Did not enter</i>			—			
Since 1992	<i>See Romania Olympic football team</i>						
Total	3/24	8	4	1	3	13	14

Balkan Cup

Balkan Cup record							
Edition	Result	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1929–31	Champions	6	5	0	1	26	13
1931	<i>Did not enter</i>						
1932	Third place	3	1	0	2	4	5
1933	Champions	3	3	0	0	13	0
1934–35	Third place	3	1	1	1	5	8
1935	Fourth place	3	0	1	2	2	8
1936	Champions	2	2	0	0	9	3
1946	Third place	3	1	1	1	4	4
1947	Third place	4	2	0	2	8	8
1948*	Fourth place	6	2	1	3	6	18
1973–76	Runners-up	4	2	1	1	7	5
1977–80	Champions	6	3	2	1	12	5
Total	4 titles	43	22	7	14	96	77

*Edition abandoned.

All-time head-to-head record

Last match updated was against  Switzerland on 21 November 2023.

Positive record Neutral record Negative record

Against	[show]	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	% Won
 Albania		17	11	3	3	64.71%
 Algeria		5	1	2	2	20%
 Andorra		6	6	0	0	100%
 Argentina		6	1	2	3	16.67%
 Armenia		7	5	1	1	66.67%
 Australia		1	1	0	0	100%
 Austria		12	4	5	3	33.33%
 Azerbaijan		4	4	0	0	100%
 Belarus		7	4	3	0	57.14%
 Belgium		12	5	2	5	41.67%
 Bolivia		1	1	0	0	100%
 Bosnia and Herzegovina		6	4	0	2	66.67%
 Brazil		3	0	0	3	0%
 Bulgaria		33	18	6	9	54.55%
 Cameroon		1	0	0	1	0%
 Chile		3	3	0	0	100%
 China		2	2	0	0	100%
 Colombia		3	2	1	0	66.67%
 Croatia		4	0	1	3	0%
 Cuba		2	0	1	1	0%
 Cyprus		13	9	3	1	69.23%
 Czech Republic		2	1	0	1	50%
 Czechoslovakia		32	7	8	17	21.88%
 Denmark		11	4	4	3	36.36%
 DR Congo		2	0	2	0	0%
 East Germany		16	5	3	8	31.25%
 Ecuador		1	0	0	1	0%
 Egypt		6	3	2	1	50%
 England		12	3	6	3	25%
 Estonia		4	3	0	1	75%
 Faroe Islands		8	8	0	0	100%
Finland		13	9	4	0	69.23%

Against	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	% Won
France	16	3	5	8	18.75%
Georgia	8	5	2	1	62.5%
Germany	15	2	3	10	13.33%
Greece	36	18	10	8	50%
Honduras	1	1	0	0	100%
Hungary	26	7	8	11	23.08%
Iceland	5	3	1	1	60%
Iran	2	0	2	0	0%
Iraq	2	0	2	0	0%
Israel	25	13	7	5	52%
Italy	17	2	5	10	11.76%
Ivory Coast	1	0	0	1	0%
Japan	4	3	1	0	75%
Jordan	1	0	0	1	0%
Kazakhstan	2	1	1	0	50%
Kosovo	2	1	1	0	50%
Latvia	5	4	1	0	80%
Liechtenstein	6	6	0	0	100%
Lithuania	12	11	0	1	90.91%
Luxembourg	6	6	0	0	100%
Malta	2	2	0	0	100%
Mexico	2	1	0	1	50%
Moldova	4	4	0	0	100%
Montenegro	7	2	2	3	28.57%
Morocco	3	2	0	1	66.67%
Nigeria	2	2	0	0	100%
Netherlands	14	1	3	10	7.14%
North Macedonia	7	5	1	1	71.43%
Northern Ireland	8	2	3	3	25%
Norway	14	4	7	3	28.57%
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	50%
Peru	5	2	2	1	40%

Against	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	% Won
Poland	35	14	15	6	40%
Portugal	11	4	2	5	36.36%
Republic of Ireland	5	1	2	2	20%
Russia	2	1	0	1	50%
San Marino	3	3	0	0	100%
Serbia	6	1	2	3	20%
Scotland	6	2	2	2	33.33%
Slovakia	11	5	5	1	45.45%
Slovenia	9	3	3	3	33.33%
South Korea	1	1	0	0	100%
Soviet Union	9	3	2	4	33.33%
Spain	18	5	6	7	27.78%
Sweden	11	3	3	5	27.27%
Switzerland	15	6	5	4	40%
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	0	0	100%
Tunisia	1	0	1	0	0%
Turkey	26	14	7	5	53.85%
Turkmenistan	1	1	0	0	100%
Ukraine	6	3	1	2	50%
United Arab Emirates	1	0	0	1	0%
United States	4	2	1	1	50%
Uruguay	5	1	2	2	20%
Wales	5	3	1	1	60%
Yugoslavia	37	15	5	17	40.54%
Total	746	330	191	225	44.24%

FIFA ranking history

The following is a chart of yearly averages of Romania's [FIFA ranking](#).^[26]

Honours

- [Balkan Cup](#)
- ① [Winners \(4\) – Record: 1929–31, 1933, 1936, 1977–80](#)

- **2** Runners-up (1): [1973–76](#)
- **3** Third place (4): [1932](#), [1934–35](#), [1946](#), [1947](#)

See also

- [Romania Olympic football team](#)
- [Romania national under-21 football team](#)
- [Romania national under-20 football team](#)
- [Romania national under-19 football team](#)
- [Romania national under-17 football team](#)
- [Romania national futsal team](#)
- [Romania national beach soccer team](#)
- [Romania women's national football team](#)
- [Hungary–Romania football rivalry](#)



Notes

1. The Israel v Romania match, originally scheduled to be played at the [Teddy Stadium, Jerusalem](#), was relocated to a neutral site due to the [Israel–Hamas war](#).

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.frf.ro/>) (in Romanian)
- Romania national football team (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalaRomanieiOfficial>) on Facebook
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Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Romania_national_football_team&oldid=1209325514"

Serbia national football team

The **Serbia men's national football team** (Serbian Cyrillic: Фудбалска репрезентација Србије, romanized: *Fudbalska reprezentacija Srbije*) represents Serbia in men's international football competition. It is controlled by the Football Association of Serbia, the governing body for football in Serbia.

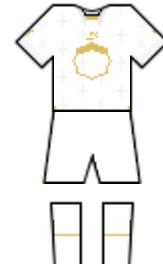
After the breakup of SFR Yugoslavia and its football team in 1992 Serbia was represented (alongside Montenegro) within the new FR Yugoslavia national football team. Despite qualifying for Euro 1992 the team was banned from participating in the tournament due to international sanctions, with the ruling also enforced for 1994 World Cup and Euro 1996 qualifiers. The national team played its first friendly in December 1994, and with the easing of sanctions the generation of the 1990s eventually participated at the 1998 World Cup, reaching the round of 16, and the quarter-finals at Euro 2000. The team played in the 2006, 2010, 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups, but failed to progress past the group stage on each occasion.^{[3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10]}

Between February 2003 and June 2006 Serbia participated as Serbia and Montenegro due to the countries' name change. Following a 2006 referendum Montenegro declared its independence, leading to separate football federations which resulted in the teams final renaming and establishment as the Serbia national football team.^{[11][12][13][14][15][16]} Serbia is considered by FIFA and UEFA to be the official successor team of FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro national football teams, but also the Kingdom of Yugoslavia/SFR Yugoslavia team.^{[17][18][19][20]}

History

Serbia within Yugoslavia (1920–1992)

The Football Federation of what was then the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia) was founded in Zagreb in 1919 under the name *Jugoslavenski nogometni savez* (*Jugoslavian Football Association*). Jovan Ružić was the first Serb to represent the national team in its international debut match, a 7–0 drubbing by Czechoslovakia at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, Belgium.^[21]

Serbia				
				
Nickname(s)	Орлови / <i>Orlovi</i> (Eagles)			
Association	Fudbalski savez Srbije (FSS)			
Confederation	UEFA (Europe)			
Head coach	Dragan Stojković			
Captain	Dušan Tadić			
Most caps	Branislav Ivanović (105)			
Top scorer	Aleksandar Mitrović (57)			
Home stadium	Red Star Stadium			
FIFA code	SRB			
				
				
First colours				
Second colours				
FIFA ranking				
Current	32  2 (15 February 2024) ^[1]			
Highest	6 (December 1998)			
Lowest	101 (December 1994)			
First international				
 Czechoslovakia 7–0 Kingdom of SCS  (Antwerp, Belgium; 28 August 1920)				

In 1921 the Belgrade Football Subassociation organized a friendly match between the France national football team and a Belgrade XI, dubbed the "Serbian representatives". The team featured footballers from SK Jugoslavija and BSK, two of the Serbian clubs of the interwar period. The French delegation was on a four-game tour of Yugoslavia with the last exhibition game being played in Belgrade's SK Jugoslavija Stadium on 3 July. Prince Regent Aleksandar I and FIFA President Jules Rimet were in attendance as the visitors triumphed 3–0.^[22]

In the lead-up to the 1930 World Cup, a dispute regarding the relocation of the FAs headquarters from Zagreb to the capital Belgrade erupted, culminating in a boycott by the Zagreb Subassociation which disallowed its members to participate in the upcoming tournament. The *de facto* Serbian team led by coach Boško Simonović, composed largely of players from Belgrade's BSK, SK Jugoslavija and BASK, reached the semi-final, losing to hosts and eventual winners Uruguay 6–1.^{[23][24][25]} The royal interbellum era featured footballers such as Blagoje Marjanović, Aleksandar Tirnanić, Milorad Arsenijević, Đorđe Vučadinović, Branislav Sekulić and Milutin Ivković. Due to the dismemberment of Yugoslavia during World War II the football federation and national team ceased activities but reformed following the end of hostilities.

In 1945 Svetislav Glišović led the first unofficial national team representing the Federal State of Serbia in a tournament held to mark the end of World War II.^[26] The Serbian team encompassing the newly established Red Star squad won its first game by beating FS Montenegro 2–1, FS Croatia 3–1 in the semi-final, then proceeding to win the tournament against the Yugoslav People's Army team 1–0 in Belgrade.^{[27][28]}

The reconstituted Yugoslavia reached the UEFA European Championship finals in 1960 and 1968, and finished fourth place at the 1962 FIFA World Cup. During its existence Serbian footballers would continually play a role in the Yugoslavia national team throughout the socialist era, with the likes of Rajko Mitić, Branko Stanković, Vladimir Beara, Vučadin Boškov, Todor Veselinović, Miloš Milutinović, Borivoje Kostić, Milan Galić, Vladimir Durković, Velibor Vasović, Dragan Džajić, Jovan Aćimović, Dušan Bajević, Vladimir Petrović and others until the states disintegrated in the 1990s. The national team of SFR Yugoslavia played its last game on 25 March 1992, losing 2–0 to the Netherlands.^[29]

FR Yugoslavia/Serbia & Montenegro era (1992–2006)

While the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, consisting of Serbia and Montenegro, was formed on 27 April 1992,^[30] its teams were banned from all international sporting events, including

 **FS Serbia** 2–1 FS Montenegro 
(Belgrade, Yugoslavia; 3 September 1945)

Official

 Czech Republic 1–3 Serbia 
(Uherské Hradiště, Czech Republic; 16 August 2006)

Bigest win

 **Yugoslavia** 10–0 Venezuela 
(Curitiba, Brazil; 14 June 1972)

as Serbia

 Azerbaijan 1–6 Serbia 
(Baku, Azerbaijan; 17 October 2007)
 Serbia 6–1 Bulgaria 
(Belgrade, Serbia; 19 November 2008)
 Serbia 5–0 Romania 
(Belgrade, Serbia; 10 October 2009)
 Serbia 6–1 Wales 
(Novi Sad, Serbia; 11 September 2012)
 Serbia 5–0 Russia 
(Belgrade, Serbia; 18 November 2020)

Bigest defeat

 Czechoslovakia 7–0 Kingdom of SCS 
(Antwerp, Belgium; 28 August 1920)
 Uruguay 7–0 Kingdom of SCS 
(Paris, France; 26 May 1924)
 Czechoslovakia 7–0 Kingdom of SCS 
(Prague, Czechoslovakia; 28 October 1925)

as Serbia

 Ukraine 5–0 Serbia 
(Lviv, Ukraine 7 June 2019)

World Cup

Appearances 13 (*first in 1930 as Yugoslavia*
1998 as FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro
2010 as Serbia)
Best result As Yugoslavia: Fourth place (1930, 1962)
As FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro: Round of 16 (1998)
As Serbia: Group stage (2010, 2018, 2022)

European Championship

Appearances 6 (*first in 1960 as Yugoslavia*
2000 as FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro
2024 as Serbia)

the national football team as a result of U.N. sanctions stemming from the conflict in Yugoslavia.^[31] Consequently, the national team did not play its first game as a new country before 23 December 1994, a friendly match played in Porto Alegre and in which Brazil won 2–0.^[32] This was the first ever team composed of Serbian and Montenegrin players exclusively, while Slobodan Santrač, a former Yugoslavia national team player, was named the team's first ever manager. The next game was played three days later, this time in Buenos Aires, resulting in a 1–0 loss to Argentina.^[33]

Due to international sanctions, the team could not participate in 1994 World Cup qualifying nor the Euro 1996 qualifying process.^{[31][34]}

1998 World Cup

As FR Yugoslavia joined FIFA and UEFA in 1994, the team was available to participate in the 1998 World Cup qualifiers. Slobodan Santrač was appointed manager for the team.^[35] In the qualifiers, Yugoslavia was drawn in Group 6 with Euro 1996 runners-up Czech Republic, Slovakia, Spain, Faroe Islands and Malta. With 23 points, Yugoslavia ended up in second place behind Spain. Yugoslavia qualified for the play-off in which they were drawn to play against Hungary. Winning 12–1 on aggregate, Yugoslavia qualified for the World Cup.^[36]

The draw put the team in Group F alongside Germany, the United States, and Iran. Yugoslavia won its first game 1–0 against Iran thanks to a goal from defender Siniša Mihajlović.^[37] The next game was a draw for Yugoslavia; after leading Germany 2–0, a free kick from Michael Tarnat deflected off Mihajlović and into the goal, then Oliver Bierhoff equalised it at 2–2 at the 80th minute.^[38] Yugoslavia responded in the next game against the United States and won 1–0 due to a goal in the fourth minute by Slobodan Komljenović.^[39] Yugoslavia finished second in the group behind Germany on goal difference.

Due to their second position, Yugoslavia saw itself face the Netherlands in the Round of 16. Yugoslavia entered in the match with a sole attacker, but its defensive tactics proved unsuccessful as Dennis Bergkamp put the Netherlands in front in the 38th minute. Following the start of the second half, Yugoslavia pressured the Dutch, who conceded a header from Komljenović. The turning point of this match was a penalty awarded to Yugoslavia after Vladimir Jugović was fouled.^[40] Predrag Mijatović missed, and the scoreline remained the same at 1–1.^[41] Such an event demoralized the Yugoslavs, as the Dutch took the initiative. In the late seconds of the game Edgar Davids' shot towards the Yugoslav net from a distance of 20 meters and beat goalkeeper Ivica Kralj.^[40]

Euro 2000

The draw for the Euro 2000 qualifiers saw first-seeded Yugoslavia drawn in a group with Croatia, thus marking the first games between the two teams after the breakup of Yugoslavia. The other teams in the group were the Republic of Ireland, Macedonia, and Malta. Milan Živadinović was dismissed and was replaced by Vujadin

Best result	As Yugoslavia: Runners-up (1960, 1968) as FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro: Quarter-finals (2000) As Serbia: To be determined (2024)	
Medal record	[show]	
UEFA European Championship		
S	1960 France	Team
S	1968 Italy	Team
Olympic Games		
G	1960 Rome	Team
S	1948 London	Team
S	1952 Helsinki	Team
S	1956 Melbourne	Team
B	1984 Los Angeles	Team
Balkan Cup		
G	1934–35 Greece	Team
G	1935 Bulgaria	Team
Mediterranean Games		
G	1971 Izmir	Team
G	1979 Split	Team



Yugoslavia at the 1930 FIFA World Cup, featured an all Serbian team following a boycott by Croat representatives.

The team started with a 1–0 win over Ireland in Belgrade, before beating Malta 3–0 in Ta' Qali. The home fixture against the Maltese followed, but was moved to Thessaloniki, Greece due to the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. The team won 4–1. The first match against Croatia took place in Belgrade after the bombing ended, and was interrupted due to a power outage at the beginning of the second half, resuming after 43 minutes and eventually finishing 0–0.^[44] A 2–1 defeat against Ireland in Dublin was followed by victories home and away against Macedonia (3–1 and 4–2 respectively), meaning that Yugoslavia needed to win its final qualifier against Croatia in Zagreb, or to draw with Ireland failing to beat Macedonia in Skopje, in order to qualify automatically for Euro 2000. In the event, Ireland conceded an injury-time equaliser, meaning that Yugoslavia's 2–2 draw with the Croatians put them through.

The draw for the finals placed Yugoslavia in Group C along with Spain, Norway and another former Yugoslav republic, Slovenia. The Slovenians took a 3–0 lead in the first game at the Stade du Pays de Charleroi, but three goals in six second-half minutes enabled Yugoslavia to secure a 3–3 draw. The team then beat Norway 1–0 in Liège, thanks to an early Savo Milošević backheel strike. The final group game, against Spain in Bruges, saw the Yugoslavs take the lead three times, before a Gaizka Mendieta penalty and an Alfonso strike in injury-time secured a 4–3 win for the Spaniards and top spot in the group. Yugoslavia nonetheless finished second, level on points with Norway but ranked ahead due to its victory in Liège. In each of the three games, the team had one player sent off (Siniša Mihajlović, Mateja Kežman, and Slaviša Jokanović, respectively).^[45] In the quarter-finals, Yugoslavia was paired with the Netherlands. The co-hosts won 6–1 in Rotterdam with Patrick Kluivert scoring a hat-trick. Despite Yugoslavia's elimination, Savo Milošević was crowned the joint top scorer of the tournament alongside Patrick Kluivert. Both players scored five goals, although Milošević played one game fewer.^[46]

2002 World Cup campaign

Ilija Petković replaced Boškov as head coach in July 2000.^[47] For the 2002 World Cup qualifiers, Yugoslavia was drawn in Group 1 with Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland, the Faroe Islands and Luxembourg. After winning against Luxembourg, Petković was sacked and replaced with a three-pieced team which consisted of Boškov, Dejan Savićević and Ivan Ćurković. Despite winning both games against Luxembourg and Faroe Islands as well and away game against Switzerland, Yugoslavia managed to suffer a home loss and away draw against Russia, a home draw against Switzerland and both draw games against Slovenia. Yugoslavia ended the qualifying campaign in the third place of the group just one point behind second-placed Slovenia.^[48]

Euro 2004 campaign

Savićević was appointed as coach in July 2002.^[49] For the Euro 2004 qualifiers Yugoslavia was drawn in Group 9 with Italy, Wales, Finland and Azerbaijan. During qualifying, the country went under a political transformation, and the newly named Serbia and Montenegro appeared for the first time in a game against Azerbaijan in February 2003.^[50] In June, after a 2–1 loss to Azerbaijan, Savićević resigned and was replaced by Ilija Petković.^[51] Despite drawing both games against eventual group winners Italy and winning both games against runners-up Wales, Serbia and Montenegro failed to qualify, mostly due to a 2–2 home draw, the 2–1 loss to Azerbaijan, as well as a 3–0 away loss to Finland.

2006 World Cup

Petković remained as manager for the team.^[52] Qualifying for the 2006 World Cup resulted in six wins and four draws, with Serbia and Montenegro ending up first in the group with an undefeated record in their qualification group ahead of Spain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lithuania and San Marino. The Serbia and Montenegro team also allowed only one goal in the ten matches, the best defensive record of all 51 teams participating in qualification.



Serbia and Montenegro and Ivory Coast playing at the Allianz Arena in the 2006 FIFA World Cup

On 3 June 2006, following a [referendum](#), Montenegro declared its independence from Serbia. As the World Cup was about to start, it was decided that the Serbia and Montenegro team that had qualified for the tournament would compete, with the split into separate teams representing the new countries of Montenegro and Serbia to take place once the team was no longer in the tournament.

In the [group stage](#), Serbia and Montenegro lost their opening game to the Netherlands. The final score was 1–0 after [Arjen Robben](#) scored the only goal of the game. They also lost their second game to Argentina 6–0, Serbia and Montenegro's worst ever international result. With the team's two losses and with Netherlands and Argentina winning both their games, Serbia and Montenegro could no longer qualify for the knockout matches and was playing for pride alone in their final group game against [Ivory Coast](#). After a 2–0 lead for much of the first half, *the Elephants* managed to come back and win 3–2, leaving Serbia and Montenegro with no points.^[53]

Independent Serbia (2006–present)

Euro 2008 campaign

Javier Clemente, Serbia's first-ever foreign coach, was appointed to lead the team for the 2008 Euro campaign.^[54] After Montenegro declared independence, Serbia marked their split from [Montenegro](#) with a 3–1 win over the Czech Republic. For the [Euro 2008 qualifiers](#), Serbia was drawn in [Group A](#) along with [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Belgium](#), [Finland](#), [Kazakhstan](#), [Armenia](#) and [Azerbaijan](#). A strong start in qualification was overshadowed by the final hurdle of matches where inconsistency took over, the side dropping points against the likes of [Finland](#), [Belgium](#), [Armenia](#) and [Kazakhstan](#). They eventually finished third, three points behind runners-up [Portugal](#) and Group A winners [Poland](#). Clemente was sacked after the team's failure to qualify.^[55]

Serbia replaced Clemente with Miroslav Đukić, who then left the position on 19 August of the following year without having played any official games, due to disagreements with the Football Association of Serbia.

2010 World Cup



Atmosphere at the start of match vs France, 9 September 2009

Subsequent to Đukić's departure, Radomir Antić was appointed coach. Serbia's [World Cup](#) qualification campaign began in 2008. Their qualification group featured [1998 World Cup](#) winners and [2006 World Cup](#) runners-up [France](#), [Romania](#), as well as [Austria](#), [Lithuania](#) and the [Faroe Islands](#). Serbia played consistently during the qualifiers and this led to the team automatically qualifying for the [2010 FIFA World Cup](#) in South Africa. They confirmed qualification with a 5–0 win at home against Romania.

The 2010 World Cup team featured captain Dejan Stanković, who became the only player to feature in a World Cup having played under three different national names (although he never changed nationality; this was a result of geopolitical events involving the identity of Yugoslavia).^[57] They were to face [Ghana](#), [Germany](#) and [Australia](#).



Serbia's starting XI under coach Radomir Antić in their 1–0 win over Germany at the 2010 FIFA World Cup.^[56]

Their opening group game was against Ghana and chances came to both sides but a red card to Aleksandar Luković and a handball by substitute Zdravko Kuzmanović in the second half gave Ghana a penalty to take all three points at the death. Asamoah Gyan converted eight minutes from full-time and Serbia were defeated 1–0. In Serbia's second group match, they defeated Germany by a score of 1–0 with a goal by Milan Jovanović in the first half. FIFA's official YouTube channel called the win "the most famous day in Serbia's footballing history".^[58]

Serbia only needed a single point to reach the knockout stages, but was defeated by Australia 2–1. Australia scored two goals in the second half through Tim Cahill and Brett Holman. A late Marko Pantelić goal served only as a consolation. They finished last in the group.

Euro 2012 campaign

Radomir Antić was sacked two games into the Euro 2012 qualification process, a 1–1 draw at home to Slovenia spelling the end to his two-year stint. The sacking meant the bringing in of Vladimir Petrović to the job.

For the Euro 2012 qualifying, Serbia was drawn in Group C featuring Italy, Slovenia, Estonia, Northern Ireland and the Faroe Islands. The qualifying stage began with Radomir Antić as coach and finished with Vladimir Petrović. Serbia and Antić started the first two games with a 3–0 win away to Faroe Islands and a 1–1 draw at home to Slovenia but this result brought the end of Antić's reign as the country's coach.^[59] New coach Petrović faced setbacks with a 3–1 loss at home to Estonia^[60] and an abandoned match resulting in a 3–0 loss to Italy due to crowd trouble from the Serbian away supporters in Genoa.^[61]

Serbia returned to form with a 2–1 win at home over Northern Ireland but could only manage a 1–1 draw away to Estonia. Afterwards, Serbia won back to back games with a 1–0 win away to Northern Ireland and a crucial 3–1 win at home against Faroe Islands. These results put Serbia in pole position to confirm a play-off spot behind Italy.

Serbia needed a win at home against Italy to confirm a play-off spot but their efforts only resulted in a 1–1 draw. The team, however, still had one more chance to confirm a play-off place when they faced Slovenia away. This game was a must-win even though Serbia had a superior goal difference over Estonia; a draw was not good enough for progression. Neither side played decisively better in the first half, but a long-range goal put Slovenia up 1–0 at half time.^[62] In the second half, Nemanja Vidić missed penalty.^[62] Serbia left empty-handed after a 1–0 loss and exited the tournament for the third time in a row during the qualifying group stages, missing out by one point behind Estonia. Serbia once again failed to qualify for the European Championships.^[62] Vladimir Petrović was sacked after the team's failure to qualify.

2014 World Cup campaign

Ahead of the qualifying campaign for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, Dejan Stanković and Nemanja Vidić announced that they were retiring from international football.^{[63][64]} Branislav Ivanović became the new captain. Siniša Mihajlović, a former member of the national team, was appointed as the coach on 24 April 2012. Serbia was drawn in Group A in qualification for the 2014 World Cup, together with Croatia, Belgium, Scotland, Macedonia, and Wales. The team began the qualification campaign with a goalless draw with Scotland and a 6–1 win over Wales. In the next two games, Serbia suffered two defeats, from Macedonia and Belgium.

On 22 March 2013, Serbia played in Zagreb against Croatia. The game was highly anticipated in both countries due to their rivalry both on and off the pitch. Croatia won 2–0.^[65] Serbia then defeated Scotland 2–0 at home in a crucial qualifier, though their World Cup hopes were taken away after a 2–1 defeat to Belgium. Serbia drew with Croatia 1–1 in the corresponding fixture at home, where 18-year-old Aleksandar Mitrović scored an equalizer in the second-half after Mario Mandžukić opened the scoring.^[66] They then defeated Wales 3–0 in Cardiff. Dejan Stanković's farewell game was completed in a friendly against Japan, which Serbia won 2–0. He

finished his career with 103 appearances for the national team, a record previously held by Savo Milošević, with 102 appearances. Serbia finished qualifying with a 5–1 home win against Macedonia,^[67] putting them in third in the group, three points from a playoff spot behind Croatia and group winners Belgium.

Euro 2016 campaign

After failing to qualify for the 2014 World Cup, Dick Advocaat was appointed as the coach in 2014.^[68] Serbia was drawn in Group I in qualification for UEFA Euro 2016, together with Portugal, Denmark, Albania and Armenia. Advocaat started with a draw in a friendly 1–1 game against France. The team began qualification with a 1–1 draw against Armenia. The following game was a game against Albania in Belgrade, abandoned as a result of crowd trouble after a drone carrying an Albanian flag and a map of Greater Albania was flown over the pitch.^[69] Serbia was originally awarded with a 3–0 victory by UEFA, and deducted three points, but on 10 July 2015, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) reversed the earlier decision and awarded Albania a 3–0 win.^[69] On 14 November 2014, Serbia played against Denmark in Belgrade and lost, 1–3. After this game, Advocaat left,^[70] whereupon Radovan Ćurčić was announced as a new coach on 25 November.^[71]

Serbia's first match in 2015 was a qualifying match against Portugal in Lisbon, during which Serbia lost 2–1, cutting their chances for qualification to Euro 2016. On 13 June 2015, Serbia played a qualifying match against Denmark in Copenhagen, losing 2–0. With the 10 July ruling by CAS on the abandoned game against Albania, Serbia would become mathematically eliminated from Euro 2016 qualification. On 4 September 2015, Serbia had their first victory, winning 2–0, against Armenia. On 8 October 2015, Serbia defeated Albania with a goal each from Aleksandar Kolarov and Adem Ljajić. In the table of Group I, Serbia finished second to last place with four points in a five-team group.

2018 World Cup

After failing to qualify for Euro 2016, Slavoljub Muslin was appointed as a coach. Serbia was drawn in Group D in qualification for the 2018 FIFA World Cup with Euro 2016 semi-finalists Wales, Austria, Ireland, Georgia and Moldova. They started off their campaign with a 2–2 draw against Ireland at the Red Star Stadium and eventually won against Austria, Georgia and Moldova.



Serbia team at the 2018 World Cup in Russia

Serbia beat Moldova in Belgrade with goals from Aleksandar Kolarov, Aleksandar Mitrović and Mijat Gaćinović. This consolidated their first position going into their top-of-the group clash with Ireland. They won this match with a 55th-minute goal from Kolarov. Serbia finished the qualifying campaign with a 1–0 home win against Georgia, and ended at the top of Group D and therefore qualified for the 2018 tournament. Despite Serbia's qualification, Muslin was sacked by the Football Association of Serbia as a result on differences regarding team selection.^[72] Muslin was criticized for not inviting Sergej Milinković-Savić to play in the campaign which sparked controversy in Serbia. Mladen Krstajić took the place as a temporary coach after Muslin's dismissal and led the team in the World Cup.^[73]

In the World Cup, Serbia opened their match against Costa Rica. Kolarov's free kick at the second half meant Serbia won their first World Cup game in eight years. Serbia lost their later encounters, losing 1–2 to Switzerland with a 90th-minute goal scored by Xherdan Shaqiri^[74] and 0–2 to Brazil, thus being eliminated in the group stage.^[75]

2018–19 UEFA Nations League

Due to the performance of Serbia in previous years, the country found itself started the campaign of the inaugural Nations League, where they were drawn into Group 4 with Montenegro, Lithuania and Romania. With both wins against Lithuania and Montenegro and both draw games against Romania, Serbia finished on top of

the group, securing the Euro 2020 play-off spot and being promoted into League B for 2020–21 season. With six goals, Aleksandar Mitrović finished the tournament as the top scorer.

Euro 2020 campaign

In December 2017, Mladen Krstajić became the permanent coach for Serbia.^[76] Serbia started the campaign of 2018–19 UEFA Nations League, which served as a part of UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying campaign.

For Euro 2020 qualifiers, Serbia was drawn into Group B with Euro 2016 champions Portugal, Ukraine, Lithuania and Luxembourg. Serbia kicked off the qualifiers with 1–1 away draw against Portugal. But in the next away game against Ukraine, Serbia lost 5–0. Krstajić was sacked after the loss and replaced with Ljubiša Tumbaković. Tumbaković started with a 2–4 home loss against Portugal. The next two games were away wins against Luxembourg and Lithuania, before beating Luxembourg at home. Serbia then drew 2–2 to Ukraine at home, meaning they could not finish in the top two and a play-off would ensue.

After the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying play-offs were resumed, Serbia placed itself against Norway in Oslo. Two goals, one in extra time helped Serbia to overcome Norway 2–1, thus marching to the final playoff game against Scotland at home.^[77] The game was won by Scotland in a penalty shootout (5–4) after the game was tied 1–1 after full time.^[78] Serbia once again failed to qualify for the Euros, making 20 years since the country last took part in the tournament. Tumbaković was sacked after the team's failure to qualify for the tournament.^[79]

2022–23 UEFA Nations League

Serbia was drawn in 2022–23 UEFA Nations League B Group 4 alongside Norway, Sweden and Slovenia, finishing first and being promoted after wins against Sweden at home and Norway in Oslo.

2022 World Cup

Serbia was drawn in Group A in qualification for the 2022 FIFA World Cup with Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Luxembourg and Azerbaijan.^[80]

After a penalty shootout loss against Scotland in the Euro 2020 qualifying play offs, Ljubiša Tumbaković was sacked and replaced with Dragan Stojković.

Serbia started qualification with a 3–2 win against the Republic of Ireland in Belgrade in March 2021. After a 2–2 draw against Portugal, Serbia won against Azerbaijan in Baku 2–1. Mixed results meant Serbia needed a victory against Portugal to qualify directly from the group. On 14 November 2021, Serbia faced Portugal at the Estádio da Luz, and trailed by a goal. However, an equaliser by Dušan Tadić and a decisive goal from Aleksandar Mitrović in the final minutes of the second half meant Serbia automatically booked a ticket for Qatar.^[81]

Serbia was drawn in Group G with 2018 opponents Brazil and Switzerland, and African representatives Cameroon. Serbia was defeated in the first match against Brazil 2–0. They then drew Cameroon 3–3, and lost against Switzerland 3–2 after a fight between multiple Serbians and Granit Xhaka, ending up with only one point.^[82]

Euro 2024

Following the elimination in the group stage at the 2022 World Cup, Stojković stayed as a coach with a goal to bring Serbia to UEFA Euro 2024.^[83]

Serbia was drawn in Group G in qualification for Euro 2024 with Hungary, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Lithuania.^[84] Serbia started the qualifying campaign with a 2–0 wins against the Lithuania in Belgrade and Montenegro in Podgorica in March 2023. After a crucial friendly game against Jordan in which Serbia won 3–2,

Serbia ended up in a draw 1–1 against Bulgaria in Razgrad. The next game against Hungary in Belgrade, Serbia was forced to play behind closed doors, due to UEFA sanctioning the Serbian association because of chants against Montenegrins. Serbia eventually lost the game 1–2. The next game was another win against Lithuania in Kaunas, 3–1, with Aleksandar Mitrović scoring a hat-trick. On 14 October 2023 Serbia once again lost against Hungary in Budapest 1–2, but three days later Serbia won against Montenegro in Belgrade 3–1. After the crucial final game against Bulgaria at home which ended in a draw 2–2, Serbia ended the campaign in second place in group G with 14 points, therefore qualifying for a first European Championship in 24 years.^[85]

Rivalries

- **Serbia v. Croatia:** The rivalry stems from political roots, and is listed as one of the ten greatest international rivalries by Goal.com.^[86] and as the most politically charged football rivalry by the Bleacher Report.^[87] The two sides started the football rivalry in the 1990 when they were part of Yugoslavia, which dissolved after a series of wars. The two nations have played four times, with Croatia winning one and drawing the other three games.^[88]
- **Serbia v. Albania:** The rivalry stems from historical tensions and the Kosovo question.^[89]
- **Serbia v. Switzerland:** The rivalry is connected to the Albanian diaspora players in the Swiss football team and is linked to the tensions between the Albanians and the Serbs.^[90]

Team image

The badge of the Football Association of Serbia is modelled on the Serbian cross inescutcheon featured on the Serbian coat of arms. It consists of a modified version of the four firesteels and cross, with the addition of a football. The team is nicknamed "*the Eagles*" (Serbian Cyrillic: *Орлови*) in reference to the white double-headed eagle, a national symbol of Serbia.^{[91][92][93][94][95]} In 2022 the Football Association of Serbia launched a new, national team specific emblem for brand and marketing purposes. The previous FA crest was replaced by a stylised logo inspired by the lesser coat of arms of the Republic of Serbia.^[96]

For years following the breakup of SFR Yugoslavia the national team experienced an identity crisis, which despite its name, was seen as *de facto* representative of Serbia. From 1994 to 2006 the obsolete and unpopular Communist era national anthem "*Hej, Slovenski*" was often jeered, booed and whistled by home supporters as players refrained from singing the lyrics. During this period the team continued to officially carry the old nickname "*Plavi*" (*the Blues*), badge and kit design indicative of the Yugoslav tricolour.^{[97][94][98]}



Serbia team before a friendly match versus Ireland in Dublin in May 2008

Following the secession of Montenegro in 2006 the national team adopted red shirts, blue shorts and white socks in honor of the Serbian tricolour. Between 2010 and 2016 a cross motif inspired by the country's coat of arms was incorporated in the jersey. In years Serbia has utilised all-red uniforms due to FIFA's kit clash regulations. Away kits are traditionally white with blue or white shorts.^{[99][100]}

Serbia does not have an official national stadium and the team has played at grounds throughout the country. The Rajko Mitić Stadium is the most popular venue following by Partizan Stadium, both ground are located in the capital city Belgrade.^{[101][102][103]}

Kit sponsorship

In July 2014, a partnership was announced between the Football Association of Serbia and English manufacturer Umbro, which is Serbia's official supplier, before Puma took over with their home and away kits, debuting 7 September 2014 in the friendly match against France. That same day, Serbia unveiled their latest kits

also worn at the Euro 2016 qualifiers campaign.^[104]

Kit Supplier	Period
Adidas	1974–2002
Lotto	2002–2006
Nike	2006–2014
Umbro	2014–2018
Puma	2018–2024



The 53,000 capacity Rajko Mitić Stadium is the largest in Serbia, and is often utilised for international fixtures.

Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 12 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win Draw Loss Fixture

2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	24 March 2023	Serbia 2–0 Lithuania	Belgrade, Serbia	[show]
	20:45	Tadić 16' Report (ht Vlahović 53'	Stadium: Rajko Mitić Stadium Attendance: 21,125 Referee: Lawrence Visser (Belgium)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	27 March 2023	Montenegro 0–2 Serbia	Podgorica, Montenegro	[show]
	20:45	Report (ht Vlahović 78', 90+6'	Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 9,831 Referee: Clément Turpin (France)	
International friendly	16 June 2023	Serbia 3–2 Jordan	Vienna, Austria	[show]
	20:30	Eraković 7' Report (ht Al-Mardi 54' Joveljić 83', 88' tps://int.soccerway.com/matches/2023/06/16/world友lies-serbia/jordan/4073382/)	Stadium: Franz Horr Stadium Attendance: 8,854 Referee: Stefan Ebner (Austria)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	20 June 2023	Bulgaria 1–1 Serbia	Razgrad, Bulgaria	[show]
	20:45	Despodov 47' Report (ht Lazović 90+6'	Stadium: Huvepharma Arena Attendance: 6,700 Referee: Craig Pawson (England)	

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	7 September 2023	Serbia  1–2  Hungary	Belgrade, Serbia	[show]
	20:45	A. Szalai  10' (o.g.) Report (ht Varga  34' tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203639 4/)	Stadium: Red Star Stadium Attendance: 6,924 Referee: Juan Martínez Munuera (Spain)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	10 September 2023	Lithuania  1–3  Serbia	Kaunas, Lithuania	[show]
	20:45	Paulauskas  45' Report (ht A. Mitrović  21', 32', tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203641 8/)	Stadium: Darius and Girėnas Stadium Attendance: 8,586 Referee: Sascha Stegemann (Germany)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	14 October 2023	Hungary  2–1  Serbia	Budapest, Hungary	[show]
	20:45	Varga  20' Report (ht Pavlović  33' Sallai  34' tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203644 1/)	Stadium: Puskás Aréna Attendance: 58,215 Referee: François Letexier (France)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 October 2023	Serbia  3–1  Montenegro	Belgrade, Serbia	[show]
	20:45	Mitrović  9', 73' Report (ht Jovetić  36' Tadić  77' tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203646 3/)	Stadium: Rajko Mitić Stadium Attendance: 25,884 ^[105] Referee: Szymon Marciniak (Poland)	
International friendly	15 November 2023	Belgium  1–0  Serbia	Leuven, Belgium	[show]
	20:45	Carrasco  2' Report (ht tps://int.s occerway. com/matc hes/2023/ 11/15/wor ld/friendli es/belgiu m-serbia/ 4073275/)	Stadium: Den Dreef Attendance: 0 Referee: Marian Alexandru Barbu (Romania)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 November 2023	Serbia  2–2  Bulgaria	Leskovac, Serbia	[show]

15:00	Veljković 17' Babić 82'	Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203651 0/)	Rusev 59' Despodov 69'	Stadium: Dubočica Stadium Attendance: 7,325 [106] Referee: Erik Lambrechts (Belgium)
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2024

International friendly	21 March 2024	Russia	v	Serbia	Moscow, Russia	[show]
International friendly	25 March 2024	Cyprus	v	Serbia	Stadium: VTB Arena Limassol, Cyprus	
International friendly	4 June 2024	Austria	v	Serbia	Vienna, Austria	
International friendly	8 June 2024	Sweden	v	Serbia	Sweden	
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	16 June 2024	Serbia	v	England	Gelsenkirchen, Germany	[show]
	21:00			Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036166/)	Stadium: Arena AufSchalke	
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	20 June 2024	Slovenia	v	Serbia	Munich, Germany	[show]
	15:00			Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036177/)	Stadium: Allianz Arena	
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	25 June 2024	Denmark	v	Serbia	Munich, Germany	[show]
	21:00			Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036190/)	Stadium: Allianz Arena	
2024–25 UEFA Nations League A	5 September 2024	Serbia	v	Spain	Serbia	[show]
	20:45			Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefanat ionsleagu e/match/2 040049--s erbia-vs-s pain/)	Stadium: TBD	
2024–25 UEFA Nations League A	8 September 2024	Denmark	v	Serbia	Copenhagen, Denmark	[show]
	18:00			Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefanat ionsleagu e/match/2 040069--d enmark-)	Stadium: Parken Stadium	

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a/)

[show]

2024–25 UEFA 12 October 2024
Nations League A

20:45

Serbia 

v

 **Switzerland**

Serbia

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erbia-vs-s
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d/\)](https://www.uefanationsleagues.com/uefanat/e/match/2040119--serbia-vs-switzerland/)

Stadium: TBD

2024–25 UEFA 15 October 2024
Nations League A

20:45

Spain 

v

 **Serbia**

Spain

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erbia/\)](https://www.uefanationsleagues.com/uefanat/e/match/2040140--spain-vs-serbia/)

Stadium: TBD

2024–25 15 November 2024
UEFA Nations League A

20:45

Switzerland 

v

 **Serbia**

Switzerland

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witzerland
-vs-serbi
a/\)](https://www.uefanationsleagues.com/uefanat/e/match/2040162--switzerland-vs-serbia/)

Stadium: TBD

2024–25 18 November 2024
UEFA Nations League A

20:45

Serbia 

v

 **Denmark**

Serbia

[show]

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enmark/\)](https://www.uefanationsleagues.com/uefanat/e/match/2040186--serbia-vs-denmark/)

Stadium: TBD

Coaching staff

As of 3 March 2021

Serbian coaching staff^[107]

Position	Name
Manager	 Dragan Stojković
Assistant coach	 Goran Đorović
Coach	 Bratislav Živković
Goalkeeping coach	 Goran Čumić
Fitness coach	 Katsuhito Kinoshi
Coach-analyst	 Nebojša Stamenković
Team manager	 Nemanja Filipović
Athletic director	 Stevan Stojanović

Manager history

As of 19 November 2023

Manager	Period	Record							Major competitions
		Matches	Won	Drawn	Lost	Win %	Draw %	Loss %	
Dragan Stojković	2021–	35	20	7	8	57.14	20.00	22.85	Euro 2024 – TBD 2022 World Cup – Group stage
Ilija Stolica (caretaker)	2021	2	0	2	0	0.00	100.00	0.00	—
Ljubiša Tumbaković	2019–2020	14	6	5	3	42.86	35.71	21.43	Euro 2020 – Failed to qualify
Mladen Krstajić	2017–2019	19	9	5	5	47.36	26.32	26.32	2018 World Cup – Group stage
Slavoljub Muslin	2016–2017	15	8	5	2	53.33	33.33	13.33	
Radovan Ćurčić	2014–2016	11	5	0	6	45.45	0.00	55.55	Euro 2016 – Failed to qualify
Dick Advocaat	2014	4	0	2	2	0.00	50.00	50.00	
Ljubinko Drulović (caretaker)	2014	4	2	1	1	50.00	25.00	25.00	—
Siniša Mihajlović	2012–2013	19	7	4	8	36.84	21.05	42.10	2014 World Cup – Failed to qualify
Radovan Ćurčić (caretaker)	2011–2012	5	2	1	2	40.00	20.00	40.00	—
Vladimir Petrović	2010–2011	13	5	3	5	38.46	23.08	38.46	Euro 2012 – Failed to qualify
Radomir Antić	2008–2010	28	17	3	8	60.71	10.71	28.57	2010 World Cup – Group stage
Miroslav Đukić	2007–2008	5	0	2	3	0.00	40.00	60.00	—
Javier Clemente	2006–2007	16	7	7	2	43.75	43.75	12.50	Euro 2008 – Failed to qualify
Ilija Petković	2003–2006	30	11	10	9	36.66	33.33	30.00	2006 World Cup – Group stage
Dejan Savićević	2001–2003	17	4	3	10	23.53	17.65	58.82	Euro 2004 – Failed to qualify
Boškov-Ćurković-Savićević	2001	8	4	2	2	50.00	25.00	25.00	2002 World Cup – Failed to qualify
Milovan Đorić	2001	3	0	2	1	0.00	66.67	33.33	
Ilija Petković	2000–2001	4	2	1	1	50.00	25.00	25.00	—
Vujadin Boškov	1999–2000	15	6	5	4	40.00	33.33	26.67	Euro 2000 – Quarter final
Milan Živadinović	1998–1999	6	3	2	1	50.00	33.33	16.67	—
Slobodan Santrač	1994–1998	43	26	10	7	60.46	23.25	16.28	1998 World Cup – Round of 16
	TOTAL	316	144	82	90	45.56	25.94	28.48	7 out of 14

For the period before 1992 see: [Yugoslavia national football team#Head coaches](#)

Players

Current squad

The following players were called up for a friendly against Belgium on 15 November 2023 and UEFA Euro 2024 qualifier against Bulgaria on 19 November 2023.^{[108][109]}

Caps and goals as of 19 November 2023, after the match against Bulgaria.^{[110][111]}

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Predrag Rajković	31 October 1995	30	0	Mallorca
12	GK	Đorđe Petrović	8 October 1999	2	0	Chelsea
23	GK	Vanja Milinković-Savić	20 February 1997	18	0	Torino
	GK	Filip Stanković	25 February 2002	0	0	Sampdoria
<hr/>						
2	DF	Strahinja Pavlović	24 May 2001	32	3	Red Bull Salzburg
3	DF	Filip Mladenović	15 August 1991	29	1	Panathinaikos
4	DF	Nikola Milenković	12 October 1997	50	3	Fiorentina
6	DF	Nemanja Gudelj	16 November 1991	60	1	Sevilla
13	DF	Miloš Veljković	26 September 1995	29	1	Werder Bremen
15	DF	Srđan Babić	22 April 1996	7	1	Spartak Moscow
16	DF	Strahinja Eraković	22 January 2001	6	1	Zenit Saint Petersburg
<hr/>						
5	MF	Nemanja Maksimović	26 January 1995	48	0	Getafe
7	MF	Nemanja Radonjić	15 February 1996	44	5	Mallorca
8	MF	Lazar Samardžić	24 February 2002	5	0	Udinese
10	MF	Dušan Tadić (<i>captain</i>)	20 November 1988	104	22	Fenerbahçe
11	MF	Filip Kostić	1 November 1992	60	3	Juventus
14	MF	Andrija Živković	11 July 1996	42	1	PAOK
17	MF	Ivan Ilić	17 March 2001	14	0	Torino
19	MF	Uroš Račić	17 March 1998	12	0	Sassuolo
20	MF	Marko Grujić	13 April 1996	24	0	Porto
21	MF	Filip Đuričić	30 January 1992	44	5	Panathinaikos
22	MF	Saša Lukić	13 August 1996	42	2	Fulham
<hr/>						
9	FW	Aleksandar Mitrović (<i>vice-captain</i>)	16 September 1994	87	57	Al Hilal

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
18	FW	Dušan Vlahović	28 January 2000	25	13	 Juventus

Recent call-ups

The following players have also been called up for the team in the last twelve months.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Boris Radunović	26 May 1996	0	0	Cagliari	v. Montenegro, 17 October 2023
GK	Veljko Ilić	21 July 2003	0	0	TSC	v. Bulgaria, 20 June 2023
GK	Mile Svilar	27 August 1999	1	0	Roma	v. Jordan, 12 June 2023 ^{PRE}
GK	Dragan Rosić	15 November 1996	1	0	Vojvodina	v. Montenegro, 27 March 2023
GK	Marko Dmitrović	24 January 1992	19	0	Sevilla	v. Lithuania, 24 March 2023 ^{RET}
GK	Vladan Kovačević	11 April 1998	0	0	Raków Częstochowa	v. Lithuania, 24 March 2023 ^{PRE}
DF	Mihajlo Ilić	4 July 2003	0	0	Bologna	v. Belgium, 15 November 2023 ^{PRE}
DF	Aleksa Terzić	17 August 1999	6	0	Red Bull Salzburg	v. Montenegro, 17 October 2023
DF	Mihailo Ristić	31 October 1995	9	0	Celta	v. Hungary, 14 October 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Erhan Mašović	22 November 1998	3	0	VfL Bochum	v. Hungary, 14 October 2023 ^{PRE}
DF	Nemanja Stojić	15 January 1998	1	0	TSC	v. Montenegro, 27 March 2023
MF	Sergej Milinković-Savić	27 February 1995	47	7	Al Hilal	v. Belgium, 15 November 2023 ^{INJ}
MF	Darko Lazović	15 September 1990	29	1	Hellas Verona	v. Belgium, 15 November 2023 ^{PRE}
MF	Stefan Mitrović	15 August 2002	2	0	Hellas Verona	v. Belgium, 15 November 2023 ^{PRE}
MF	Vladimir Lučić	28 June 2002	1	0	Red Star Belgrade	v. Belgium, 15 November 2023 ^{PRE}
MF	Mijat Gaćinović	8 February 1995	24	2	AEK Athens	v. Montenegro, 17 October 2023 ^{INJ}
MF	Nikola Čumić	20 November 1998	0	0	Rubin Kazan	v. Bulgaria, 20 June 2023
MF	Veljko Simić	17 February 1995	1	1	Omonia	v. Lithuania, 24 March 2023 ^{PRE}
FW	Petar Ratkov	18 August 2003	1	0	Red Bull Salzburg	v. Belgium, 15 November 2023 ^{PRE}
FW	Luka Jović	23 December 1997	31	10	Milan	v. Hungary, 14 October 2023 ^{PRE}
FW	Dejan Joveljić	7 August 1999	6	2	LA Galaxy	v. Bulgaria, 20 June 2023
FW	Đorđe Jovanović	11 February 1999	3	0	Basel	v. Bulgaria, 20 June

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
FW	Nikola Štulić	8 September 2001	1	0	 Charleroi	2023 v.  Lithuania, 24 March 2023 PRE

Notes

- PRE Preliminary squad
- SUS Suspended
- INJ Withdrew from the roster due to an injury
- RET Retired from the national team
- WD Withdrew from the roster for non-injury related reasons

Previous squads

FIFA World Cup squads

- [1930 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1950 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1954 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1958 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1962 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1974 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1982 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1990 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1998 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [2006 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [2010 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [2018 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [2022 FIFA World Cup squad](#)

UEFA European Football Championship squads

- [UEFA Euro 1960 squad](#)
- [UEFA Euro 1968 squad](#)
- [UEFA Euro 1976 squad](#)
- [UEFA Euro 1984 squad](#)
- [UEFA Euro 2000 squad](#)

Player records

As of 19 November 2023^[112]

Players in bold are still active with Serbia.

Most capped players

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Pos.	Career
1	Branislav Ivanović	105	13	DF	2005–2018
2	Dušan Tadić	104	22	MF	2008–present
3	Dejan Stanković	103	15	MF	1998–2013
4	Savo Milošević	102	37	FW	1994–2008
5	Aleksandar Kolarov	94	11	DF	2008–2020
6	Aleksandar Mitrović	87	57	FW	2013–present
7	Dragan Džajić	85	23	MF	1964–1979
8	Dragan Stojković	84	15	MF	1983–2001
	Vladimir Stojković	84	0	GK	2006–2018
10	Zoran Tošić	76	11	MF	2007–2016



Branislav Ivanović is the most capped player in the history of Serbia with 105 appearances.

Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	Aleksandar Mitrović	57	87	0.66	2013–present
2	Stjepan Bobek	38	63	0.60	1946–1956
	Milan Galić	37	51	0.73	1959–1965
3	Blagoje Marjanović	37	58	0.64	1926–1938
	Savo Milošević	37	102	0.36	1994–2008
6	Rajko Mitić	32	59	0.54	1946–1957
7	Dušan Bajević	29	37	0.78	1970–1977
8	Todor Veselinović	28	37	0.76	1953–1961
9	Predrag Mijatović	27	73	0.37	1989–2003
10	Borivoje Kostić	26	33	0.79	1956–1964



Aleksandar Mitrović is the top scorer in the history of Serbia with 57 goals.

Captains (since 1994)

Player	Period	Tournaments as the captain
Dragan Stojković	1994–2001	1998 FIFA World Cup, UEFA Euro 2000
Predrag Mijatović	2001–2003	—
Savo Milošević	2003–2006	2006 FIFA World Cup
Dejan Stanković	2006–2011	2010 FIFA World Cup
Nikola Žigić	2011	—
Branislav Ivanović	2012–2017	—

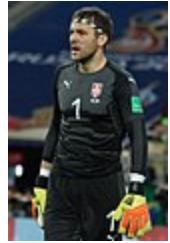
Aleksandar Kolarov	2018–2020	2018 FIFA World Cup
Dušan Tadić	2021–	2022 FIFA World Cup

Notable players

Goalkeepers

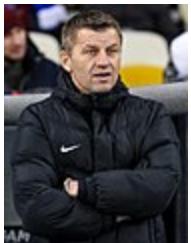


Ivica Kralj played for the team from 1996 to 2001



Vladimir Stojković is the most capped goalkeeper in the team's history with 84 caps

Defenders



Miroslav Đukić played for the team from 1991 to 2001



Siniša Mihajlović played 63 matches for the team from 1993 to 2003 and managed the team in 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification



Zoran Mirković played for the team from 1995 to 2003



Mladen Krstajić played 59 matches for the team from 1999 to 2008 and managed the team at the 2018 World Cup



Nemanja Vidić played 56 matches, was a participant in two World Cups and named twice in the FIFA World XI



Neven Subotić played 36 matches, was a participant at the 2010 World Cup



Branislav Ivanović is the most capped player in the team's history with 105 caps



Aleksandar Kolarov played 94 matches and captained the team at the 2018 World Cup

Midfielders



Dragán Stojković
played from 1983 to
2001 for the team,
and is the current
head coach



Dejan Savićević
played for the team
from 1986 to 1999
and managed the
team from 2001 to
2003



Slaviša Jokanović
played for the team
from 1991 to 2002



Vladimir Jugović
played for the team
from 1991 to 2002



Dejan Stanković is
the Serbian player
who won the most
trophies; he played in
three World Cups and
one European
Championship



Miloš Krasić played
for the team from
2006 to 2011



Milan Jovanović
played for the team
from 2007 to 2012



Nemanja Matić
played for the team
from 2008 to 2019



Dušan Tadić is the
current captain of the
team



Filip Kostić has been
playing for the team
since 2015

Forwards



Predrag Mijatović was a top goalscorer in 1998 World Cup qualifiers with 14 goals



Savo Milošević played 102 matches, scored 37 goals and was UEFA Euro 2000 Golden Boot



Darko Kovačević played 59 matches and scored 10 goals between 1994 and 2004



Mateja Kežman was the top goal scorer for the team in 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification



Nikola Žigić played 57 matches and scored 20 goals between 2004 and 2011

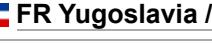


Aleksandar Mitrović is top goal scorer in the history of national team, and was 2018–19 and 2022–23 UEFA Nations League top goalscorer

Competition records

Serbia was part of Yugoslavia and its national football team which existed between 1920 and 1992. With the collapse of Yugoslavia, the remaining constituent republics, Serbia and Montenegro, formed the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1992. The country underwent a name change in 2003, and Montenegro left the state union in 2006. FIFA and UEFA consider the Football Association of Serbia a direct successor to the Football Association of Yugoslavia, thereby attributing all records to Serbia.^[113]

FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record									Qualification record							
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA		
as  Yugoslavia																
 1930	Fourth place	4th	3	2	0	1	7	7		Invited						
 1934		<i>Did not qualify</i>									2	0	1	1	3	4
 1938		<i>Did not qualify</i>									2	1	0	1	1	4
 1950	Group stage	5th	3	2	0	1	7	3			5	3	2	0	16	6
 1954	Quarter-finals	7th	3	1	1	1	2	3			4	4	0	0	4	0
 1958	Quarter-finals	5th	4	1	2	1	7	7			4	2	2	0	7	2
 1962	Fourth place	4th	6	3	0	3	10	7			4	3	1	0	11	4
 1966		<i>Did not qualify</i>									6	3	1	2	10	8
 1970		<i>Did not qualify</i>									6	3	1	2	19	7
 1974	Second group stage	7th	6	1	2	3	12	7			5	3	2	0	8	4
 1978		<i>Did not qualify</i>									4	1	0	3	6	8
 1982	Group stage	16th	3	1	1	1	2	2			8	6	1	1	22	7
 1986		<i>Did not qualify</i>									8	3	2	3	7	8
 1990	Quarter-finals	5th	5	3	1	1	8	6			8	6	2	0	16	6
as  FR Yugoslavia / Serbia and Montenegro																
 1994		<i>Suspended</i> ^[note 1]									0	0	0	0	0	0
 1998	Round of 16	10th	4	2	1	1	5	4			12	9	2	1	41	8
 ●  2002		<i>Did not qualify</i>									10	5	4	1	22	8
 2006	Group stage	32nd	3	0	0	3	2	10			10	6	4	0	16	1
as  Serbia																
 2010	Group stage	23rd	3	1	0	2	2	3			10	7	1	2	22	8
 2014		<i>Did not qualify</i>									10	4	2	4	18	11
 2018	Group stage	23rd	3	1	0	2	2	4			10	6	3	1	20	10
 2022	Group stage	29th	3	0	1	2	5	8			8	6	2	0	18	9
   2026		<i>To be determined</i>														
   2030 ^[a]		<i>To be determined</i>														
 2034		<i>Future event</i>														
Total	Fourth place	13/22	49	18	9	22	71	71			136	81	33	22	287	123

Serbia's World Cup record

[show]

First match	Yugoslavia 2–1 Brazil  (14 July 1930; Montevideo, Uruguay)
Biggest Win	Yugoslavia 9–0 Zaire  (7 June 1974; Gelsenkirchen, West Germany)
Biggest Defeat	Argentina 6–0 Serbia and Montenegro  (16 June 2006; Gelsenkirchen, Germany)
Best Result	Fourth place in 1930 and 1962
Worst Result	Group stage in 1950, 1982, 2006, 2010, 2018, and 2022

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record									Qualification record					
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
as  Yugoslavia														
 1960	Runners-up	2nd	2	1	0	1	6	6	4	2	1	1	9	4
 1964		Did not qualify							4	2	1	1	6	5
 1968	Runners-up	2nd	3	1	1	1	2	3	6	4	1	1	14	5
 1972		Did not qualify							8	3	4	1	7	5
 1976	Fourth place	4th	2	0	0	2	4	7	8	6	1	1	15	5
 1980		Did not qualify							6	4	0	2	14	6
 1984	Group stage	8th	3	0	0	3	2	10	6	3	2	1	12	11
 1988		Did not qualify							6	4	0	2	13	9
 1992		Qualified, but suspended							8	7	0	1	24	4
as  FR Yugoslavia / Serbia and Montenegro														
 1996		Suspended							Suspended					
 2000	Quarter-finals	8th	4	1	1	2	8	13	8	5	2	1	18	8
 2004		Did not qualify							8	3	3	2	11	11
as  Serbia														
 2008		Did not qualify							14	6	6	2	22	11
 2012									10	4	3	3	13	12
 2016									8	2	1	5	8	13
 2020									10	5	3	2	20	19
 2024		Qualified							8	4	2	2	15	9
 2028		To be determined							To be determined					
 2032									122	64	30	28	221	137
Total	Runners-up	7/17	14	3	2	9	22	39						

Serbia's European Championship record		[show]
First match	France 4–5 Yugoslavia	(Paris, France; 6 July 1960)
Biggest win	France 4–5 Yugoslavia Yugoslavia 1–0 England Norway 0–1 Yugoslavia	(Paris, France; 6 July 1960) (Florence, Italy; 5 June 1968) (Liège, Belgium; 18 June 2000)
Biggest defeat	Denmark 5–0 Yugoslavia Netherlands 6–1 Yugoslavia	(Lyon, France; 16 June 1984) (Rotterdam, Netherlands; 25 June 2000)
Best Result	Runners-up in 1960 and 1968	
Worst Result	Group stage in 1984	

UEFA Nations League record

Last update : 27 September 2022

UEFA Nations League record											
Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK	
2018–19	C	4	6	4	2	0	11	4	▲	27th	
2020–21	B	3	6	1	3	2	9	7	=	27th	
2022–23	B	4	6	4	1	1	13	5	▲	19th	
2024–25	A	Future event						1st–16th			
Total			18	9	6	3	33	16	1st–16th		

Serbia's Nations League record		[show]
First Match	Lithuania 0–1 Serbia	(Vilnius, Lithuania; 7 September 2018)
Biggest Win	Serbia 5–0 Russia	(Belgrade, Serbia; 18 November 2020)
Biggest Defeat	Russia 3–1 Serbia	(Moscow, Russia; 3 September 2020)
Best Result	19th in 2022–23	
Worst Result	27th in 2018–19 and 2020–21	

Other

▪ Summer Olympics

- **Gold Medal:** 1960
- **Silver Medal:** 1948, 1952, 1956
- **Bronze Medal:** 1984
- **Mediterranean Games**

- **Winners:** 1971, 1979
- Balkan Cup
 - **Winners:** 1934–35, 1935
 - Runners-up: 1929–31, 1932, 1933, 1946, 1947, 1977–80
- 1945 Yugoslav Football Tournament
 - **Winners:** 1945
- Lunar New Year Cup
 - **Winners:** 1995
- Korea Cup
 - Runners-up: 1997
- Kirin Cup
 - Runners-up: 2004

Head-to-head records (2006 onward)

As of 19 November 2023

Opponent [show]	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Competitive matches ^[b]
Albania	2	1	0	1 ^[c]	2	3	-1	2016 EQ
Algeria	1	1	0	0	3	0	+3	
Armenia	5	3	2	0	8	1	+7	2008 EQ 2016 EQ
Australia	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	2010 W
Austria	4	3	0	1	9	6	+3	2010 WQ 2018 WQ
Azerbaijan	5	5	0	0	16	4	+12	2008 EQ 2022 WQ
Bahrain	1	1	0	0	5	1	+4	
Belgium	5	1	0	4	4	9	-5	2008 EQ 2014 WQ
Bolivia	1	1	0	0	5	1	+4	
Brazil	3	0	0	3	0	5	-5	2018 W 2022 W
Bulgaria	4	2	2	0	10	4	+6	2024 EQ
Cameroon	2	1	1	0	7	6	+1	2022 W
Chile	2	1	0	1	3	2	+1	
China	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	
Colombia	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	
Costa Rica	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	2018 W
Croatia	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	2014 WQ
Cyprus	4	3	1	0	7	2	+5	
Czech Republic	2	1	0	1	4	5	-1	
Denmark	3	0	0	3	1	8	-7	2016 EQ 2024 E 2023–24 NQ
Dominican Republic	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2024 E
Estonia	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	2012 EQ
Faroe Islands	4	4	0	0	10	1	+9	2010 WQ 2012 EQ
Finland	2	1	1	0	2	0	+2	2008 EQ
France	5	0	2	3	4	8	-4	2010 WQ
Georgia	2	2	0	0	4	1	+3	2018 WQ
Germany	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	2010 W
Ghana	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	2010 W
Greece	2	1	0	1	2	1	+1	
Honduras	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	
Total (66)	189	86	47	56	295	205	+90	

Opponent	Pl	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Competitive matches ^[b]
Hungary	5	1	1	3	4	6	-2	2020–21 NQ 2024 EQ
Israel	2	2	0	0	5	1	+4	
Italy	2	0	1	1 ^[d]	1	4	-3	2012 EQ
Jamaica	2	1	1	0	3	2	+1	
Japan	3	2	0	1	5	1	+4	
Jordan	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	
Kazakhstan	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	2008 EQ
Lithuania	8	7	0	1	20	6	+14	2010 WQ 2018–19 NQ 2020 EQ 2024 EQ
Luxembourg	4	4	0	0	11	4	+7	2020 EQ 2022 WQ
Morocco	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	
Moldova	2	2	0	0	6	0	+6	2018 WQ
Mexico	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	
Montenegro	4	4	0	0	9	2	+7	2018–19 NQ 2024 EQ
Nigeria	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	
North Macedonia	3	1	1	1	6	3	+3	2014 WQ
Northern Ireland	3	3	0	0	4	1	+3	2012 EQ
Norway	4	2	1	1	5	3	+2	2020 EQ 2022–23 NQ
New Zealand	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	
Panama	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	
Paraguay	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	
Poland	5	0	3	2	3	5	-2	2008 EQ
Portugal	8	1	4	3	11	14	-3	2008 EQ 2016 EQ 2020 EQ 2022 WQ
Qatar	3	2	0	1	8	3	+5	
Republic of Ireland	7	3	4	0	10	7	+3	2018 WQ 2022 WQ
Romania	4	2	2	0	10	4	+6	2010 WQ 2018–19 NQ
Russia	6	1	2	3	9	8	+1	2020–21 NQ
Scotland	3	1	2	0	3	1	+2	2014 WQ 2020 EQ
Slovenia	4	1	2	1	7	5	+2	2012 EQ 2022–23 NQ 2024 E
Total (66)	189	86	47	56	295	205	+90	

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Competitive matches ^[b]
South Africa	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	
South Korea	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	
Spain	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	2023–24 NQ
Sweden	4	3	0	1	8	3	+5	2022–23 NQ
Switzerland	2	0	0	2	3	5	-2	2018 W 2022 W 2023–24 NQ
Turkey	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2020–21 NQ
Ukraine	5	0	1	4	2	12	-10	2020 EQ
United States	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	
Wales	4	2	2	0	11	3	+8	2014 WQ 2018 WQ
Total (66)	189	86	47	56	295	205	+90	

a. Additional matches are scheduled to be played in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the [first world cup](#), however they are not considered to be official hosts of the tournament.^[115]

b. Legend:

- "W" – [FIFA World Cup](#) match
- "E" – [UEFA European Championship](#) match
- "N" – [UEFA Nations League](#) Finals match
- "Q" – qualifying match or [UEFA Nations League](#) group stage match

In each final tournament of the World Cup, the European Championship and the Nations League (shown in **bold**), Serbia has played one match against the respective opponent, while in each qualifying tournament and each Nations League group stage, it has played two matches against the respective opponent. [Friendly matches](#) and minor tournaments are counted in the table but are not shown in this column.

c. The [Serbia v Albania](#) match was abandoned with the score at 0–0 shortly before halftime after "various incidents", which resulted in the Albania players refusing to return to the field. UEFA ruled that Albania had forfeited the match and awarded a 3–0 win to Serbia, but also deducted three points from Serbia for their involvement in the events. Serbia must also play their next two home qualifying games behind closed doors, and both the Serbian and Albanian FAs were fined €100,000.^[116] Both the Serbian and Albanian football associations were looking to have the decision revisited,^{[117][118]} but the decision was upheld by UEFA.^[119] Both associations then filed further appeals to the [Court of Arbitration for Sport](#),^[120] and on 10 July 2015 the Court of Arbitration for Sport rejected the appeal filed by the Serbian FA, and upheld in part the appeal filed by the Albanian FA, meaning the match is deemed to have been forfeited by Serbia with 0–3 and they are still deducted three points.^[121] Serbian FA announced appeal at the [Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland](#).^[122]

d. The [Italy v Serbia](#) match was abandoned after six minutes due to rioting by Serbian fans.^[123] The UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body awarded the match as a 3–0 forfeit win to Italy.^[124]

See also

- [Serbia national football team results](#)
- [Serbia and Montenegro national football team results](#)
- [Serbia national under-21 football team](#)

- [Serbia national under-20 football team](#)
- [Serbia national under-19 football team](#)
- [Serbia national under-17 football team](#)
- [List of Serbia international footballers \(including predecessor teams\)](#)
- [Yugoslavia national football team](#)
- [Serbia and Montenegro national football team](#)

Notes

1. Draw for [1994 FIFA World Cup qualifiers](#) was made on 8 December 1991, however due to [break-up of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](#) and consequent [military conflict](#), which broke in early 1991, [FSJ](#) ceased to exist as football organization of the SFR Yugoslavia. Organization that remained based in Belgrade, Serbia, was excluded from taking part as FSJ or its successor due to [UN sanctions](#).^[114]

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External links

Official

- Football Association of Serbia – official site (<http://www.fss.rs>) (in Serbian)
- Serbia (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/SRB>) at FIFA
- Serbia (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/SRB/>) at UEFA
- Serbia/ National Football Team (<http://www.reprezentacija.rs>) (in Serbian)

Unofficial

- Beli Orlovi (<http://www.beli-orlovi.com>) (in Serbian)
- Serbian football at xtratime.org (<http://www.xtratime.org/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=44>)
- BeliOrlovi.rs – fan site (<http://beliorlovi.rs>) (in Serbian)
- RSSSF – Serbia men's national football team international matches (<https://www.rsssf.org/tabless/serb-intress.html>)

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Serbian SuperLiga

The **Serbian Super League** ([Serbian](#): Супер лига Србије / [Super liga Srbije](#)), referred to as the **Mozzart Bet SuperLiga** ([Serbian](#): Моцарт Бет СуперЛига, English: Mozzart Bet Super League) for sponsorship reasons, is a Serbian professional league for football clubs.

At the top of the [Serbian football league system](#), it is the country's primary football competition. It is usually contested by 16 clubs, but the [2020–21 season](#) was contested by 20 clubs, because the Football Association of Serbia restructured the league due to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), operating a system of [promotion and relegation](#) with [Serbian First League](#), the second tier in the [Serbian football pyramid](#).

The SuperLiga was formed during the summer of 2005 as the country's top football league competition in Serbia and Montenegro. Since summer 2006 after the secession of Montenegro from Serbia, the league only has had Serbian clubs.

Serbian clubs used to compete in the [Yugoslav First League](#). This competition was formed in 1923 and lasted until 2003. After the downfall of SFR Yugoslavia in 1991 a new Yugoslavia would be formed that would be named [FR Yugoslavia](#) with Montenegro and Serbia. They kept the name Yugoslavia until 2003 when the country changed its name to [Serbia and Montenegro](#): this union lasted until 2006 when Montenegro gained independence and formed its own league, the [Montenegrin First League](#).

The current SuperLiga champions are [Red Star Belgrade](#). [UEFA](#) currently ranks the league 13th in Europe of 55 leagues.^[1] The league was known as Meridian SuperLiga from 2005 until 2008. The league's official sponsor until 2015 was beer brand [Jelen pivo](#), this resulted in the league's official name to be Jelen SuperLiga.

Format

Competition

The SuperLiga began as a league with a playoff system in an attempt to boost ratings and improve competition. After the first season however, the SuperLiga changed its format. The [2007–08 season](#) was the first to be played in a more traditional format. The league no longer divided into a play-off and play-out group midway through the campaign. Instead, the 12 teams began playing each other three times in a more conventional league format. After two seasons with that format the [Football Association of Serbia](#) decided to add 4 teams to the SuperLiga. The [2009–10 season](#) will be the first with a 16 team league played in a conventional league format of one home and one away match rather than the previous 3 match encounters. This drops the match schedule from 33 rounds to 30.

As of the 2015–16 season, the league reverted to its previous playoff system, whereby the top 8 placed teams compete in the championship round at the end of the season and the 8 lowest placed teams play in the relegation playoff round. The two bottom placed teams are relegated to the second division, the [Serbian Prva Liga](#). The third lowest-placed team is then sent to a relegation playoff against the third-placed team in the second division. Whichever team wins will play in the SuperLiga the following season.

Qualification for UEFA competitions

SuperLiga champions and runner-ups enter Champions League qualifying entering the play-off round and second qualifying round respectively. The cup winner qualifies for the Europa League playoff round. The third and fourth placed teams enter the qualifying round of the UEFA Europa Conference League, entering in the third and second qualifying round respectively.

Serbian SuperLiga



Founded	2006
Country	Serbia
Confederation	UEFA
Number of teams	16
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	Serbian First League
Domestic cup(s)	Serbian Cup
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa League UEFA Conference League
Current champions	Red Star (9th title) (2022–23)
Most championships	Red Star (9 titles)
Most appearances	Janko Tumbasević (374 matches)
Top goalscorer	Milan Bojović (103 goals)
TV partners	Arena Sport, Adria TV
Website	superliga.rs (http://www.superliga.rs/)

Current: 2023–24 Serbian SuperLiga

In 2022–23, champions Red Star Belgrade were guaranteed to enter the Champions League group stage, due to access list changes in the Champions League regarding the suspension of Russian teams, and Serbia was ranked 11th in the UEFA coefficient list. TSC was also promoted from the UCL second qualifying round to the third qualifying round. This meant that for the first time ever, Serbia was allocated an group stage berth in the Champions League.

History

The Yugoslav First League started being played in 1923, and gathered the best clubs from the former Yugoslavia. In 1991, clubs from Slovenia and Croatia left and formed their own league systems, and in 1992 so did the clubs from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia. The Yugoslav First League was played since 1992 with clubs from Serbia and Montenegro, until 2006, when Montenegro declared independence and subsequently formed its own league system. Since 2006 the league is formed exclusively by clubs from Serbia and got renamed into Serbian SuperLiga.

Serbian League (1920–1922 / 1940–1944 / 1945–1946)

Club	Titles	Years won
BSK / Metalac	7	1920, 1921, 1940, 1941, 1943, 1944, 1945
Jugoslavia	2	1922, 1942
Red Star	1	1946

Kingdom of Yugoslavia League (1923–1940)

Club	Titles	Years won	Runners up
BSK	5	1931, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1939	4
Jugoslavia	2	1924, 1925	3

Yugoslav First League (1946–1992)

Club	Titles	Years won	Runners up	Third place
Red Star	19	1951, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1973, 1977, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992	9	7
Partizan	11	1947, 1949, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1976, 1978, 1983, 1986, 1987	9	8
Vojvodina	2	1966, 1989	3	2
BSK			2	2
Radnički Beograd				2
Radnički Niš				2

First League of Federal Republic Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro (1992–2006)

In 1992 the Yugoslav First League became the First League of FR Yugoslavia (*Prva savezna liga* or *Meridian SuperLiga*) and was played since then with the clubs from Serbia and Montenegro.

The league winner had access to the UEFA Champions League qualifications rounds, and the 2nd, 3rd and the Cup winner had played in the UEFA Cup. The bottom clubs would be relegated to the two Second Leagues depending on the republic they were based in, the Second League of Serbia (*Druga savezna liga Srbija*) and the Second League of Montenegro (*Druga savezna liga grupa Crna Gora*).

In 2002, FR Yugoslavia changed its name to Serbia and Montenegro, and the league was named First League of Serbia and Montenegro between 2002 and its dissolution, in 2006. In 2006 Serbia and Montenegro separated and formed their own top leagues (Serbian SuperLiga and Montenegrin First League). Serbian SuperLiga was officially declared the successor of the First Leagues of FR Yugoslavia and Serbia and Montenegro.

A total of 41 clubs participated between 1992 and 2006, being 34 from Serbia, 6 from Montenegro and one from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Borac Banja Luka was temporarily based in Serbia in early 1990s). A total of 3 clubs were champions, all from Serbia, Partizan (8 times), Red Star (5 times) and Obilić (once).

Season	Champions	Runners-up	Third place	Top scorer(s)	Goals
1992–93	<u>Partizan</u> (12)	<u>Red Star</u>	<u>Vojvodina</u>	<u>Anto Drobniak (Red Star)</u> <u>Vesko Mihajlović (Vojvodina)</u>	22
1993–94	<u>Partizan</u> (13)	<u>Red Star</u>	<u>Vojvodina</u>	<u>Savo Milošević (Partizan)</u>	21
1994–95	<u>Red Star</u> (21)	<u>Partizan</u>	<u>Vojvodina</u>	<u>Savo Milošević (Partizan)</u>	30
1995–96	<u>Partizan</u> (14)	<u>Red Star</u>	<u>Vojvodina</u>	<u>Vojislav Budimirović (Čukarički)</u>	23
1996–97	<u>Partizan</u> (15)	<u>Red Star</u>	<u>Vojvodina</u>	<u>Zoran Jovičić (Red Star)</u>	21
1997–98	<u>Obilić</u> (1)	<u>Red Star</u>	<u>Partizan</u>	<u>Saša Marković (Železnik / Red Star)</u>	27
1998–99	<u>Partizan</u> (16)	<u>Obilić</u>	<u>Red Star</u>	<u>Dejan Osmanović (Hajduk Kula)</u>	16
1999–00	<u>Red Star</u> (22)	<u>Partizan</u>	<u>Obilić</u>	<u>Mateja Kežman (Partizan)</u>	27
2000–01	<u>Red Star</u> (23)	<u>Partizan</u>	<u>Obilić</u>	<u>Petar Divić (OFK Beograd)</u>	27
2001–02	<u>Partizan</u> (17)	<u>Red Star</u>	<u>Sartid</u>	<u>Zoran Đurašković (Mladost Lučani)</u>	27
2002–03	<u>Partizan</u> (18)	<u>Red Star</u>	<u>OFK Belgrade</u>	<u>Zvonimir Vukić (Partizan)</u>	22
2003–04	<u>Red Star</u> (24)	<u>Partizan</u>	<u>Železnik</u>	<u>Nikola Žigić (Red Star)</u>	19
2004–05	<u>Partizan</u> (19)	<u>Red Star</u>	<u>Zeta</u>	<u>Marko Pantelić (Red Star)</u>	21
2005–06	<u>Red Star</u> (25)	<u>Partizan</u>	<u>Voždovac</u>	<u>Srđan Radonjić (Partizan)</u>	20

Club	Titles	Years Won	Runners up	Third place
Partizan	8	1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005	5	1
Red Star	5	1995, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2006	8	1
Obilić	1	1998	1	2
Vojvodina				5
Sartid				1
OFK Beograd				1
Železnik				1
Voždovac				1

Serbian Superliga (2006–)

A total of 28 clubs participated between 2006 and 2013 in the Serbian Superliga. After 17 seasons, Red Star has won 9 championship titles and Partizan has won 8 championship title. Also, Red Star and Partizan are record holders of winning 6 consecutive champion titles.

Season	Champions	Runners up	Third place	Top scorer(s)	Goals
2006–07	Red Star (26)	Partizan	Vojvodina	Srđan Baljak (<i>Banat</i>)	18
2007–08	Partizan (20)	Red Star	Vojvodina	Nenad Jestrović (<i>Red Star</i>)	13
2008–09	Partizan (21)	Vojvodina	Red Star	Lamine Diarra (<i>Partizan</i>)	19
2009–10	Partizan (22)	Red Star	OFK	Dragan Mrđa (<i>Vojvodina</i>)	22
2010–11	Partizan (23)	Red Star	Vojvodina	Ivica Iliev (<i>Partizan</i>) Andrija Kaluđerović (<i>Red Star</i>)	13
2011–12	Partizan (24)	Red Star	Vojvodina	Darko Spalević (<i>Radnički Kragujevac</i>)	19
2012–13	Partizan (25)	Red Star	Vojvodina	Miloš Stojanović (<i>Jagodina</i>)	19
2013–14	Red Star (27)	Partizan	Jagodina	Dragan Mrđa (2) (<i>Red Star</i>)	19
2014–15	Partizan (26)	Red Star	Čukarički	Patrick Friday Eze (<i>Mladost Lučani</i>)	15
2015–16	Red Star (28)	Partizan	Čukarički	Aleksandar Katai (<i>Red Star</i>)	21
2016–17	Partizan (27)	Red Star	Vojvodina	Uroš Đurđević (<i>Partizan</i>) Leonardo (<i>Partizan</i>)	24
2017–18	Red Star (29)	Partizan	Radnički Niš	Aleksandar Pešić (<i>Red Star</i>)	25
2018–19	Red Star (30)	Radnički Niš	Partizan	Nermin Haskić (<i>Radnički Niš</i>)	24
2019–20	Red Star (31)	Partizan	Vojvodina	Vladimir Silađi (<i>TSC</i>) Nenad Lukić (<i>TSC</i>) Nikola Petković (<i>Javor</i>)	16
2020–21	Red Star (32)	Partizan	Čukarički	Milan Makarić (<i>Radnik</i>)	25
2021–22	Red Star (33)	Partizan	Čukarički	Ricardo Gomes (<i>Partizan</i>)	29
2022–23	Red Star (34)	TSC	Čukarički	Ricardo Gomes (2) (<i>Partizan</i>)	19
2023–24					

Club	Titles	Years Won	Runners up	Third place
Red Star	9	2007, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	7	1
Partizan	8	2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017	7	1
Vojvodina			1	7
Radnički Niš			1	1
TSC			1	
Čukarički				5
Jagodina				1
OFK Beograd				1

Serbian all-time champions (1923–present)

Club	Titles	Years Won	Runners up
Red Star	34	1946, 1951, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1973, 1977, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	24
Partizan	27	1947, 1949, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1976, 1978, 1983, 1986, 1987, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017	21
OFK Beograd	5	1931, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1939	6
Vojvodina	2	1966, 1989	4
Jugoslavija	2	1924, 1925	3
Obilić	1	1998	1

The following is a list of clubs who have played in the **Serbian SuperLiga** at any time since its formation in 2006 to the current season. Teams playing in the 2023–24 Serbian SuperLiga are indicated in **bold**. A total of 39 teams have played in the Serbian SuperLiga. The table is accurate as of the start of the 2023–24 season.

Pos.	Team	Town	S	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	1º	2º	3º	1st App	Since/Last App	Highest finish
1	Red Star	Belgrade	17	568	436	81	51	1264	391	1389	9	7	1	2006–07	2006–07	1st
2	Partizan	Belgrade	17	568	403	92	73	1176	393	1301	8	7	1	2006–07	2006–07	1st
3	Vojvodina	Novi Sad	17	568	274	140	154	795	556	962	–	1	7	2006–07	2006–07	2nd
4	Čukarički	Belgrade	14	476	199	116	161	623	543	713	–	–	5	2007–08	2013–14	3rd
5	Spartak	Subotica	14	470	167	121	182	552	599	622	–	–	–	2009–10	2009–10	4th
6	Radnički	Niš	11	380	152	103	125	469	435	559	–	1	1	2012–13	2012–13	2nd
7	Voždovac	Belgrade	11	381	136	85	161	421	491	493	–	–	–	2006–07	2013–14	5th
8	Rad	Belgrade	13	429	129	105	195	418	551	492	–	–	–	2008–09	2020–21	4th
9	Napredak	Kruševac	12	409	131	98	180	430	513	491	–	–	–	2007–08	2016–17	5th
10	Javor	Ivanjica	12	399	115	122	162	392	491	467	–	–	–	2008–09	2022–23	4th
11	Mladost	Lučani	10	353	124	94	135	406	473	466	–	–	–	2007–08	2014–15	4th
12	OFK Beograd	Belgrade	10	315	112	64	139	345	399	400	–	–	1	2006–07	2015–16	3rd
13	Borac 1926	Čačak	10	329	89	89	151	277	408	356	–	–	–	2006–07	2017–18	4th
14	Novi Pazar	Novi Pazar	9	306	93	73	140	308	424	352	–	–	–	2011–12	2020–21	5th
15	Radnik	Surdulica	8	290	90	76	124	310	404	346	–	–	–	2015–16	2015–16	6th
16	Jagodina	Jagodina	8	250	87	60	103	268	296	321	–	–	1	2008–09	2015–16	3rd
17	Hajduk 1912	Kula	7	218	64	59	95	194	248	251	–	–	–	2006–07	2012–13	5th
18	Metalac	Gornji Milanovac	7	239	59	66	114	217	334	243	–	–	–	2009–10	2021–22	9th
19	TSC	Bačka Topola	4	142	69	33	40	244	172	240	–	1	–	2019–20	2019–20	2nd
20	Radnički 1923	Kragujevac	6	194	49	59	86	181	256	206	–	–	–	2011–12	2021–22	6th
21	Smederevo 1924	Smederevo	6	185	50	42	93	153	240	192	–	–	–	2006–07	2012–13	8th
22	Sloboda	Užice	4	120	45	32	43	136	145	167	–	–	–	2010–11	2013–14	5th
23	Proleter	Novi Sad	4	142	40	36	66	129	187	156	–	–	–	2018–19	2021–22	8th
24	BSK Borča	Belgrade	4	120	31	30	59	91	170	126	–	–	–	2009–10	2012–13	11th
25	OFK Bačka	Bačka Palanka	4	149	32	26	91	123	246	122	–	–	–	2016–17	2020–21	13th
26	Mačva	Šabac	4	142	30	30	82	106	224	120	–	–	–	2017–18	2020–21	12th
27	Banat	Zrenjanin	3	98	25	26	47	91	141	101	–	–	–	2006–07	2008–09	9th
28	Donji Srem 2015	Pećinci	3	90	22	26	42	80	116	92	–	–	–	2012–13	2014–15	11th

Pos.	Team	Town	S	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	1º	2º	3º	1st App	Since/Last App	Highest finish
29	Indija	Indija	3	98	24	14	60	84	161	86	—	—	—	2010–11	2020–21	14th
30	Zemun	Belgrade	3	106	18	26	62	92	163	80	—	—	—	2006–07	2018–19	11th
31	Kolubara	Lazarevac	2	74	25	12	37	70	122	78	—	—	—	2021–22	2022–23	10th
32	Bežanija	Belgrade	2	65	17	16	32	67	89	67	—	—	—	2006–07	2007–08	4th
33	Mladost	Apatin	1	32	11	8	13	25	33	41	—	—	—	2006–07	2006–07	6th
34	Dinamo	Vranje	1	37	9	6	22	24	67	33	—	—	—	2018–19	2018–19	14th
35	Mladost	Novi Sad	1	37	6	12	19	25	49	30	—	—	—	2022–23	2022–23	16th
36	Zlatibor	Čajetina	1	38	7	8	23	28	64	29	—	—	—	2020–21	2020–21	18th
37	Mladi Radnik 1926	Požarevac	1	30	5	10	15	19	47	25	—	—	—	2009–10	2009–10	16th
38	IMT	Belgrade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	2023–24	2023–24	TBD
39	Železničar	Pančevo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	2023–24	2023–24	TBD

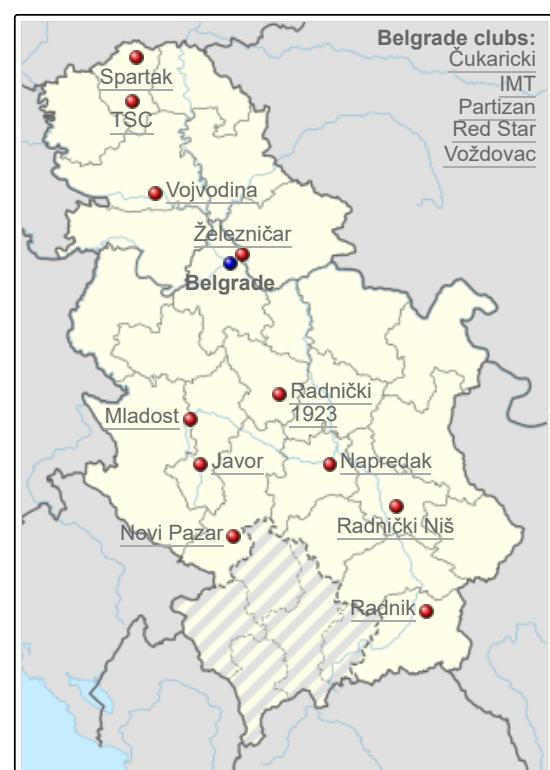
League or status at 2023–24:

2023–24 Serbian SuperLiga
2023–24 Serbian First League
2023–24 Serbian League
2023–24 fourth or lower degree of competition
Dissolved

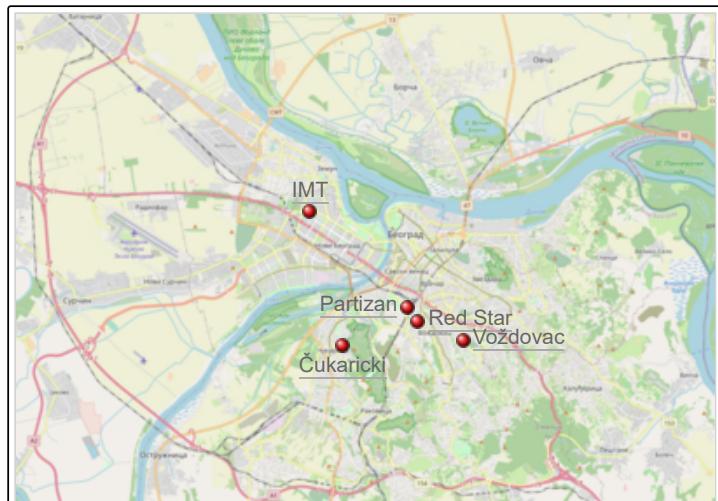
Current clubs

Map

The following 16 clubs compete in the Linglong Tire SuperLiga during the 2023–24 season.^[2]



Locations of the 2023-24 Serbian SuperLiga teams



Locations of the 2023-24 Serbian SuperLiga teams from Belgrade

Club	Finishing position in 2022–23	First season in top division	First season after most recent promotion	Stadium	Official website
Čukarički	3rd	1995–96	2013–14	Čukarički Stadium	fkckaricki.rs (http://fkckaricki.rs/)
IMT	1st in Serbian First League 	2023–24	2023–24	Stadion FK IMT	fkimt.rs (https://fkimt.rs/)
Javor-Matis	12th	2002–03	2022–23	Ivanjica Stadium	fkjavor.com (https://fkjavor.com/)
Mladost Lučani	11th	1995–96	2014–15	Mladost Stadium	fkmladostlucani.com (http://fkmladostlucani.com)
Napredak	9th	1951	2016–17	Mladost Stadium	fknapredak.rs (http://fknapredak.rs/)
Novi Pazar	6th	2011–12	2020–21	Novi Pazar City Stadium	fknovipazar.rs (http://fknovipazar.rs/)
Partizan Belgrade	4th	1946–47	1946–47	Partizan Stadium	partizan.rs (http://partizan.rs)
Radnički 1923	8th	1969–70	2021–22	Čika Dača Stadium	fkradnicki.com (http://www.fkradnicki.com)
Radnički Niš	13th	1935–36	2012–13	Čair Stadium	fkradnickinis.rs (http://fkradnickinis.rs)
Radnik Surdulica	14th	2015–16	2015–16	Surdulica City Stadium	fk-radnik.com (https://fk-radnik.com/)
Red Star Belgrade	1st	1946–47	1946–47	Red Star Stadium	crvenazvezdafk.com (http://crvenazvezdafk.com)
Spartak Subotica	10th	1946–47	2009–10	Subotica City Stadium	fkspartak.com (https://fkspartak.com/)
TSC	2nd	2019–20	2019–20	TSC Arena	fktsc.com (http://www.fktsc.com/)
Vojvodina Novi Sad	5th	1931–32	1987–88	Karađorđe Stadium	fkvojvodina.rs (http://fkvojvodina.rs)
Voždovac	7th	2005–06	2013–14	Voždovac Stadium	fkvozdovac.rs (http://fkvozdovac.rs)
Železničar	2nd in Serbian First League 	2023–24	2023–24	Stadion SC Mladost	

Stadiums

Serbian top level football has been played in 27 stadiums since its formation in 2006. The top-three stadiums by clubs who are competing currently (2021-2022) in the Serbian top flight by seating capacity are Belgrade-based Red Star Stadium, Partizan Stadium and FK Radnicki Nis Cair Stadium.

Below are the ten largest stadiums in Serbia of clubs who are competing or have competed in the Serbian top division of football. Currently in the below list only six of these clubs are competing in the Serbian top flight, them been as follows : Red Star, Partizan, Vojvodina, Radnički Niš, Radnički Kragujevac and Spartak Subotica.

Biggest stadiums by seating capacity

Stadium	Club	City	Opened	Capacity
1 Rajko Mitić Stadium	Red Star	Belgrade	1963	51,755
2 Partizan Stadium	Partizan	Belgrade	1951	29,775
3 Čair Stadium	Radnički	Niš	1963	18,151
4 Smederevo Stadium	Smederevo 1924	Smederevo	1930	17,200
5 Čika Dača Stadium	Radnički 1923	Kragujevac	1957	15,100
6 Karađorđe Stadium	FK Vojvodina	Novi Sad	1924	14,458
7 Stadion Karađorđev park	Banat	Zrenjanin	1968	13,500
8 Subotica City Stadium	Spartak	Subotica	1936	13,000
9 Radomir Antić Stadium	FK Sloboda Užice	Užice	1958	12,000
10 Omladinski Stadium	OFK Beograd	Belgrade	1957	10,600



Rajko Mitić Stadium



Partizan Stadium



Čair Stadium



Karađorđe Stadium

Players

Top scorers

Bold denotes players still playing in the Serbian SuperLiga.

Italics denote players active outside the Serbian SuperLiga.

As of 16 February 2024

Ten players with most goals in the Serbian SuperLiga (2006–present)

Player	Period	Club(s)	Goals
1 Milan Bojović	2007–2012 / 2016 / 2019–2022 / 2023–	Čukarički / Jagodina / Vojvodina / Mladost Lučani / Radnički Niš / Napredak	103
2 Aleksandar Katai	2010–2011 / 2012–2013 / 2014–2016 / 2020–present	Vojvodina / Red Star	95
3 Andrija Kaluđerović	2006–2011 / 2013 / 2016 / 2020 / 2021 / 2022	OFK Beograd / Rad / Red Star / Vojvodina / Proleter Novi Sad	80
4 Milan Pavkov	2015–2022 / 2024–	Vojvodina / Radnički Niš / Red Star / Čukarički	77
5 Ricardo Gomes	2018–2019 / 2021–2023	Partizan	68
=6 Ognjen Mudrinski	2009–2013 / 2016–2019 / 2023–	Vojvodina / Hajduk Kula / Jagodina / Red Star / Spartak / Čukarički	66
=6 Mirko Ivanić	2013–2016 / 2019–present	Vojvodina / Red Star	66
8 El Fardou Ben Nabouhane	2018–2022	Red Star	65
9 Lamine Diarra	2007–2010 / 2011–2012	Partizan	56
10 Dragan Mrda	2008–2010 / 2013–2014	Vojvodina / Red Star	54

Most appearances

Bold denotes players still playing in the Serbian SuperLiga.

Italics denote players active outside the Serbian SuperLiga.

As of 22 December 2023

Ten players with most apps in the Serbian SuperLiga (2006–present)

Player	Period	Club(s)	Apps
1 Janko Tumbasević	2007–2011 / 2013–	Vojvodina / Spartak / Mladost Lučani / TSC	374
2 Vladimir Radivojević	2012–	Javor / Rad / Novi Pazar / Mladost Lučani	356
3 Aleksandar Pejović	2010–2014 / 2015–	Sloboda / OFK Beograd / Mladost Lučani / Radnički Niš	311
4 Goran Antonić	2010–2016 / 2019–	Spartak / TSC	288

5	 Milan Bojović	2007–2012 / 2016 / 2019– 2022 / 2023–	Čukarički / Jagodina / Vojvodina / Mladost Lučani / Radnički Niš / Napredak	284
6	 Predrag Pavlović	2007–2009 / 2010–2015 / 2017–2020	Napredak / Metalac / OFK Beograd / Novi Pazar / Mladost Lučani	282
7	 Slavko Marić	2007–2014 / 2015–2020	Mladost Lučani / Borac / Sloboda / Radnički 1923 / Jagodina / Novi Pazar / Mačva	275
8	 Filip Kasalica	2007–2014 / 2017 / 2018– 2022	Hajduk / Sloboda / Red Star / Napredak / Rad / Radnički Niš	270
9	 Eliomar	2008–2013 / 2015–2018 / 2019–2021 / 2022–	Javor / Partizan / Mladost Lučani / Indija / Zlatibor	266
=10	 Vladimir Torbica	2006–2007 / 2009–2019	Mladost Apatin / Spartak	263
=10	 Nikola Leković	2007–2008 / 2010–2014 / 2015–2017 / 2018–	Bežanija / Rad / Vojvodina / Partizan / Napredak / Mladost Lučani	263

Foreign players

See [List of all former and current foreign football players in Serbia](#)

Superliga records and statistics

Attendance

- Highest single game attendance: 48,347, [Red Star](#) vs. [OFK Beograd](#) during [2013–14 season](#)
- Highest average home attendance: 19,819 (15 home games),^[3] [Red Star](#) during [2011–12 season](#)

Single game

- Biggest home win: 7–0, [Vojvodina](#) vs. [Napredak](#) during [2009–10](#), [Partizan](#) vs. [BSK Borča](#) during [2012–13 season](#), [Čukarički](#) vs. [Rad](#) during [2014–15 season](#), [Zemun](#) vs. [Bačka](#) during [2018–19 season](#) and [TSC](#) vs. [Novi Pazar](#) during [2020–21 season](#)
- Biggest away win: 0–7, [Radnički Niš](#) beats [Javor](#) during [2019–20 season](#)
- Most goals in a single game: 9, [Čukarički](#) 2–7 [Red Star](#) during [2015–16 season](#); [FK TSC](#) 6–3 [FK Železničar Pančevo](#) during [2023–24 season](#)
- Highest draw: [Čukarički](#) 4–4 [Vojvodina](#) during [2008–09 season](#), [TSC](#) 4–4 [Radnički 1923](#) during [2021–22 season](#)
- Fastest turnover: [Red Star](#) scoring 2 goals in 61 seconds. [Metalac](#) 1–2 [Red Star](#) during [2016–17 season](#)

Players

- Most league appearances: 356, [Janko Tumbasević](#) in 15 seasons between [2007–08](#) and [2022–23](#)
- Most league goals: 100, [Milan Bojović](#) playing for [Čukarički](#), [Jagodina](#), [Vojvodina](#), [Radnički Niš](#) and [Mladost Lučani](#)
- Most league goals in a season: 29, [Ricardo Gomes](#) for [Partizan](#) during [2021–22 season](#)
- Youngest player used: 16 years, 0 months and 7 days, [Luka Belić](#) for [OFK Beograd](#) vs. [Red Star](#) on 25 April 2012
- Oldest player used: 41 years, 4 months and 19 days, [Saša Ilić](#) for [FK Partizan](#) vs. [FK Proleter](#) on 19 May 2019
- Fastest hat-trick: 9 min, [Dragan Mrđa](#) for [Red Star](#) vs. [Spartak](#) on 29 September 2013
- Most league goals in one game: 5, [Petar Jelić](#) playing for [Rad](#) vs. [Voždovac](#) on 23 August 2014. and [Saša Marjanović](#) playing for [Radnički Niš](#) vs. [Radnik Surđulica](#) on 28 April 2016
- Fastest goal: 10.5 seconds, [Uroš Đurđević](#) playing for [Partizan](#) vs. [Čukarički](#) on 11 December 2016.
- Most hat-tricks in SuperLiga: 6, [Dragan Mrđa](#) playing for [Vojvodina](#) and [Red Star](#)
- Longest scoring run in SuperLiga: – [Hugo Vieira](#) 15 goals, 10 games playing for [Red Star](#) during [2015–16 season](#).
- Fastest own goal: 52 seconds, [Ivan Bandalovski](#) playing for [Partizan](#) vs. [Čukarički](#) during [2015–16 season](#).

Clubs

- Most consecutive league victories: 24 out of 37 games, [Red Star](#) during [2015–16 season](#)
- Most consecutive league defeats: 14, [Čukarički](#) during [2010–11 season](#)
- Most consecutive league games without defeat (undefeated run): 65, [Red Star](#) from 27 October 2021 to 26 August 2023
- Club having top season scorers: 3, [Red Star](#)
- Club with overall SuperLiga hat-tricks: 12, [Red Star](#)

Season

- Most points won in a single season: 108, Red Star during 2020–21 season
- Fewest points won in a single season: 5, Čukarički during 2010–11 season
- Fewest won games in a single season: 0, Čukarički during 2010–11 season
- Most team goals in a single season: 114, Red Star during 2020–21 season
- Fewest team goals in a single season: 10, Čukarički during 2010–11 season
- Most team goals against in a single season: 65, Čukarički during 2010–11 season
- Fewest team goals against in a single season: 12, Partizan during 2011–12 season
- The best goal difference in a single season: +94, Red Star during 2020–21 season
- The worst goal difference in a single season: -55, Čukarički during 2010–11 season and Mačva Šabac during 2020–21 season
- Most hat-tricks in a season: 3 Dragan Mrđa playing for Vojvodina during 2009–10 season, Nermin Haskić playing for Radnički Niš during 2018–19 season and Aleksandar Katai playing for Red Star during 2021–22 season

Goalkeepers

- Goalscoring goalkeepers (excluding own goals):
 - Darko Božović (Bežanija 1–1 Voždovac, 28 October 2006)
 - Vladimir Stojković (Partizan 7–0 BSK Borča, 11 August 2012)
 - Milan Borjan (Red Star 3–1 Voždovac, 22 May 2022)

UEFA ranking

The following data indicates Serbian coefficient rankings between European football leagues.^[4]

- **Highest position:** 4 (1990–91 season, 8.666 points)

- Lower position: 47 (1996)

Country

As of 14 December 2023^[5]

Current ranking	Last season ranking	Movement	League	Coefficient
16	21	▲ 5	Ligat Ha`Al	30.375
17	20	▲ 3	Stoiximan Super League	28.725
18	14	▼ 4	UPL	28.000
19	11	▼ 8	Mozzart Bet SuperLiga	27.775
20	24	▲ 4	Ekstraklasa	25.375
21	19	▼ 2	SuperSport HNL	25.025
22	22	-	Cyta Championship	22.100

Team

As of 14 December 2023^[6]

Rank	Team	Points
48	Red Star	40.000
69	Partizan	25.500
163	Čukarički	8.000
252	TSC	5.555
	Vojvodina	
	Radnički Niš	

All time Serbian football clubs in European and World competitions

European Cup/ UEFA Champions League

Club	Champions	Finalist	Semifinalist	Quarterfinalist	Group Stage
Red Star	1991	-	1957, 1971, 1992	1958, 1974, 1981, 1982, 1987	1992, 2018, 2019, 2023
Partizan	-	1966	-	1956, 1964	2003, 2010
Vojvodina	-	-	-	1967	-

UEFA Cup/ UEFA Europa League

Club	Champions	Finalist	Semifinalist	Quarterfinalist
Red Star	-	1979	-	-
Radnički Niš	-	-	1982	-
OFK Beograd	-	-	-	1973

UEFA Cup Winners' Cup

Club	Champions	Finalist	Semifinalist	Quarterfinalist
Red Star	-	-	1975	1972, 1986
OFK Beograd	-	-	1963	-
Partizan	-	-	-	1990

Intercontinental Cup

Club	Champions	Finalist
Red Star	1991	-

UEFA Super Cup

Club	Champions	Finalist
Red Star	-	1991

UEFA Intertoto Cup

Club	Champions	Finalist	Semifinalist	Quarterfinalist
Vojvodina	1976	1998	-	-
Hajduk Kula	-	2007	-	-

Inter-Cities Fairs Cup

Club	Champions	Finalist	Semifinalist	Quarterfinalist
Red Star	-	-	1962	1963
Vojvodina	-	-	-	1962, 1968

The Golden Star

Based on an idea of Umberto Agnelli, the honor of *Golden Star for Sports Excellence* was introduced to recognize sides that have won multiple championships or other honours by the display of gold stars on their team badges and jerseys.

The current officially sanctioned SuperLiga stars are:

-  Red Star Belgrade received in 2019
-  Partizan Belgrade received in 2008

Names of the competition

- 2006–2008: Meridian SuperLiga
- 2008–2015: Jelen SuperLiga
- 2015–2019: Serbian SuperLiga
- 2019–2022: Linglong Tire SuperLiga^[7]
- 2022–2025: Mozzart Bet SuperLiga^[8]

Broadcasting rights

Television

Serbian Superliga games are broadcast live on Arena Sport in countries of Ex-Yugoslavia. o2.TV starts broadcasting Serbian Superliga from March 2019. SportKlub Slovenia is also broadcasting live Serbian Superliga matches.

The Eternal derby is the game that attracts most attention from the foreign media. In 2010, the 139th Eternal derby was broadcast in 19 countries and over 60 foreign correspondents were present.^[9]

Sponsorships

- Nike (2006–2014)
- Umbro (2014–present)

See also

- Serbian Cup

- [List of football clubs in Serbia](#)
- [Serbia national football team](#)
- [Yugoslav First League](#)
- [First League of Serbia and Montenegro](#)
- [Prva Futsal Liga](#)

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External links

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- [Unofficial website](http://www.jelenfootball.com/) (<http://www.jelenfootball.com/>) (in Serbian)
- [Serbian SuperLiga Stats](http://www.utakmica.rs/) (<http://www.utakmica.rs/>) at Utakmica.rs (in Serbian)
- [Serbian SuperLiga Fixtures and Results](https://int.soccerway.com/national-serbia/super-liga/20122013/regular-season/) (<https://int.soccerway.com/national-serbia/super-liga/20122013/regular-season/>) at Soccerway (in English)
- [Yugoslavia/Serbia \(and Montenegro\) - List of Champions](https://www.rsssf.org/tables/joegchamp.html) (<https://www.rsssf.org/tables/joegchamp.html>), RSSSF.com (in English)

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Slovenia national football team



The **Slovenia national football team** (Slovene: *Slovenska nogometna reprezentanca*) represents Slovenia in men's international football and is controlled by the Football Association of Slovenia, the governing body for football in Slovenia. The national squad is under the global jurisdiction of FIFA and is governed in Europe by UEFA. It competes in the three major professional tournaments available to European nations: the FIFA World Cup, UEFA Nations League and the UEFA European Championship. Slovenia played its first official match in 1992, one year after the country gained independence from Yugoslavia. The majority of Slovenia's home matches are played at Stožice Stadium in Ljubljana.

Slovenia have qualified for a major tournament four times, twice for the FIFA World Cup and twice for the UEFA European Championship, but have never progressed beyond the group stage of a finals tournament. At the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Slovenia achieved their first (and so far only) victory in a major tournament, defeating Algeria 1–0. The team have achieved some noteworthy results, such as beating the 2006 FIFA World Cup winners Italy 1–0 in 2004, which was Italy's only defeat in the entire 2006 World Cup campaign. Their biggest defeat came in 2002 with a 5–0 loss to France, while their highest-scoring victory was a 7–0 win over Oman in 1999.

Boštjan Cesar holds the record for most appearances for Slovenia, having played 101 times between 2003 and 2018. Zlatko Zahovič scored 35 goals for Slovenia and is the record holder for most goals scored.

History

Origins and pre-independence years (1921–1991)

Before Slovenia's independence in 1991, the national football team of Slovenia existed only as a regional team, not officially recognised by FIFA. On 23 June 1921, the Slovenian capital Ljubljana hosted a match between France and a selection of players from Slovenian clubs. One of the guests at the match was the acting FIFA president Jules Rimet,^[2] who later initiated the first FIFA World Cup tournament. The French team won the match 5–0 and, although the match was not official by international standards, it was, at least in Slovenia, generally accepted as the first appearance of the Slovenian national team.^{[2][3]} In the following decades, Slovenia played four more

Slovenia	
	
Association	Football Association of Slovenia
Confederation	UEFA (Europe)
Head coach	Matjaž Kek
Captain	Jan Oblak
Most caps	Boštjan Cesar (101)
Top scorer	Zlatko Zahovič (35)
Home stadium	Stožice Stadium
FIFA code	SVN
 First colours	 Second colours
FIFA ranking	
Current	55 ▼ 1 (15 February 2024) ^[1]
Highest	15 (October–November 2010)
Lowest	134 (December 1993)
First international	

unofficial friendly matches: in 1956 against China, in 1968 against Austria, in 1990 against Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in 1991 against Croatia.^[3]

Independence, first victory and first qualifiers (1992–1998)

In 1992, one year after Slovenia's independence from Yugoslavia, the national team was admitted to UEFA and FIFA.^[4] On 3 June of the same year, Slovenia played its first FIFA-recognised game, a friendly match against Estonia in Tallinn.^[5] The match ended in a 1–1 draw, and the first official goal for the team was scored by Igor Benedejčič. The first team manager was Bojan Prašnikar.^[6] On 7 April 1993, the two teams played another friendly, and this time Slovenia achieved its first international victory by winning the match 2–0.^[7]

In 1994, managed by Zdenko Verdenik, Slovenia debuted in official competitions as the team competed in the UEFA Euro 1996 qualifiers. Slovenia played in Group 4 and finished in fifth place out of six teams, with eleven points.^[8] In the opening match of the qualifiers, Slovenia drew 1–1 at home against the 1994 FIFA World Cup finalists Italy.^[9] In the qualifiers for the 1998 FIFA World Cup, in a group with Denmark, Croatia, Greece and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia finished in last place, registering just one point in eight matches.^[10]

Unofficial	
 Slovenia	0–5 France 
(Ljubljana, Kingdom of SCS; 23 June 1921)	
Official	
 Estonia	1–1 Slovenia 
(Tallinn, Estonia; 3 June 1992)	
Bigest win	
 Oman	0–7 Slovenia 
(Muscat, Oman; 8 February 1999)	
Bigest defeat	
 France	5–0 Slovenia 
(Saint-Denis, France; 12 October 2002)	
World Cup	
Appearances	2 (<i>first in 2002</i>)
Best result	Group stage (2002, 2010)
European Championship	
Appearances	1 (<i>first in 2000</i>)
Best result	Group stage (2000)
Website	nzs.si (https://www.nzs.si/reprezentanca/?id_menu=8)

Golden generation (1998–2002)

UEFA Euro 2000 campaign

In July 1998, Srečko Katanec was appointed as the new manager of the team.^[11] Under his guidance, Slovenia finished the UEFA Euro 2000 qualifiers in second place, only behind Norway.^[12] Zlatko Zahovič scored eight of Slovenia's twelve goals in the qualifiers.^[13] In the additional playoffs, Slovenia faced Ukraine. The first leg was played in Ljubljana, which Slovenia won 2–1 after going a goal behind. Zahovič scored Slovenia's first goal, and Milenko Ačimovič scored a goal from the halfway line late in the match for the final score of 2–1.^[14] The second match was played in snowy conditions in Kyiv. Serhii Rebrov scored from the penalty spot in the 68th minute to give Ukraine a lead, while Slovenia equalised eight minutes later with a goal by Miran Pavlin.^[15] The 1–1 draw meant that Slovenia won 3–2 on aggregate and qualified for its first major tournament.^[15]

At UEFA Euro 2000, Slovenia were drawn into Group C, together with Spain, FR Yugoslavia and Norway. In the first game, Slovenia played against Yugoslavia and took a 3–0 lead after one hour of play, with Zahovič scoring twice and Pavlin once. However, Yugoslavia made a comeback as they scored three goals in just six minutes for a final score of 3–3, playing with only ten players after Siniša Mihajlović was sent off when the score was still 3–0 for Slovenia.^[16] The second game against Spain was played in Amsterdam. Spain took a 1–0 lead with a goal by Raúl, but Slovenia equalised after one hour of play as Zahovič scored his third goal of the tournament. Just a minute later, Spain was leading again as Joseba Etxeberria scored the winning goal.^[17] In the last round of the group stage, Slovenia played against Norway and still had a chance to progress to the quarterfinals. The match finished in a goalless draw and Slovenia won its second point of the tournament, but was eliminated.^[18]

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
1	Spain	3	2	0	1	6	5	+1	6	Advance to knockout stage
2	Yugoslavia	3	1	1	1	7	7	0	4	
3	Norway	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	4	
4	Slovenia	3	0	2	1	4	5	-1	2	

Source: RSSSF (<https://www.rsssf.org/tables/ooe-final.html>)



Slovenia's lineup for their first ever game at a major tournament, against FR Yugoslavia at the UEFA Euro 2000.^[16]

2002 FIFA World Cup campaign

For the 2002 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, Slovenia were drawn into a group with Russia, FR Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Faroe Islands and Luxembourg.^[19] In its first five qualifying games, Slovenia won only one match (away at Luxembourg), and even the underdogs Faroe Islands held them to a 2–2 draw, despite the Slovenes leading 2–0 with less than five minutes remaining.^[20] In the next five matches, Slovenia won four times, including a last minute victory over Russia.^[19] Slovenia finished in second place without a single defeat, and advanced to the playoff stage.^[19] In the playoffs, Slovenia faced Romania. They came from a goal down to win the first game 2–1 with the goals from Ačimovič in the first half and Milan Osterc in the second half.^[19] In the second leg in Bucharest, Slovenia took the lead with a goal scored by Mladen Rudonja.^[19] The final result was 1–1, and Slovenia qualified for its second consecutive major tournament and first ever World Cup.^{[21][22]}

At the World Cup, Slovenia played in Group B with Spain, Paraguay and South Africa. In the first game, Slovenia faced Spain for the second time in a row at a big tournament, having lost the previous game at Euro 2000. Spain took the lead in the first half with the goal from Raúl. Juan Carlos Valerón scored Spain's second goal 15 minutes before full-time for a 2–0 lead. A few minutes later, Sebastjan Cimirotić scored the first World Cup goal for Slovenia to reduce the score to 2–1, before Fernando Hierro scored in the 87th minute for the final score of 3–1.^[23] The match is notable due to the conflict between manager Katanec and star player Zahovič, after which Katanec announced his retirement after the tournament, while Zahovič was expelled from the team and sent home.^[24] Slovenia lost the two remaining matches against South Africa (1–0) and Paraguay (3–1) and finished last in the group with three defeats.^{[25][26]}

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
1	Spain	3	3	0	0	9	4	+5	9	Advance to knockout stage
2	Paraguay	3	1	1	1	6	6	0	4	
3	South Africa	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4	
4	Slovenia	3	0	0	3	2	7	-5	0	

Source: RSSSF (<https://www.rsssf.org/tables/2002full.html>)

Decline (2003–2007)

After the resignation of Katanec, Prašnikar took over the team on a four-year contract.^[27] The team has undergone some major changes, with several key players retiring from the national team.^[28]

In the UEFA Euro 2004 qualifying campaign, Slovenia played against France, Israel, Cyprus and Malta. The team finished in second place with four wins out of eight games, however, they lost both matches against France without scoring any goals.^[29] In the playoffs, Slovenia played against its biggest rivals, Croatia. The first leg was

played in Zagreb, where Croatia took the lead as Dado Pršo scored a goal in the fifth minute, while Slovenia equalised in the 22nd minute with a goal by Ermin Šiljak, for the final score of 1–1.^{[29][30]} In the second leg, Pršo scored the only goal of the game 15 minutes into the second half.^[29] Croatia qualified for the UEFA Euro 2004 with the aggregate score of 2–1, and Slovenia failed to qualify for its third consecutive major tournament. Šiljak scored a total of nine goals in the whole campaign, thus becoming the top goalscorer of the whole UEFA qualification tournament.^[31]

In May 2004, Prašnikar was replaced by Branko Oblak.^[32] Under Oblak's management, Slovenia played in the 2006 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. Grouped with Italy, Norway, Scotland, Belarus and Moldova, the team started with victories over Moldova and Italy and a draw against Scotland, but still finished in fourth place after securing only five points in the remaining seven matches.^[33] With the victory over Italy, Slovenia became the only team to beat the eventual world champions, as Italy did not lose another game during the entire campaign (qualifiers and the main tournament).^[34]

Oblak was still in charge of Slovenia when the UEFA Euro 2008 qualifiers started. Grouped with the Netherlands, Romania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Albania and Luxembourg, the team started out with defeats to Bulgaria and Belarus, thus significantly reducing their chances to qualify, and as a result, in November 2006, Oblak was dismissed by the Football Association of Slovenia.^[35] During his two-year stint as the manager, Oblak tried out over forty different players.^[36]

In January 2007, Matjaž Kek was appointed as the new manager of the national team.^[37] He led Slovenia in the remainder of the Euro 2008 qualifiers, where Slovenia finished in sixth place, only above Luxembourg.^[38]

First World Cup victory (2008–2011)



Slovenian players celebrating Nejc Pečnik's goal against Russia in the 2010 World Cup playoffs.

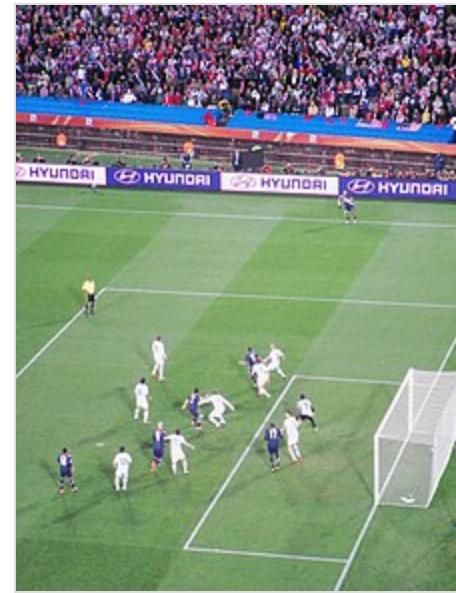
For the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, Slovenia were drawn into a group with the Czech Republic, Poland, Northern Ireland, Slovakia and San Marino.^[39] In its opening match, Slovenia held Poland to a 1–1 draw in Wrocław, before winning two consecutive home games against Slovakia and Northern Ireland, respectively.^[40] Slovenia then won only one point in the two games against the Czech Republic and lost away to Northern Ireland, and thus fell to fifth place in the group.^[41] However, the team greatly improved its form and won the last four games without conceding a single goal.^[40] As runners-up, Slovenia qualified for the playoffs, where they were drawn against Russia.^[42] The first leg was played in Moscow. The match ended in a 2–1 win for the home side, with Nejc Pečnik scoring a crucial away

goal for Slovenia late in the game.^[43] In the second leg, held in Maribor, Slovenia defeated Russia 1–0 with a goal by Zlatko Dedić, advancing to the main tournament with an aggregate score of 2–2 due to the away goals rule.^[44] The top scorer of the national team during the qualifying campaign was Milivoje Novaković with five goals.^[45]

At the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Slovenia played in Group C alongside England, Algeria and the United States. In the opening game against Algeria, Slovenia achieved its first ever victory at the World Cup after Robert Koren scored the only goal in the match for a 1–0 victory.^[46] In their second game against the United States, Slovenia were leading 2–0 at half-time with goals from Valter Birsa and Zlatan Ljubijankić, however, Landon Donovan and Michael Bradley scored in the second half for the United States for the final score of 2–2.^[47] In their last match of the group stage, Slovenia lost to England 1–0 with a goal by Jermain Defoe. As the United States defeated Algeria with a late goal, Slovenia dropped to third place and was eliminated from the tournament.^[48]

After the 2010 World Cup, Slovenia achieved their highest ever position in the FIFA World Rankings, as the team was ranked 15th in October 2010.^[49] However, Slovenia started the UEFA Euro 2012 qualifiers with an unexpected home defeat against Northern Ireland.^[50] Two defeats against Italy and another unexpected home

defeat, this time against Estonia, meant that Slovenia finished only in fourth place in the group, behind Italy, Estonia and Serbia.^[51]



Slovenia vs. United States at the 2010 World Cup

Katanec's second spell and management changes (2011–2018)

In October 2011, the Football Association of Slovenia appointed Slaviša Stojanović as the new manager.^[52] He led the team in only nine matches, including the first four matches of the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, where Slovenia recorded one victory and three defeats.^[53] He was sacked by the end of 2012 and was replaced by Katanec, who had previously led the team between 1998 and 2002.^{[54][55]} Under his leadership, Slovenia lost at home to Iceland, before winning four consecutive games to finish third in the group, two points behind Iceland.^[53] In the qualifiers for UEFA Euro 2016, Slovenia came close to directly qualifying for the tournament for the first time, however, the team lost a decisive game away to Switzerland.^[56] Slovenia led 2–0 with less than 15 minutes remaining, but the Swiss team then scored three times to win 3–2.^[57] As the third-placed team, Slovenia advanced to the playoffs, where they were eliminated by the Ukraine 3–1 on aggregate.^[56] The qualifiers for the 2018 FIFA World Cup were similar to the previous ones, as Slovenia narrowly lost two decisive away matches against Slovakia and England.^[58] After the defeat at Wembley, where Harry Kane scored the only goal of the match in the 94th minute, Katanec announced his resignation as the manager.^[59] In December 2017, Tomaž Kavčič became the new manager.^[60]

In 2018, Slovenia competed in the inaugural edition of the UEFA Nations League. In accordance with the FIFA World Rankings, the team competed in the third-tier League C along with Bulgaria, Cyprus and Norway.^[61] After the poor run of results, in which Slovenia obtained only one point in the first four matches, Kavčič was sacked. He became the manager with the shortest tenure in Slovenian history, leading the team in only seven games.^[62] As Slovenia finished last in the group, they were supposed to be relegated to the bottom tier League D, but UEFA changed the system for the next edition and the team remained in League C.^[63]

Kek's second spell, Nations League promotion, and Euro 2024 (2019 to present)

Kek was appointed as the manager for the second time in November 2018.^[64] Slovenia failed to make a breakthrough during the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifiers, losing both games against Austria and obtaining only one point against North Macedonia.^[65] Despite the unexpected 2–0 home victory against Poland, Slovenia finished fourth in the group.^[65] In the 2020–21 UEFA Nations League C, however, Slovenia remained undefeated in all six games against Greece, Moldova and Kosovo. Under the leadership of team captain Jan Oblak, Slovenia held Greece to a 0–0 draw in both matches and also obtained all twelve available points against Moldova and Kosovo, thus securing first place in the group and promotion to League B for the 2022–23 edition.^[66] In the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, Slovenia once again failed to qualify for the main event. They started the campaign with a 1–0 home victory versus Croatia with a goal by Sandi Lovrić, which was notably Slovenia's first victory over their neighbour rivals after failing to beat them in the previous eight official matches.^[67] After two narrow defeats against Russia and a surprising defeat to Cyprus, Slovenia finished fourth in the group with four wins in ten matches, behind Croatia, Russia and Slovakia.^[68]

In 2022, Slovenia made their maiden appearance in League B of the Nations League, and avoided relegation after finishing third in a group with Serbia, Norway and Sweden.^[69] Benjamin Šeško scored three of Slovenia's six goals in the competition,^[70] including a goal in the decisive 1–1 away draw to Sweden that secured a crucial point on the last matchday.^[71]

In the [UEFA Euro 2024 qualifiers](#), Slovenia finally ended its major tournament drought and qualified for the Euro finals for the first time in 24 years.^[72] Šeško was once again one of the key players, scoring five goals in nine appearances,^[73] including a goal in the decisive home game against [Kazakhstan](#) on the final matchday, which Slovenia won 2–1 in front of 16,432 spectators, a record home attendance for the Slovenia national team.^{[74][75]} The team finished the qualifiers in second place, behind only Denmark, with a record tally of 22 points from 10 games. In addition, it was also the first time that Slovenia directly qualified for a major tournament without having to play an additional play-off.^{[76][77]}

Team image

Nickname and mascot

The Slovenian national team does not have an official nickname and was the only team at the [2010 FIFA World Cup](#) without one.^{[78][79]} During the [2010 World Cup qualifiers](#), Slovenian journalists and the [Football Association of Slovenia](#) tried to choose a nickname for the team, but the process failed to gain the support of fans.^[80] In 2010, the Slovenian web portal [Siol](#) organized a fan vote and the nickname "Kekci", a reference to the Slovenian fictional child character [Kekec](#) and the then national team manager [Matjaž Kek](#), finished in first place.^[81] However, the nickname was never officially adopted by the [Football Association of Slovenia](#).^[78] "Kekci" is still occasionally used by the Slovenian media when referring to the national team.^{[82][83]}

During the [2010 World Cup](#), some foreign media articles used the nickname "Zmajčeki" (English: Little Dragons) when referring to the Slovenian national team,^{[84][85]} however, this was the old nickname of Slovenian club [NK Olimpija Ljubljana](#) when they competed in the [Yugoslav football system](#).^[78] Because Olimpija had a long tradition in the former [Yugoslav First League](#), football fans and the media in the countries of the former Yugoslavia still use this nickname today when referring to the Slovenian team.^{[86][87]} The 1998–2002 generation, managed by [Srečko Katanec](#), is still referred to as the 'golden generation'.^{[88][89]}

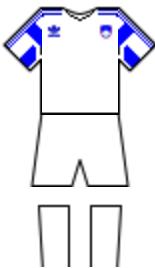
In 2002, Slovenia received an official mascot for its appearance at the [2002 FIFA World Cup](#). The mascot, called Trigi, is based on a round shape representing the Earth or a ball, with a stylized depiction of [Triglav](#), the highest Slovenian mountain, on its head in a green, white and blue colour combination.^{[90][91]}

Kits and colours

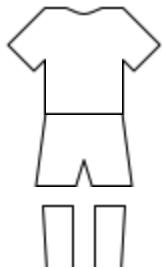
Until 1993,^[92] Slovenia played its matches in white, blue and red, which are the traditional colours of the country.^{[93][94]} In 1993, the board of the [Football Association of Slovenia](#) decided to change the main colours to green and white, inspired by [NK Olimpija](#) from the capital city of [Ljubljana](#).^{[95][96]}

In December 2009, the board voted to change the kit's colours to white for home matches and blue for away matches.^[97] The new colours came into effect in April 2012, when a new all-white home kit with a blue and green trim was unveiled.^[98] The new away kit, introduced a couple of months earlier, was all-blue with a white and green trim.^[96] In 2016, the all-green version returned as an away kit, while the light blue kit became the new home kit.^[99] In 2022, the new Slovenian kits were selected through an online fan vote for the first time.^[100] The home colours were again changed to all-white and the away colours to all-blue.^[100]

For their World Cup appearances in 2002 and 2010, the Slovenian kit featured a stylized depiction of [Triglav](#).^[95] Since 2010, the depiction has been used on each new kit set.^{[100][101]}



Slovenia's first kit was white, blue and red, inspired by the Slovenian flag.



In the first half of the 1990s, green colour first appeared on the kits.



All-white home kit in 2012, with a prominent depiction of Triglav.

Kit suppliers

Nike has been the team's kit provider since 2007.^[102] Previously, the kit providers were Puma, Adidas, Uhlsport, and Kappa.

Kit provider	Period
<u>Puma</u> ^[103]	1993–1996
<u>Adidas</u> ^[104]	1997–2001
<u>Uhlsport</u> ^[105]	2002–2003
<u>Kappa</u> ^[106]	2003–2006
<u>Nike</u> ^[102]	2007–present

Home stadium

Slovenia's home matches have been held at ten venues in eight cities.^[107] Since 2010, most matches have been played in Ljubljana at the Stožice Stadium, with a seating capacity of 16,038.^{[108][109]} The final training sessions and physical preparation of the team before domestic matches are held at the National Football Centre Brdo in Predoslje.^{[110][111]}

The first home stadium of Slovenia was the Bežigrad Stadium, located in the Bežigrad District in Ljubljana. It was the main stadium of the national team until 2004, when UEFA banned it due to insufficient infrastructure.^[112] In the same year, the newly built Arena Petrol in Celje became the new main venue of the team for the next three years.^{[113][114]} For the 2010 World Cup qualifiers, Slovenia moved to the recently renovated Ljudski vrt stadium in Maribor, where the team remained undefeated in their six home matches during the qualifying campaign (five wins and a draw), consequently qualifying for the main tournament.^[115] Stožice were built in 2010, and since then the venue has hosted most of the national team's home competitive matches.^[116] The venue also holds the record for the highest home attendance of the Slovenia national team, as 16,432 spectators gathered for the final match of the UEFA Euro 2024 qualifiers against Kazakhstan on 20 November 2023, which saw Slovenia qualify for the 2024 Euros.^{[74][117]}



Stožice Stadium, the main stadium of the Slovenia national team

Other venues where Slovenia played at least one home match are the Bonifika Stadium in Koper, Fazanerija City Stadium in Murska Sobota, Domžale Sports Park in Domžale, Nova Gorica Sports Park in Nova Gorica, Stanko Mlakar Stadium in Kranj, and ŽŠD Ljubljana Stadium in Ljubljana.^[107]

Rivalries

Slovenia's main football rivals are its neighbours Croatia. The matchup between the two sides is known as the Neighbourhood derby (Slovene: *Sosedski derbi*, Croatian: *Susjedski derbi*).^{[28][118]} As of March 2022, they have faced each other twelve times (eleven official matches and one unofficial match).^{[119][120]} One of the most notable matches between Slovenia and Croatia took place in 2003, where the two teams met in the qualifying playoffs for UEFA Euro 2004. After a 1–1 draw in the first match in Zagreb, Slovenia then lost 1–0 at home and failed to qualify for its third consecutive major tournament.^[28] In March 2021, Slovenia finally managed to win a game against Croatia after failing to do so in the previous nine matches, as they won 1–0 at home during the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.^[121]

Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 12 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win Draw Loss Fixture

2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	23 March	Kazakhstan  1–2  Slovenia	Astana, Kazakhstan	[show]
	21:00 UTC+6	Samorodov 24' Report (ht https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18458) Brekalo 47' Vipotnik 78'	Stadium: Astana Arena Attendance: 27,122 Referee: Glenn Nyberg (Sweden)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	26 March	Slovenia  2–0  San Marino	Ljubljana, Slovenia	[show]
	18:00 UTC+2	Šeško 56' Report (ht https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18454) Di Maio 60' (o.g.)	Stadium: Stožice Stadium Attendance: 10,282 Referee: Nathan Verboomen (Belgium)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 June	Finland  2–0  Slovenia	Helsinki, Finland	[show]
	19:00 UTC+3	Pohjanpalo 13' Report (ht https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18447) Antman 64'	Stadium: Helsinki Olympic Stadium Attendance: 32,560 Referee: Guillermo Cuadra Fernández (Spain)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 June	Slovenia  1–1  Denmark	Ljubljana, Slovenia	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	Šporar 25' Report (ht https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18450) Højlund 42'	Stadium: Stožice Stadium Attendance: 14,382 Referee: François Letexier (France)	

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	7 September	Slovenia  4–2  Northern Ireland	Ljubljana, Slovenia	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	Šporar 3', 56' Report (ht Price 7' Evans 17' (o.g.) tps://eu-fo Evans 53' Šeško 42' otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8452)	Stadium: Stožice Stadium Attendance: 12,587 Referee: Marco Guida (Italy)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	10 September	San Marino  0–4 Slovenia 	Serravalle, San Marino	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	Report (ht Vipotnik 4' tps://eu-fo Mlakar 16' otball.inf Lovrić 61' o/_match. Karničnik 67' php?id=1 8468)	Stadium: San Marino Stadium Attendance: 844 Referee: Mykola Balakin (Ukraine)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	14 October	Slovenia  3–0 Finland 	Ljubljana, Slovenia	[show]
	18:00 UTC+2	Šeško 16' (pen.), 28' Report (ht Janža 90+2' tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8451)	Stadium: Stožice Stadium Attendance: 15,823 Referee: Daniele Orsato (Italy)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 October	Northern Ireland  0–1 Slovenia 	Belfast, Northern Ireland	[show]
	19:45 UTC+1	+ Report (ht Gnezda Čerin 5' tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8462)	Stadium: Windsor Park Attendance: 16,332 Referee: István Kovács (Romania)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 November	Denmark  2–1 Slovenia 	Copenhagen, Denmark	[show]
	20:45 UTC+1	Mæhle 26' Report (ht Janža 30' Delaney 54' tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8442)	Stadium: Parken Stadium Attendance: 35,608 Referee: José María Sánchez Martínez (Spain)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	20 November	Slovenia  2–1 Kazakhstan 	Ljubljana, Slovenia	[show]
	20:45 UTC+1	Šeško 41' (pen.) Report (ht Orazov 48' Verbič 86' tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8453)	Stadium: Stožice Stadium Attendance: 16,432 Referee: Szymon Marciniak (Poland)	

2024

Friendly	20 January 14:00 UTC-6	United States  0–1  Slovenia	Report (ht Gradišar 26' https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18672)	San Antonio, United States Stadium: Toyota Field Attendance: 9,191 Referee: Pierre-Luc Lauzière (Canada)	[show]
Friendly	21 March 19:00 UTC+1	Malta  v  Slovenia	Report (ht https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18672)	Ta' Qali, Malta Stadium: National Stadium	[show]

Friendly	26 March 20:45 UTC+1	Slovenia v Portugal	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8726)	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: Stožice Stadium	[show]
Friendly	4 June --- UTC+2	Slovenia v Armenia	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8750)	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: Stožice Stadium	[show]
Friendly	8 June --- UTC+2	Slovenia v Bulgaria	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8749)	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: Stožice Stadium	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	16 June 18:00 UTC+2	Slovenia v Denmark	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8686)	Stuttgart, Germany Stadium: MHPArena	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	20 June 15:00 UTC+2	Slovenia v Serbia	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8688)	Munich, Germany Stadium: Allianz Arena	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	25 June 21:00 UTC+2	England + v Slovenia	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8689)	Cologne, Germany Stadium: RheinEnergieStadion	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League	6 September 20:45 UTC+2	Slovenia v Austria	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8793)	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: Stožice Stadium	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League	9 September 20:45 UTC+2	Slovenia v Kazakhstan	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8794)	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: Stožice Stadium	[show]

2024–25 UEFA Nations League	10 October 20:45 UTC+2	Norway v Slovenia	Report (ht tps://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18795)	Oslo, Norway Stadium: Ullevaal Stadion	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League	13 October 18:00 UTC+5	Kazakhstan v Slovenia	Report (ht tps://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18796)	Kazakhstan	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League	14 November 20:45 UTC+1	Slovenia v Norway	Report (ht tps://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18797)	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: Stožice Stadium	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League	17 November 18:00 UTC+1	Austria v Slovenia	Report (ht tps://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18798)	Austria	[show]

Management

Since 1991, eight managers have been in charge of the national team.^[122] Bojan Prašnikar, Srečko Katanec and Matjaž Kek are the only three managers with more than one spell.^[122]

Tomaž Kavčič is the manager with the shortest managerial tenure, having been in charge for only seven matches in 2018 before being sacked.^[123] He was replaced by Igor Benedejčič, who became the first manager to be appointed as a caretaker.^[124]

List of managers

Statistics updated as of 20 January 2024, after the match against the United States.



Katanec (left) and Kek (right) managed Slovenia at the [FIFA World Cup](#) in 2002 and 2010, respectively.

Manager	Tenure	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Major tournaments	Ref.
Bojan Prašnikar	1991–1993	4	1	2	1	—	[125]
Zdenko Verdenik	1994–1997	32	10	8	14	—	[126]
Bojan Prašnikar	1998	5	1	1	3	—	[125]
Srečko Katanec	1998–2002	47	18	16	13	Euro 2000 – Group stage	[127]
						2002 World Cup – Group stage	
Bojan Prašnikar	2002–2004	16	6	3	7	—	[125]
Branko Oblak	2004–2006	23	6	7	10	—	[128]
Matjaž Kek	2007–2011	49	20	9	20	2010 World Cup – Group stage	[129]
Slaviša Stojanović	2011–2012	9	2	2	5	—	[130]
Srečko Katanec	2013–2017	42	16	7	19	—	[127]
Tomaž Kavčič	2017–2018	7	1	1	5	—	[131]
Igor Benedejčič	2018	2	0	2	0	—	[132]
Matjaž Kek	2018–	51	25	14	12	—	[129]

Players

Current squad

The following 22 players were called up for the friendly match against the [United States](#) on 20 January 2024. [\[133\]](#)

Caps and goals are correct as of 20 January 2024, after the match against the United States.

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Igor Vekić	6 May 1998	1	0	Vejle
12	GK	Klemen Mihelak	31 December 2001	0	0	Mura
16	GK	Denis Pintol	7 February 2000	0	0	Olimpija Ljubljana
2	DF	Žan Karničnik	18 September 1994	25	1	Celje
3	DF	Srđan Kuzmić	16 January 2004	1	0	Viborg
4	DF	Marcel Ratnik	23 December 2003	1	0	Olimpija Ljubljana
5	DF	Žan Zaletel	16 September 1999	1	0	Viborg
6	DF	David Zec	5 January 2000	1	0	Celje
7	DF	Mitja Ilenič	26 December 2004	1	0	New York City FC
18	DF	Sven Šoštarič Karič	7 March 1998	1	0	Maribor
21	DF	Matija Kavčič	11 July 1997	0	0	Bravo
8	MF	Luka Vešner Tičić	25 October 2000	1	0	Koper
10	MF	Timi Max Elšnik	29 April 1998	11	0	Olimpija Ljubljana
13	MF	Adrian Zeljković	19 August 2002	1	0	Spartak Trnava
14	MF	Mark Zabukovnik	27 December 2000	1	0	Celje
15	MF	Sandro Jovanović	23 April 2002	0	0	Aluminij
20	MF	Jan Repas	19 March 1997	4	0	Maribor
22	MF	Tamar Svetlin	30 July 2001	1	0	Celje
9	FW	Andrés Vombergar	20 November 1994	3	0	Ittihad Kalba
11	FW	Nejc Gradišar	6 August 2002	1	1	Fehérvár
17	FW	Danijel Šturm	4 January 1999	1	0	Domžale
19	FW	Matej Poplatnik	15 July 1992	1	0	Bravo

Recent call-ups

The following players have also been selected by Slovenia in the past twelve months, but are not part of the current squad.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Jan Oblak	7 January 1993	62	0	Spain Atlético Madrid	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
GK	Vid Belec	6 June 1990	19	0	Croatia APOEL	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
GK	Martin Turk	21 August 2003	0	0	Slovenia Parma	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
GK	Matevž Vidovšek	30 October 1999	1	0	Slovenia Olimpija Ljubljana	v. Finland, 14 October 2023 INJ
GK	Aljaž Ivačič	29 December 1993	0	0	USA Portland Timbers	v. Finland, 16 June 2023 WD
DF	Petar Stojanović	7 October 1995	50	2	Italy Sampdoria	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	Jaka Bijol	5 February 1999	45	1	Italy Udinese	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	Jure Balkovec	9 September 1994	31	0	Turkey Alanyaspor	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	Miha Blažič	8 May 1993	30	0	Poland Lech Poznań	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	Erik Janža	21 June 1993	7	2	Poland Górnik Zabrze	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	Vanja Drkušić	30 October 1999	4	0	Russia Sochi	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	David Brekalo	3 December 1998	11	1	USA Orlando City	v. Northern Ireland, 17 October 2023
MF	Jasmin Kurtić	10 January 1989	89	2	Italy Südtirol	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Benjamin Verbič	27 November 1993	56	6	Greece Panathinaikos	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Miha Zajc	1 July 1994	39	8	Turkey Fenerbahçe	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Sandi Lovrić	28 March 1998	32	4	Italy Udinese	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Adam Gnezda Čerin	16 July 1999	27	3	Greece Panathinaikos	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Jon Gorenc Stanković	14 January 1996	20	1	Austria Sturm Graz	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Nino Žugelj	23 May 2000	0	0	Norway Bodø/Glimt	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Domen Črnigoj	18 November 1995	26	3	Italy Reggiana	v. Denmark, 19 June 2023
MF	Tomi Horvat	24 March 1999	4	0	Austria Sturm Graz	v. Denmark, 19 June 2023
FW	Andraž Šporar	27 February 1994	49	10	Greece Panathinaikos	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
FW	Benjamin Šeško	31 May 2003	26	10	RB Leipzig	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
FW	Luka Zahović	15 November 1995	15	0	Pogoń Szczecin	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
FW	Jan Mlakar	23 October 1998	14	2	Pisa	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
FW	Žan Celar	14 March 1999	8	0	Lugano	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
FW	Žan Vipotnik	18 March 2002	8	2	Bordeaux	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
FW	Aljoša Matko	29 March 2000	0	0	Celje	v. San Marino, 10 September 2023

Notes

- INJ = Withdrew due to injury
- WD = Player withdrew from the squad due to non-injury issue.

Records

Individual records

As of 20 January 2024, 236 players have made at least one appearance for the Slovenia national team.^{[134][135]} With 101 caps, Boštjan Cesar has the most appearances for Slovenia.^[136] Cesar also started the most matches as captain (39)^[137] and had the longest career as a Slovenian international footballer: 15 years, 1 month and 15 days.^[138] Zlatko Zahović is the highest-scoring Slovenia player with 35 goals.^[139] Sašo Udovič scored the most goals in a single match, scoring five against Iceland in 1996.^[140]

As of 20 January 2024^[136]

Players in **bold** are still active with Slovenia.

Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	Boštjan Cesar	101	10	2003–2018
2	Bojan Jokić	100	1	2006–2019
3	Valter Birsa	90	7	2006–2018
4	Jasmin Kurtić	89	2	2012–present
5	Samir Handanović	81	0	2004–2015
6	Milivoje Novaković	80	32	2006–2017
	Zlatko Zahović	80	35	1992–2004
8	Josip Iličić	79	16	2010–2021
9	Mišo Brečko	77	0	2004–2015
10	Milenko Ačimović	74	13	1998–2007
	Aleš Čeh	74	1	1992–2002

Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	Zlatko Zahovič	35	80	0.44	1992–2004
2	Milivoje Novaković	32	80	0.4	2006–2017
3	Sašo Udovič	16	42	0.38	1993–2000
	Josip Iličić	16	79	0.2	2010–2021
5	Ermin Šiljak	14	48	0.29	1994–2005
6	Milenko Ačimović	13	74	0.18	1998–2007
7	Tim Matavž	11	39	0.28	2010–2020
8	Benjamin Šeško	10	26	0.38	2021–present
	Primož Gliha	10	28	0.36	1992–1998
	Andraž Šporar	10	49	0.2	2016–present
	Boštjan Cesar	10	101	0.1	2003–2018



Boštjan Cesar is Slovenia's all-time most capped player.

Team records

- Biggest victory: 7–0 vs. [Oman](#), 8 February 1999^[141]
- Heaviest defeat: 0–5 vs. [France](#), 12 October 2002^[141]
- Most consecutive victories: 4
 - From 5 June 1999 against [Latvia](#) to 4 September 1999 against [Georgia](#)^{[141][142]}
 - From 18 November 2009 against [Russia](#) to 13 June 2010 against [Algeria](#)^{[141][142]}
 - From 6 September 2020 against [Moldova](#) to 14 October 2020 against [Moldova](#)^[142]
 - From 17 November 2022 against [Romania](#) to 26 March 2023 against [San Marino](#)^[142]
 - From 7 September 2023 against [Northern Ireland](#) to 17 October 2023 against [Northern Ireland](#)^[142]
- Most consecutive matches without defeat: 9, from 3 September 2020 against [Greece](#) to 24 March 2021 against [Croatia](#)^[142]
- Most consecutive defeats: 4 (achieved on five occasions, most recently in 2014)^{[141][142]}
- Most consecutive matches without victory: 9, from 6 September 2018 against [Bulgaria](#) to 7 June 2019 against [Austria](#)^[142]
- Most consecutive matches without scoring: 4
 - From 13 October 2004 against [Norway](#) to 26 March 2005 against [Germany](#)^{[141][142]}
 - From 5 March 2014 against [Algeria](#) to 8 September 2014 against [Estonia](#)^{[141][142]}
- Most consecutive matches without conceding a goal: 6, from 3 September 2020 against [Greece](#) to 11 November 2020 against [Azerbaijan](#)^[142]

- Most consecutive matches scoring: 11, from 12 August 2009 against San Marino to 18 June 2010 against the United States^[142]

Competitive record

FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record										Qualification record								
Year	Round	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA			
1930 to 1990	Part of  Yugoslavia										Part of  Yugoslavia							
 1994	Did not enter										Did not enter							
 1998	Did not qualify																	
 2002	Group stage	3	0	0	3	2	7	Squad	5th	8	0	1	7	5	20			
 2006	Did not qualify																	
 2010	Group stage	3	1	1	1	3	3	Squad	2nd (PO)	12	6	6	0	20	11			
 2014																		
 2018	Did not qualify																	
 2022																		
 2026																		
 2030	To be determined										To be determined							
 2034																		
Total	Group stage	6	1	1	4	5	10	—	2/22	72	29	17	26	94	80			

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record									Qualification record						
Year	Round	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA

1960 to 1992	Part of  Yugoslavia							Part of  Yugoslavia							
 1996	Did not qualify														
 2000	Group stage	3	0	2	1	4	5	Squad	5th	10	3	2	5	13	13
 2004															
 2008															
 2012	Did not qualify														
 2016															
 2020															
 2024	Qualified														
 2028															
 2032	To be determined														
Total	Group stage	3	0	2	1	4	5	—	2/17	86	36	17	33	119	100

UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record														
Season	Division	Group	Round	Pos	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK		
2018–19	C	3	Group stage	4th	6	0	3	3	5	8	=	38th		
2020–21	C	3	Group stage	1st	6	4	2	0	8	1	▲	33rd		
2022–23	B	4	Group stage	3rd	6	1	3	2	6	10	=	25th		
2024–25	B	To be determined												
Total					18	5	8	5	19	19	—			

Head-to-head record

The following table shows Slovenia's all-time international record, correct as of 20 January 2024 after the match against the United States.^{[143][144]}

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Albania	7	4	2	1	6	2	+4
Algeria	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1
Argentina	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2
Australia	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2
Austria	4	1	0	3	2	5	-3
Azerbaijan	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Belarus	5	1	2	2	5	8	-3
Belgium	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	0	0	4	4	10	-6
Bulgaria	4	0	1	3	2	8	-6
Canada	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1
China	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Colombia	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1
Croatia	11	1	4	6	10	19	-9
Cyprus	12	6	3	3	19	11	+8
Czech Republic	5	1	1	3	2	7	-5
Denmark	6	0	1	5	3	14	-11
England	6	0	1	5	4	10	-6
Estonia	9	6	1	2	13	5	+8
Faroe Islands	4	3	1	0	12	3	+9
Finland	4	1	1	2	4	5	-1
France	3	0	0	3	2	10	-8
Georgia	4	2	1	1	5	4	+1
Germany	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1
Ghana	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2
Gibraltar	1	1	0	0	6	0	+6
Greece	7	0	4	3	3	11	-8
Honduras	1	0	0	1	1	5	-4
Hungary	4	3	0	1	5	3	+2
Iceland	4	3	0	1	15	7	+8
Israel	5	2	3	0	8	5	+3
Italy	7	2	1	4	3	5	-2
Ivory Coast	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Kazakhstan	2	2	0	0	4	2	+2
Kosovo	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2
Latvia	5	4	0	1	9	2	+7
Lithuania	6	2	2	2	11	7	+4
Luxembourg	4	4	0	0	9	1	+8
Malta	8	7	1	0	15	1	+14
Mexico	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1
Moldova	4	4	0	0	10	1	+9
Montenegro	3	2	1	0	4	1	+3
Netherlands	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2
North Macedonia	7	1	2	4	7	13	-6
Northern Ireland	7	3	1	3	7	5	+2
Norway	11	2	3	6	10	17	-7
Oman	2	2	0	0	11	0	+11
Paraguay	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2
Poland	8	2	3	3	9	9	0
Qatar	3	1	1	1	4	2	+2
Romania	9	3	3	3	12	14	-2
Russia	7	2	1	4	8	11	-3
San Marino	7	7	0	0	26	0	+26
Saudi Arabia	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2
Scotland	5	0	3	2	3	7	-4
Serbia ^[a]	8	1	6	1	11	13	-2
Slovakia	8	3	4	1	9	6	+3
South Africa	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1
Spain	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3
Sweden	4	0	2	2	1	4	-3
Switzerland	9	2	1	6	8	17	-9
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2
Tunisia	2	1	1	0	3	2	+1
Turkey	2	1	0	1	2	1	+1
Ukraine	6	2	3	1	7	7	0

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
United Arab Emirates	2	0	2	0	3	3	0
United States	3	1	1	1	5	5	0
Uruguay	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4
Wales	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	287	106	72	109	364	339	+25

a. Includes matches against FR Yugoslavia and Serbia and Montenegro.

Honours

Minor tournaments

- **Rothmans International Tournament**^{[145][146]}

- **Winners:** 1994
- **Runners-up:** 1996

- **Cyprus International Tournament**^[147]

- **Runners-up:** 1998, 2006

- **Oman International Tournament**^{[148][149]}

- **Runners-up:** 1999, 2000

- **Carlsberg Cup**^[150]

- **Third place:** 2002

Other awards

- **Best Mover of the Year:** 1999

See also

- Slovenia national football B team
- Slovenia national under-21 football team
- Slovenia national under-19 football team
- Slovenia national under-17 football team
- Sport in Slovenia



Slovenia portal

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External links

- Football Association of Slovenia (<https://www.nzs.si/>) official website (in Slovene)
 - FIFA team profile (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/SVN>)
 - UEFA team profile (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/SVN/>)
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Slovenian PrvaLiga

The **Slovenian PrvaLiga** (Slovene: *Prva slovenska nogometna liga*, pronounced [ˈpɛrva sloˈvɛnska nɔɡoˈmetna ˈliɡa]), currently named Prva liga Telemach due to sponsorship reasons, also known by the abbreviation 1. SNL, is the top level of the Slovenian football league system. Contested by ten clubs, it operates on a system of promotion and relegation with the Slovenian Second League (2. SNL). Seasons typically run from July to May with each team playing 36 matches.

The competition was founded in 1991 after Slovenia became an independent country. From 1920 until the end of the 1990–91 season, the Slovenian Republic League was a lower division within the Yugoslav league system, although the top Slovenian clubs usually competed in the highest levels of the Yugoslav league system. The league is governed by the Football Association of Slovenia. Celje and Maribor are the only two founding clubs that have never been relegated from the league since its foundation in 1991.

45 clubs have competed since the inception of the PrvaLiga in 1991. Eight of them have won the title: Maribor (16), Gorica (4), Olimpija (4), Olimpija Ljubljana (3), Domžale (2), Koper (1), Celje (1) and Mura (1).

History

The Slovenian First League (1. SNL) was established after Slovenia's independence in 1991, and initially consisted of 21 clubs in the inaugural season.^{[1][2][3]} Prior to that, Slovenian teams competed in the Yugoslav football league system. Olimpija, Maribor and Nafta were the only Slovenian teams to play in the Yugoslav top division between 1945 and the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991.^[3] While they were part of the Yugoslav football system, most Slovenian clubs competed for the title of regional champions in the Slovenian Republic League, the third tier of Yugoslav football.^{[2][3]}

In 1991, the Football Association of Slovenia separated from the Football Association of Yugoslavia and established its own competitions, where Slovenian clubs competed for the title of Slovenian national champions.^{[2][3]} As of 2023, Celje and Maribor remain the only two founding clubs that have never been relegated from the league since the inaugural 1991–92 edition.^[5] The competition format and the number of clubs in the league have changed over time, ranging from 21 clubs in the first season to 10 clubs in its present form.^{[1][3]}

Slovenian PrvaLiga



Organising body	Football Association of Slovenia
Founded	1991
Country	Slovenia
Confederation	UEFA
Number of teams	10
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	2. SNL
Domestic cup(s)	Slovenian Cup
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa Conference League
Current champions	Olimpija Ljubljana (3rd title) (2022–23)
Most championships	Maribor (16 titles)
Most appearances	Sebastjan Gobec (488)
Top goalscorer	Marcos Tavares (159)
TV partners	Sportklub Šport TV
Website	prvaliga.si (https://www.prvaliga.si)

Current: 2023–24 Slovenian PrvaLiga

Olimpija won the first title.^[1] They had a long tradition of playing in the Yugoslav First League and their squad was still composed of players from that era.^[3] Olimpija dominated the league and won a further three championships before Gorica won their first in the 1995–96 season.^[1] Following Gorica's success, Maribor won their first championship in 1997.^[1] This started a record-breaking streak of seven successive league championships which came to an end when Gorica won their second title in the 2003–04 season.^[1] The club from Nova Gorica went on to win an additional two titles, becoming the third club to win three consecutive championships.^[1] During the 2006–07 season, Domžale won their first title, a feat they repeated the following season.^[1] After the 2008–09 season, Maribor became the major force in Slovenian football for the second time, having won 9 out of 15 championships since then.^[1]



PrvaLiga trophy being lifted in celebration of Maribor's ninth league title in May 2011.

Maribor is the most successful club; they have won the championship 16 times.^[1] Seven of Maribor's titles came during the late 1990s and early 2000s when the club was led alternately by managers Bojan Prašnikar, Ivo Šušak and Matjaž Kek.^{[6][7]} Darko Milanič has led the club to four championships between 2009 and 2013.^[8] Olimpija have won four titles, all in successive years between 1992 and 1995.^[1] Tied with four championships is Gorica who won their first title in 1996 and an additional three in successive years between 2004 and 2006.^[1] Olimpija Ljubljana have won three titles, followed by Domžale with two titles. Koper, Celje and Mura have won one title each, in 2010, 2020 and 2021, respectively.^[1] Maribor have won the Slovenian version of the double the most; they have won the league and the cup four times in the same season.^[9]



Matjaž Kek won the PrvaLiga title as a footballer and manager.^[4]

Names

Since 1991, the league has been named after sponsors on several occasions, giving it the following names:

Period	Sponsor	Name
1991–1999	No sponsor	1. SNL
1999–2004	Si.mobil	Liga Si.mobil ^[10]
2004–2006	Si.mobil Vodafone	Liga Si.mobil Vodafone ^[11]
2006–2009	Telekom Slovenije	Prva liga Telekom Slovenije ^[12]
2009–2013	No sponsor	Prva liga
2013–2021	Telekom Slovenije	Prva liga Telekom Slovenije ^[13]
2021–present	Telemach	Prva liga Telemach ^[14]

Format

PrvaLiga is contested on a round-robin basis. Each team play against each other four times, twice at home and twice away, for a total of 36 rounds. Teams receive three points for a win, one point for a draw, and no points for a loss. Teams are ranked according to the total sum of points and if two teams are tied, head-to-head score is used as the first classification criteria. At the end of the season, the top three clubs qualify for the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Europa Conference League qualifying rounds, with the ninth-placed team being qualified for the relegation play-offs and the bottom one being relegated to the Slovenian Second League.^[15]

The current system is in use since 2005. Between 1993 and 1995, a regular double round-robin format with 16 clubs was used, before being replaced with the current ten-club system for three seasons until 1998. Triple round-robin with twelve clubs and two direct relegations was then used between 1998 and 2003. In the next two seasons, in 2003–04 and 2004–05, the league was divided into the championship and relegation groups after the end of the regular season.

List of champions

Season	Champions	Runners-up
1991–92	Olimpija	Maribor
1992–93	Olimpija	Maribor
1993–94	Olimpija	NK Mura
1994–95	Olimpija	Maribor
1995–96	Gorica	Olimpija
1996–97	Maribor	Primorje
1997–98	Maribor	NK Mura
1998–99	Maribor	Gorica
1999–2000	Maribor	Gorica
2000–01	Maribor	Olimpija
2001–02	Maribor	Primorje
2002–03	Maribor	Celje
2003–04	Gorica	Olimpija
2004–05	Gorica	Domžale
2005–06	Gorica	Domžale
2006–07	Domžale	Gorica

Season	Champions	Runners-up
2007–08	Domžale	Koper
2008–09	Maribor	Gorica
2009–10	Koper	Maribor
2010–11	Maribor	Domžale
2011–12	Maribor	Olimpija Ljubljana
2012–13	Maribor	Olimpija Ljubljana
2013–14	Maribor	Koper
2014–15	Maribor	Celje
2015–16	Olimpija Ljubljana	Maribor
2016–17	Maribor	Gorica
2017–18	Olimpija Ljubljana	Maribor
2018–19	Maribor	Olimpija Ljubljana
2019–20	Celje	Maribor
2020–21	NŠ Mura	Maribor
2021–22	Maribor	Koper
2022–23	Olimpija Ljubljana	Celje

Performance by club

Club	Winners	Runners-up	Winning years
Maribor	16	8	1996–97, 1997–98, 1998–99, 1999–2000, 2000–01, 2001–02, 2002–03, 2008–09, 2010–11, 2011–12, 2012–13, 2013–14, 2014–15, 2016–17, 2018–19, 2021–22
Gorica	4	5	1995–96, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06
Olimpija (defunct)	4	3	1991–92, 1992–93, 1993–94, 1994–95
Olimpija Ljubljana	3	3	2015–16, 2017–18, 2022–23
Domžale	2	3	2006–07, 2007–08
Koper	1	3	2009–10
Celje	1	3	2019–20
NŠ Mura	1	0	2020–21
NK Mura (defunct)	0	2	—
Primorje (defunct)	0	2	—

Clubs

2023–24 season

Below is the list of clubs that are members of the [2023–24 Slovenian PrvaLiga](#) season. The information and the statistics shown in the table are correct as of the end of the [2022–23 season](#).

Key

†	Reigning champions, winners of the previous season
‡	Runners-up of the previous season
↑	Promoted from the Slovenian Second League



Club	Position in 2022–23	PrvaLiga debut	PrvaLiga seasons	First season of current spell	Last title (number of titles)
<u>Aluminij</u>	2. SNL, 2nd (promoted) ↑	<u>2012–13</u>	7	2023–24	—
<u>Bravo</u>	8th	<u>2019–20</u>	4	2019–20	—
<u>Celje</u>	Runners-up ‡	<u>1991–92</u>	32	1991–92	<u>2019–20</u> (1)
<u>Domžale</u>	4th	<u>1991–92</u>	25	2003–04	<u>2007–08</u> (2)
<u>Koper</u>	6th	<u>1991–92</u>	26	2020–21	<u>2009–10</u> (1)
<u>Maribor</u>	3rd	<u>1991–92</u>	32	1991–92	<u>2021–22</u> (16)
<u>Mura</u>	5th	<u>2018–19</u>	5	2018–19	<u>2020–21</u> (1)
<u>Olimpija Ljubljana</u>	Champions †	<u>2009–10</u>	14	2009–10	<u>2022–23</u> (3)
<u>Radomlje</u>	7th	<u>2014–15</u>	4	2021–22	—
<u>Rogaška</u>	2. SNL, 1st (promoted) ↑	<u>2023–24</u>	0 (debut)	2023–24	—

UEFA coefficient

Correct as of 30 May 2023.^[16] The table shows the position of the Slovenian PrvaLiga, based on its UEFA coefficient country ranking, and the four leagues closest to the PrvaLiga's position (two leagues with a higher coefficient and two with a lower coefficient).

Rank	League	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Coeff.
29	 <u>Azerbaijan Premier League</u>	2.375	3.375	2.500	4.375	4.000	16.625
30	 <u>Kazakhstan Premier League</u>	4.250	3.375	1.000	2.875	1.125	12.625
31	 <u>Slovenian PrvaLiga</u>	3.125	2.000	2.250	3.000	2.125	12.500
32	 <u>Moldovan Super Liga</u>	1.125	0.750	1.375	5.250	3.750	12.250
33	 <u>Football Superleague of Kosovo</u>	2.500	1.500	1.833	2.333	2.875	11.041

Statistics

Top scorers

As of 30 May 2023^[17]

Rank	Name	Goals	Appearances	Average
1	Marcos Tavares	159	436	0.36
2	Štefan Škaper	130	226	0.58
3	Kliton Bozgo	109	207	0.53
4	Ermin Rakovič	108	269	0.4
5	Milan Osterc	106	276	0.38
	Rok Kronaveter		335	0.32
7	Damir Pekič	103	266	0.39
8	Marko Kmetec	95	271	0.35
9	Dalibor Volaš	92	241	0.38
10	Ismet Ekmečić	90	199	0.45
	Anton Žlogar		300	0.3

Awards

Trophy

The current trophy is being presented since the 2012–13 season and was designed by Mirko Bratuša, a sculptor from Negova. It depicts a ball with eleven star-shaped holes and inside there are eleven players holding together and looking at the sky. It is made of brass, bronze and gold, and weighs 13 kilograms (29 lb; 2 st 1 lb).^[18]

Player awards

The first Player of the Year awards were presented by Slovenian newspaper *Dnevnik* in the early 1990s. Between 1996 and 1999, they were presented by *Ekipa*, and since 2004, the awards have been organized by the Union of Professional Football Players of Slovenia (SPINS).

Player of the Year

- 1991 Miloš Breznikar^[19]
- 1992 Vlado Milošević^[19]
- 1993 Gregor Židan^[19]
- 1994 Džoni Novak^[19]
- 1995 Sandi Valentinčič^[20]
- 2004 Damir Pekič and Dražen Žeželj^[21]
- 2005 Saša Ranić^[22]
- 2006 Ermin Rakovič^[23]
- 2007–08 Amer Jukan^[24]
- 2008–09 Marcos Tavares^[25]
- 2009–10 Miran Pavlin^[26]
- 2010–11 Marcos Tavares^[27]
- 2011–12 Dare Vršič^[28]
- 2012–13 Agim Ibraimi^[29]

Young player of the Year

- 2011–12 Boban Jović^[28]
- 2012–13 Boban Jović^[29]
- 2013–14 Martin Milec^[30]
- 2014–15 Benjamin Verbič^[31]
- 2015–16 Miha Zajc^[32]
- 2016–17 Luka Zahović^[33]
- 2017–18 Luka Zahović^[34]
- 2018–19 Jan Mlakar^[40]
- 2019–20 Dario Vizinger^[36]
- 2020–21 Timi Max Elšnik^[37]
- 2021–22 Tomi Horvat^[38]
- 2022–23 Žan Vipotnik^[41]

- 2013–14 [Massimo Coda](#)^[30]
- 2014–15 [Benjamin Verbič](#)^[31]
- 2015–16 [Rok Kronaveter](#)^[32]
- 2016–17 [Dare Vršič](#)^[33]
- 2017–18 [Senijad Ibrićić](#)^[34]
- 2018–19 [Rudi Požeg Vancas](#)^[35]
- 2019–20 [Mitja Lotrič](#)^[36]
- 2020–21 [Senijad Ibrićić](#)^[37]
- 2021–22 [Ognjen Mudrinski](#)^[38]
- 2022–23 [Žan Vipotnik](#)^[39]

Manager awards

Manager awards weren't presented between 2012 and 2019.

Manager of the Year

- 2011–12 [Darko Milanič](#)^[28]
- 2018–19 [Ante Šimundža](#)^[40]
- 2019–20 [Dušan Kosič](#)^[36]
- 2020–21 [Dejan Djuranović](#)^[37]
- 2021–22 [Zoran Zeljković](#)^[38]
- 2022–23 [Albert Riera](#)^[39]

Broadcast

During the early years, the league was broadcast only by the national public broadcasting television, RTV Slovenija. From 2008 until 2012, they had joint broadcasts with Šport TV, and from 2013 until 2015 with Planet TV.^[13] In the 2015–16 and 2016–17 seasons, the league was broadcast exclusively on Kanal A.^[42] In the 2017–18 season, the league was broadcast jointly by Kanal A and Šport TV. In the first round of the season, all five games were broadcast live for the first time in the league history.^[43]

Between 2018–19 and 2020–21, the league was broadcast jointly by Planet TV and RTV Slovenija.^{[44][45]} With the start of the 2019–20 season, one match per week is also broadcast on local Sportklub channels in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.^[46] From 2021–22 onwards, the league is being broadcast by Sportklub and Šport TV; all five matches per round are broadcast live, with Sportklub broadcasting four matches and Šport TV one.^[47] From the 2022–23 season, the league is also broadcast in Poland on Sportklub Polska.^[48]

Country	TV channel
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sportklub
Croatia	
Montenegro	
North Macedonia	
Poland	Sportklub Polska
Serbia	Sportklub
Slovenia	Sportklub
	Šport TV

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.prvaliga.si>) (in Slovene)
- UEFA (<http://www.uefa.com/memberassociations/association=svn/domesticleague/index.html>) profile
- Soccerway (<https://int.soccerway.com/national/slovenia/1-snli>) profile

Super League Greece



The **Super League Greece 1** (Greek: Σούπερ Λιγκ Ελλάδας 1), or **Stoiximan Super League** for sponsorship reasons, is the highest professional association football league in Greece. The league was formed on 16 July 2006 and replaced *Alpha Ethniki* at the top of the Greek football league system. The members of the cooperative are the Football Limited Companies (P.A.E.) that have the right to participate in the Super League 1 championship.

It consists of 14 teams and runs from August to May, with teams playing 26 games each followed by a 10-game play-off to decide the champions.

As of May 2023, Super League Greece is ranked 19th^[2] in the UEFA ranking of leagues, based on performances in European competitions over the last five years.

Since the foundation of the first official Panhellenic Championship in 1927,^[3] only six clubs have won the title. With 47 conquests, Olympiacos has the most titles in the history of the competition.

The current champions are AEK Athens.

History

Origins

Football first appeared in Greece in 1894 and began to spread after the 1896 Olympiad, which was included in the games program. Many clubs started to establish football divisions while the first purely football clubs were also founded. The first years, until 1912, championship was organised by the Hellenic Association of Amateur Athletics (SEGAS). This championship was actually a local tournament among clubs from Athens and Piraeus.^[4]

After the Balkan Wars and World War I, two football associations were formed, one organising a football league in Athens and Piraeus, and one doing the same in Thessaloniki. These were the Athens-Piraeus FCA (EPSAP) and the Macedonia FCA (EPSM). In 1923, a Panhellenic Champion was determined by a play-off game between the Athens-Piraeus and the Thessaloniki champions. Peiraikos Syndesmos won 3–1 against Aris. This panhellenic final was not repeated the following year as the EPSAP was split into the Athens FCA (EPSA) and Piraeus FCA (EPSP) following a dispute.^{[5][6]}

Panhellenic Championship

On 14 November 1926, the Hellenic Football Federation is founded and organizes the first Panhellenic Championship in the period 1927-28, in which, however, Olympiacos, Panathinaikos and AEK Athens did not participate due to conflicts with the EPO.^[7]

The initial events were held with teams from Athens, Piraeus and Thessaloniki, excluding the provincial ones. Previously, the local championships of the cities were held and in the final phase, sometimes only the first ones qualified, sometimes the first two or the first three teams. In the championship of 1938-39, which was held in two groups, teams outside Athens-Thessaloniki (Doxa Drama,

Super League Greece 1



Founded	1906 as <i>SEGAS</i> <i>championship</i> 1927 as <i>Panhellenic Championship</i> 1959 as <i>Alpha Ethniki</i> 2006 as <i>Super League Greece</i>
Country	Greece
Confederation	UEFA
Number of teams	14 ^[1]
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	Super League Greece 2
Domestic cup(s)	Greek Cup
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa League UEFA Europa Conference League
Current champions	AEK Athens (13th title) (2022–23)
Most championships	Olympiacos (47 titles)
Most appearances	Mimis Domazos (535)
Top goalscorer	Thomas Mavros (260 goals)
TV partners	Nova Sports, Cosmote Sport
Website	slgr.gr (https://www.slgr.gr/el/)

AEK Kavala and Filippi Kavala) participated for the first time. The maiden presence of provincial teams in a single group of the Panhellenic Championship took place in 1953–54 with the participation of Panachaiki from Southern Greece and Niki Volou from Central and Northern Greece.^[8]

A' National division

In 1959 the *Alpha Ethniki* – the precursor of the current Super League – was set up as a national round-robin tournament. After several months of talks, the 1959–60 championship was the first nationwide league competition. It started on Sunday 25 October 1959 with the participation of 16 teams. The creation of a championship in the form of a single permanent national division rather than the way they have been held until then with the participation of the teams selected by the local competitions was a requirement of both the State and UEFA. The first wished to establish a fixed number of matches every Sunday in Greece to stimulate interest in PRO-PO while UEFA wished to nominate national champions with strict criteria and through joint events for all states. The Hellenic Football Federation (HFF) was obliged to proceed to the abolition of the competitions of the Football Clubs Associations (EPS) of Greece as qualifying stages for the Pan-Hellenic Championship. The first place was taken by Alpha Ethniki, a single division with clubs from all over the Greek territory and a stable participation, with the exception of those who would be relegated at the end of the season. The initial design provided for a number of teams well above the 10th of the 1958–59 Pan-Hellenic Championship and in particular 18 which, as the expanded division calendar would cover almost all the available dates of the year, would no longer participate in its local competitions their EPSs. Those would be the qualifier for the upcoming national division and not the participation in the final round of the current championship, so their significance was significantly reduced. On Saturday, 10 October 1959 at the General Assembly of the HFF, ie with the participation of all the members of the Association of Football Associations and in the presence of the General Secretariat of Sports (GGA) and representatives of the Karamanlis government, became the first national division of Greek football. The 1st game was set for 15 days. According to the general Assembly of HFF on 29 August 1959, it was decided that the newly created Alpha Ethniki would consist of 18 teams, with their determination being made in accordance with the positions in the local EPS competitions in the period 1958–59. The HFF, at its decisive General Assembly on Saturday, 10 October, decided to reduce the number of teams to 16 so that the racing program will not be extended in the summer. After the end of the first event in the summer of 1960, the teams did not increase despite HFF's initial intention, with the number 16 being considered the ideal for a championship in Greece and only 18 in 1967.

The teams that participated in the first championship of the Alpha Ethniki were the following:

- The top four of the Athens FCA Championship: Panathinaikos, Panionios, AEK Athens and Apollon Smyrnis.
- The top four of the Piraeus FCA Championship: Olympiacos, Ethnikos Piraeus, AE Nikaia and Proodeftiki.
- The top four of the Macedonia FCA (Thessaloniki) Championship: Aris, PAOK, Apollon Kalamarias and Iraklis.
- The top two of the North Group of the Regional Championship: Doxa Drama and Megas Alexandros Katerini.
- The first of the two Sub-Groups of the South Regional Championship: Pankorinthiakos and Panegialios.

On 25 October 1959, the Alpha Ethniki was launched. Panathinaikos won the first Alpha Ethniki's Championship and became the Greek champions for the fourth time in his history. The club tied with AEK by 79 points and defeated them by 2–1 in the play-off, a match where Panathinaikos needed only a draw at the neutral Karaïskakis Stadium. In such a case, after the half-hour extension, the competition announcement set the best goal difference. Through the playoffs and with the same score was also the third place for the demotion, with the winner Panegialios to overtake Pankorinthiakos again in the event of a draw. The scoring system was 3 points for the win, 2 points for the draw, 1 point for the defeat.

The next years

Time has been relentless for some teams that have participated in the first league of the Alpha Ethniki. The historic Ethnikos Piraeus, cup winner of Greece in 1933, participates in the Gamma Ethniki, as well as Proodeftiki while AE Nikaia participates in the local championship of Piraeus. Apollon Kalamaria, Doxa Drama and Iraklis are fighting in the Beta Ethniki, while Pankorinthiakos, a few years after joining Alpha Ethniki, merged with Aris Korinthos and created PAS Korinthos, which reached the Alpha Ethniki at the 1990s and is now participating in the Gamma Ethniki. Megas Alexandros Katerini is the ancestor of Pierikos. In 1961, they merged with Olympos Katerini and created Pierikos who plays in the Gamma Ethniki.

On 19 January 1979 a bill was passed in the Hellenic Parliament under which football clubs became Football Incorporated Companies (PAE or ΠΙΑΕ in Greek). The Association of Football Incorporated Companies (EPAE, ΕΠΙΑΕ in Greek), under the supervision of the HFF, has since held the responsibility to hold the championship, with Makis Ithakisios being elected its first president. Initially the shares were owned by the sports union to which the football club belonged. Yet soon after, prominent

Greek businessmen (shipowners, oil magnates, bankers etc.) began acquiring the newly formed PAEs by buying the majority of their shares, and then increasing their share capital, thus turning Greek football into a fully commercialised and highly profitable business for the decades to come.

For a single racing season, 2000–01, the championship is renamed "Upper Category".

Rename

On 16 July 2006, was founded the copartnership *Super League*. Members of the copartnership are the PAE's that have the right to participate in the professional football championship of the First Division. The main activity of the copartnership is the organization and conduct of the First Division's Championship according to the regulations and decisions of the Hellenic Football Federation (HFF) and the supreme international football confederations (UEFA, FIFA).

Competition format

At present, 14 clubs compete in the Super League, playing each other in a 26-game home and away series. At the end of the season, the top 6 clubs face each other in a 10-game championship round to decide the Super League champions but also the teams to enter the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Europa Conference League.

The bottom 8 clubs face each other in play-outs to decide who gets relegated to Super League 2.^[9] In their place, the top two teams from Super League 2 are promoted. The number of teams to be relegated may change, depending on a licensing procedure that takes place at the end of the regular season.

The Super League is currently entitled to two entrants into the UEFA Champions League. The reigning champions currently enters the third qualifying round through the champion path, while the runners up enter the competition via the second qualifying round through the league route. The third-placed team enters the UEFA Europa League qualifying rounds. The three UEFA Europa Conference League spots go to the teams that finished 4th and 5th, with a European berth for the Greek Cup winner.

Clubs

2023–24 season

The following 14 clubs will compete in the Super League in the 2023–24 season.

Club	Position in 2022–23	First season in top division	Seasons in top division	Seasons in Super League	Top division titles	Last top division title
AEK Athens	1st	1930–31	74	15	13	2022–23
A.E. Kifisia	1st in 2022–23 Super League 2	2023–24	1	1	0	—
Aris	5th	1927–28	74	13	3	1945–46
Asteras Tripolis	10th	2007–08	16	16	0	—
Atromitos	8th	1927–28	24	16	0	—
Lamia	12th	2017–18	6	6	0	—
OFI	7th	1957–58	46	12	0	—
Olympiacos	3rd	1929–30	86	17	47	2021–22
Panathinaikos	2nd	1929–30	81	17	20	2009–10
Panetolikos	11th	1954–55	14	11	0	—
Panserraikos	1st in 2022–23 Super League 2	1965–66	25	3	0	—
PAS Giannina	9th	1974–75	27	12	0	—
PAOK	4th	1930–31	78	17	3	2018–19
Volos	6th	2019–20	4	4	0	—



Champions

Names of the championship through the years

- 1905–06 to 1911–12: **SEGAS Championship**, 1921–22 to 1926–27 **Greece FCA Championship** and in between 1922–23 EPSE Championship (not counted by HFF)
- 1927–28 to 1958–59: **HFF Panhellenic Championship**
- 1959–60 to 2005–06: **Alpha Ethniki**
- 2006–07 to 2018–19 : **Super League Greece**

- 2019–20 to present : Super League 1

SEGAS, FCA and EPSE championships

SEGAS championship

1905–06	Ethnikos Athens
1906–07	Ethnikos Athens
1907–08	Goudi Athens
1908–09	Piraikos ^[10]
1909–10	Goudi Athens
1910–11	Podosferikos Omilos Athinon
1911–12	Goudi Athens ^[11]
1912–13	<i>Not held (First Balkan War)</i>
1913–14	<i>Not held (Second Balkan War)</i>
1914–15	<i>Not held (WW1)</i>
1915–16	<i>Not held (WW1)</i>
1916–17	<i>Not finished (WW1)</i>
1917–18	<i>Not held (WW1)</i>
1918–19	<i>Not held (WW1)</i>
1919–20	<i>Not held (WW1)</i>

Greece FCA championship

1921–22	Podosferikos Omilos Athinon
1923–24	<i>3 champions</i> (Apollonas Athens, APS Piraeus, Aris AS Thessaloniki)
1924–25	<i>2 champions</i> (Panathinaïkos Athens, Olympiakos Piraeus, no tournament Thessaloniki)
1925–26	<i>3 champions</i> (Panathinaïkos Athens, Olympiakos Piraeus, Aris Thessaloniki)
1926–27	<i>3 champions</i> (Panathinaïkos Athens, Olympiakos Piraeus, Iraklis Thessaloniki)

EPSE Championship

1922–23	Piraikos Syndesmos (The only panhellenic championship organized by EPSE before the establishment of the HFF)
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Greek Championship

Panhellenic Championship

- **1927–28** Aris (1)
- **1928–29** *Not held*
- **1929–30** Panathinaikos (1)
- **1930–31** Olympiacos (1)
- **1931–32** Aris (2)
- **1932–33** Olympiacos (2)
- **1933–34** Olympiacos (3)
- **1934–35** *Not finished*
- **1935–36** Olympiacos (4)
- **1936–37** Olympiacos (5)
- **1937–38** Olympiacos (6)
- **1938–39** AEK (1)
- **1939–40** AEK (2)
- **1940–41** *Not finished (WW2)*
- **1941–42** *Not held (WW2)*
- **1942–43** *Not held (WW2)*
- **1943–44** *Not held (WW2)*
- **1944–45** *Not held (WW2)*
- **1945–46** Aris (3)
- **1946–47** Olympiacos (7)
- **1947–48** Olympiacos (8)
- **1948–49** Panathinaikos (2)
- **1950–51** Olympiacos (9)

National Ethniki

- **1959–60** Panathinaikos (4)
- **1960–61** Panathinaikos (5)
- **1961–62** Panathinaikos (6)
- **1962–63** AEK (3)
- **1963–64** Panathinaikos (7)
- **1964–65** Panathinaikos (8)
- **1965–66** Olympiacos (16)
- **1966–67** Olympiacos (17)
- **1967–68** AEK (4)
- **1968–69** Panathinaikos (9)
- **1969–70** Panathinaikos (10)
- **1970–71** AEK (5)
- **1971–72** Panathinaikos (11)
- **1972–73** Olympiacos (18)
- **1973–74** Olympiacos (19)
- **1974–75** Olympiacos (20)
- **1975–76** PAOK (1)
- **1976–77** Panathinaikos (12)
- **1977–78** AEK (6)
- **1978–79** AEK (7)

(Alpha

- **1988–89** AEK (8)
- **1989–90** Panathinaikos (15)
- **1990–91** Panathinaikos (16)
- **1991–92** AEK (9)
- **1992–93** AEK (10)
- **1993–94** AEK (11)
- **1994–95** Panathinaikos (17)
- **1995–96** Panathinaikos (18)
- **1996–97** Olympiacos (26)
- **1997–98** Olympiacos (27)
- **1998–99** Olympiacos (28)
- **1999–00** Olympiacos (29)
- **2000–01** Olympiacos (30)
- **2001–02** Olympiacos (31)
- **2002–03** Olympiacos (32)
- **2003–04** Panathinaikos (19)
- **2004–05** Olympiacos (33)
- **2005–06** Olympiacos (34)

Super League 1 (The use of VAR is established)^[12]

- **2019–20** Olympiacos (45)
- **2020–21** Olympiacos (46)
- **2021–22** Olympiacos (47)
- **2022–23** AEK (13)

Super League

- **2006–07** Olympiacos (35)

- | <u>1951–52</u> Not Held | <u>Professional League</u> | <u>(A'Eth./Sup.League)</u> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>1952–53</u> Panathinaikos (3) | | |
| <u>1953–54</u> Olympiacos (10) | | |
| <u>1954–55</u> Olympiacos (11) | | |
| <u>1955–56</u> Olympiacos (12) | | |
| <u>1956–57</u> Olympiacos (13) | | |
| <u>1957–58</u> Olympiacos (14) | | |
| <u>1958–59</u> Olympiacos (15) | | |
| | <u>1979–80</u> Olympiacos (21) | |
| | <u>1980–81</u> Olympiacos (22) | |
| | <u>1981–82</u> Olympiacos (23) | |
| | <u>1982–83</u> Olympiacos (24) | |
| | <u>1983–84</u> Panathinaikos (13) | |
| | <u>1984–85</u> PAOK (2) | |
| | <u>1985–86</u> Panathinaikos (14) | |
| | <u>1986–87</u> Olympiacos (25) | |
| | <u>1987–88</u> Larissa (1) | |
| | | <u>2007–08</u> Olympiacos (36) |
| | | <u>2008–09</u> Olympiacos (37) |
| | | <u>2009–10</u> Panathinaikos (20) |
| | | <u>2010–11</u> Olympiacos (38) |
| | | <u>2011–12</u> Olympiacos (39) |
| | | <u>2012–13</u> Olympiacos (40) |
| | | <u>2013–14</u> Olympiacos (41) |
| | | <u>2014–15</u> Olympiacos (42) |
| | | <u>2015–16</u> Olympiacos (43) |
| | | <u>2016–17</u> Olympiacos (44) |
| | | <u>2017–18</u> AEK (12) |
| | | <u>2018–19</u> PAOK (3) |

Source: epo.gr (http://www.epo.gr/Default.aspx?a_id=25295)

Performance by club (1927–)

Club	Champions	Winning years	Ref
Olympiacos ★★★★	47	1931, 1933, 1934, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1947, 1948, 1951, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1966, 1967, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1987, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022	[13][14][15]
Panathinaikos ★★	20	1930, 1949, 1953, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1977, 1984, 1986, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1996, 2004, 2010	[13][16][17]
AEK ★	13	1939, 1940, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1978, 1979, 1989, 1992, 1993, 1994, 2018, 2023	[13][18]
Aris	3	1928, 1932, 1946	[13]
PAOK	3	1976, 1985, 2019	[13]
AEL	1	1988	[13]

Performance by city (1927–)

The six clubs that have won the championship are from a total of four cities:

City	Titles	Clubs
Piraeus	47	Olympiacos (47)
Athens	33	Panathinaikos (20), AEK (13)
Thessaloniki	6	PAOK (3), Aris (3)
Larissa	1	AEL (1)

Performance by region (1927–)

The six clubs that have won the championship are from a total of three regions:

Region	Titles	Clubs
Attica	80	Olympiacos (47), Panathinaikos (20), AEK Athens (13)
Central Macedonia	6	PAOK (3), Aris (3)
Thessaly	1	AEL (1)

Statistics

Top three ranking (1959–present)

Club	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Olympiacos	32	15	10	57
Panathinaikos	17	20	14	51
AEK Athens	11	16	18	45
PAOK	3	9	9	21
AEL	1	1	–	2
Aris	–	1	6	7
OFI	–	1	2	3
Panionios	–	1	1	2
Apollon Smyrnis	–	–	1	1
Asteras Tripolis	–	–	1	1
Atromitos	–	–	1	1
Iraklis	–	–	1	1

Seasons in Alpha Ethniki and Super League Greece

The number of seasons that each team (in alphabetical order) has played in the top division from 1959–60 until 2023–24. A total of **70 teams** had competed in at least one season at the top division. Olympiacos, Panathinaikos and PAOK are the only teams to have played in the top division in every season since the league's inception in its modern form. The teams in **bold** participate in the 2023–24 Super League.

Seasons	Clubs
65	Olympiacos, Panathinaikos, PAOK
63	AEK Athens
59	Panionios, Aris
53	Iraklis
47	OFI
43	Apollon Smyrnis
36	Ethnikos Piraeus
31	Xanthi, AEL
28	PAS Giannina
26	Panachaiki
25	Panserraikos
23	Egaleo, Atromitos
21	Doxa Drama
20	Apollon Kalamarias
19	Kavala, Levadiakos
18	Ionikos
17	Veria, Asteras Tripolis
16	Pierikos
15	Proodeftiki
14	Panetolikos
10	Kastoria
9	Athinaikos, Ergotelis, Olympiacos Volos
7	Fostiras, Kalamata, Paniliakos, Trikala, Lamia
6	Niki Volos, Panegialios, Panthrakikos, Platanias
5	Edessaikos, Korinthos, A.O. Kerkyra, Volos
4	Akratitos, Ethnikos Asteras, Kallithea, Rodos, Vyzas Megara
3	Diagoras, Olympiacos Nicosia, Panelefsonikos, AEL Kalloni, A.O.K. Kerkyra
2	Chalkidona
1	AEL Limassol, AE Nikaia, APOEL*, Atromitos Piraeus, Chalkida, EPA Larnaca, Makedonikos, Megas Alexandros Katerini, Naoussa, Olympiacos Chalkida, Omonia Nicosia, Pankorinthiakos, Thermaikos, Thrasyvoulos, A.E. Kifisia

- APOEL avoided relegation in the 1973–74 season, but were forced to play in the Cypriot A Division the following season due to the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Hence they are the only team to have played a single season in the Greek league and not been relegated.

Top Division Table (since 1959–60)

This index is an overall record of all match results, points, and goals of the best ten teams that has played in **Alpha Ethniki** and **Super League** championships since 1959–60. The table is correct as of the end of the 2022–23 season. Points are based on 3–1–0 and no deductions are counted.

Pos	Team	Seasons	Points	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	G.F.	G.A.	G.D.	1	2	3	1st App	Since/Last App	Best
1	Olympiacos	64	4463	2032	1351	415	266	4133	1493	2640	32	15	10	1959–60	1959–60	1
2	Panathinaikos	64	4162	2033	1247	454	332	3792	1583	2209	17	20	14	1959–60	1959–60	1
3	AEK Athens	62	3794	1966	1148	455	363	3600	1706	1894	11	17	19	1959–60	2015–16	1
4	PAOK	64	3462	2033	990	513	494	3099	1943	1166	3	9	9	1959–60	1959–60	1
5	Aris	58	2730	1853	745	510	598	2298	2015	283	–	1	6	1959–60	2018–19	2
6	Panionios	59	2411	1870	642	493	735	2202	2364	−162	–	2	1	1959–60	2019–20	2
7	Iraklis	53	2401	1686	623	469	594	2099	2011	88	–	–	1	1959–60	2016–17	3
8	OFI	46	1892	1446	528	337	578	1791	1906	−115	–	1	2	1968–69	2018–19	2
9	Apollon Smyrnis	43	1546	1359	397	361	601	1418	1802	−384	–	–	1	1959–60	2021–22	3
10	Ethnikos Piraeus	36	1394	1164	356	326	482	1305	1552	−247	–	–	–	1959–60	1998–99	4

Per geographic region

All the geographic regions of Greece have been represented by at least one club in the first national division. Central Greece has had the strongest presence with 27 clubs overall, of which 22 come from Attica alone. Central Greece, Macedonia and the Peloponnese together contain almost three-quarters of the clubs that participated in the top flight. Between 1967 and 1974, the Cypriot champion also participated in the Greek top competition, and five different Cypriot clubs participated during those years. The Greek islands of Rhodes, Lesbos and Corfu have also been represented. A total of 74 clubs have participated at the first tier so far.

Regions	Total	Teams
<i>Central Greece</i>	26	<i>Attica</i> : Olympiacos, Panathinaikos, AEK Athens, Panionios, Apollon Smyrnis, Ethnikos Piraeus, Egaleo, Ionikos, Atromitos, Proodeftiki, Athinaikos, Fostiras, Akratitos, Ethnikos Asteras, Kallithea, Vyzas Megara, Panelefsiniakos, Chalkidona, AE Nikia, Atromitos Piraeus, Thrasivoulos, A.E. Kifisia <i>Euboea</i> : Chalkida, Olympiacos Chalkida <i>Boeotia</i> : Levadiakos <i>Aetolia-Acarnania</i> : Panetolikos <i>Pthiotis</i> : Lamia
<i>Macedonia</i>	15	<i>Central Macedonia</i> : PAOK, Aris, Iraklis, Panserraikos, Apollon Kalamarias, Pierikos, Veria, Edessaikos, Makedonikos, Megas Alexandros Katerini, Naoussa, Thermaikos Thessaloniki <i>East Macedonia</i> : Doxa Drama, Kavala <i>West Macedonia</i> : Kastoria
<i>Peloponnese</i>	7	Panachaiki, Asteras Tripolis, Kalamata, Paniliakos, Panegialios, Korinthos, Pankorinthiakos
<i>Cyprus</i>	5	Olympiakos Nicosia, AEL Limassol, APOEL, EPA Larnaca, Omonia Nicosia
<i>Thessaly</i>	5	AEL, Olympiacos Volos, Trikala, Niki Volos, NFC Volos
<i>Crete</i>	3	OFI, Ergotelis, Platanias
<i>Aegean Islands</i>	3	Rodos, Diagoras, AEL Kalloni
<i>Thrace</i>	2	Xanthi, Panthrakikos
<i>Ionian Islands</i>	2	A.O. Kerkyra, PAE Kerkyra
<i>Epirus</i>	1	PAS Giannina

Top scorers and appearances

Most appearances

Rank	Name	Appearances	Teams
1	Mimis Domazos	536	Panathinaikos, AEK Athens
2	Nikos Nioplias	509	OFI, Panathinaikos, Chalkidona
3	Giorgos Koudas	504	PAOK
4	Thomas Mavros	501	Panionios, AEK Athens
5	Savvas Kofidis	493	Iraklis, Olympiacos, Aris
6	Mimis Papaioannou	480	AEK Athens
	Stathis Chaitas	480	Panionios, AEL
8	Giorgos Skartados	478	Rodos, PAOK, Iraklis, Olympiacos
9	Georgios Georgiadis	476	Doxa Drama, Panathinaikos, PAOK, Olympiacos, Iraklis
10	Dinos Kouis	473	Aris
11	Tasos Mitropoulos	458	Ethnikos Piraeus, Olympiacos, AEK Athens, Apollon Smyrnis, Iraklis, Veria
12	Elias Yfantis	457	Olympiacos
13	Takis Nikoloudis	453	Iraklis, AEK Athens, Olympiacos, Apollon Pontus
14	Angelos Kremmydas	448	Ethnikos Piraeus, Panachaiki
15	Stelios Manolas	447	AEK Athens
16	Dimitris Saravakos	443	Panionios, Panathinaikos, AEK Athens
17	Theodoros Pahatouridis	434	Doxa Drama, Olympiacos, Ionikos
18	Giorgos Dedes	429	Panionios, AEK Athens
19	Giannis Gounaris	426	PAOK, Olympiacos
20	Michalis Kritikopoulos	422	Panegialios, Ethnikos Piraeus, Olympiacos, Apollon Smyrnis

Foreign players

1	Krzysztof Warzycha	390	Panathinaikos
2	Predrag Đorđević	375	Paniliakos, Olympiacos
3	Toni Savevski	357	AEK Athens
4	Daniel Batista	316	Ethnikos Piraeus, Olympiacos, AEK Athens, Aris
5	Noni Lima	291	Panionios

Most goals

Rank	Name	Goals	Teams
1	Thomas Mavros	260	AEK Athens, Panionios
2	Krzysztof Warzycha	244	Panathinaikos
3	Mimis Papaioannou	234	AEK Athens
4	Giorgos Sideris	224	Olympiacos
5	Antonis Antoniadis	187	Panathinaikos, Olympiacos
6	Alexandros Alexandris	186	Veria, AEK Athens, Olympiacos, AEL, Kallithea
7	Dimitris Saravakos	186	Panionios, Panathinaikos, AEK Athens
8	Giorgos Dedes	181	Panionios, AEK Athens
9	Nikos Anastopoulos	179	Panionios, Olympiacos, Ionikos
10	Michalis Kritikopoulos	175	Panegialios, Ethnikos Piraeus, Olympiacos
11	Nikos Lyberopoulos	167	Kalamata, Panathinaikos, AEK Athens
12	Demis Nikolaidis	163	Apollon Smyrnis, AEK Athens
13	Dinos Kouis	142	Aris
14	Kostas Nestoridis	140	AEK Athens
15	Mimis Domazos	139	Panathinaikos, AEK Athens
16	Georgios Georgiadis	137	Doxa Drama, Panathinaikos, PAOK, Olympiacos, Iraklis
17	Stavros Sarafis	136	PAOK
	Dimitris Salpingidis	136	PAOK, Panathinaikos
19	Giorgos Koudas	134	PAOK

Golden Star

Based on an idea of Umberto Agnelli, the honor of *Golden Star for Sports Excellence* was introduced to recognize sides that have won multiple championships or other honours by the display of gold stars on their team badges and jerseys.

The current officially sanctioned Super League stars are:

-  Olympiacos received in 2012–13
-  Panathinaikos received in 2009–10
-  AEK received in 1992–93

Greek football clubs in European competitions

UEFA ranking

Country rankings

As of 29 May 2022, the Greek Super League ranks 15th in the UEFA coefficient database, with 28.200 points.

Rank	Competition	Points
1	Premier League	106.641
2	La Liga	96.141
3	Serie A	76.902
4	Bundesliga	75.213
5	Ligue 1	60.081
6	Primeira Liga	53.382
7	Eredivisie	49.300
8	Austrian Bundesliga	38.850
9	Scottish Premiership	36.900
10	Russian Premier League	34.482
11	Serbian SuperLiga	33.375
12	Ukrainian Premier League	31.800
13	Belgian First Division A	30.600
14	Swiss Super League	29.675
15	Super League Greece	28.200
16	Czech First League	27.800
17	Eliteserien	27.250
18	Danish Superliga	27.175
19	Prva HNL	27.150
20	Süper Lig	27.100

Club rankings

As of 29 May 2022

Rank	Club	Points
20	Olympiacos	41.000
63	PAOK	25.000
81	AEK Athens	20.000
214	Aris	5.640
214	OFI	5.640
214	Atromitos	5.640
214	Asteras Tripolis	5.640
214	Panathinaikos	5.640
214	Panionios	5.640

Broadcasting rights

Nova Sports (premium channel) have taken the broadcasting rights for the home games of six teams of the Super League. The teams are Aris, Asteras Tripolis, Atromitos, Levadiakos, PAOK and PAS Giannina. Cosmote Sport (also a premium channel) have taken the broadcasting rights for the home games of eight teams of the Super League. The teams are AEK Athens, Ionikos, Lamia, OFI, Olympiacos, Panathinaikos, Panetolikos and Volos.

Eurosport has pan-European broadcasting rights for the Super League (except Greece and Portugal).

Sponsorship

From 2007 to 2017, the Super League had title sponsorship rights sold to one company, which were OPAP. From 2017 until 2019, the Super League has title sponsorship rights sold to the company Souroti.

OPAP's deal with the Super League expired at the end of the 2016–17 season. The Super League announced on 20 July 2017 that the new title sponsorship deal for the Super League was with the Souroti company.

As well as sponsorship for the league itself, the Super League has a number of official partners and suppliers. The official ball supplier for the league is Nike. Also, Panini has held the licence to produce collectables for the Super League since 2008 (except 2018–19 season), including stickers (for their sticker album) and trading cards. On 28 January 2023 Stoiximan became the official sponsor of the league.

Period	Sponsor	Name
2007–2017	<u>OPAP</u>	Super League OPAP
2017–2019	Souroti	Super League Souroti
2020–2022	<u>Interwetten</u>	Super League Interwetten
2023–	Stoiximan	Super League Stoiximan

See also

- Greek football league system
- Greek football champions
- List of Greek football championship top scorers
- Greek Superleague Best Greek Player
- List of foreign football players in Super League Greece
- List of sports attendance figures — the Super League in a global context

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.superleaguegreece.net/en>) (in English and Greek)
- Super League (<https://curlie.org/Sports/Soccer/UEFA/Greece/>) at Curlie (based on DMOZ)

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Super_League_Greece&oldid=1210587447"



Süper Lig

The **Süper Lig** (Turkish pronunciation: ['sypær lij], *Super League*), officially known as **Trendyol Süper Lig** for sponsorship reasons,^[3] is a Turkish professional league for association football clubs. It is the top-flight of the Turkish football league system and is run by the Turkish Football Federation. In the 2023 to 2024 season, twenty clubs compete, where a champion is decided and three clubs are promoted from, and relegated to the 1. Lig. The season runs from August to May, with each club playing 38 matches. Matches are played Friday through Monday.

The league succeeded the Turkish Football Championship and the National Division, both being former top-level national competitions. The Süper Lig is currently 9th in the UEFA coefficient ranking of leagues based on club performances in European competitions over the last five years. A total of 75 clubs have competed in the Süper Lig, but only six have won the title to date: Galatasaray (23), Fenerbahçe (19), Beşiktaş (16), Trabzonspor (7), İstanbul Başakşehir (1) and Bursaspor (1).

History

Football in Turkey stems back to the late 19th century, when Englishmen brought the game with them while living in Salonica (then part of the Ottoman Empire).^[4] The first league competition was the Istanbul Football League, which took place in the 1904–05 season. The league went through several variations until the creation of the Millî Lig (Süper Lig) in 1959. Between the creation of the Istanbul League and Millî Lig, several other regional leagues took place: Adana (1924), Ankara (1922), Eskişehir (1924), İzmir (1924), Bursa (1924), and Trabzon (1922), to name a few. The first competition to bring forth a national champion was the former Turkish Football Championship, which began in 1924 and continued until 1951.^[5] The championship format was based on a knockout competition, contested between the winners of each of the country's top regional leagues.^[6] The National Division (Turkish: *Millî Küme*) was the first national league competition in Turkey. Started in 1937, the National Division consisted of the strongest clubs from the Ankara, Istanbul, and İzmir leagues. The championship lasted until 1950.^{[7][8]}

The Federation Cup was established in 1956 to decide a national champion. This champion would go on to participate in the European Cup. The competition was held for two seasons until it was replaced by the Millî Lig. Beşiktaş won both editions and qualified for the European Cup during the two-year span. However, since the TFF failed to register their name for the draw in time, Beşiktaş could not participate in the 1957–58 season after all.^{[9][10]}

Turkish Süper Lig

 The logo consists of a stylized grey 'M' shape with a red star at the top right corner.	
trendyol SüperLig	
Organising body	Turkish Football Federation (TFF)
Founded	21 February 1959
Country	Turkey
Confederation	UEFA (Europe)
Number of teams	20 (since 2023–24)
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	TFF First League
Domestic cup(s)	Turkish Cup Turkish Super Cup
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa League UEFA Conference League
Current champions	Galatasaray (23rd title) (2022–23)
Most championships	Galatasaray (23 titles)
Most appearances	Umut Bulut (515) ^[1]
Top goalscorer	Hakan Şükür (249) ^[2]
TV partners	List of broadcasters
Website	tff.org (https://www.tff.org/g/Default.aspx?pageID=)



Fenerbahçe–Galatasaray match in the Şükrü Saracoğlu Stadium

The top clubs of Ankara, Istanbul, and İzmir competed in the 1959 Turkish National League. The first season took place in the calendar year of 1959, instead of 1958 to 1959, since the qualifying stages took place in 1958. The 16 clubs who competed in the first season were: Adalet (Istanbul), Altay (İzmir), Ankaragücü (Ankara), Ankara Demirspor (Ankara), Beşiktaş (Istanbul), Beykoz (Istanbul), Karagümrük (Istanbul), Fenerbahçe (Istanbul), Galatasaray (Istanbul), Gençlerbirliği (Ankara), Göztepe (İzmir), Hacettepe Gençlik (Ankara), İstanbulspor, İzmirspor, Karşıyaka (İzmir), and Vefa (Istanbul). The first champions were Fenerbahçe and the first "Gol Kralı" (top scorer) was Metin Oktay. No clubs were promoted or relegated at the end of the first season.^[11]

The 2. Lig (Second League) was created at the start of the 1963–64 season and the Millî Lig became known as the 1. Lig (First League). Before the foundation of a second division, the bottom three clubs competed with regional league winners in a competition called the *Baraj Games*. The top three teams of the group were promoted to the Süper Lig. After the foundation of a new second division in 2001, known as the 1. Lig, the formerly titled 1. Lig was rebranded as Süper Lig.^[12] The Süper Lig is home of the Fenerbahçe–Galatasaray derby, the most watched football game in Turkey. It is considered to be one of the best and most intense in the world, being ranked among the greatest football rivalries of all time by various international sources.^{[13][14][15]}

On 12 December 2023, the Turkish Football Federation suspended all league games indefinitely following an incident during a match between MKE Ankaragucu and Caykur Rizespor which involved fans being able to successfully invade the pitch and people, including recent MKE Ankaragucu president Faruk Koca, being arrested after attacking referee Halil Umut Meler.^{[16][17]} Koca would resign from MKE Ankaragucu as well.^[17] However, on 13 December, the same day Meler was discharged from the hospital it was soon agreed that Super Lig matches would resume on 19 December.^{[18][19]}

Format

There were 18 clubs in the Süper Lig until 2020. 20 Clubs are competing in the Süper Lig starting from 2020. During the course of the season (from August to May) each club plays the others twice (a double round robin system), once at their home stadium and once at that of their opponents, for a total of 38 games. Teams receive three points for a win and one point for a draw. No points are awarded for a loss. Teams are ranked by total points, then head-to-head record, then goal difference, and then goals scored. At the end of each season, the club with the most points is crowned champion. If points are equal, the head-to-head record and then goal difference determine the winner. The three lowest placed teams are relegated to the 1. Lig and the top two teams from the 1. Lig, together with the winner of play-offs involving the third to seventh placed 1. Lig clubs are promoted in their place.^[20]

- 16 clubs: 1959
- 20 clubs: 1959–1962
- 22 clubs: 1962–1963
- 18 clubs: 1963–1964
- 16 clubs: 1964–1966
- 17 clubs: 1966–1968
- 16 clubs: 1968–1981
- 17 clubs: 1981–1982
- 18 clubs: 1982–1985



Former design of the Süper Lig Trophy, used from 2015 until 2022.

- 19 clubs: 1985–1987
- 20 clubs: 1987–1988
- 19 clubs: 1988–1989
- 18 clubs: 1989–1990
- 16 clubs: 1990–1994
- 18 clubs: 1994–2020
- 21 clubs: 2020–2021
- 20 clubs: 2021–2022
- 19 clubs: 2022–2023
- 20 clubs: 2023–present

Qualification for European competitions

The champions qualify for the second qualifying round of the [Champions League](#). The runners-up, third place and the [Turkish Cup](#) winners qualify for the second qualifying round of the [Europa Conference League](#). If the Turkish Cup winner has already qualified for European competition through their league finish, then the team that finishes fourth in the league takes their place.

Media coverage

UEFA ranking

As of March 1, 2024^[21]

Süper Lig ranks 9th in UEFA Country Rankings 2024. The league made a big breakthrough in the early 90s and became one of the most valuable leagues in Europe. Süper Lig achieved the best ranking in its history in 2001 by rising to 7th place. In 1982, the league dropped to 28th place, achieving the worst ranking in its history.

Ranking			Member association	Coefficient					
2022	2023	Mvmt		2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total
11	11	–	 Serbian SuperLiga	6.000	6.000	5.500	9.500	5.375	32.375
20	12	⬆ +8	 Turkish Süper Lig	5.500	5.000	3.100	6.700	11.800	32.100
14	13	⬆ +1	 Swiss Super League	3.900	6.400	5.125	7.750	8.500	31.675

Süper Lig UEFA ranking by years^[22]

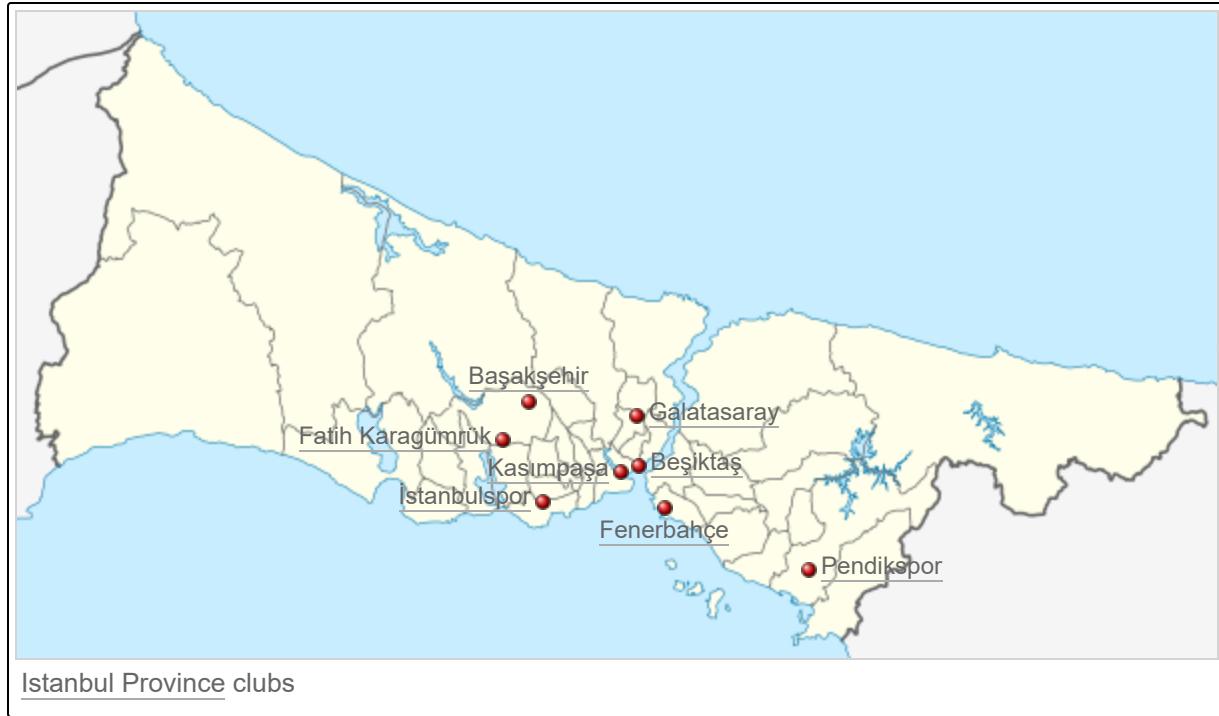
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
● 18	▼ 19	▼ 20	▲ 19	▲ 15	▼ 18	▼ 19	▼ 21	● 21	▼ 22
1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
▲ 18	▼ 19	▲ 17	▼ 18	▼ 19	▼ 23	● 23	● 23	▲ 22	▼ 23
1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
▼ 25	● 25	▼ 28	▲ 27	▲ 26	▼ 27	▲ 26	▲ 24	▼ 26	▲ 24
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
● 24	▲ 23	▲ 18	▲ 13	▲ 12	▲ 10	▼ 11	▲ 8	▼ 14	● 14
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
▲ 11	▲ 7	▼ 8	▼ 10	● 10	▼ 11	▼ 15	▲ 14	▲ 11	● 11
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
● 11	▲ 10	▼ 11	▲ 10	▼ 11	▼ 12	▲ 11	▲ 10	● 10	● 10
2020	2021	2022	2023						
▼ 11	▼ 13	▼ 20	▲ 12						

Clubs

Stadiums and locations



Team	Home city/borough	Home province	Stadium	Capacity
Adana Demirspor	Adana	Adana	New Adana Stadium	33,543
Alanyaspor	Alanya	Antalya	Alanya Oba Stadium	10,130
Ankaragücü	Ankara	Ankara	Eryaman Stadium	20,560
Antalyaspor	Antalya	Antalya	Corendon Airlines Park	32,537
Başakşehir	Başakşehir	Istanbul	Başakşehir Fatih Terim Stadium	17,156
Beşiktaş	Beşiktaş		Tüpraş Stadium	42,590



Team	Home city/borough	Home province	Stadium	Capacity
Fatih Karagümrük	Fatih		Atatürk Olympic Stadium	76,761
Fenerbahçe	Kadıköy		Şükrü Saracoğlu Stadium	47,834
Galatasaray	Sarıyer		Rams Park	52,280
Gaziantep	Gaziantep	Gaziantep	Kalyon Stadium	33,502
Hatayspor	Antakya	Hatay	Mersin Stadium ^[note 1]	25,497
Istanbulspor	Büyükkökmece	Istanbul	Esenyurt Necmi Kadıoğlu Stadium	7,500
Kasimpasa	Kasimpasa		Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Stadium	14,234
Kayserispor	Kayseri	Kayseri	RHG Enertürk Enerji Stadium	32,864
Konyaspor	Konya	Konya	Konya Metropolitan Municipality Stadium	42,000
Pendikspor	Pendik	Istanbul	Pendik Stadium ^[23]	2,500
Rizespor	Rize	Rize	Rize City Stadium	15,332
Samsunspor	Samsun	Samsun	Samsun 19 Mayıs Stadium	33,919
Sivasspor	Sivas	Sivas	New Sivas 4 Eylül Stadium	27,532
Trabzonspor	Trabzon	Trabzon	Şenol Güneş Sports Complex	40,782

1. Hatayspor plays their home matches in Mersin due to Hatay Stadium having been affected by the 2023 Turkey–Syria earthquakes.

Champions

Only six clubs have been champions since the introduction of the Super League: Galatasaray 23 times, Fenerbahçe 19 times, Beşiktaş 16 times (see note below), Trabzonspor 7 times, and Bursaspor and İstanbul Başakşehir once each.

Teams in **bold** compete in the Süper Lig as of the 2023–24 season.

Club	Champions ^[24]	Runners-up	Winning seasons	Runners-up seasons
Galatasaray 	23	13	1961–62, 1962–63, 1968–69, 1970–71, 1971–72, 1972–73, 1986–87, 1987–88, 1992–93, 1993–94, 1996–97, 1997–98, 1998–99, 1999–00, 2001–02, 2005–06, 2007–08, 2011–12, 2012–13, 2014–15, 2017–18, 2018–19, 2022–23	1956–57 ¹ , 1957–58 ¹ , 1959, 1960–61, 1965–66, 1974–75, 1978–79, 1985–86, 1990–91, 2000–01, 2002–03, 2013–14, 2020–21
Fenerbahçe 	19	24	1959, 1960–61, 1963–64, 1964–65, 1967–68, 1969–70, 1973–74, 1974–75, 1977–78, 1982–83, 1984–85, 1988–89, 1995–96, 2000–01, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2006–07, 2010–11, 2013–14	1959–60, 1961–62, 1966–67, 1970–71, 1972–73, 1975–76, 1976–77, 1979–80, 1983–84, 1989–90, 1991–92, 1993–94, 1997–98, 2001–02, 2005–06, 2007–08, 2009–10, 2011–12, 2012–13, 2014–15, 2015–16, 2017–18, 2021–22, 2022–23
Beşiktaş 	16	14	1956–57 ¹ , 1957–58 ¹ , 1959–60, 1965–66, 1966–67, 1981–82, 1985–86, 1989–90, 1990–91, 1991–92, 1994–95, 2002–03, 2008–09, 2015–16, 2016–17, 2020–21	1962–63, 1963–64, 1964–65, 1967–68, 1973–74, 1984–85, 1986–87, 1987–88, 1988–89, 1992–93, 1996–97, 1998–99, 1999–00, 2006–07
Trabzonspor 	7	9	1975–76, 1976–77, 1978–79, 1979–80, 1980–81, 1983–84, 2021–22	1977–78, 1981–82, 1982–83, 1994–95, 1995–96, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2010–11, 2019–20
İstanbul Başakşehir	1	2	2019–20	2016–17, 2018–19
Bursaspor	1	—	2009–10	

¹ Beşiktaş formally requested that championships won in the 1956–57 and 1957–58 editions of the Turkish Federation Cup be counted as Turkish Professional First Division championships to the Turkish Football Federation. The Cup was established in 1956 to find a national champion to represent Turkey, after UEFA decided that only national champions could participate in the European Cup.^[25] Beşiktaş had therefore earned the right to represent Turkey in the European Cup in the 1957–58 and 1958–59 seasons.^[26] The ruling on this matter was announced in a press release on March 25, 2002, which indicated that the championships won by Beşiktaş in the Federation Cup would be counted as national league championships.

Star rating system

The honor of Golden Stars was introduced in football to recognize sides that have won multiple championships or other honours by the display of gold stars on their team badges and jerseys. In Turkey, clubs are permitted to place a golden star above their crest for every five national championships won. As of the 2023–24 season Galatasaray are permitted four golden stars, Fenerbahçe and Beşiktaş are permitted three golden stars, and Trabzonspor are permitted one golden star to be placed above their crest on their jerseys.

League participation

As of 2024, 75 clubs have participated. Note: The tallies below include up to the 2023–24 season. Teams denoted in bold are current participants.

- 66 seasons: **Galatasaray**, **Beşiktaş**, **Fenerbahçe**
- 54 seasons: **MKE Ankaragücü**
- 50 seasons: **Bursaspor**, **Trabzonspor**

- 48 seasons: [Gençlerbirliği](#)
- 42 seasons: [Altay](#)
- 31 seasons: [Gaziantepspor](#),^[27] [Samsunspor](#)
- 30 seasons: [Eskişehirspor](#), [Göztepe](#)
- 28 seasons: [Antalyaspor](#)
- 25 seasons: [İstanbulspor](#)
- 23 seasons: [Konyaspor](#)
- 22 seasons: [Adanaspor](#), [Çaykur Rizespor](#)
- 21 seasons: [Denizlispor](#)
- 20 seasons: [Boluspor](#), [Kocaelispor](#), [Adana Demirspor](#), [Kasımpaşa](#)
- 19 seasons: [Kayserispor](#)
- 18 seasons: [Sivasspor](#)
- 16 seasons: [Karşıyaka](#), [İstanbul Başakşehir](#)^[28]
- 15 seasons: [Mersin İdmanyurdu](#)^[29]
- 14 seasons: [Vefa](#), [Zonguldakspor](#)^[30]
- 13 seasons: [Ankara Demirspor](#), [Kayseri Erciyesspor](#),^[31] [Sarıyer](#)
- 12 seasons: [PTT](#)^[32]
- 11 seasons: [Diyarbakırspor](#), [Malatyaspor](#), [Orduspor](#), [Sakaryaspor](#)
- 10 seasons: [Altınordu](#), [İzmirspor](#), [Kardemir Karabükspor](#), [Şekerspor](#),^[33] [Fatih Karagümrük](#)
- 9 seasons: [Ankaraspor](#), [Feriköy](#)
- 8 seasons: [Beykozspor](#), [Giresunspor](#), [Hacettepe Gençlik](#),^[34] [Alanyaspor](#)
- 7 seasons: [Akhisarspor](#)^[35]
- 6 seasons: [Manisaspor](#)
- 5 seasons: [Vanspor](#),^[36] [Yeni Malatyaspor](#), [Zeytinburnuspor](#) , [Gaziantep FK](#)
- 4 seasons: [Elazığspor](#), [Hatayspor](#)
- 3 seasons: [Aydınspor](#), [Bakırköyspor](#), [Çanakkale Dardanelspor](#), [Erzurumspor](#),^[37]
- 2 seasons: [Yozgatspor](#),^[38] [Adalet](#),^[39] [Akçaabat Sebatspor](#),^[40] [Balıkesirspor](#), [Beyoğluluspor](#), [Büyükşehir Belediye Erzurumspor](#),^[41] [Hacettepe](#), [Yeşildirek](#)
- 1 season: [Bucaspor](#),^[42] [Kahramanmaraşspor](#), [MKE Kırıkkalespor](#), [Petrolofisi](#),^[43] [Siirtspor](#),^[44] [Ümraniyespor](#), [Pendikspor](#)

Player records

Most goals

Most appearances

Rank	Player	Goals ^[45]	Apps	Rate
1	Hakan Şükür	249	489	0.51
2	Tanju Çolak	240	282	0.85
3	Hami Mandıralı	219	476	0.46
4	Metin Oktay	217	258	0.84
5	Aykut Kocaman	200	360	0.58
6	Feyyaz Uçar	191	376	0.51
7	Burak Yılmaz	188	327	0.57
8	Serkan Aykut	188	336	0.56
9	Umut Bulut	163	515	0.31
10	Fevzi Zemzem	146	305	0.48

As of 15 May 2021

As of 15 May 2021

Rank	Player	Apps ^[45]	Years
1	Umut Bulut	515	1999–2011, 2012–2021
2	Oğuz Çetin	503	1981–2000
3	Rıza Çalımbay	494	1980–1996
4	Hakan Şükür	489	1987–2000, 2003–2008
5	Hami Mandıralı	476	1984–1998, 1999–2003
6	Kemal Yıldırım	475	1976–1995
7	Mehmet Nas	447	1997–2014
8	Recep Çetin	437	1984–2001
9	Müjdat Yetkiner	429	1979–1995
10	Bülent Korkmaz	428	1988–2005

- Bold denotes players still active in the league.
- All players are Turkish unless otherwise indicated.

Turkish football clubs in UEFA competitions

Club	European Cup / UEFA Champions League		UEFA Cup / Europa League			UEFA Cup Winners' Cup	UEFA Super Cup	UEFA Intertoto Cup		
	Semi-finalist	Quarter-finalist	Winner	Semi-finalist	Quarter-finalist			Winner	Winner	Semi-finals
Galatasaray	1989	1963, 1970, 1994[#], 2001, 2013	2000	-	-	1992	2000	-	-	-
Fenerbahçe	-	2008	-	<u>2013</u>	-	1964	-	-	-	-
Beşiktaş	-	1987	-	-	<u>2003,</u> 2017	-	-	-	-	-
Bursaspor	-	-	-	-	-	1975	-	-	-	1995
Göztepe	-	-	-	<u>1969[#]</u>	-	1970	-	-	-	-
Kayserispor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2006	-	-
Trabzonspor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1999</u>	-
Samsunspor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1998</u>	-
İstanbulspor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1997</u>	-

[#] Galatasaray was one of the final eight teams of the 1993–94 UEFA Champions League group stage, however UEFA does not consider this a quarter-final participation.

Sponsorship

Period	Sponsor	Brand
1959–1963	No sponsor	Turkish Football Championship- Millî Lig
1989–2000	No sponsor	Türkiye 1. Futbol Ligi
2000–2005	No sponsor	Türkiye Süper Ligi
2005–2010	<u>Turkcell</u>	Turkcell Süper Lig ^[46]
2010–2017	<u>Spor Toto</u>	Spor Toto Süper Lig ^[47]
2017–2018	No sponsor	Süper Lig
2018–2019	Spor Toto	Spor Toto Süper Lig ^[48]
2019–2021	No sponsor	Süper Lig
2021–2023	Spor Toto	Spor Toto Süper Lig ^[48]
2023–present	<u>Trendyol</u>	Trendyol Süper Lig ^[3]

Official match ball

- 2008–2010: Nike T90 Omni
- 2010–2011: Nike T90 Tracer
- 2011–2012: Nike Seitiro
- 2012–2013: Nike Maxim
- 2013–2014: Nike Incyte
- 2014–2015: Nike Ordem 2
- 2015–2016: Nike Ordem 3
- 2016–2017: Nike Ordem 4
- 2017–2018: Nike Ordem 5
- 2018–2020: Nike Merlin
- 2020–2021: Adidas Uniforia
- 2021–2022: Adidas Conext 21 Pro
- 2022–present: Puma Orbita

See also

- [Turkish Football Championship](#)
- [Turkish National Division](#)
- [List of foreign Süper Lig players](#)
- [List of Süper Lig top scorers](#)
- [List of Turkish football champions](#)
- [Süper Lig all-time table](#)

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External links

- [Official website](http://www.tff.org.tr/Default.aspx?pageID=80) (<http://www.tff.org.tr/Default.aspx?pageID=80>) – Süper Lig (in Turkish)
 - [Official website](http://www.tff.org) (<http://www.tff.org>) – Turkish Football Federation (in Turkish)
 - [Süper Lig](https://twitter.com/superlig) (<https://twitter.com/superlig>) on Twitter
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Süper_Lig&oldid=1211413172"



Turkey national football team

The **Turkey national football team** (Turkish: *Türkiye Millî Futbol Takımı*; officially recognized as **Türkiye** by **FIFA**^{[5][6]}) represents Turkey in men's international football matches. The team is controlled by the **Turkish Football Federation** (Turkish: *Türkiye Futbol Federasyonu*), the governing body for football in Turkey, which was founded in 1923 and has been a member of **FIFA** since 1923 and **UEFA** since 1962.^[7]

The team played their first official international game in 1923 and has represented the nation in major competitions since their debut appearance at the **1924 Summer Olympics**. They have participated in Summer Olympics a total of six times (**1924**, **1928**, **1936**, **1948**, **1952** and **1960**), and reached the quarter-finals twice, in 1948 and 1952.

The team enjoyed their highest achievements in the 2000s, most notably finishing in third place at the **2002 FIFA World Cup** and the **2003 FIFA Confederations Cup**, and reaching the semi-finals at **UEFA Euro 2008**. They qualified for **FIFA World Cup** three times (**1950**,^[8] **1954** and **2002**) and reached the semi-finals in 2002, winning bronze medals. The team qualified for **UEFA European Championships** five times. Making their debut at **Euro 96**, they reached the quarter-finals in **Euro 2000** and semi-finals in **Euro 2008**. In recent years, Turkey qualified to the **Euro 2016**, **Euro 2020** and **Euro 2024** championships. Turkey also qualified as a co-host for the **Euro 2032** championship.

Since its introduction in 1992, the **FIFA World Rankings** has ranked the team between 5th and 57th place. Following their success at the **2002 World Cup**, Turkey managed to stay in the top 10 in rankings between 2002 and 2004, ranking 5th in June 2004.^[10] The team climbed once again up to 10th place in December 2008, following their success at **Euro 2008**.^[11] Turkey achieved their highest victory margin with 7–0 wins over **Syria** in 1949, **South Korea** in 1954 and **San Marino** in 1996,^[12] while their biggest losses were 8–0 defeats to **Poland** in 1968 and **England** in 1984 and 1987.^[13]

As of 2020, the most capped player to play on the national team is **Rüştü Reçber** with 120 senior international caps between 1994 and 2012, and the most scoring player is **Hakan Şükür** with 51 goals scored between 1992 and 2007.^[14] The longest-serving captain is **Turgay Şeren** with the captaincy of 35 international encounters from 1950 to 1966.^[15]

History

Early years

Turkey



Nickname(s)	Ay-Yıldızlılar (The Crescent-Stars) ^[1] <i>Bizim Çocuklar</i> (Our Guys)
Association	Turkish Football Federation (TFF)
Confederation	UEFA (Europe)
Head coach	Vincenzo Montella
Captain	Hakan Çalhanoğlu
Most caps	Rüştü Reçber (120)
Top scorer	Hakan Şükür (51)
Home stadium	Various
FIFA code	TUR ^[2]
First colours	
Second colours	
FIFA ranking	35 2 (15 February 2024) ^[3]
Current	35 2 (15 February 2024) ^[3]
Highest	5 (June 2004)
Lowest	67 (October 1993)
First international	

The Turkish National Team's first game was against Romania, played on 26 October 1923 at Taksim Stadium in Istanbul, a 2–2 draw.^[16] Zeki Riza Sporel is considered as the first big star of Turkish football as he scored the first two goals against Romania. Turkey played their first ever official match at the 1924 Summer Olympics losing to Czechoslovakia, 5–2. The first two goals in an official game were scored by Bekir Refet.

1950 FIFA World Cup

Although Turkey qualified for the 1950 World Cup, beating Syria 7–0, they were forced to withdraw from the tournament due to financial problems.

1954 FIFA World Cup

Turkey then qualified for the 1954 World Cup after a play-off with Spain. The Turkish team first lost 4–1 to Spain, but a 1–0 win a few days later initiated a replay. On that occasion, they tied 2–2 after, booking their place after a coin toss. Turkey was put in a group along with Hungary and West Germany. The Turks, however, never played Hungary due to the tournament format, and a 4–1 defeat by the Germans was followed by Turkey carrying out a 7–0 win over South Korea. Turkey lost the play-off to West Germany 7–2. In 1956, however, Turkey did play Hungary in a friendly match in Istanbul, defeating what was one of the strongest teams of the era, 3–1.^[17] Lefter Küçükandonyadis, arguably one of the best Turkish strikers of all time, scored two goals during the tournament.

Near misses

Despite the introduction of a national league, and showings by Turkish clubs in European competition, the 1960s would be a barren time for the national team. Most players from the 1954 World Cup squad were retired, and the new generation of players failed to qualify for a major tournament. The 1970s saw Turkey holding back in the World Cup and UEFA European Championship qualifiers, but the team was a point too short to qualify for both UEFA Euro 1972 and Euro 1976. In the 1980s the Turkish team also suffered their worst defeats with 8–0 scorelines against Poland and twice against England. Yet the 1990 World Cup qualifiers would mark a turning point for Turkish football, with Turkey only missing out on qualification in the final match. Prominent players in this period included Rıdvan Dilmen, Oğuz Çetin, Rıza Çalimbay, Feyyaz Uçar, and European Golden Boot winner Tanju Çolak.

1990–1997

In 1990, coach Sepp Piontek was put in charge of the national team. Under his guidance, a group of new players debuted for the national team. Many of these players (which included Bülent Korkmaz, Alpay Özalan, Sergen Yalçın, Rüştü Reçber, and Hakan Şükür) would become the backbone of the national team for many years. Piontek's mission came to an end in 1993, when he was replaced by Fatih Terim, who in turn managed to qualify

 Turkey 2–2 Romania 
(Istanbul, Turkey; 26 October 1923)^[a]

Biggest win

-  Turkey 7–0 Syria 
(Ankara, Turkey; 20 November 1949)
-  Turkey 7–0 South Korea 
(Geneva, Switzerland; 20 June 1954)
-  Turkey 7–0 San Marino 
(Istanbul, Turkey; 10 November 1996)

Biggest defeat

-  Poland 8–0 Turkey 
(Chorzów, Poland; 24 April 1968)
-  Turkey 0–8 England 
(Istanbul, Turkey; 14 November 1984)
-  England 8–0 Turkey 
(London, England; 14 October 1987)

World Cup

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Appearances | 2 (first in 1954) |
| Best result | Third place (2002) |

European Championship

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Appearances | 6 (first in 1996) |
| Best result | Semi-finals/Third place (2008) |

Olympic Games

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Appearances | 6 (first in 1924) |
| Best result | Quarter-finals (1948, 1952) |

FIFA Confederations Cup

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Appearances | 1 (first in 2003) |
| Best result | Third place (2003) |

Medal record [show]

FIFA World Cup

- | | |
|--|------|
|  2002 South Korea-Japan | Team |
|--|------|

UEFA European Championship

- | | |
|---|------|
|  2008 Austria & Switzerland (s.f.) | Team |
|---|------|

FIFA Confederations Cup

- | | |
|---|------|
|  2003 France | Team |
|---|------|

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Website | tff.org (https://www.tff.org/) |
|----------------|--|

for Euro 1996. Turkey qualified for its first major tournament since 1954, marking another turning point for Turkish football. The appointment of Piontek was a recommended move by another coach, Jupp Derwall, who had coached Galatasaray for three seasons. Derwall is regarded as the revolutionizer of Turkish football since his introduction of training techniques and tactical ideas to the Turkish game also heavily influenced the national team.



One of the early formations in 1922.

Euro 1996

Turkey qualified for Euro 1996, defeating both Switzerland and Sweden 2–1 during qualification. Despite a solid performance during the qualifiers, Turkey lost all their matches without scoring a single goal. They did, however, go home with an award: the fair play award, given to Alpay Özalan.



Turkey against Romania in 1923.

Euro 2000

Although Turkey failed to qualify for the 1998 World Cup, they qualified for Euro 2000 after winning a play-off against the Republic of Ireland. Turkey lost their first match 2–1 to Italy, they drew their second match against Sweden 0–0, and beat host nation Belgium 2–0, making it the first time in the history of the UEFA European Championship a host nation had been eliminated in the first round. This victory brought Turkey into the last eight of the tournament, where they were beaten 2–0 by Portugal, with Arif Erdem missing a critical penalty.



Turkey in 1950.

2002 FIFA World Cup

For the 2002 World Cup, Turkey finished second in their qualifying group, despite starting well and being the favorites to top the group. They lost 2–1 to Sweden in the crucial match that would decide the top spot. The Turks were forced to play the play-offs against Austria. They defeated the Austrians 6–0 on aggregate and booked their place in the finals. The Turkish team started the 2002 World Cup with a 2–1 defeat against eventual winners Brazil.^[18] Turkey qualified from the group stage with a 3–0 win against China PR after drawing 1–1 with Costa Rica.^{[19][20]}



Turkey against Netherlands in 1958.

Turkey then faced home team Japan in the second round, winning 1–0.^[21] The Turkish team continued their run, as they beat Senegal 1–0 on a golden goal to book their place in the semi-finals, where a 1–0 defeat against eventual tournament winners Brazil forced them to play the third-place match, and a bronze medal was won after a 3–2 victory over co-hosts South Korea.^{[22][23][24]} Hakan Şükür scored Turkey's first goal in 10.8 seconds, even when the South Koreans kicked off first. It was the fastest goal in World Cup history.^{[25][26]} Tens of thousands of flag-waving Turkish fans greeted the World Cup squad on their return to Istanbul, where



Turkish national football team on an Azerbaijan stamp for the 2002 FIFA World Cup.

they joined a massive street party at Taksim Square.^[27] Rüştü Reçber, Alpay Özalan and Hasan Şaş were all included in the All-Star Team, with Reçber also being voted as the best goalkeeper in the UEFA Team of the Year 2002, while Şenol Güneş was being voted as the best manager.



Turkish national football team on an Azerbaijan stamp for Euro 1996.

stages, Turkey defeated the United States 2–1 before losing to Cameroon 0–1. In their final group match, Turkey drew 2–2 against Brazil, eliminating them from the tournament. Turkey lost to eventual tournament winners France 3–2 in the semi-final match. Turkey then defeated Colombia 2–1 to win the bronze medal. Tuncay scored three goals and made an assist, which won him the Silver Shoe Award and the Silver Ball Award for the second-best player of the tournament.

Euro 2004

The Turkish team did not qualify for Euro 2004 after Latvia won the qualification play-offs. This also marked a turning point for the national team as new players were introduced to the national team to create a new generation.

2006 FIFA World Cup

The Turkish team once again narrowly missed out on the World Cup finals after failing to win a play-off, this time on away goals against Switzerland, again after finishing second in their group. There were scenes of violence after the game on and off the pitch where the Turkish team brawled with Swiss players down the tunnel.

Euro 2008

Turkey qualified for their first international tournament in six years by finishing second behind Greece in Euro 2008 qualifying Group C to reach the Euro 2008 final stages. They were placed alongside Switzerland, Portugal, and the Czech Republic in Group A. In their first match, they played Portugal and were beaten 2–0, but wins over Switzerland (2–1) and the Czech Republic (3–2) – both secured by late goals – brought qualification for the knockout stages.^{[28][29][30]} Again, Turkey knocked out a host nation – Switzerland – in the group stages for the second time.^[31]

The quarter-final against Croatia was goalless after 90 minutes, and Croatia led 1–0 in the final minute of extra time, but another late Turkish goal by forward Semih Şentürk brought the game to penalties. The goal raised some controversy with Croatia fans and Croatia head coach Slaven Bilić, who claimed that the goal had been scored after extra time had elapsed. This complaint, however, was overruled, and the game went into penalties. Turkey defeated Croatia in penalties, 3–1.^[32]

Turkey went into the semi-final against Germany with just 14 outfield players available as a result of injuries and suspensions but scored first and were drawing 2–2. But they finished third by default after losing 3–2 with a last-minute goal by Philipp Lahm.^[33] Both Russia and Turkey were given bronze medals in the dressing rooms

after the semi-finals.

2010 FIFA World Cup

Turkey was drawn in UEFA Group 5 together with Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia and Spain. Turkey had a mixed qualifying campaign, finishing with 15 points and missing out on a play-off place to Bosnia and Herzegovina with 19 points. Spain topped the group to qualify, winning every game in the process. Coach Fatih Terim announced he would be resigning his post following their failure to qualify.^[34]



Turkey against France on 5 June 2009.

Euro 2012

Turkey was drawn in Group A in qualification for Euro 2012, together with Kazakhstan, Austria, Belgium, Germany and Azerbaijan. The Turkish team reached the play-offs after beating Azerbaijan 1–0 but got eliminated 3–0 on aggregate by Croatia. On 14 November 2012, Turkey celebrated their 500th match in a friendly game played against Denmark at the Türk Telekom Arena, Istanbul, which ended in a 1–1 draw. Before the match, footballers and coaches, who contributed to the national team's success in the past, were honored. Turkish pop singer Hadise, who wore a national team jersey with the number 500, performed a small concert.^{[35][36]}



The Turkish team during the UEFA Euro 2012 qualification.

2014 FIFA World Cup

Turkey was drawn in Group D in qualification for the 2014 World Cup, together with Andorra, Estonia, Hungary, the Netherlands and Romania, finishing fourth. Turkey began to lose critical points during qualification and Abdullah Avcı was sacked soon after. Fatih Terim was put in charge for the third time to lead the national team, but a 2–0 defeat against the Netherlands ended hopes of qualification.

Euro 2016

Turkey was drawn in Group A in the qualification campaign for the Euro 2016, together with Iceland, Latvia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic. The Turkish team qualified for their first major tournament in eight years as the best third-placed team after beating Iceland 1–0, with Selçuk İnan netting a free kick in the 89th minute and combined with Kazakhstan beating Latvia 1–0.^{[37][38][39][40][41]} After over 18 months unbeaten, a loss to England as a pre-tournament friendly ended the team's winning streak, subsequently leading to back-to-back losses against Croatia and Spain in the tournament. Turkey won their last game against the Czech Republic, 2–0. They were close to reaching the last 16 until a late winner for Ireland against Italy meant that the



Turkey against Austria on 29 March 2016.

latter instead qualified as one of the best third-placed teams. Despite elimination, youngster Emre Mor's skillful display and assist during the game revealed a hopeful future for Turkish football.^[42]

2018 FIFA World Cup

Turkey was drawn in UEFA Group I for the 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign, together with Croatia, Finland, Iceland, Kosovo and Ukraine. During the qualifiers, head coach Fatih Terim stood down after an off-field incident,^[43] and 72-year-old former Romania manager Mircea Lucescu took over. After eight games, Turkey stood a strong chance of qualifying for the tournament, but a 0–3 defeat against Iceland at home ended automatic qualification hopes. After a 2–2 draw against Finland, the team finished fourth in Group I.

2018–19 UEFA Nations League and Euro 2020

Turkey was drawn with Russia and Sweden in the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League B and Turkey had a poor performance which led the country to finish bottom. At the first game held at home against 2018 World Cup host and quarter-finalist Russia, Turkey lost 1–2 despite an equalizer by Serdar Aziz. Turkey then put up its best performance in the League, winning 3–2 against Sweden right on Swedish soil. However, Turkey could not capitalize on this opportunity and lost 0–2 to Russia in Sochi before suffering a humiliating 0–1 home loss to Sweden, thus initially sending Turkey to League C. However, UEFA rule changes meant Turkey was allowed to remain in League B.

Turkey was drawn in Group H in the qualifying stage along with the 2018 FIFA World Cup champions France, as well as Iceland, Albania, Moldova, and Andorra. Veteran coach Şenol Güneş revolutionized the team, with many young talents, combining them with experienced players like Burak Yılmaz and Emre Belözoglu. The team restructuring proved to be genius, as Turkey had one of the best campaigns in recent history.

Turkey managed to achieve a 2–0 victory against the group favorites France in Konya and later a 1–1 draw at Stade de France. Turkey struggled against the group underdogs Andorra in their first match against them, winning by an 89th-minute goal at the Vodafone Arena in Istanbul. Turkey's only defeat in the group came against Iceland in Reykjavík, losing 2–1. The defeat came after the ill-treatment of the Turkish group at the Iceland customs, keeping them at the airport for 3 hours. This was followed by an Icelandic supporter holding a toilet brush to team captain Emre Belozoglu as a pretend microphone during an interview. The events were heavily criticized by the Turkish and European media. In an interview, Turkish Coach Şenol Güneş, said that had come here 40 years ago, nothing had changed about the stadium and the country, except that some Icelandic people had lost the hospitality they had 40 years ago. Turkey entered matchday 9 against Iceland as group leaders with 19 points. Turkey and Iceland were drawn 0–0 at Turk Telekom Arena in Istanbul. Though unable to defeat Iceland and losing the first place to France, a draw was enough to secure Turkey a spot in Euro 2020 finals, ahead of their away match against Andorra.^[44]

Turkey had the honor of opening the Euro 2020 Finals but it soon turned out to be a night to forget for the Turkish. Turkey kicked off the European Championship with a 3–0 loss against Italy in Group A at the Olympic Stadium with Ciro Immobile and Lorenzo Insigne on target. Roberto Mancini's side had been frustrated by Turkey's defensive approach in the first half but broke through in the 53rd minute when a hard-hit cross from Domenico Berardi flew in off Turkey defender Merih Demiral for an own goal. They went on to lose the next two games from both Switzerland and Wales, losing all three games in a row alongside debutants North Macedonia.

2020–21 UEFA Nations League and 2022 World Cup

After qualifying for Euro 2020, Turkey entered with momentum, even though they had to face old foe Russia, alongside Hungary, and Serbia in the 2020–21 UEFA Nations League B.

However, despite all these improvements, Turkey performed poorly in their two opening games in September 2020. The first game against Hungary at home saw Turkey suffer a 0–1 loss by a free kick from Dominik Szoboszlai. Going to Belgrade against Serbia, after repeated Serbian pressure, Turkey had a one-man advantage following Aleksandar Kolarov's red card, however, the Turks failed to capitalize and were held goalless. This damaged their chances of qualifying for League A, as their next opponents in October will be Russia (who had had a strong start) and Hungary. The early poor performance could also represent a detrimental effect for Turkey, as this season's Nations League was used for the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification process.

Turkey continued to find its first win in the Nations League. Against Russia in Moscow, a team which Turkey has failed to win on Russian soil since its last win in 1966 and still finding its first win over the Russians since 1975 in general, Turkey once again failed to register a win, though they got an encouraging 1–1 draw thanked for Kenan Karaman's equalizer. Yet, the Turkish side was disappointed with only a 2–2 draw over Serbia at home soil.^[45]

November 2020 proved to be very important as Turkey must gain important wins to stay or even better get the possible promotion. Their first game in this month's Nations League was against Russia, but Denis Cheryshev scored an early lead making the Turkish side look hapless. Yet, a red card to Andrei Semyonov proved to be a game changer, and with a one-man advantage, the Turks turned the deficit to finally break down its winless run against Russia with a 3–2 home win.^{[46][47][48]} The Turks then traveled to Hungary with the hope that a win against the Hungarians could mean possible promotion, at least if Russia lost to Serbia. However, while Russia suffered a humiliating 0–5 defeat away in Belgrade, Turkey failed to gain the advantage and instead lost 2–0 to the Hungarians, despite late pressure to find an equalizer in the second half. That meant Turkey and Serbia were tied on points, but they were relegated after they lost the head-to-head away goals tiebreaker, 2–0 to 2022–23 UEFA Nations League C.^{[49][50][51]} Such an outcome also meant Turkey would have to fight to get a direct 2022 FIFA World Cup ticket as play-off qualification appeared to be slim with their relegation, in which the 2022 World Cup qualifiers that started in March 2021.

In the 2022 World Cup qualifiers, Turkey was drawn into Group G with the Netherlands, Norway, Montenegro, Latvia, and Gibraltar. After they finished second in their group behind the Netherlands,^{[52][53][54]} they entered 2022 FIFA World Cup UEFA playoffs against Portugal^{[55][56]} but they lost 3–1 in a game that Burak Yilmaz missed a crucial penalty to equalise and thus failed to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.^[57] Afterwards, he announced his international retirement.^{[58][59]}

2022–23 UEFA Nations League and Euro 2024

In the 2022–23 UEFA Nations League C, they were drawn in Group 1 with Luxembourg, the Faroe Islanders, Lithuania. They were promoted to 2024–25 UEFA Nations League B after having 13 points in 6 games. Their Nations League success not only rewarded them a playoff place should they fail to qualify directly,^[60] but also rewarded with an easier draw in Group D with Croatia, Wales, Armenia, and Latvia. They subsequently qualified directly on 16 October 2023 and finished top on 19 November 2023.^{[61][62][63]}

Euro 2032

On 10 October 2023, Turkey was selected to co-host the UEFA Euro 2032 alongside Italy. They earned an automatic qualification as co-host.^{[64][65]}

Kit suppliers

Turkey's kit colors were home red kits and white away kits; they were manufactured by Adidas from 1982 to 2002, and they later announced their manufacturer as Nike in 2003. Starting in 2020, they switched their kit colors so that white is home and red is away.

Kit provider	Period
 Adidas	1982–2002
 Nike	2003–present

Rivalries

Turkey has developed several notable rivalries, the most well-known being with Croatia,^[66] and Greece.

Turkey and Croatia have played each other nine times,^[67] with their first encounter at Euro 1996; where both countries made their debuts in the opening match, which Croatia won 1–0.^[68] A well-remembered match between them was at Euro 2008, which Turkey won on penalties after a 1–1 deadlock even after extra-time. With the win, Turkey reached the semi-finals in only their third appearance overall at the Euro finals.^[69] The two teams faced each other in the 2012 Euro qualifying play-offs, with Croatia winning 3–0 in the first-leg in Istanbul, and advancing to the tournament finals following a 0–0 draw in the second-leg.^{[70][71]} The two teams faced each other once again in a European competition at Euro 2016, playing in the opening match of Group D; with Croatia winning 1–0.^{[72][73]} Only three months after the match at the Euros, the two teams played in their opening match in Group I of 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying, which finished 1–1.^[74] Exactly one year after this, Turkey won the reverse fixture 1–0 at home, which played a key part in both countries' qualifying campaign, although Turkey would not qualify for World Cup while Croatia would go on to qualify and finish second in that edition.^{[75][76]}

Turkey also has a historical rivalry with Greece. They played a total of 14 times. Among these competitions, Turkey won against Greece 8 times, drew 3 times, and lost only 3 times.^[77] Both countries have been described as "punching above their weight"; with Greece winning Euro 2004 despite being classified as underdogs before the competition, and Turkey followed-up their World Cup bronze medal in 2002 by advancing to the semi-finals of Euro 2008, where they were knocked out by Germany. Due to tension between the two countries and the dispute over Cyprus, coupled with several incidents occurring during matches between Turkish and Greek clubs, it has been described as one of the biggest international football rivalries.^[78]

Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 8 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win Draw Loss Fixture

2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying 25 March 2023 21:00 AMT (UTC+04:00)	Armenia  1–2  Turkey Kabak  10' (o.g.) Report (ht Kökcü  35' https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/match/h/203629 6/)	Yerevan, Armenia Stadium: Vazgen Sargsyan Republican Stadium Attendance: 14,125 ^[79] Referee: José María Sánchez Martínez (Spain)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying 28 March 2023 21:45 TRT (UTC+03:00)	Turkey  0–2  Croatia Report (ht Kovačić  20', 45+4' https://www.uefa.com/m/europe	Bursa, Turkey Stadium: Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Stadium Attendance: 37,750 ^[80]	[show]

an-qualifi
ers/matc
h/203631
9/)

Referee: Andreas Ekberg
(Sweden)

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 June 2023 21:45 EEST (UTC+03:00)	Latvia  2–3  Turkey Emsis  51' Report (ht Bardakci  23' Tobers  90+4' https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203634/ 3/)	Riga, Latvia Stadium: Skonto Stadium Attendance: 6,287 ^[81] Referee: Tamás Bognár (Hungary)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 June 2023 21:45 TRT (UTC+03:00)	Turkey  2–0  Wales Nayir  72' Report (ht Güler  80' https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203636/ 6/)	Samsun, Turkey Stadium: Samsun 19 Mayıs Stadium Attendance: 28,766 ^[82] Referee: Fabio Maresca (Italy)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	8 September 2023 21:45 TRT (UTC+03:00)	Turkey  1–1  Armenia Yıldırım  88' Report (ht Dashyan  49' https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203638/ 9/)	Eskişehir, Turkey Stadium: New Eskişehir Stadium Attendance: 31,740 ^[83] Referee: Daniele Orsato (Italy)	[show]
Friendly	12 September 2023 14:20 CEST (UTC+02:00)	Japan  4–2  Turkey A. Ito  15' Report (ht Kabak  44' Nakamura  28', 36' https://int.soccerway.com/matches/2023/09/12/world友/japan/turkey/4102103/ 4/)	Genk, Belgium Stadium: Cegeka Arena Attendance: 7,202 ^[84] Referee: Allard Lindhout (Netherlands)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	12 October 2023 20:45 CEST (UTC+02:00)	Croatia  0–1  Turkey Report (ht Yılmaz  30' https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203643/ 4/)	Osijek, Croatia Stadium: Opus Arena Attendance: 12,812 ^[85] Referee: Anthony Taylor (England)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	15 October 2023 21:45 TRT (UTC+03:00)	Turkey  4–0  Latvia Akgün  58' Report (ht Tosun  83', 90+2' https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203645/ 7/)	Konya, Turkey Stadium: Konya Metropolitan Municipality Stadium Attendance: 35,925 ^[86] Referee: Enea Jorgji (Albania)	[show]

Friendly	18 November 2023 20:45 CET (UTC+01:00)	Germany 🇩🇪 2–3 Turkey 🇹🇷	Havertz 5' Report (ht Kadıoğlu 38' Füllkrug 48' tps://ww w.dfb.de/ die-mann schaft/spi ele-termin e/?spiele db_path =%2Fmat ches%2F 2366665)	Berlin, Germany Stadium: Olympiastadion Attendance: 72,592 ^[87] Referee: Bartosz Frankowski (Poland)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	21 November 2023 19:45 GMT (UTC+00:00)	Wales 🏴 1–1 Turkey 🇹🇷	N. Williams 7' Report (ht Yazıcı 70' (pen.) tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203650 4/)	Cardiff, Wales Stadium: Cardiff City Stadium Attendance: 32,291 ^[88] Referee: Matej Jug (Slovenia)	[show]
2024					
Friendly	21 March —:— CET (UTC+01:00)	Hungary 🇭🇺 v Turkey 🇹🇷		Budapest, Hungary Stadium: Puskas Arena	[show]
Friendly	26 March 21:45 CET (UTC+01:00)	Austria 🇦🇹 v Turkey 🇹🇷		Vienna, Austria Stadium: Ernst Happel Stadium	[show]
Friendly	4 June 20:45 CEST (UTC+02:00)	Italy 🇮🇹 v Turkey 🇹🇷		Bologna, Italy Stadium: Stadio Renato Dall'Ara	[show]
Friendly	8 June	Turkey 🇹🇷 v Malta 🇲🇹		Turkey Stadium: TBD	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group F	18 June 18:00 CEST (UTC+02:00)	Turkey 🇹🇷 v TBD	Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036171/)	Dortmund, Germany Stadium: Westfalenstadion	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group F	22 June 18:00 CEST (UTC+02:00)	Turkey 🇹🇷 v Portugal 🇵🇹	Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036183/)	Dortmund, Germany Stadium: Westfalenstadion	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group F	26 June 21:00 CEST (UTC+02:00)	Czech Republic 🇨🇿 v Turkey 🇹🇷	Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036195/)	Hamburg, Germany Stadium: Volksparkstadion	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	6 September 18:45 UTC±0	Wales 🏴 v Turkey 🇹🇷		Wales	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	9 September 21:45 UTC+3	Turkey 🇹🇷 v Iceland 🇮🇸		Turkey	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	11 October	Turkey 🇹🇷 v Montenegro 🇲🇪		Turkey	[show]

21:45 UTC+3

2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	14 October	Iceland  v  Turkey	Iceland	[show]
	18:45 UTC±0			
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	16 November	Turkey  v  Wales	Turkey	[show]

20:00 UTC+3

2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	19 November	Montenegro  v  Turkey	Montenegro	[show]
	20:45 UTC+1			

Coaching staff

As of 21 September 2023^[89]

Position	Name
Head coach	 Vincenzo Montella
Assistant coaches ^[90]	 Daniele Russo
	 Selçuk Şahin
Goalkeeping coaches	 Ozan Özerkan
	 Emrah Karakovan
Fitness coach	 Pierpaolo Polino
	 Ömür Serdal Altunsöz
	 Vural Durmuş
Match analyst	 Massimo Crivellaro
	 Okan Aydiner
Team manager ^[c]	 Hamit Altıntop

Players

Current squad

The following players were called up for the friendly match against Germany on 18 November 2023 and UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying match Wales on 21 November 2023.^[92]

Caps and goals are correct as of 21 November 2023, after the match against  Wales.

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Mert Günok	1 March 1989	27	0	Beşiktaş
12	GK	Altay Bayındır	14 April 1998	8	0	Manchester United
23	GK	Uğurcan Çakır	5 April 1996	26	0	Trabzonspor
	GK	Ertaç Özbir	25 October 1989	0	0	Adana Demirspor
2	DF	Zeki Çelik	17 February 1997	42	2	Roma
3	DF	Samet Akaydin	13 March 1994	4	0	Panathinaikos
4	DF	Çağlar Söyüncü	23 May 1996	55	2	Fenerbahçe
13	DF	Eren Elmali	7 July 2000	10	0	Trabzonspor
14	DF	Abdülkerim Bardakçı	7 September 1994	6	1	Galatasaray
15	DF	Ozan Kabak	25 March 2000	24	2	1899 Hoffenheim
20	DF	Ferdi Kadıoğlu	7 October 1999	15	1	Fenerbahçe
21	DF	Cenk Özkar	6 October 2000	7	0	Valencia
22	DF	Kaan Ayhan	10 November 1994	55	5	Galatasaray
	DF	Rıdvan Yılmaz	21 May 2001	6	0	Rangers
5	MF	Salih Özcan	11 January 1998	16	0	Borussia Dortmund
6	MF	Berat Özdemir	23 May 1998	3	0	Trabzonspor
10	MF	Abdulkadir Ömür	25 June 1999	12	0	Trabzonspor
16	MF	İsmail Yüksek	26 January 1999	12	1	Fenerbahçe
18	MF	Berkan Kutlu	25 January 1998	8	0	Galatasaray
	MF	Emre Akbaba	4 October 1992	6	3	Adana Demirspor

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
7	FW	<u>Kerem Aktürkoğlu</u>	21 October 1998	26	5	 Galatasaray
8	FW	<u>İrfan Kahveci</u>	15 July 1995	30	2	 Fenerbahçe
9	FW	<u>Başak Alper Yılmaz</u>	23 May 2000	11	1	 Galatasaray
11	FW	<u>Yusuf Yazıcı</u>	29 January 1997	41	3	 Lille
17	FW	<u>Yusuf Sarı</u>	20 November 1998	4	1	 Adana Demirspor
19	FW	<u>Kenan Yıldız</u>	4 May 2005	3	1	 Juventus
	FW	<u>Bertuğ Yıldırım</u>	12 January 2002	3	2	 Rennes

Recent call-ups

The following players have been called up for the team within the last twelve months.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Doğan Alemdar	29 October 2002	2	0	Troyes	v. Latvia, 15 October 2023
GK	Muhammed Şengezer	5 January 1997	0	0	İstanbul Başakşehir	v. Wales, 19 June 2023
DF	Merih Demiral	5 March 1998	41	2	Al-Ahli	v. Latvia, 15 October 2023
DF	Rayyan Baniya	18 February 1999	0	0	Trabzonspor	v. Latvia, 15 October 2023
DF	Mert Müldür	3 April 1999	19	1	Fenerbahçe	v. Japan, 12 September 2023
DF	Onur Bulut	16 April 1994	3	0	Beşiktaş	v. Japan, 12 September 2023
DF	Kazımcan Karataş	16 January 2003	0	0	Galatasaray	v. Japan, 12 September 2023
DF	Tayyip Talha Sanuç	17 December 1999	1	0	Beşiktaş	v. Croatia, 28 March 2023
MF	Hakan Çalhanoglu ^{INJ} (captain)	8 February 1994	82	17	Inter Milan	v. Germany, 18 November 2023
MF	Orkun Kökçü	29 December 2000	24	2	Benfica	v. Latvia, 15 October 2023
MF	Salih Uçan	6 January 1994	2	0	Beşiktaş	v. Japan, 12 September 2023
MF	Arda Güler	25 February 2005	4	1	Real Madrid	v. Wales, 19 June 2023 ^{INJ}
MF	Mehmet-Can Aydın	9 February 2002	0	0	Trabzonspor	v. Croatia, 28 March 2023
FW	Cengiz Ünder ^{INJ}	14 July 1997	51	16	Fenerbahçe	v. Germany, 18 November 2023
FW	Cenk Tosun	7 June 1991	50	20	Beşiktaş	v. Latvia, 15 October 2023
FW	Yunus Akgün	7 July 2000	7	2	Leicester City	v. Latvia, 15 October 2023
FW	Halil Dervişoğlu	8 December 1999	16	6	Galatasaray	v. Japan, 12 September 2023
FW	Umut Nayir	28 June 1993	4	1	Fenerbahçe	v. Armenia, 8 September 2023 ^{INJ}
FW	Kenan Karaman	5 March 1994	31	6	Schalke 04	v. Wales, 19 June 2023
FW	Umut Bozok	19 September 1996	1	0	Trabzonspor	v. Latvia, 16 June 2023
FW	Enes Ünal	10 May 1997	32	3	Getafe	v. Croatia, 28 March 2023 ^{INJ}

Notes

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
▪ PRE	Preliminary squad/standby.					
▪ INJ	Not part of the current squad due to injury.					
▪ SUS	Player is suspended.					
▪ RET	Retired from international football.					

Player records

As of 15 October 2023^[93]

Players in **bold** are still active with Turkey.

Most appearances

Rank	Name	Caps	Goals	Career
1	Rüştü Reçber	120	0	1994–2012
2	Hakan Şükür	112	51	1992–2007
3	Bülent Korkmaz	102	2	1990–2005
4	Emre Belözoğlu	101	9	2000–2019
5	Arda Turan	100	17	2006–2017
6	Tugay Kerimoğlu	94	2	1990–2007
7	Alpay Özalan	90	4	1995–2005
8	Hamit Altıntop	82	7	2004–2014
	Hakan Çalhanoglu	82	17	2013–present
10	Mehmet Topal	81	2	2008–2018



Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	Hakan Şükür	51	112	0.46	1992–2007
2	Burak Yılmaz	31	77	0.4	2006–2022
3	Tuncay Şanlı	22	80	0.28	2002–2010
4	Lefter Küçükandonyadis	21	46	0.46	1948–1963
5	Cenk Tosun	20	50	0.4	2013–present
	Metin Oktay	19	36	0.53	1956–1968
6	Cemil Turan	19	44	0.43	1969–1979
	Nihat Kahveci	19	68	0.28	2000–2011
9	Hakan Çalhanoglu	17	82	0.21	2013–present
	Arda Turan	17	100	0.17	2006–2017

Rüştü Reçber is Turkey's most capped player with 120 caps and Turkey's record holder in clean sheets.

Most clean sheets

As of 21 November 2023^[94]

Players in **bold** are still available to play in Turkey national team.

Rank	Player	Clean sheets	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	Rüştü Reçber	58	120	0.48	1994–2012
2	Volkan Demirel	22	63	0.35	2004–2014
3	Turgay Şeren	16	46	0.35	1950–1966
4	Volkan Babacan	15	35	0.43	2014–present
5	Mert Günok	13	27	0.48	2011–present
6	Ömer Çatkıç	10	19	0.53	2000–2005
	Engin İpekoğlu	10	32	0.31	1989–1999
8	Uğurcan Çakır	9	26	0.35	2019–present
9	Sabri Dino	7	12	0.58	1969–1975
	Sinan Bolat	7	12	0.58	2009–present



Hakan Şükür is Turkey's all-time record goalscorer with 51 goals.

Centuriate goals

As of 29 September 2020:^[95]^[96]



Selçuk İnan scored Turkey's 700th overall goal in November 2015

Rank	Date	Scorer	Opponent	Score
1st	26 October 1923	Zeki Rıza Sporel	Romania	2–2
100th	23 June 1954	Mustafa Ertan	West Germany	2–7
200th	14 February 1973	Osman Arpacıoğlu	Algeria	4–0
300th	27 February 1991	Uğur Tütüneker	Yugoslavia	1–1
400th	27 March 1999	Sergen Yalçın	Moldova	2–0
500th	9 October 2004	Fatih Tekke	Kazakhstan	4–0
600th	5 September 2009	Arda Turan	Estonia	4–2
700th	3 September 2015	Selçuk İnan	Latvia	1–1
800th	13 November 2021	Kerem Aktürkoğlu	Gibraltar	6–0

Competitive record

FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record										Qualification record						
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1930	Did not enter										Did not enter					
1934	Withdrew										Withdrew					
1938	Did not enter										Did not enter					
1950	Qualified but withdrew										1	1	0	0	7	0
1954	Group stage	9th	3	1	0	2	10	11	Squad	3	1	1	1	4	6	
1958	Withdrew										Withdrew					
1962											4	2	0	2	4	4
1966											6	1	0	5	4	19
1970											4	0	0	4	2	13
1974											6	2	2	2	5	3
1978											6	2	1	3	9	5
1982	Did not qualify										8	0	0	8	1	22
1986											8	0	1	7	2	24
1990											8	3	1	4	12	10
1994											10	3	1	6	11	19
1998											8	4	2	2	21	9
2002	Third place	3rd	7	4	1	2	10	6	Squad	12	8	3	1	24	8	
2006											14	7	5	2	27	13
2010											10	4	3	3	13	10
2014	Did not qualify										10	5	1	4	16	9
2018											10	4	3	3	14	13
2022											11	6	3	2	28	19

			2026
			2030
			2034

To be determined

To be determined

Total	Third place	2/25	10	5	1	4	20	17	—	139	53	27	59	204	206
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Turkey's FIFA World Cup history						[show]
Year	Round	Score	Result	Date	Venue	
1954	Group 2	🇹🇷 Turkey 1–4 🇩🇪 West Germany	Loss	17 June 1954	Bern, Switzerland	
		🇹🇷 Turkey 7–0 🇰🇷 South Korea	Win	20 June 1954	Geneva, Switzerland	
		🇹🇷 Turkey 2–7 🇩🇪 West Germany	Loss	23 June 1954	Zürich, Switzerland	
2002	Group C	🇹🇷 Turkey 1–2 🇧🇷 Brazil	Loss	3 June 2002	Ulsan, South Korea	
		🇹🇷 Turkey 1–1 🇺🇷 Costa Rica	Draw	9 June 2002	Incheon, South Korea	
		🇹🇷 Turkey 3–0 🇨🇳 China	Win	13 June 2002	Seoul, South Korea	
	Round of 16	🇹🇷 Turkey 1–0 🇯🇵 Japan	Win	18 June 2002	Rifu, Japan	
	Quarter-final	🇹🇷 Turkey 1–0 🇸🇳 Senegal	Win	22 June 2002	Osaka, Japan	
	Semi-final	🇹🇷 Turkey 0–1 🇧🇷 Brazil	Loss	26 June 2002	Saitama, Japan	
	Third place play-off	🇹🇷 Turkey 3–2 🇰🇷 South Korea	Win	29 June 2002	Daegu, South Korea	

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record										Qualification record						
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1960										2	1	0	1	2	3	
1964										2	0	0	2	0	7	
1968										6	1	2	3	3	8	
1972										6	2	1	3	5	13	
1976										6	2	2	2	5	10	
1980										6	3	1	2	5	5	
1984										8	3	1	4	8	16	
1988										6	0	2	4	2	16	
1992										6	0	0	6	1	14	
1996	Group stage	16th		3	0	0	3	0	5	Squad	8	4	3	1	16	8
2000	Quarter-finals	6th		4	1	1	2	3	4	Squad	10	5	4	1	16	7
2004											10	6	2	2	19	8
2008	Semi-finals	3rd		5	2	1	2	8	9	Squad	12	7	3	2	25	11
2012											12	5	3	4	13	14
2016											10	5	3	2	14	9
2020											10	7	2	1	18	3
2024											8	5	2	1	14	7
2028															To be determined	
2032															To be determined	
2036															To be determined	

Total	Third place	6/20	18	4	2	12	14	30		128	56	31	41	166	159
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Turkey's UEFA European Championship history

[show]

Year	Round	Score	Result	Date	Venue
1996	Group D	🇹🇷 Turkey 0–1 🇭🇷 Croatia	Loss	11 June 1996	Nottingham, England
		🇹🇷 Turkey 0–1 🇵🇹 Portugal	Loss	14 June 1996	Nottingham, England
		🇹🇷 Turkey 0–3 🇩🇰 Denmark	Loss	19 June 1996	Sheffield, England
2000	Group B	🇹🇷 Turkey 1–2 🇮🇹 Italy	Loss	11 June 2000	Arnhem, Netherlands
		🇹🇷 Turkey 0–0 🇸🇪 Sweden	Draw	15 June 2000	Eindhoven, Netherlands
		🇹🇷 Turkey 2–0 🇧🇪 Belgium	Win	19 June 2000	Brussels, Belgium
	Quarter-final	🇹🇷 Turkey 0–2 🇵🇹 Portugal	Loss	24 June 2000	Amsterdam, Netherlands
2008	Group A	🇹🇷 Turkey 0–2 🇵🇹 Portugal	Loss	7 June 2008	Geneva, Switzerland
		🇹🇷 Turkey 2–1 🇨🇭 Switzerland	Win	11 June 2008	Basel, Switzerland
		🇹🇷 Turkey 3–2 🇨🇿 Czech Republic	Win	15 June 2008	Geneva, Switzerland
	Quarter-final	🇹🇷 Turkey 1–1 (pen. 3–1) 🇭🇷 Croatia	Draw	20 June 2008	Wien, Austria
	Semi-final	🇹🇷 Turkey 2–3 🇩🇪 Germany	Loss	25 June 2008	Basel, Switzerland
2016	Group D	🇹🇷 Turkey 0–1 🇭🇷 Croatia	Loss	12 June 2016	Paris, France
		🇹🇷 Turkey 0–3 🇪🇸 Spain	Loss	17 June 2016	Nice, France
		🇹🇷 Turkey 2–0 🇨🇿 Czech Republic	Win	21 June 2016	Lens, France
2020	Group A	🇹🇷 Turkey 0–3 🇮🇹 Italy	Loss	11 June 2021	Rome, Italy
		🇹🇷 Turkey 0–2 🏴 Wales	Loss	16 June 2021	Baku, Azerbaijan
		🇹🇷 Turkey 1–3 🇨🇭 Switzerland	Loss	20 June 2021	Baku, Azerbaijan

UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record

Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK
2018–19	B	2	4	1	0	3	4	7	=	22nd
2020–21	B	3	6	1	3	2	6	8	▼	29th
2022–23	C	1	6	4	1	1	18	5	▲	35th
2024–25	B	<i>To be determined</i>								
Total			16	6	4	6	28	20	22nd	

FIFA Confederations Cup

FIFA Confederations Cup record

Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad
 1992									<i>Did not qualify</i>

 1995									
 1997									
 1999									
 ● 2001									
  2003	Third place	3rd	5	2	1	2	8	8	Squad
 2005									
 2009									<i>Did not qualify</i>
 2013									
 2017									
Total	Third place	1/10	5	2	1	2	8	8	—

Olympic Games

1968–1988 see [Turkey national amateur football team](#). Football at the Summer Olympics has been an under-23 tournament since 1992.



Turkey at the [1924 Summer Olympics](#) in Paris.



Turkey at the [1928 Summer Olympics](#) in Amsterdam.

Olympic Games record

Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad
1924	Round 1	13th	1	0	0	1	2	5	Squad
1928		14th	1	0	0	1	1	7	Squad
1936		15th	1	0	0	1	0	1	Squad
1948	Quarter-finals	6th	2	1	0	1	5	3	Squad
1952		8th	2	1	0	1	3	8	Squad
1956	<i>Withdrew</i>								
1960	Round 1	14th	3	0	1	2	3	10	Squad
1964									
1968									
1972	<i>Did not qualify</i>								
1976									
1980									
1984	<i>Withdrew</i>								
1988	<i>Did not qualify</i>								
Since 1992	See Turkey national under-23 football team								
Total	Quarter-finals	6/14	10	2	1	7	14	34	—

Mediterranean Games

Mediterranean Games record

Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1951	<i>Did not participate</i>							
1955								
1959		Runners-up	2nd	2	1	1	0	7
1963	Runners-up	2nd	5	3	1	1	12	7
1967	Fourth place	4th	5	2	1	2	5	7
1971	Third place	3rd	4	3	1	0	4	1
1975	Group stage	7th	4	0	2	2	1	5
1979	Group stage	5th	3	1	1	1	2	2
1983	Runners-up	2nd	4	2	0	2	4	5
1987	Third place	3rd	5	3	0	2	6	2
1991–present	See Turkey national under-20 football team							
Total	Runners-up	8/10	32	15	7	10	41	33

Mediterranean Cup

Mediterranean Cup record

Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1949	Runners-up	2nd	3	2	0	1	7	6
1950–53	Fourth place	4th	3	6	1	1	4	4
1953–58	Fourth place	4th	8	2	3	3	7	7
Total	Runners-up	3/3	14	10	4	5	18	17

Balkan Cup

Balkan Cup record									
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1929–31	Did not participate								
1931	Runners-up	2nd	2	1	0	1	3	5	
1932									
1933									
1934–35									
1935	Did not participate								
1936									
1946									
1947									
1948									
1973–76	Semi-finals	4th	2	1	0	1	6	7	
1977–80	Group stage	3rd	4	1	1	2	4	8	
Total	Runners-up	3/12	8	3	1	4	13	20	

ECO Cup

ECO Cup record									
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1965	Runners-up	2nd	2	1	1	0	3	1	
1967	Champions	1st	4	2	2	0	8	4	
1969	Champions	1st	4	2	2	0	8	2	
1970	Runners-up	2nd	3	2	1	0	4	2	
1974	Champions	1st	3	2	1	0	3	2	
1993	Did not participate								
Total	3 titles	5/6	16	9	7	0	26	11	

Head-to-head record

The following table shows Turkey's all-time international record, as of 21 November 2023.

Positive Record Neutral Record Negative Record

Opponents	[show]	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
	Albania	12	6	2	4	13	14
	Algeria	3	1	0	2	4	2
	Andorra	4	4	0	0	10	0
	Angola	1	1	0	0	3	2
	Armenia	4	3	1	0	7	2
	Australia	2	2	0	0	4	1
	Austria	16	7	1	8	22	18
	Azerbaijan	8	6	1	1	11	3
	Belarus	4	2	1	1	8	7
	Belgium	11	3	5	3	17	18
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	2	2	2	6	7
	Brazil	6	0	2	4	3	10
	Bulgaria	23	7	6	10	36	43
	Cameroon	1	0	0	1	0	1
	Canada	2	2	0	0	6	1
	Chile	3	2	1	0	3	0
	China	2	2	0	0	7	0
	Colombia	1	1	0	0	2	1
	Costa Rica	1	0	1	0	1	1
	Croatia	12	2	6	4	11	15
[note 1]	Czech Republic	20	6	3	12	18	44
	Denmark	10	2	5	3	9	12
	East Germany	5	3	1	1	10	5
	Ecuador	1	0	0	1	0	1
	Egypt	6	4	0	2	13	10
	England	11	0	2	9	1	33
	Estonia	8	5	3	0	17	4
	Ethiopia	2	1	1	0	3	0
	Faroe Islands	3	1	1	1	6	3
	Finland	15	5	4	6	24	22
	France	6	1	1	4	5	13
	Georgia	5	3	1	1	12	5
[note 2]	Germany	22	4	4	14	16	52
	Ghana	2	0	2	0	3	3
	Gibraltar	2	2	0	0	9	0
	Greece	14	9	2	3	22	11
	Guinea	1	0	1	0	0	0

Opponents	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
Honduras	3	3	0	0	5	0
Hungary	14	4	2	8	17	31
Iceland	13	2	3	8	11	23
Iran	7	5	2	0	14	2
Iraq	3	2	1	0	8	1
Israel	6	4	0	2	9	12
Italy	15	0	4	11	10	29
Ivory Coast	1	0	1	0	1	1
Japan	2	1	0	2	3	5
Kazakhstan	6	6	0	0	19	2
Kosovo	2	2	0	0	6	1
Latvia	10	4	5	1	22	15
Libya	2	0	1	1	2	3
Liechtenstein	2	2	0	0	9	0
Lithuania	2	2	0	0	8	0
Luxembourg	9	7	1	1	18	9
Malaysia	1	1	0	0	3	0
Malta	6	5	1	0	15	4
Moldova	13	11	2	0	35	3
Montenegro	4	2	2	0	7	5
Netherlands	14	4	4	6	14	21
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	2	1
North Macedonia	8	5	2	1	14	9
Northern Ireland	12	5	2	5	12	12
Norway	11	5	3	3	15	16
Pakistan	5	4	1	0	20	10
Paraguay	1	0	1	0	0	0
Poland	17	3	3	11	12	39
Portugal	9	2	0	7	9	19
Qatar	1	1	0	0	2	1
Republic of Ireland	14	3	6	5	16	27
Romania	26	5	7	14	24	49
Russia ^[note 3]	23	4	3	16	14	40
San Marino	4	3	1	0	16	1
Saudi Arabia	3	3	0	0	6	1
Scotland	2	2	0	0	4	2
Senegal	1	1	0	0	1	0

Opponents	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
Slovakia	6	4	1	1	8	3
Slovenia	2	1	0	1	1	2
South Africa	1	0	0	1	0	2
South Korea	7	4	2	1	13	4
Spain	11	1	4	6	5	17
Serbia ^[note 4]	12	1	5	6	16	28
Sweden	12	5	4	3	15	14
Switzerland	16	8	3	5	22	23
Syria	1	1	0	0	7	0
Tunisia	5	1	4	0	6	3
Ukraine	9	4	3	2	11	9
United States	4	1	1	2	5	6
Uruguay	1	0	0	1	2	3
Uzbekistan	1	1	0	0	2	0
Wales	10	4	2	4	11	12
Total (91)	622	242	146	232	857	882

1. Includes the results of Czechoslovakia.

2. Includes the results of West Germany.

3. Includes the results of Soviet Union.

4. Includes the results of Yugoslavia.

Honours

- **FIFA World Cup**

- Third place (1): 2002

- **FIFA Confederations Cup**

- Third place (1): 2003

- **UEFA European Championship**

- Semi-finals/Third place (1): 2008

Decoration

In 2002, the national team was honored with the Turkish "State Medal of Distinguished Service" for their third place achievement at the 2002 FIFA World Cup. All the team members, coaches and officials were given medals.^[97]

See also

- Turkey national under-21 football team
- Turkey national under-20 football team

- Turkey national under-19 football team
- Turkey national under-17 football team
- Turkey national youth football team

References

Notes

- a. Since the Republic was not formally declared by the time of the event, the game was played between Romania and TFF. The city also was not consistently known as Istanbul in the English-speaking world until 1930
- b. Turkey withdrew due to financial reasons.^{[8][9]}
- c. The official title held by Altintop is "Executive Board Member, about National Team, "Hope" U-21 National Teams and Junior National Teams Manager."^[91]

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External links

- [Official website](http://www.tff.org/) (<http://www.tff.org/>) (in Turkish and English)
- [Turkey](https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/TUR) (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/TUR>) at [FIFA](#)
- [Turkey](https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/TUR/) (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/TUR/>) at [UEFA](#)

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