

Croatia national football team



The **Croatia national football team** (Croatian: *Hrvatska nogometna reprezentacija*) represents Croatia in international football matches. It is governed by the Croatian Football Federation (HNS), the governing body for football in Croatia. It is a member of UEFA in Europe and FIFA in global competitions. The team's colours reference two national symbols: the Croatian checkerboard and the country's tricolour. They are colloquially referred to as the *Vatreni* (Blazers) and *Kockasti* (Checkered Ones).

Since 1994, the *Vatreni* have qualified for every major tournament with the exception of Euro 2000 and the 2010 World Cup. At the FIFA World Cup, Croatia has finished second once (2018) and third on two occasions (1998, 2022), securing three World Cup medals. Davor Šuker won the Golden Shoe and the Silver Ball in 1998, while Luka Modrić won the Golden Ball in 2018 and the Bronze Ball in 2022. The team has reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA European Championship twice (1996, 2008) and finished second in the UEFA Nations League in 2023. In June 2023, Croatia recorded its highest-ever Elo Ratings of 2,012 points.

Upon its admission into FIFA in 1994 ranked 125th, they ascended to third place with their debut 1998 World Cup campaign. This marked the fastest, most volatile ascension in FIFA ranking history, making them the youngest team to ever occupy the Top 10 of the World Ranking. It is the second-smallest country by population (after Uruguay) and land mass (after the Netherlands) to reach a World Cup final. At the World Cup, Croatia hold records for most penalty shoot-out played (4) and won (4) and most penalties saved in a shoot-out (3), among other team records. They were named FIFA Best Mover of the Year twice (1994, 1998), equalling joint records with France and Colombia.

History

Official formation

The early history of Croatian football was delineated by a variety of unofficial sides as Croatia was not an independent entity until the late 20th century.^{[3][4]} Hugo Kinert first managed an unofficial side that played some international matches in 1918–19.^[5] In 1940, Jozo Jakopić led an unofficial national side representing the Yugoslav Banovina of Croatia in four friendly matches against Switzerland and Hungary.^[6] Following the 1941 Axis invasion of Yugoslavia, Germany and Italy took control of Croatia, forming the Independent State of Croatia and installing Rudolf Hitrec as an unofficial manager for two years.^[7] The side played 15 friendly matches from its re-activation in FIFA in 1941 until the end of World War II.^{[8][9]} In 1945, Croatia returned to Yugoslavia as the People's Republic of Croatia with sides active until 1956.^{[8][6]} State authorities organised the Yugoslav Football Tournament in September 1945 to commemorate the end of World War II, where Croatia finished third behind the Yugoslav People's Army and Serbia.^[10] Croatia's only game as a constituent republic was a 5–2 win against Indonesia in 1956.^[5] During the nation's pre-independence, Croat footballers played for Yugoslavia at the 1956 Summer Olympics,^[11] the FIFA World Cup,^[12] and the UEFA European Championship until 1990.^{[13][14]}

Croatia had made its unofficial international debut during modern times against the United States on 17 October 1990, winning 2–1, where they introduced the modern checkered jersey.^{[15][16]} Caretaker manager Dražan Jerković, led the *de facto* national side before their formal re-admission into FIFA on 3 July 1992,^[17] winning two more friendly games against Romania in December 1990 and Slovenia in June 1991.^{[18][19]} Stanko Poklepović took over management of the team and led them on an exhibition tour against Australia, before he was succeeded by Vlatko Marković in April 1993.^[20] Croatia gained admission into UEFA in June

Croatia	
	Nickname(s)
Vatreni (Blazers) Kockasti (Checkered Ones)	Association
Croatian Football Federation (HNS)	Confederation
UEFA (Europe)	Head coach
Zlatko Dalić	Captain
Luka Modrić	Most caps
Luka Modrić (172)	Top scorer
Davor Šuker (45)	FIFA code
CRO	
	First colours
	Second colours
	FIFA ranking
Current	10 — (15 February 2024) ^[1]
Highest	2 (July 2018)
Lowest	125 (March 1994)
	First international
Croatia 4–0 Switzerland	(Zagreb, Yugoslavia; 2 April 1940) as FIFA member
Slovakia 1–1 Croatia	(Bratislava, Slovakia; 8 September 1941)

1993, three months after qualification for the 1994 World Cup started, missing their window to enter the competition.^[21] After winning a match against Ukraine in June 1993, Marković was succeeded by Miroslav Blažević in March 1994.^[22]

as modern Croatia

Croatia 2–1 United States
(Zagreb, Yugoslavia; 17 October 1990)

as FIFA member
Australia 1–0 Croatia
(Melbourne, Australia; 5 July 1992)

Biggest win

Croatia 10–0 San Marino
(Rijeka, Croatia; 4 June 2016)

Biggest defeat

Spain 6–0 Croatia
(Elche, Spain; 11 September 2018)

World Cup

Appearances 6 (first in 1998)

Best result Runners-up (2018)

European Championship

Appearances 7 (first in 1996)

Best result Quarter-finals
(1996, 2008)

Nations League Finals

Appearances 1 (first in 2023)

Best result Runners-up (2023)

Medal record [show]

Men's football

FIFA World Cup

	2018 Russia	Team
	1998 France	Team
	2022 Qatar	Team

UEFA Nations League

	2023 Netherlands	Team
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Website	www.hns-cff.hr (htt p://www.hns-cff.hr)
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Squad at 1998 World Cup
Coach: Miroslav Blažević

Blažević period (1994–1999)

After its secession from Yugoslavia, the newly formed Croatia entered the FIFA World Rankings in 125th place in March 1994.^{[23][24]} Blažević launched Croatia's qualifying campaign for Euro 1996 with a 2–0 win over Estonia on 4 September 1994 and a 1–0 away loss to Ukraine on 1 June 1995, their first competitive win and loss.^[6] After finishing first in qualifying, the team halved their spot in the World Ranking, ascending to rank 62, winning FIFA's 1994 Best Mover of the Year in December 1994.^{[25][26]} In the group stage of Euro 1996, Goran Vlaović scored the team's first goal at a tournament, a late strike to win 1–0 against Turkey.^[27] Croatia then beat reigning champions Denmark 3–0,^[28] later losing to Portugal by the same scoreline.^[29] The team advanced to the knockout stage and were beaten in the quarter-finals 1–2 by Germany.^[30] Croatia's qualifying campaign from 1998 to 1999 for Euro 2000 was unsuccessful as they finished third in their group behind FR Yugoslavia and the Republic of Ireland.^[31] Both fixtures against FR Yugoslavia ended in draws which prevented Croatia from qualifying by one point.^[32]

Croatia began their qualification campaign for the 1998 World Cup with an aggregate victory against Ukraine in the two-legged playoff. In the group stage, Croatia beat both Jamaica and Japan, later losing to Argentina to advance with them to the knockout stage. A 1–0 victory over Romania moved the Croatians to the quarter-finals against Germany.^[33] Croatia beat the Germans 3–0 with goals from Robert Jarni, Goran Vlaović and Davor Šuker, all after Christian Wörns had been sent off.^[34] They advanced to their first semi-finals against the hosts France. After a goalless first-half, Croatia led after Aljoša Asanović pushed past Zinedine Zidane to cross a ball downfield to Šuker who scored after a one-on-one with goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.^[35] France's defender Lilian Thuram equalized quickly after, and scored another goal later in the game to beat Croatia 2–1. In the third place playoff, Croatia prevailed against the Netherlands 2–1 to secure bronze and claim their first World Cup medal.^[21] Šuker won the Golden Shoe for scoring the most goals in the World Cup: six goals in seven games.^[36] The Croatians' performance during the late-1990s propelled them to rank third place in the FIFA World Ranking in January 1999.^{[24][13]} The team of the 1990s was dubbed the "golden generation"^[a] for their contributions to Croatia's ascension in international football.^{[37][38]}

Jozić, Barić and Kranjčar period (2000–2006)

Croatia started their qualifying campaign for the 2002 World Cup with draws against Belgium and Scotland prompting Blažević's resignation as head coach in October 2000.^[39] His successor, Mirko Jozić, pushed the team through the rest of qualifiers undefeated. In the group stage, Croatia narrowly lost to Mexico before beating Italy 2–1 and sustaining a 1–0 loss to Ecuador.^{[40][41]} The team was eliminated by one point,^[42] leading to the resignation of Jozić and succession of Otto Barić in July 2002, their first manager born outside of Southeastern Europe.^{[43][44]} During Barić's tenure, most of the remaining players from the "golden generation" squad were gradually replaced by younger players over the course of qualifying for Euro 2004. Croatia qualified in a playoff victory against Slovenia, winning 2–1 on aggregate after Dado Pršo's decisive late goal in the second leg.^[45] The team was eliminated at the group stage after drawing 0–0 with Switzerland and 2–2 with France, and losing 2–4 to England.^{[46][47]} Barić departed after his two-year contract expired in June 2004.^[48]

Prior to launching the team's qualification for the 2006 World Cup, Zlatko Kranjčar succeeded Barić in July 2004.^[49] Croatia qualified undefeated, topping the group ahead of Sweden and Bulgaria.^{[50][51]} Kranjčar selected his son, Niko, for the national squad, leading local media outlets to accuse him of nepotism.^[52] In the group stage, Croatia lost their opening game to

Brazil and drew 0–0 with Japan after Darijo Srna missed a first-half penalty.^{[53][54]} A 2–2 draw with Australia in which three players were sent off confirmed Croatia's elimination.^[55] The game included a mistake by referee Graham Poll who gave three yellow cards^[b] to Croatian defender Josip Šimunić, mistaking him for an Australian player due to his Australian accent.^[56]



Fans during Euro 2004 in Portugal

Bilić period (2006–2012)



Croatia vs. Brazil at the 2006 World Cup

In July 2006, prior to Euro 2008, Kranjčar was replaced with Slaven Bilić, who introduced newer, younger players to the squad and finished qualifying undefeated.^{[57][58]} His first game was a 2–0 victory against reigning world champions Italy during an international friendly.^{[59][60]} Croatia lost once to Macedonia and beat England twice, who as a result failed to qualify for the first time since 1984.^{[61][62]} Eduardo da Silva, the team's top goalscorer during qualifying, sustained an injury while playing for his club, Arsenal, leading to a shake-up in the finals squad with less experienced players.^{[63][64]} Croatia finished group stage undefeated with a 1–0 win over co-hosts Austria, 2–1 win over Germany, and 1–0 win over Poland.^[65] The team collected the maximum group stage points possible (9) for the first time in their Euros history.^{[66][67][68]} Niko Kovač and Dario Šimić held captaincy during the group and knockout stages, respectively.^{[69][70]} Croatia pushed Turkey to a penalty shoot-out in the

quarter-finals in which the Turkish side prevailed in an upset win^[71] where Luka Modrić, Mladen Petrić and Ivan Rakitić all missed their penalties.^[72] Croatia set multiple Euro records: fewest goals conceded (2), fewest games lost (0),^[c] and earliest goal scored.^{[73][74][75]}

Bilić renewed his contract in April 2008,^[76] before the qualifying campaign for the 2010 World Cup. Croatia won 3–0 against Kazakhstan, before taking a 4–1 loss to England at Stadion Maksimir, their first home loss in 14 years.^{[77][78][79]} The team drew 0–0 with Ukraine and beat Andorra twice, drawing again with Ukraine and beating Belarus twice. In the final stretch of the qualifiers, England delivered Croatia's then-heaviest loss, a 5–1 scoreline, at Wembley Stadium.^[80] The team had a number of players' injuries during qualifying and were ultimately eliminated, on points, as Ukraine defeated both England and Andorra to advance in the group.^[81]

Croatia was a candidate to co-host Euro 2012 with Hungary which would have resulted in automatic qualification for both countries; UEFA ultimately selected Poland and Ukraine.^[82] The Croatians began their qualifying campaign for Euro 2012 with a 3–0 win over Latvia, a goalless draw with Greece, and a 2–1 win against Israel. In the qualifying playoff against Turkey, the team won 3–0 on aggregate.^[83] They were grouped with the Republic of Ireland, Italy and defending champions Spain, opening with a 3–1 victory over the Irish.^[84] Croatia drew the match with Italy 1–1 in an Adriatic Derby that was marred by disruptive fans and controversial refereeing from English official Howard Webb.^[85] The side was knocked out by Spain in a 0–1 loss, which, along with 1–1 rematch with Italy, had Croatia eliminated.^[85] Bilić announced his resignation plans before Euro 2012 and, upon his departure, *Jutarnji list* credited him with a "strong revival" of the national side during his six-years.^{[86][87]} During Bilić's tenure, from 2007 to 2012, the Croatians continuously ranked among the top ten teams in the world on the FIFA Ranking.^[88]

Štimac, Kovač and Čačić period (2012–2017)



Croatia vs. Brazil at 2014 World Cup

Succeeding Bilić, former player Igor Štimac was appointed manager while Davor Šuker assumed the presidency of the Croatian Football Federation in 2012 after the death of Vlatko Marković.^{[89][90]} A year in, Štimac was replaced by former captain Niko Kovač.^[91] Kovač led the team to a 2–0 aggregate victory over Iceland in the qualifying playoffs for the 2014 World Cup with both goals coming in the home leg in Zagreb.^[92] In the group stage, Croatia opened their campaign with a 3–1 loss to Brazil. The match garnered media attention for controversial refereeing from



Croatia vs. Portugal at Euro 2016

Yuichi Nishimura which was scrutinized for a number of decisions.^{[93][94]} In their second match, Croatia won 4–0 against Cameroon then lost 3–1 to Mexico, finishing third in the group and not advancing to the knockout stage.^{[95][96][97]}

During the qualifying campaign of Euro 2016, Croatia drew with Azerbaijan and lost to Norway,^[98] leading to Kovac's replacement with Ante Čačić.^{[99][100]} The team broke their record for most goals scored in a match with a friendly 10–0 win over San Marino in June 2016.^[101] They topped the group stage of that year's Euros, advancing with defending champions Spain.^{[102][103]} Croatia prevailed over Turkey 1–0 with a long-range volley goal from Luka Modrić,^[104] before drawing 2–2 draw against the Czech Republic.^[105] In the latter match, Croatia took the lead with goals from Ivan Perišić and Ivan Rakitić, while opposing Czech striker Milan Škoda and a last-minute penalty from Tomáš Necid drew the match.^[106] There was severe crowd trouble^[106] and on-field flares in the game's last minutes with a steward injured by a stray firework.^[107] Croatia then overtook Spain 2–1, confirming the Spaniards' first defeat at a Euro finals match since 2004.^{[108][109]} The Croatians were tipped as one of the tournament favourites^{[110][111]} as they entered the knockout stage with Portugal.^[112] The Portuguese prevailed 1–0 with Ricardo Quaresma's winning goal in the 117th minute after Perišić hit the post with a header in the previous attack.^[113] It was an "abysmal...turgid affair" between the two sides, according to BBC Sport.^[114] Following the campaign, Darijo Srna announced his retirement and the succession of Modrić as team captain in August 2016.^{[115][116]}

Dalić period (since 2017)



The 2017–18 squad posing with Vladimir Putin and Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović after the 2018 World Cup Final against France.



The team arrival in Zagreb after their 2018 World Cup campaign

Croatia qualified for the 2018 World Cup undefeated for their first five matches.^[117] Two defeats to Iceland and Turkey, as well as a draw against Finland, led to a public outcry that ousted manager Čačić.^[118] He was replaced by Zlatko Dalić, who formally qualified the team with a 2–0 win against Ukraine,^[119] and a 4–1 win with Greece, on aggregate, during a playoff round in the first leg in Zagreb.^{[120][121]} The 2017–18 squad was known as Croatia's second "golden generation",^{[122][123]} referencing their 1998 counterparts, during the side's World Cup campaign.^{[124][125][126]} They topped their group, with a 2–0 victory over Nigeria,^{[127][128]} 3–0 win over Argentina,^{[129][130][131]} and a 2–1 win with Iceland – their best-ever group stage performance.^{[132][133]}

During the knockout stage, they beat Denmark in a penalty shoot-out for the first time^{[134][135]} after goalkeeper Danijel Subašić saved three penalties, equalling the record for most penalties saved in a shoot-out.^[136] In the quarter-finals, Croatia drew 2–2 with hosts Russia, becoming the first team since 1990 to win two consecutive penalty shoot-outs.^{[137][138][139]} Playing England in the semi-finals, Croatia equalized to force their third consecutive extra time, matching the



Squad at 2018 World Cup
Coach: Zlatko Dalić

tournament record.^{[140][141]} Mario Mandžukić and Perišić scored as Croatia won 2–1 making them the second-smallest country by population (after Uruguay) and land mass (after the Netherlands) to reach a World Cup Final.^{[142][143]} In the 2018 World Cup Final they lost to France 4–2, finishing second-place and securing the silver medal.^[144] The match was controversial^[d] for its refereeing.^{[146][147]} Luka Modrić became the first Croatian to win the Golden Ball.^[148] The team was welcomed by an estimated half a million people^[e] at their homecoming in Zagreb.^[151] In August Croatia was ranked 4th in FIFA rankings and held that position until 4th of April 2019.^[152]

The first game Croatia played after the World Cup was a 1–1 draw against Portugal in a friendly match.^[153] It is the first time that Croatia managed to draw (and even score) against Portugal.

The team entered the Nations League's inaugural 2018–19 edition in League A, along with England and Spain in January 2018.^{[154][155]} Croatia lost 6–0 away to Spain in their first game, the side's record loss in a match.^[156] Croatia drew 0–0 home with England,^[157] played behind closed doors due to UEFA sanctions.^[158] The team then overtook Spain 3–2 with a goal in stoppage time, followed by a 2–1 away defeat to England.^[159] Croatia were set to be relegated to League B until a tournament rule change retained them in League A, grouping them with Portugal, France and Sweden in the 2020–21 tournament.^{[160][161][162]} Croatia lost to France and Portugal, but a single victory against Sweden was sufficient to avoid relegation to League B.^{[163][164][165]}

The team topped their group for the qualifying campaign of Euro 2020,^{[166][167][168]} with a loss to Hungary, and draws against Azerbaijan and Wales.^{[169][170]} The 2020 finals were delayed into 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe.^[171] Overall, winning only two out of eight games in 2020, Croatia achieved their worst-ever aggregate win-rate.^{[172][173]} Croatia finished second in their Euros group,^[174] with a 1–0 loss to England, a 1–1 tie with the Czech Republic and a 3–1 win over Scotland. They

advanced to the round of 16, where they lost to Spain 5–3 after extra time.^[175] The loss to Spain led to heightened criticism against Dalić and the team by the Croatian public,^{[176][177]} a faction of whom called for resignations.^{[178][179]} Dalić refreshed the team roster by introducing younger debutants for the remainder of World Cup qualifying in 2021.^{[180][181]}

Croatia qualified for the 2022 World Cup with one loss, two draws and seven wins.^{[182][183][184][185]} The team advanced from group stage after a 0–0 draw with Morocco, a 4–1 win with Canada, and finished ahead of Belgium by a single point after drawing 0–0.^{[186][187]} They won against Japan in a penalty shootout in the round of 16 where Dominik Livaković saved three of four Japanese penalties, equalling a record held by Ricardo and Danijel Subašić.^{[188][189]} Croatia similarly beat Brazil during the quarter-finals in an upset victory on penalties, having come from behind to draw 1–1 in the final minutes of extra time.^{[190][191]} In the semi-final match, Croatia sustained their heaviest World Cup defeat, 3–0 against Argentina.^[192] They prevailed 2–1 over Morocco in the third place playoff, securing their second bronze medal.^[193]

The team topped their group in the 2023 Nations League, knocking out reigning champions France by winning 1–0 on a penalty – their first-ever win against the French.^{[194][195]} Croatia beat the Netherlands 4–2 in the semi-finals, advancing to their first Nations League final, against Spain.^{[196][197]} After drawing the Spanish 0–0 in extra time, the team lost the penalty shootout 4–5, finishing the tournament in second place.^[198]

Croatia finished second in Euro 2024 qualifying, advancing in a "group of death" draw with Italy, Spain, and Albania, due to commence summer 2024.^{[199][200]}



Squad at 2022 World Cup
Coach: Zlatko Dalić

Image

Kits

Croatia's modern-day team jersey was created in 1990 by Miroslav Šutej who also designed the nation's flag, coat of arms and first currency. The red-and-white motif is based on the Croatian checkerboard (*šahovnica*).^{[201][202][203]} The typical kit color-way features red-and-white checkered shirts, white shorts and blue socks to match the Croatian tricolor (*Trobojnjica*).^[201] There have been variations made by the kit manufacturers since the original release; the jersey design has remained consistent throughout the years and has served as a blueprint for other Croatian national sports teams and entities.^[16]

Away kits used by the team have for a period been all-blue, incorporating the red-and-white checkers as a trim. Croatia has moved to using darker away kits such as the dark navy-and-black checkered design that featured prominently in the 2018 World Cup campaign. The *Vatreni* have been required to use their darker away kits even when playing at home because their opponents have red-and-white jerseys that clash with the checkers of Croatia.



The team's image references the national colors of Croatia. Pictured: Šime Vrsaljko, 2018.

Kit supplier	Period
Uhlsport	1990–1991
Lotto	1992–1994
Kappa	1994
Lotto	1994–2000
Nike	2000–present

Supporters

The team has developed an extensive fan base since its unofficial formation in 1990.^[204] Following their debut run at the 1998 World Cup, there was a rise in domestic and global attention for the side. Political scientist Alex J. Bellamy observed in 2003 that the national team became a symbol of statehood in Croatia after their independence through the cultural export of Croatian football.^[205] The government's influence on team affairs eased substantially after the death of President Franjo Tuđman in 1999. All matches are followed and televised throughout the country, particularly during major tournaments.^[206] In November 2022, the Ministry of Science and Education issued guidance to let school children watch matches during the school day as long



Croatia supporters at Euro 2012, featuring the national checkerboard

coursework is made up later.^[207] Following the 2018 World Cup, the Croatian Cabinet attended ministerial meetings in team jerseys,^[208] and during the 2022 World Cup, Prime Minister Andrej Plenković delivered a hurried speech "[lasting] only 37 seconds" at the Euro-Mediterranean Summit to catch the quarter-finals.^[209]

A part of the team's support consists of fans of Dinamo Zagreb and Hajduk Split, the two largest clubs in Croatia's top domestic football league, the Hrvatska nogometna liga (HNL).^[210] Both sets of fans—Bad Blue Boys from Zagreb and Torcida from Split—have been associated with hooliganism due to their ultra-style support,^{[211][212]} though violence between them does not occur at international matches. Other ultras groups are Armada Rijeka,

Kohorta Osijek, Ultras Vinkovci, Tornado Zadar, Funcuti Šibenik and Demoni Pula. Support for the team also comes from Croats of Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly from fans of Zrinjski Mostar and Široki Brijeg.^[213] There are also Croatian communities in Australia, North America and South America that follow the team.^{[214][215]} The team's fanbase is known for their use of pyrotechnics, fireworks, and flares at matches and while celebrating. During the qualifiers of Euro 2016, Croatian fans disrupted matches against Italy and the Czech Republic by throwing flares from the stadium onto the field.^{[216][217]}

Among supporters, it is customary to include an inscription of their city of origin onto the Croatian flag to indicate where they are from. Fans also coordinate their vocal support and orchestrate chants during matches. One section may shout "U boj, u boj" ("To battle, to battle") with another responding "Za narod svoj" ("For our people"). When the team wins, supporters might chant "Bježite ljudi, bježite iz grada" ("Run away people, run away from the city") which is a song praising the presence of Croatian fans.^[218] The Croatian Football Federation endorses an official fan club for the team, known as Uvijek Vjerni ("Always Faithful").^[219] In addition to chants, the team receives support from various local musicians, who release songs dedicated to them. Former manager Slaven Bilić and his rock band released a single, "Vatreno ludilo" (*Fiery Madness*), which reached the top position on Croatian music charts during Euro 2008.^{[220][221]}

Fans' behaviour, hooliganism, and ultra-style rioting during matches has led to sanctions both domestically and internationally. The football federation, Croatian government, and players have made efforts to prevent unwanted incidents in order to avoid damage to the perception of the team and Croatian people.^[222] This has included banning their own fans from certain games.^[223] The behaviour of fans has led to penalties and fines for the national team imposed by FIFA and UEFA.^{[224][225]} Certain disruptive behaviour is centered on ethno-nationalist racism and fascism stemming from the dissolution of Yugoslavia.^[7] The Croatian Football Federation has been fined £14,920 for fans' racist taunts against English striker Emile Heskey in 2010,^[226] €80,000 for a fan throwing a banana at Italian striker Mario Balotelli in 2012,^[227] €100,000 for inadvertently hosting a match against Italy with a faint swastika etched into the pitch in 2016,^[228] \$53,000 for a crowd of fans' anti-Serb taunts against Canadian keeper Milan Borjan in 2022,^[229] and €70,000 for a crowd of fans chanting antiziganist slurs at Romanian referee István Kovács in 2023.^[230] The team has been fined for similar incidents and received additional sanctions such as having to play matches without fans, including the October 2018 Nations League game against England.^{[231][232]} There have also been multiple acts of protest against the national team, in response to allegations of corruption within the Croatian Football Federation, and other fan disturbances.^[233]



Smoke from supporters' pyrotechnics in Ban Jelačić Square, 2018

Charity

To advance the team's charitable efforts manager Slaven Bilić established the Vatreno Srce (Fiery Heart) Foundation in 2010.^[234] The primary cause of the foundation is helping children.^[235] As of 2012, the foundation made fifty donations of 1,200,000 HRK to various children's organizations.^[236] In December 2012, the foundation made 500,000 HRK on an auction of Niko Kranjčar's shirt and Lionel Messi's shirt that was signed by all FC Barcelona players. The auction was organized in the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel and attended by President of Croatia Ivo Josipović.^[236] In November 2018, the players gathered in The Westin Hotel in Zagreb to answer fans' phonecalls, the proceeds of which were donated to the Vatreno Srce Foundation. In 2018, the foundation financed Children's Hospital Zagreb and Korak u Život (A Step Into Life), a charity that helps young children raised in orphanages make the transition into higher education.^{[234][237]} In November 2019, more than 500,000 HRK was collected in another call

event that were then directed to Children's Hospital Kantrida.^[238] In March 2020, the players collectively donated 4,200,000 HRK for fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and for repair of damage caused by the 2020 Zagreb earthquake.^[239] Members of national team also visit and help children with special needs and their education institutions.^[240]

Stadiums

Since their first match in 1990, the national team has played at thirteen stadiums around the country. The majority of Croatia's home matches take place at Stadion Maksimir in Zagreb, the country's largest football stadium, which is also the home-ground of local football club Dinamo Zagreb.^[241] It was one of two venues for Euro 1976, hosted by Yugoslavia, alongside Red Star Stadium in Belgrade. The Croatian Football Federation previously agreed on extensive plans with the government to renovate the stadium and increase its forty-thousand seating capacity, the proposal was eventually rejected by Mayor of Zagreb Milan Bandić in 2008 due to construction costs.^{[241][242][243]}

Some home matches are occasionally played at other, smaller venues around the country. Stadion Poljud in Split has hosted some qualifying fixtures since 1995, the first being a 1–1 draw with Italy. In the period between 1995 and 2011, Croatia never won a competitive match at Poljud, which the local media dubbed *Poljudsko prokletstvo* ("the Poljud curse").^[244] Qualifying fixtures have also been played at Stadion Kantrida in Rijeka along with Stadion Gradski Vrt in Osijek and Stadion Varteks in Varaždin.^[245]

Stadium	City / town	Pld	W	D	L	Win %	Last match hosted	Map of the host cities
Stadion Maksimir	Zagreb	68	47	15	6	69.1	2022	
Stadion Poljud	Split	18	4	9	5	22.2	2023	
Stadion Gradski vrt	Osijek	14	10	3	1	71.4	2022	
Stadion Kantrida	Rijeka	11	10	1	0	90.9	2011	
Stadion Rujevica	Rijeka	8	6	2	0	75.0	2023	
Stadion Varteks	Varaždin	8	5	2	1	62.5	2019	
Stadion A. Drosina	Pula	5	4	0	1	80.0	2019	
Stadion Koprivnica	Koprivnica	1	1	0	0	100.0	2016	
Stadion Cibalia	Vinkovci	1	1	0	0	100.0	2009	
Stadion Kranjčevićeva	Zagreb	1	1	0	0	100.0	1996	
Stadion Šubićevac	Šibenik	1	0	1	0	0.0	2003	
Stadion Radnik	Velika Gorica	1	0	1	0	0.0	2021	
Opus Arena	Osijek	1	0	0	1	0.0	2023	
Total		138	89	34	15	64.5%	2023	

Last updated: Croatia vs. Turkey, 12 October 2023

Statistics include only official matches recognized by HNS^[246]

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.

2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	25 March 20:45 CET	Croatia 🎏 1–1 Wales Kramarić 28' Report (https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/h/203629/ 7/)	Split, Croatia Stadium: Stadion Poljud Attendance: 33,474 Referee: João Pinheiro (Portugal) Assistant referees: Bruno Jesus (Portugal) Luciano Maia (Portugal) Fourth official: Vitor Ferreira (Portugal)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	28 March 20:45 CEST (21:45 TRT)	Turkey 🇹🇷 0–2 Croatia Report (https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/h/203631/ 9/)	Bursa, Turkey Stadium: Bursa Metropolitan Stadium Attendance: 37,750 Referee: Andreas Ekberg (Sweden) Assistant referees: Fredrik Klyver (Sweden) Niklas Nyberg (Sweden) Fourth official: Granit Maqedonci (Sweden)	[show]
2022–23 UEFA Nations League SF	14 June 20:45 CEST	Netherlands 🇳🇱 2–4 (a.e.t.) Croatia Malen 34' Report (https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/h/2035581/) Lang 90+6' Pašalić 72' Petković 98' Modrić 116' (pen.)	Rotterdam, Netherlands Stadium: De Kuip Attendance: 39,359 Referee: István Kovács (Romania) Assistant referees: Vasile Florin Marinescu (Romania) Ovidiu Artene (Romania) Fourth official: Halil Umut Meler (Turkey) Man of the Match: Luka Modrić (Croatia)	[show]
2022–23 UEFA Nations League F	18 June 20:45 CEST	Croatia 🎏 0–0 (a.e.t.) Spain (4–5 p) Report (https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/h/2035584/)	Rotterdam, Netherlands Stadium: De Kuip Attendance: 41,110 Referee: Felix Zwayer (Germany) Assistant referees: Stefan Lupp (Germany) Marco Achmüller (Germany) Fourth official: Ivan Kružliak (Slovakia) Man of the Match: Marcelo Brozović (Croatia)	[show]
		Penalties		
		Vlašić Brozović Modrić Majer Perišić Petković	Joselu Rodri Merino Asensio Laporte Carvaljal	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	8 September 20:45 CEST	Croatia 🎏 5–0 Latvia Petković 3', 44' Report (https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/h/203638/ 8/)	Rijeka, Croatia Stadium: Stadion Rujevica Attendance: 8,152 Referee: Philip Farrugia (Malta) Assistant referees: Alan Camilleri (Malta) Luke Portelli (Malta) Fourth official: Trustin Farrugia Cann (Malta)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	11 September 18:00 CEST (20:00 AMT)	Armenia 🇦🇲 0–1 Croatia Report (https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/h/2036411/)	Yerevan, Armenia Stadium: Vazgen Sargsyan Republican Stadium Attendance: 14,233 Referee: Clément Turpin (France) Assistant referees: Nicolas Danos (France)	[show]

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	12 October 20:45 CEST	Croatia 0–1 Turkey	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qua lifiers/matc h/203643 4/)	Osijek, Croatia Stadium: Opus Arena Attendance: 12,812 Referee: Anthony Taylor (England) Assistant referees: Gary Beswick (England) Adam Nunn (England) Fourth official: Michael Salisbury (England)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	15 October 20:45 CEST (19:45 BST)	Wales 2–1 Croatia	Wilson 47', 60' Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qua lifiers/matc h/203645 8/)	Pašalić 75'	Cardiff, Wales Stadium: Cardiff City Stadium Attendance: 31,240 Referee: Davide Massa (Italy) Assistant referees: Filippo Meli (Italy) Stefano Alassio (Italy) Fourth official: Matteo Marcenaro (Italy)
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	18 November 18:00 CET (19:00 EET)	Latvia 0–2 Croatia	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qua lifiers/matc h/203648 0/)	Majer 7' Kramarić 16'	Riga, Latvia Stadium: Skonto Stadium Attendance: 6,747 Referee: Urs Schnyder (Switzerland) Assistant referees: Marco Zürcher (Switzerland) Benjamin Zürcher (Switzerland) Fourth official: Sven Wolfensberger (Switzerland)
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	21 November 20:45 CET	Croatia 1–0 Armenia	Budimir 43' Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qua lifiers/matc h/203650 3/)	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qua lifiers/matc h/203650 3/)	Zagreb, Croatia Stadium: Stadion Maksimir Attendance: 20,398 Referee: Ivan Kružliak (Slovakia) Assistant referees: Branislav Hanckov (Slovakia) Jan Pozor (Slovakia) Fourth official: Martin Dohal (Slovakia)

2024

2024 Winsunited Cup	22 March	Tunisia v Croatia		Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates Stadium: Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium	[show]
2024 Winsunited Cup	25–26 March	Croatia v Egypt / New Zealand		Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates Stadium: Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium	[show]
Friendly	3 June	Croatia v North Macedonia		Rijeka, Croatia Stadium: Stadion Rujevica	[show]
Friendly	8 June	Portugal v Croatia		Oeiras, Portugal Stadium: Estádio Nacional	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group B	15 June 18:00 CEST	Spain v Croatia	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/uef aeuro/matc h/203616 3/)	Berlin, Germany Stadium: Olympiastadion	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group B	19 June 15:00 CEST	Croatia v Albania	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/uef aeuro/matc h/203617 6/)	Hamburg, Germany Stadium: Volksparkstadion	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group B	24 June 21:00 CEST	Croatia v Italy	Report (htt ps://www.u	Leipzig, Germany Stadium: Red Bull Arena	[show]

2024–25 UEFA Nations League A	5 September	Portugal  v  Croatia	Portugal	[show]
	20:45 CEST (19:45 WET)		Report (http://www.efa.com/uef/nationsleague/match/2040045/)	
2024–25 UEFA Nations League A	8 September	Croatia  v  Poland	Croatia	[show]
	20:45 CEST		Report (http://www.efa.com/uef/nationsleague/match/2040073/)	
2024–25 UEFA Nations League A	12 October	Croatia  v  Scotland	Croatia	[show]
	18:00 CEST		Report (http://www.efa.com/uef/nationsleague/match/2040113/)	
2024–25 UEFA Nations League A	15 October	Poland  v  Croatia	Poland	[show]
	20:45 CEST		Report (http://www.efa.com/uef/nationsleague/match/2040141/)	
2024–25 UEFA Nations League A	15 November	Scotland  v  Croatia	Glasgow, Scotland	[show]
	20:45 CET (19:45 GMT)		Report (http://www.efa.com/uef/nationsleague/match/2040158/)	Stadium: Hampden Park
2024–25 UEFA Nations League A	18 November	Croatia  v  Portugal	Croatia	[show]

Coaching staff

Position	Name ^[247]
Head coach	 Zlatko Dalić
	 Ivica Olić
Assistant coaches	 Vedran Čorluka
	 Mario Mandžukić
Goalkeeping coaches	 Marjan Mrmić
	 Danijel Subašić
Fitness coach	 Luka Milanović
	 Marin Dadić
Analyst	 Dražen Ladić
Video analyst	 Marc Rochon
Scouts	 Nikola Jerkan
	 Ognjen Vukojević
	 Nenad Krošnjar
	 Nderim Redžaj
Physiotherapists	 Goran Beloglavec
	 Miroslav Jamnić
	 Neven Golubar
Doctors	 Saša Janković
	 Eduard Rod
	 Tomislav Vlahović
Technical director	 Stipe Pletikosa
Team manager	 Iva Olivari
Security officer	 Miroslav Marković
Media officer	 Tomislav Pacak
Chef	 Tomica Đukić
Kit men	 Mladen Pilčić
	 Goran Vincek
	 Dennis Lukanić



Manager Zlatko Dalić, 2018

Coaching history

The following table provides a summary of the complete record of each Croatia manager's results in the [FIFA World Cup](#) and the [UEFA European Championship](#).

Manager	Period	Pld	W	D	L	Win %
Jozo Jakopić	1940–1941	4	2	1	1	50.00
Rudolf Hitrec	1941	1	0	0	1	0.00
Bogdan Cuvaj	1941–1943	13	6	3	4	46.15
Bernard Hügl	1943–1945	1	1	0	0	100.00
Bogdan Cuvaj	1956	1	1	0	0	100.00
Total		20	10	4	6	50%

Manager	Period	Pld	W	D	L	Win %	Tournament
Dražan Jerković	1990–1991	3	3	0	0	100.00	
Stanko Poklepović	1992	4	1	1	2	25.00	
Vlatko Marković	1993–1994	1	1	0	0	100.00	
Miroslav Blažević	1994–2000	72	33	24	15	45.83	1996 European Championship – Quarter-finals 1998 World Cup – Third place 2000 European Championship – Failed to qualify
Tomislav Ivić (c) ^{fl}	1994	1	1	0	0	100.00	
Mirko Jozic	2000–2002	18	9	6	3	50.00	2002 World Cup – Group stage
Otto Barić	2002–2004	24	11	8	5	45.83	2004 European Championship – Group stage
Zlatko Kranjčar	2004–2006	25	11	8	6	44.00	2006 World Cup – Group stage
Slaven Bilić	2006–2012	65	42	15	8	64.62	2008 European Championship – Quarter-finals 2010 World Cup – Failed to qualify 2012 European Championship – Group stage
Igor Štimac	2012–2013	15	8	2	5	53.33	
Niko Kovač	2013–2015	19	10	5	4	52.63	2014 World Cup – Group stage
Ante Čačić	2015–2017	25	15	6	4	60.00	2016 European Championship – Round of 16
Zlatko Dalić	2017–present	80	40	20	20	50.00	2018 World Cup – Runners-up 2020 European Championship – Round of 16 2022 World Cup – Third place 2024 European Championship – Qualified
Total		352	185	95	72	52.56%	13 out of 15

Last updated: Croatia vs. Armenia, 21 November 2023. Source: Croatian Football Federation

Players

Current squad

The following was the squad for the [UEFA Euro 2024](#) qualifying match against [Armenia](#) on 21 November 2023.

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Dominik Livaković	9 January 1995	51	0	Fenerbahçe
12	GK	Nediljko Labrović	10 October 1999	0	0	Rijeka
23	GK	Ivica Ivušić	1 February 1995	5	0	Pafos
2	DF	Josip Stanišić	2 April 2000	16	0	Bayer Leverkusen
3	DF	Marin Pongračić	11 September 1997	5	0	Lecce
4	DF	Joško Gvardiol	23 January 2002	27	2	Manchester City
5	DF	Martin Erlić	24 January 1998	7	0	Sassuolo
6	DF	Josip Šutalo	28 February 2000	13	0	Ajax
19	DF	Borna Sosa	21 January 1998	18	1	Ajax
21	DF	Domagoj Vida (<i>vice-captain</i>)	29 April 1989	103	4	AEK Athens
22	DF	Josip Juranović	16 August 1995	34	0	Union Berlin
7	MF	Lovro Majer	17 January 1998	27	5	VfL Wolfsburg
8	MF	Martin Baturina	16 February 2003	2	0	Dinamo Zagreb
10	MF	Luka Modrić (<i>captain</i>)	9 September 1985	172	24	Real Madrid
11	MF	Marcelo Brozović	16 November 1992	93	7	Al Nassr
14	MF	Luka Sučić	8 September 2002	5	0	Red Bull Salzburg
15	MF	Mario Pašalić	9 February 1995	60	10	Atalanta
16	MF	Nikola Moro	12 March 1998	1	0	Bologna
18	MF	Luka Ivanušec	26 November 1998	18	2	Feyenoord
9	FW	Andrej Kramarić	19 June 1991	89	27	1899 Hoffenheim
13	FW	Marco Pašalić	14 September 2000	2	0	Rijeka
17	FW	Ante Budimir	22 July 1991	19	2	Osasuna
20	FW	Dion Drena Beljo	1 March 2002	2	0	FC Augsburg

Recent call-ups

The following players have been called up to the squad in the last 12 months.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	<u>Dominik Kotarski</u>	10 February 2000	0	0	 PAOK	v.  Latvia, 18 November 2023 PRE
GK	<u>Ivo Grbić</u>	18 January 1996	2	0	 Sheffield United	2023 UEFA Nations League Finals PRE
DF	<u>Borna Barišić</u>	10 November 1992	35	1	 Rangers	v.  Latvia, 18 November 2023 PRE
DF	<u>Dario Melnjak</u> INJ	31 October 1992	8	0	 Hajduk Split	v.  Latvia, 18 November 2023 PRE
DF	<u>Duje Ćaleta-Car</u>	17 September 1996	23	1	 Lyon	v.  Turkey, 12 October 2023 PRE
DF	<u>Jakov Medić</u>	7 September 1998	0	0	 Ajax	v.  Latvia, 8 September 2023 PRE
DF	<u>Filip Uremović</u>	11 February 1997	6	0	 Hajduk Split	2023 UEFA Nations League Finals PRE
MF	<u>Mateo Kovačić</u> INJ	6 May 1994	97	5	 Manchester City	v.  Latvia, 18 November 2023 WD
MF	<u>Nikola Vlašić</u> INJ	4 October 1997	53	7	 Torino	v.  Latvia, 18 November 2023 WD
MF	<u>Kristijan Jakić</u>	14 May 1997	5	0	 FC Augsburg	v.  Wales, 25 March 2023 PRE
FW	<u>Marko Pjaca</u> INJ	6 May 1995	24	1	 Rijeka	v.  Armenia, 18 November 2023 WD
FW	<u>Bruno Petković</u> INJ	16 September 1994	34	10	 Dinamo Zagreb	v.  Latvia, 18 November 2023 WD
FW	<u>Josip Brekalo</u>	23 June 1998	35	4	 Hajduk Split	v.  Latvia, 18 November 2023 PRE
FW	<u>Petar Musa</u>	4 March 1998	6	0	 FC Dallas	v.  Latvia, 18 November 2023 PRE
FW	<u>Franjo Ivanović</u> U21	1 October 2003	0	0	 Rijeka	v.  Latvia, 18 November 2023 PRE
FW	<u>Marko Livaja</u> RET	26 August 1993	21	4	 Hajduk Split	v.  Turkey, 12 October 2023 WD
FW	<u>Matija Frigan</u> U21	11 February 2003	0	0	 Westerlo	v.  Turkey, 12 October 2023 PRE
FW	<u>Ivan Perišić</u> INJ	2 February 1989	129	33	 Hajduk Split	v.  Armenia, 11 September 2023
FW	<u>Mislav Oršić</u> INJ	29 December 1992	27	2	 Trabzonspor	2023 UEFA Nations League Finals PRE
FW	<u>Dario Špikić</u>	22 March 1999	0	0	 Dinamo Zagreb	v.  Wales, 25 March 2023 PRE
■ INJ = Injured or ill. ■ WD = Withdrawn. ■ SUS = Suspended from participating. ■ RET = Retired after latest call-up. ■ U21 = Joined the Croatia U21 team instead. ■ PRE = Preliminary squad.						

Individual records

As of 21 November 2023^[249]

Statistics below are sourced from the Croatian Football Federation, players in **bold** are still active with Croatia.

Most capped players

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	<u>Luka Modrić</u>	172	24	2006–present
2	Darijo Srna	134	22	2002–2016
3	<u>Ivan Perišić</u>	129	33	2011–present
4	Stipe Pletikosa	114	0	1999–2014
5	Ivan Rakitić	106	15	2007–2019
6	<u>Josip Šimunić</u>	105	3	2001–2013
7	Ivica Olić	104	20	2002–2015
8	Vedran Čorluka	103	4	2006–2018
	<u>Domagoj Vida</u>	103	4	2010–present
10	Dario Šimić	100	3	1996–2008



Luka Modrić is Croatia's most capped player, 2018

Surpassing Robert Jarni's previous record of 81 appearances,^{[250][251]} Dario Šimić was the first player to reach 100 appearances, doing so before his retirement in 2008.^[252] Darijo Srna, Josip Šimunić and Stipe Pletikosa collectively reached their 100th cap in February 2013.^[253] Srna was the most capped player from 2016 to 2021, with 134 appearances.^[254] He was surpassed by Luka Modrić in 2021.^[255]

The youngest player to play for Croatia is Alen Halilović (aged 16 years, 11 months and 23 days),^[256] while the oldest is Luka Modrić (38 years, 2 months and 12 days).^[257]

Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	<u>Davor Šuker</u>	45	69	0.65	1991–2002
2	<u>Mario Mandžukić</u>	33	89	0.37	2007–2018
	<u>Ivan Perišić</u>		129	0.26	2011–present
4	Eduardo da Silva	29	64	0.45	2004–2014
5	<u>Andrej Kramarić</u>	27	89	0.3	2014–present
6	<u>Luka Modrić</u>	24	172	0.14	2006–present
7	Darijo Srna	22	134	0.16	2002–2016
8	Ivica Olić	20	104	0.19	2002–2015
9	Niko Kranjčar	16	81	0.2	2004–2013
10	Nikola Kalinić	15	42	0.36	2008–2018
	Goran Vlaović		51	0.29	1992–2002
	Ivan Rakitić		106	0.14	2007–2019



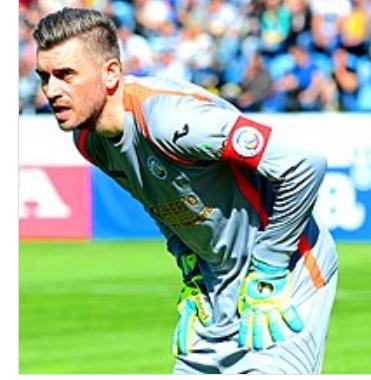
Davor Šuker, Croatia's top goalscorer, 2008

Davor Šuker is Croatia's highest goalscorer with a record 45 international goals from 1991 to 2002.^[32]

The team's youngest goalscorer is Luka Ivanušec (aged 18 years, 1 month and 19 days).^[258]

Most clean sheets

Rank	Player	Clean sheets	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	<u>Stipe Pletikosa</u>	54	114	0.47	1999–2014
2	<u>Dražen Ladić</u>	26	59	0.44	1990–2000
3	<u>Danijel Subašić</u>	24	44	0.55	2009–2018
4	<u>Dominik Livaković</u>	17	51	0.33	2017–present
5	<u>Tomislav Butina</u>	15	28	0.54	2001–2006
6	<u>Vedran Runje</u>	9	22	0.41	2006–2011
7	<u>Tonči Gabrić</u>	5	9	0.56	1990–1997
	<u>Marjan Mrmić</u>		13	0.38	1995–1999
9	<u>Lovre Kalinić</u>	4	19	0.21	2014–present
10	<u>Ivan Vargić</u>	3	3	1	2014–2016
	<u>Joey Didulica</u>		4	0.75	2004–2006
	<u>Ivica Ivušić</u>		5	0.6	2021–present



Stipe Pletikosa, Croatia's record holder in most clean sheets, 2014

Competitive record

- Champions
- Runners-up
- Third place
- Fourth place

Tournament played fully or partially on home soil

FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record									
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad
 1930	Part of  Kingdom of Yugoslavia								
 1934									
 1938									
 1950									
 1954									
 1958									
 1962									
 1966									
 1970									
 1974									
 1978									
 1982									
 1986									
 1990									
 1994	Did not enter								
 1998	Third place	3rd	7	5	0	2	11	5	Squad
  2002	Group stage	23rd	3	1	0	2	2	3	Squad
 2006	Group stage	22nd	3	0	2	1	2	3	Squad
 2010	Did not qualify								
 2014	Group stage	19th	3	1	0	2	6	6	Squad
 2018	Runners-up	2nd	7	4	2	1	14	9	Squad
 2022	Third place	3rd	7	2	4	1	8	7	Squad
 2026	To be determined								
 2030 ^[9]									
 2034									
Total	Runners-up	6/22	30	13	8	9	43	33	—

Qualification record									
Pos	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA			
2nd ^{OFF}	10	5	4	1	20	13			
1st	8	5	3	0	15	2			
1st	10	7	3	0	21	5			
3rd	10	6	2	2	19	13			
2nd ^{OFF}	12	6	3	3	14	9			
2nd ^{OFF}	12	7	3	2	19	5			
1st	10	7	2	1	21	4			
To be determined									
6/7	72	43	20	9	129	51			

Draws include knockout matches decided via penalty shoot-out; correct as of 17 December 2022 after the match against  Morocco.

Matches		[hide]
First match	 Croatia 3–1 Jamaica  (Lens, France; 14 June 1998)	
Biggest win	 Croatia 4–0 Cameroon  (Manaus, Brazil; 18 June 2014)	
Biggest defeat	 Argentina 3–0 Croatia  (Lusail, Qatar; 13 December 2022)	

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record										Qualification record							
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pos	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1960																	
1964																	
1968																	
1972																	
1976										Part of  Yugoslavia							
1980																	
1984																	
1988																	
1992																	
1996	Quarter-finals	7th	4	2	0	2	5	5	Squad	1st	10	7	2	1	22	5	
2000	<i>Did not qualify</i>										3rd	8	4	3	1	13	9
2004	Group stage	13th	3	0	2	1	4	6	Squad	2nd ^{OFF}	10	6	2	2	14	5	
2008	Quarter-finals	5th	4	3	1	0	5	2	Squad	1st	12	9	2	1	28	8	
2012	Group stage	10th	3	1	1	1	4	3	Squad	2nd ^{OFF}	12	8	2	2	21	7	
2016	Round of 16	9th	4	2	1	1	5	4	Squad	2nd	10	6	3	1	20	5	
2020	Round of 16	13th	4	1	1	2	7	8	Squad	1st	8	5	2	1	17	7	
2024	<i>Qualified</i>										2nd	8	5	1	2	13	4
2028	<i>To be determined</i>										<i>To be determined</i>						
2032	<i>To be determined</i>																
Total	Quarter-finals	7/17	22	9	6	7	30	28	—	7/8	78	50	17	11	148	50	

Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks; correct as of 21 November 2023 after the match against Armenia.

Matches [hide]

First match	Croatia 1–0 Turkey (Nottingham, England; 11 June 1996)
Biggest win	Croatia 3–0 Denmark (Sheffield, England; 16 June 1996)
Biggest defeat	Portugal 3–0 Croatia (Nottingham, England; 19 June 1996)

UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League											
Season	LG	GP	Pos	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK
2018–19	A	4	3rd	4	1	1	2	4	10	=	9th
2020–21	A	3	3rd	6	1	0	5	9	16	=	12th
2022–23	A	1	1st	6	4	1	1	8	6	=	2nd
2024–25	A	1	To be determined								
Total			16	6	2	8	21	32	2nd		

Finals record											
Year	Round	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad			
2019											
2021											
2023	Runners-up	2	1	1	0	4	2	Squad			
2025	To be determined										
Total	1/3	2	1	1	0	4	2	—			

Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks; correct as of 18 June 2023 after the match against Spain.

Matches											
First match	Spain 6–0 Croatia (Elche, Spain; 11 September 2018)										
Biggest win	Austria 1–3 Croatia (Vienna, Austria; 25 September 2022)										
Biggest defeat	Netherlands 2–4 Croatia (Rotterdam, Netherlands; 14 June 2023)										
	Spain 6–0 Croatia (Elche, Spain; 11 September 2018)										

Other

Year				Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1996 King Hassan II International Cup Tournament				Champions	1st	2	0	2	0	3	3
● 1997 Kirin Cup Soccer				Runners-up	2nd	2	0	1	1	4	5
1999 Korea Cup				Champions	1st	3	1	2	0	5	4
2006 Lunar New Year Cup				Third place	3rd	2	1	0	1	4	2
2017 China Cup				Fourth place	4th	2	0	2	0	2	2
2024 Winsunited Cup				TBD	TBD	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total				2 Title	6/6	11	2	7	2	18	16

Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks; correct as of 14 January 2017 after the match against China.

Head-to-head record

Key

More wins than losses

- As many wins as losses
 Fewer wins than losses

Correct as of 21 November 2023, after the match against  Armenia.

Pre-independence								
Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %
 Bulgaria	1	1	0	0	6	0	+6	100.00
 Germany	3	0	0	3	2	12	-10	0.00
 Hungary	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	0.00
 Indonesia	1	1	0	0	5	2	+3	100.00
 Italy	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0.00
 Romania	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	0.00
 Slovakia	7	6	1	0	25	9	+16	85.71
 Switzerland	3	2	0	1	5	1	+4	66.67
Total: 8 teams played	20	10	4	6	47	33	+14	50.00

Post-independence^[246]

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %
Andorra	6	6	0	0	24	0	+24	100.00
Argentina	6	2	1	3	7	8	-1	33.33
Armenia	3	2	1	0	3	1	+2	66.67
Australia	6	2	2	2	11	6	+5	33.33
Austria	7	6	0	1	12	6	+6	85.71
Azerbaijan	4	2	2	0	9	2	+7	50.00
Belarus	2	2	0	0	4	1	+3	100.00
Belgium	9	3	3	3	9	6	+3	33.33
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	4	0	0	14	6	+8	100.00
Brazil	5	0	2	3	3	8	-5	0.00
Bulgaria	8	5	2	1	12	6	+6	62.50
Cameroon	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	100.00
Canada	1	1	0	0	4	1	+3	100.00
Chile	1	0	1	0	1	1	+0	0.00
China	1	0	1	0	1	1	+0	0.00
Cyprus	3	3	0	0	6	0	+6	100.00
Czech Republic	4	1	3	0	8	6	+2	25.00
Denmark	8	4	2	2	11	8	+3	50.00
Ecuador	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0.00
Egypt	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	0.00
England	11	3	2	6	13	22	-9	27.27
Estonia	9	6	2	1	16	5	+11	66.67
Finland	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	50.00
France	10	1	3	6	10	20	-10	10.00
Georgia	3	2	0	1	4	3	+1	66.67
Germany	5	2	1	2	8	6	+2	40.00
Gibraltar	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	100.00
Greece	8	2	4	2	10	9	+1	25.00
Hong Kong	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	100.00
Hungary	9	4	4	1	17	7	+10	44.44
Iceland	7	5	1	1	13	3	+10	71.43
Iran	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	50.00
Israel	9	8	1	0	22	8	+14	88.89
Italy	8	3	5	0	10	6	+4	37.50
Jamaica	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	100.00
Japan	4	1	2	1	5	5	+0	25.00
Jordan	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	100.00
Kazakhstan	2	2	0	0	5	1	+4	100.00
Kosovo	2	2	0	0	7	0	+7	100.00
Latvia	6	6	0	0	17	1	+16	100.00
Liechtenstein	2	2	0	0	8	2	+6	100.00
Lithuania	2	1	1	0	2	0	+2	50.00

Post-independence^[246]

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %
Flag of Macedonia	8	5	2	1	12	9	+3	62.50
Flag of Mali	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	100.00
Flag of Malta	10	9	1	0	29	5	+24	90.00
Flag of Mexico	6	4	0	2	9	6	+3	66.67
Flag of Moldova	2	2	0	0	2	0	+2	100.00
Flag of Morocco	3	1	2	0	4	3	+1	33.33
Flag of Netherlands	3	2	0	1	6	6	+0	66.67
Flag of Nigeria	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	100.00
Flag of Northern Ireland	1	1	0	0	3	0	+3	100.00
Flag of Norway	5	3	1	1	10	6	+4	60.00
Flag of Peru	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0.00
Flag of Poland	5	3	1	1	7	3	+4	60.00
Flag of Portugal	7	0	1	6	4	15	-11	0.00
Flag of Qatar	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	100.00
Flag of Republic of Ireland	7	2	3	2	8	8	+0	28.57
Flag of Romania	3	3	0	0	4	1	+3	100.00
Flag of Russia	6	2	4	0	6	3	+3	33.33
Flag of San Marino	3	3	0	0	18	0	+18	100.00
Flag of Saudi Arabia	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00
Flag of Scotland	6	1	3	2	5	6	-1	16.67
Flag of Senegal	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	100.00
Flag of Serbia	4	1	3	0	5	3	+2	25.00
Flag of Slovakia	10	5	3	2	18	11	+7	50.00
Flag of Slovenia	12	7	4	1	20	10	+10	58.33
Flag of South Korea	7	3	2	2	11	7	+4	42.86
Flag of Spain	10	3	2	5	12	20	-8	30.00
Flag of Sweden	6	4	0	2	8	7	+1	66.67
Flag of Switzerland	4	1	2	1	6	7	-1	25.00
Flag of Tunisia	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0.00
Flag of Turkey	12	4	6	2	15	10	+5	33.33
Flag of Ukraine	9	5	3	1	15	5	+10	55.56
Flag of Wales	8	4	3	1	12	7	+5	50.00
Total: 74 teams played	350	183	95	72	591	339	+252	52.29
Croatia total: 74 teams played	370	193	99	78	638	372	+266	52.16

FIFA ranking history

The following is a chart of yearly averages of Croatia's FIFA World Ranking.^[260] Upon admission to FIFA in 1994, Croatia entered the World Ranking at 125th.^[260] Their debut World Cup campaign, during 1998, propelled Croatia to third place after the tournament, marking the fastest, most volatile ascension in FIFA ranking history.^[261] It hit a then-record Elo rating of 2,006 points in July 1998 and maintained third place until February 1999.^{[262][263]} The national team recorded its highest Elo rating in

June 2023 with 2,012 points.^[264] With an average Elo rating of 1,877 points, Croatia maintains the sixth-highest average rating in the world.^[265] They are one of three teams—along with [Colombia](#) and [France](#)—to be named [FIFA Best Mover of the Year](#) more than once, winning the award in 1994 and 1998.^{[266][267]}

Honours

Major

- [**FIFA World Cup**](#)
 - 2 Runners-up: [2018](#)
 - 3 Third place: [1998](#), [2022](#)
- [**UEFA Nations League**](#)
 - 2 Runners-up: [2023](#)

Minor

- [**Hassan II Trophy**](#)
 - 1 Champions: [1996](#)
- [**Kirin Cup Soccer**](#)
 - 2 Runners-up: [1997](#)
- [**Korea Cup**](#)
 - 1 Champions: [1999](#)
- [**Lunar New Year Cup**](#)
 - 3 Third place: [2006](#)

See also

- [Croatia national football B team](#)
- [Croatia national under-23 football team](#)
- [Croatia national under-21 football team](#)
- [Croatia national under-20 football team](#)
- [Croatia national under-19 football team](#)
- [Croatia national under-18 football team](#)
- [Croatia national under-17 football team](#)
- [Croatia national under-16 football team](#)
- [Croatia national under-15 football team](#)
- [Croatia women's national football team](#)
- [Croatia women's national under-19 football team](#)
- [Croatia women's national under-17 football team](#)
- [Croatia women's national under-15 football team](#)



Notes

- a. A portion of this squad (Jarni, [Štimac](#), [Boban](#), [Prosinečki](#) and [Šuker](#)) previously won the [1987 FIFA World Youth Championship](#) with the [Yugoslavia under-20 team](#).^[35]
- b. The rules of Association football state that on receiving a second yellow card in a single match a player must be given a red card and be removed for the rest of the match per the [Laws of the Game](#).
- c. Under the rules of Association football and the official European Championship tournament regulations, a loss inflicted via a penalty shootout does not count as a defeat but rather a tie which needed a final process to determine the team which advances per the [Laws of the Game](#).
- d. A [free kick](#) was awarded to France for a possible [dive](#) by [Antoine Griezmann](#) as well as penalty later in the game awarded by the [video assistant referee](#) (VAR) for a handball by Ivan Perišić.^[145]

- e. The mass gathering amounted to over 10% of the nation's population.^[149] With 550,000 Croatians present, the event constituted the second-largest gathering in modern Croatia.^[150]
- f. In September 1994, national team manager Miroslav Blažević, who was also coaching **Croatia Zagreb** at the time, was dismissed in a **1994–95 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup** match against **Auxerre**. Blažević was suspended by UEFA for one game and Ivić was appointed as his replacement for the **qualifying** match against **Italy** in November 1994 for **UEFA Euro 1996**.
- g. 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.^[259]
- h. The team **changed the name** to North Macedonia national team in 2019, following the **Prespa Agreement**. However, Croatia have yet to play a game against them under the new name.
- i. Includes the records against the no longer active **FR Yugoslavia national team**, whose successor is considered by UEFA and FIFA to be Serbia national team.

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.hns-cff.hr/>) (in Croatian and English)
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- Croatia (<https://www.fifa.com/associations/association=cro/>) at FIFA
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