

HNK Gorica

Coordinates: 45°72′395″N 16°07′317″E﻿ / ﻿

Hrvatski nogometni klub Gorica (English: Croatian Football Club Gorica), commonly referred to as **HNK Gorica** or simply **Gorica**, is a Croatian football club based in the town of Velika Gorica, located just south of the Croatian capital Zagreb. They play their home matches at the Gradski stadion Velika Gorica, which has a capacity of 5,200.^[2] They won the 2010–11 Croatian Second Football League title and were initially promoted to Croatian First Football League, but their top license was revoked.^[3] The club regard themselves as the spiritual continuation of the former Prva HNL members **NK Radnik**, who went bankrupt and were dissolved in 2009. However, legally HNK Gorica is a distinct and separate club, and is not entitled to claim the history of the old NK Radnik.^[4]

History

There is a long lasting tradition of football in Velika Gorica and region of Turopolje. First organized clubs were founded during the 1930s but the most prominent football club, **NK Radnik**, was created in 1945, just after the end of World War II.

Radnik enjoyed average success during Yugoslavia, and its most impressive results came with independence of Croatia. With a newly built stadium for 1987 Summer Universiade Radnik were champions of the first ever Croatian second division. In doing so they were promoted to the highest level Croatian league. Radnik competed there for two seasons, 1992–93 and 1993–94. After being relegated, Radnik started a downfall, obtaining mediocre results which resulted in them playing in the fourth tier of Croatian league football for four seasons (from 2002 till 2006).

During 2009 Radnik got into serious financial troubles and only solution for preserving Velika Gorica's top and most popular football team was a merger with one of financially stable local football clubs. A perfect partner was found in **NK Polet** from nearby village Buševac. NK Polet had a long lasting football tradition and was a competitive member of Treća HNL. In summer of 2009, merging between NK Radnik and Polet was agreed and HNK Gorica was formed.^[5] As a primal mission club stated

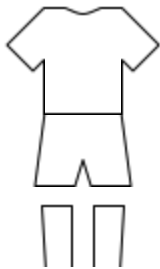
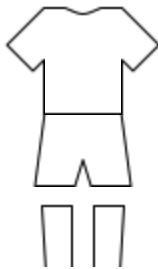
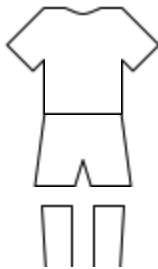
winning the league title and reaching Croatian Second Football League after many years of absence. The goal was reached during the first season, Gorica won the Treća HNL West and achieved promotion to the Druga HNL for the 2010–11 season.

Before 2010–11 season it was stated that club's ambitions are not high and that everybody would be satisfied with top half finish. But as the season progressed, Gorica proved to be the best club in the league, this culminating with securing the title two rounds before the end of the season. As 2. HNL champion, Gorica earned

Gorica



Full name	Hrvatski nogometni klub Gorica (Football Club Gorica)
Nickname(s)	<i>Goričani, Turopoljci</i>
Short name	GOR
Founded	16 July 2009 (as merger of <u>NK Radnik</u> and <u>NK Polet Buševac</u>)
Ground	<u>Gradski stadion Velika Gorica</u>
Capacity	5,200 ^[1]
President	Nenad Črnko
Head coach	<u>Dinko Jeličić</u>
League	<u>SuperSport HNL</u>
2022–23	SuperSport HNL, 9th of 10
Website	<u>Club website</u> (<u>http://www.hnk-gorica.hr</u>)



Home colours **Away colours** **Third colours**

a place in Croatia's first division, which was later denied after getting their top level license revoked.^[6]

Gorica won the 2017-18 Croatian Second Football League after which they were finally granted licence to play in the top tier after many years of being denied. Their league debut (as HNK Gorica) in the 2018–19 season was one of the most surprising and impressing parts of the league, becoming the best league-debutants in history by winning 59 points, as well as beating European contenders Hajduk Split and Osijek twice and the vice-champions Rijeka three times, although still finishing 5th, just 3 points away from reaching the Europa League qualifying rounds. Many foreign players out of contract were bought for free before the season, which turned out to be remarkable signings, most notably Łukasz Zwoliński, Kristijan Lovrić and Iyayi Atiemwen, who was ranked third in the 2018 Prva HNL Player of the year rankings and sold to Dinamo Zagreb over the 2019 transfer window for a record fee.^[7]

Current squad

As of 9 February 2024^[8]

Note: Flags indicate national team as defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

No.	Pos.	Nation	Player	No.	Pos.	Nation	Player
5	DF	 CRO	Mateo Leš	22	DF	 CRO	Mario Maloča
6	MF	 CRO	Marko Soldo (<i>on loan from Dinamo Zagreb</i>)	23	MF	 CRO	Luka Kapulica
7	FW	 CRO	Ante Matej Jurić	25	DF	 CRO	Krešimir Krizmanić
8	MF	 CGO	Merveil Ndockyt	30	MF	 CRO	Luka Brlek
9	FW	 NED	Sven Blummel	31	GK	 CRO	Ivan Banić
10	MF	 CRO	Jurica Pršir (<i>2nd Captain</i>)	34	DF	 CRO	Mario Matković
11	FW	 CRO	Lenny Ilečić	41	FW	 CRO	Gabrijel Rukavina (<i>on loan from Dinamo Zagreb</i>)
12	GK	 CRO	Jan Paolo Debijadi	44	GK	 CRO	Božidar Radošević
13	DF	 DEN	Alexander Munksgaard	46	FW	 MNE	Nikola Vujnović
14	MF	 CRO	Josip Mitrović	77	MF	 CRO	Valentino Majstorović
15	MF	 CRO	Filip Mrzljak (<i>Captain</i>)	89	FW	 SVN	Tim Matavž
16	MF	 MKD	Andrej Lazarov	90	DF	 CRO	Dino Štiglec

Out on loan

Note: Flags indicate national team as defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

No.	Pos.	Nation	Player	No.	Pos.	Nation	Player
1	GK	CRO	Karlo Žiger (at Sesvete until 30 June 2024)	19	FW	BRA	Caio Da Cruz (at Radomlje until 30 June 2024)
17	MF	CRO	Vinko Skrbinić (at Tolmin until 30 June 2024)}	45	DF	FRA	Nathan Cruce-Corcy (at Mladost Ždralovi until 30 May 2024)
18	MF	CRO	Patrik Jug (at Beltinci until 30 June 2024)				

Youth academy

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No.	Pos.	Nation	Player	No.	Pos.	Nation	Player
19	FW	SEN	Arona Fall	38	DF	CRO	Ino Vuko
29	FW	CRO	Lovro Nezirović	40	DF	SRB	Đuro Giulio Đekić
35	DF	CRO	Zvonimir Josić	88	MF	SEN	Sekou Matar Sagna

Personnel

Position	Staff
Head coach	Dinko Jeličić
Assistant coach	Mensur Mujdža
Assistant coach	Marko Krnjić
Goalkeeping coach	Siniša Klafurić
Goalkeeping coach	Tihomir Pereković
Fitness coach	Krešimir Šoš
Fitness coach	Matija Špičić
Analyst	
Physiotherapist	Domagoj Prnjak
Physiotherapist	Ivan Katić
Physiotherapist	Luka Puškić
Physiotherapist	Sonja Pasarić
Sport director	Mario Brkljača
Head scout	Grads Fühler
Scout	Filip Šelendić
Scout	Igor Krlić
Team manager	Matija Dvorneković
Technical director	Darko Blažinčić
Kit manager	Franjo Kovačić

Academy personnel

Position	Staff
Director of the football academy	 Slavko Perković
Head of academy and coach	 Marko Radenić
Academy coach	 Igor Čagalj
Academy coach	 Ivan Parlov
Goalkeeping coach	 Leonard Kovačić
Fitness coach	 Ivan Zagorec

Honours

- Druga HNL
 - Champions (2): 2010–11, 2017–18
- Treća HNL – West

- Champions (1): 2009–10

Recent seasons

Season	League									Cup	Top goalscorer	
	Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos		Player	Goals
2009–10	<u>3. HNL</u>	34	25	4	5	63	20	79	1st ↑		Igor Hajduk	20
2010–11	<u>2. HNL</u>	30	20	4	6	54	21	64	1st		Boris Bajto	11
2011–12	<u>2. HNL</u>	28	10	10	8	27	24	40	7th		Tomislav Pek	6
2012–13	<u>2. HNL</u>	30	10	10	10	40	35	40	10th	<u>R2</u>	<u>Domagoj Abramović</u>	12
2013–14	<u>2. HNL</u>	33	13	6	14	32	33	45	7th	<u>R1</u>	<u>Ivan Antolek</u> , <u>Robert Peričić</u>	5
2014–15	<u>2. HNL</u>	30	13	12	5	46	26	51	3rd		<u>Tomislav Kiš</u>	12
2015–16	<u>2. HNL</u>	33	13	8	12	40	40	47	4th	<u>R1</u>	<u>Benjamin Tatar</u>	7
2016–17	<u>2. HNL</u>	33	15	12	6	53	31	57	2nd	<u>PR</u>	<u>Benjamin Tatar</u>	13
2017–18	<u>2. HNL</u>	33	18	8	7	44	29	62	1st ↑	<u>R2</u>	<u>Henrik Ojamaa</u> , <u>Victoraș Astafei</u>	6
2018–19	<u>1. HNL</u>	36	17	8	11	57	46	59	5th		<u>Łukasz Zwoliński</u>	14
2019–20	<u>1. HNL</u>	36	12	13	11	44	48	49	6th	<u>QF</u>	<u>Kristijan Lovrić</u>	14
2020–21	<u>1. HNL</u>	36	17	8	11	60	47	59	5th	<u>SF</u>	<u>Kristijan Lovrić</u>	15
2021–22	<u>1. HNL</u>	36	12	9	15	43	50	45	6th	<u>SF</u>	<u>Kristijan Lovrić</u> , <u>Anthony Kalik</u>	7
2022–23	<u>1. HNL</u>	36	7	11	18	36	50	32	9th	<u>R2</u>	<u>Toni Fruk</u>	7

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- "HNK Gorica - Club history" (https://www.hnk-gorica.hr/klub/povijest-kluba/15). *www.hnk-gorica.hr* (in Croatian). Retrieved 12 May 2020.
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8. "Momčad" (<https://www.hnk-gorica.hr/momcad/8>). Retrieved 23 May 2021.

External links

- [Official website](http://www.hnk-gorica.hr) (<http://www.hnk-gorica.hr>) (in Croatian)
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