

HNK Rijeka

Hrvatski nogometni klub Rijeka (English: Croatian Football Club Rijeka), commonly referred to as **NK Rijeka** or simply **Rijeka**, is a Croatian professional football club from the city of Rijeka.

HNK Rijeka competes in Croatia's top division, <u>Supersport HNL</u>, of which they have been members since its foundation in 1992. During the reconstruction of <u>Stadion Kantrida</u>, their traditional home ground, they have been based at <u>Stadion Rujevica</u>. Rijeka's traditional home colours are all white.

The club was founded in 1904, with the football team being active at last since 1906, [2][3] and following the tumultuous political changes that swept the border city of Rijeka in the following decades, it changed its name to U.S. Fiumana in 1926, to **S.C.F. Quarnero** in 1946, [4] to **NK Rijeka** in 1954, [5] and finally HNK Rijeka in 1995. [6][7][8] Rijeka is the third-most successful Croatian football club, having won one Croatian First League title, two Yugoslav Cups, six Croatian Cups, one Croatian Super Cup, Serie C 1940–41, the Italian Federal Cup 1927–28 and the 1977–78 Balkans Cup.

History

1906-1926

The club was founded in mid-April 1904 as *Club Sportivo Olimpia* by Antonio Marchich, Aristodemo Susmel, Agesilao Satti, Carlo Colussi, Romeo and Alessandro Mitrovich when the city of Rijeka was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire as a Corpus Separatum of the Hungarian Crown. The club was founded as a tennis-lawn, football, swimming, cycling and athletics club. [9] The first activities of the club's football section recorded by the cronicles happened the 25th November 1906, with historians still investigating the football activities in the earlier years. This date is, therefore, currently considered the official beginning of HNK Rijeka as a football club. [7][2] This also makes Rijeka the oldest still active association football club on the territory of today's Republic of Croatia.

While many clubs in town and the region often had specific ethnic leanings, Olimpia intentionally had a very international soul, with Italian, Croatian, Hungarian, and German players all playing and working with each other in unison. The oldest line-up known from Rijeka's pioneer years was: Duimovic, Smoivar, Penka, Brosnich, R. Mittrovich, Lenardon, Satti, Novodnik, A. Mittrovich, Paulovatz, Cittovich (captain). Initially, the club played its matches on the main Scoglietto square, in front of the local Honved HQ, but moved to Kantrida stadium during the following decade (and the stadium changed its name to Campo Sportivo Olympia). Initially, Olimpia played in black and white garments, but in the 1910s, the club also used a fully white kit.

HNK Rijeka







One of the first historic derbies between Olimpia and Doria at the Kantrida stadium, during the 1910s.



One of the last Olympia-Gloria matches before their merger, on 30 November 1924.

During the following years, Olimpia will be joined by several other local football clubs from the city of Rijeka and will continue the legacy of Fiumei Atletikai Club as the main city club, when Atletico discontinued its football section in the course of the 1910s. [11] Among the many clubs being founded in town during these years, a side, in particular, will soon rise as fierce archrival to Olimpia: Doria (later renamed into CS Gloria) arose from the proletarian classes and the humble old town dwellers of the industry-rich port town on the Adriatic. While *Olimpia* was associated with the wealthier classes, mostly players from working-class families performed for Gloria; therefore, the club found most of its sympathisers among the poorer part of the population. [12] Olimpia was renamed into Olympia on 9 January 1918 during a meeting of its board and the new president became the Fiuman writer Antonio de Schlemmer, possibly as an anti-irredentist move. During these years, it achieved its first major local and international successes: it became the champion of the Free State of Fiume championship in 1921, and it won several Julian March and North-Eastern Italian championships in the following years, soon becoming the strongest side in the Alpe-Adria region.

1926-1943

On 2 September 1926, following Mussolini's reforms of the <u>FIGC</u> and the 1924 Fiume putsch led by Italian fascists, which brought to the annexation of the independent <u>Free State of Fiume</u> to Italy, Olympia was forced to merge

with its arch-rival Gloria into the *Unione Sportiva Fiumana*. Pietro Pasquali was picked as the new president of the club. Two years later, Fiumana won its first national trophy when it reached first place in the Italian Federal Cup.

The following season saw the club playing in the Italian Serie A, with some of the biggest Italian clubs such as Ambrosiano (today's Inter, also forced into a brand image change by the new regime), Juventus and Napoli played at the Kantrida stadium (renamed to Stadio Borgomarina in those years). Despite a decent performance in Serie A, the city, now impoverished by the annexation and cut off from its natural economic hinterland, was not in the financial position to compete with the biggest cities in Italy and following these successes, the club had to see many of its stars signed by major Italian sides. During most of the 1930s and 1940s, the club competed in the second and third tier of the Italian competitions. At the reopening of a refurbished Kantrida (then renamed Stadio del Littorio) in 1935, Fiumana hosted AS Roma. In June 1941, it became champion of the newly created Italian Serie C.



Players and management celebrating the 1927-28 Federal Cup victory.

Serie C's last season before the fall of fascist Italy in 1943 saw Fiumana end in third place. Mostly from workers' families, the players leaned heavily toward the partisan movement, often joining it outright. They didn't participate in the <u>Italian Social Republic</u> championships and the Adriatic Littoral championship set up by the German occupational force. Nonetheless, the players kept playing several matches with other local clubs and against sides organised or brought in by the German occupational authorities. Worth mentioning are the excessive celebrations for some victories against the German sides that brought several players to be imprisoned and sent to various concentration camps in Germany, and a last ceremonial game between the old legends of Olympia and Gloria that was held on 15 June 1944 while allied planes were bombing the city's surroundings. [10] Most Fiumana players joined the partisan movement and helped the Yugoslav liberation movement, with many ending up in imprisonment and being sent to concentration camps.

Following the liberation of the city from the Nazi occupation and the subsequent occupation by Yugoslav troops, and due to the uncertain future status of the city during the long Paris peace conference, the club resumed its activities in the post-war period under the slightly rebranded name of *Rappresentativa Sindacale Fiumana*. It went on playing several games against the most notable teams of the newly constituted Yugoslav state, beating Dinamo Zagreb 4–2, Akademičar Zagreb 7–2 and Metalac Beograd 2–0. During the interim post-war year, and before the first edition of the Yugoslav First League, R.S. Fiumana played against some of its future Balkan rivals. The authorities also set up an unofficial city tournament among factories named after Fiumana's late captain Giovanni Maras, who died heroically in partisan combat on the nearby Mount Risnjak. Despite Maras and most of his colleagues' partisan allegiance and the many hardships endured by them in Nazi concentration camps, the name Fiumana came soon to be considered too Italian for a city that the Yugoslav occupational authorities were trying to annex by force before the official peace treaty could be signed.

As in most other cities in Yugoslavia, in 1946 the communist authorities established a new identity for the city's most representative club in order for it to take part in the upcoming Yugoslav championship^[8] and rebranded and restructured the club into Società Cultura Fisica Quarnero (S.C.F. Quarnero), which later added also the bilingual title **Sportsko Društvo Kvarner**. [4][14][15][16] The new name followed the geographic neutral naming conventions requested to local councils by the central authorities in Belgrade in order to approve the reestablishment of the local sport club activities and to participate in competitions. The initiative came from Ettore Mazzieri, the city's sports commissioner for the Yugoslav military administration and a previous Fiumana manager. The first match with the Quarnero identify was played on 7 August 1946, bringing revenge against Hajduk Split for the loss from the previous year. The club began the new course with a resounding 2-0 against the best Yugoslav side of the time. [17] Quarnero initially continued to play in the Fiumana amaranto colours, but started switching colours after the first few championships games, and continued appearing with new kits every few matches until season 1957–58. Luigi Sošić and, in particular, Giovanni Cucera took over the role of the first post-war president, shaping the new communist direction of the club. At the same time, all former Fiumana players and staff carried on playing in the renamed club for the next few years before the Italian exodus slowly forced many of them to leave the city after the season 1947-48. As all clubs in Yugoslavia had to transform general sports clubs following the Stalinist model imposed by Belgrade in 1945, [8] S.C.F. Quarnero incorporated 11 other sections in addition to football, including boxing, fencing, basketball and tennis. The international tennis champion Orlando Sirola started his career at the club before his exile. [10]

The authorities in Belgrade soon decided that Rijeka's club should be invited to participate in the first Yugoslav First League in 1946-47 as an external guest, representing the occupied Zone B of the Julian March region, but only after a play-off with the Pula-based club Unione Sportiva Operaia. When the city of Rijeka was assigned to Yugoslavia in February 1947, and Tito broke all ties with Stalin in 1948, most Yugoslav clubs underwent a further re-organisation. Thus, in 1948, Quarnero became once again an all-football club, and the name was also modified into *Società Calcio Quarnero – Nogometni Klub Kvarner*. During the early period playing in Yugoslavia's competitions, Kvarner reached moderate success in various national and local leagues. Still, the club was relegated at the end of their inaugural season in the Yugoslav First League in 1946–47 due to a purely political decision to favour Ponziana, after Quarnero had already secured its stay in the first league during the season. Upon securing Rijeka for Yugoslavia, the Belgrade authorities were now trying to pander to Trieste's residents through sport in the hope of annexing also that city to Yugoslavia. [18]

The club continued to play with mixed results in Yugoslav football's second and third divisions. The club achieved mediocre results over the next ten years, concurrently with Rijeka's <u>autochthonous population slowly leaving</u> hometown over the years. Consequently, the club lost many of its best players because many opted to leave Yugoslavia and move overseas.

In 1954, following rising ethnic tensions around the Trieste Crisis and the subsequent elimination of all forms of bilingualism in the city, paired with a desire to have a brand more recognizable and associated the club was further renamed into NK Rijeka. [19]

Given the political interferences in the club's life and the continuous mistreatment of ethnic Italians, many of Quarnero's best players were forced to join the Fiuman exodus, and the club lingered between the second and third tier of the Yugoslav competition for the next several years. Following new Italian-Yugoslav tensions that arose during the Trieste Crisis, and the subsequent *de facto* abolition of the city's full bilingual rights by the communist authorities in Belgrade, [20] the club changed its name once again, into the now completely monolingual *NK Rijeka* (Rijeka Football Club) on 2 July 1954, giving up onto the Italian language in its brand image for the first time in the club's history. Rijeka started to use a white kit for the second time in its history in a match in <u>Šibenik</u> in the 1957–58 second league season. During the previous seasons, the kit colours were constantly changing, depending on what was available to the management at any given time and what the sponsors could offer. [21] The main kit remained white since. Rijeka returned to the First League in 1958 and remained in the top tier for 11 consecutive seasons until 1969, when it got relegated once again to the <u>Yugoslav Second League</u>. [22] Despite finishing at the top in four (out of five) seasons of the second league, due to three failed promotion play-off attempts, the club only gained promotion back to the top tier in 1974. Rijeka remained in the top tier until the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991, with varying but improving results. [22]

The club's greatest successes during this period are two Yugoslav Cup titles in 1978 and 1979 and a runner-up finish in 1987, when Rijeka lost the final in the penalty shoot-out. The club never managed to finish the season higher than fourth place in the Yugoslav First League. In 1984, the club came closest to a Yugoslav championship title, finishing only two points behind Red Star Belgrade. Rijeka were also the best placed Croatian club in the Yugoslav First League in 1965, 1984 and 1987. [24]

1991-present

Following the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1992, Rijeka joined the Croatian First Football League in its inaugural season. In 1995, the club changed its name to *HNK Rijeka*, adding the prefix "Croatian" to its name, following the example of many other clubs during the Croatian War for Independence. Today, Rijeka remains one of only four founding member clubs of the HNL to have never been relegated and is regarded as one of the country's top three clubs. Since the Croatian independence, the club won its first-ever league title in 2017, ending Dinamo Zagreb's run of 11 consecutive titles, and was a runner-up in seven different seasons. [25] Rijeka has also won six Croatian Cups, including back-to-back titles in 2005 and 2006 and most recently in 2019 and 2020. The club also won the cup in 2014 and in 2017, which helped them secure a historic Double in that year. [26]



Players and staff celebrating their 2006 Croatian Cup win

A refereeing error denied Rijeka their first championship title in the final round of the 1998–99 season. With one match to play, Rijeka was one point ahead of Croatia Zagreb, needing a home win against Osijek to secure the title. With the match tied at 1–1, in the 89th minute, Rijeka forward Admir Hasančić converted a cross by Barnabás Sztipánovics. However, moments later, assistant referee Krečak raised his flag, and referee Šupraha disallowed Rijeka's winning goal for an alleged offside. [27] Following an investigation, 3D analysis revealed Hasančić was not, in fact, in an offside position, and that Rijeka was wrongfully denied their first championship title. [28][29] An investigation by Nacional revealed Franjo Tuđman, the president of the Republic of Croatia and an ardent Croatia Zagreb supporter, earlier in 1999 ordered the country's intelligence agencies to spy on football referees, officials and journalists, to ensure the Zagreb club wins the league title. [29]

HNK Rijeka in the European competitions

Rijeka participated in <u>UEFA</u> competitions on 23 occasions, including 11 consecutive appearances since 2013–14. The greatest success was the quarter-final of the <u>1979–80</u> European Cup Winners' Cup, where they lost to Italian giants <u>Juventus</u> 2–0 on aggregate. [30] The most memorable result in Europe was the home win (3–1) against eventual winners Real Madrid in the <u>1984–85</u> UEFA Cup. [31] Controversially, in the return leg at Santiago

Bernabéu Stadium, which Rijeka lost 3–0, three of their players were sent off. Madrid scored their first goal from a dubious penalty in the 67th minute with Rijeka already down to ten men. Over the next ten minutes, two additional Rijeka players were sent off, most notably <u>Damir Desnica</u>. While Desnica received the first yellow card because he did not stop play after Schoeters blew his whistle, the second yellow was issued because he allegedly insulted the referee. However, unbeknownst to the referee, Desnica had been a <u>deaf-mute</u> since birth. With Rijeka reduced to eight players, Madrid scored two additional goals, progressed to the next round and eventually won the trophy.

In 2013, after winning 4–3 on aggregate against VfB Stuttgart, Rijeka qualified for the 2013–14 UEFA Europa League group stage. [32][33] Rijeka also participated in the 2014–15 UEFA Europa League group stage, where they defeated Feyenoord and Standard Liège and drew with title-holders and eventual winners Sevilla. [34][35][36] In 2017, Rijeka reached the 2017–18 UEFA Champions League play-off, where they lost 3–1 on aggregate to Greek champions Olympiacos, and automatically qualified for the 2017–18 UEFA Europa League group stage. In the group stage, they recorded a famous home win (2–0) against AC Milan. [37] In 2020–21 Rijeka reached the group stages of the Europa League for the fourth time in eight years but once again failed to progress to the knockout stages.

Private ownership

In February 2012, Gabriele Volpi – an Italian businessman and the founder of Orlean Invest, as well as the owner of football club Spezia and water polo club Pro Recco – injected much-needed capital into the club. With the privatization process complete by September 2013, Volpi, through Dutch-based Stichting Social Sport Foundation, owned 70% of the club, with the City of Rijeka in control of the remaining 30%. [38][39] On 29 December 2017 it was announced that chairman Damir Mišković, through London-based Teanna Limited, acquired the majority stake in the club from Stichting Social Sport Foundation. [40][41]

Record transfers

In January 2015, Rijeka sold their star striker <u>Andrej Kramarić</u> to <u>Leicester City</u> for a club-record £9.7 million transfer fee. [42]

Historical names

- 1904 C.S. Olimpia (Club Sportivo Olimpia)
- 1918 C.S. Olympia (Club Sportivo Olympia)
- 1926 **U.S. Fiumana** (*Unione Sportiva Fiumana*), after merger with *C.S. Gloria*
- 1945 R.S. Fiumana (Rappresentativa Sindacale Fiumana)
- 1946 **S.C.F. Quarnero** (*Società Cultura Fisica Quarnero*), after rebranding to partake in the <u>Yugoslav</u> football championships system
- 1948 S.C. Quarnero N.K. Kvarner (Società Calcio Quarnero Nogometni Klub Kvarner)
- 1954 N.K. Rijeka (Nogometni Klub Rijeka)
- 1995 H.N.K. Rijeka (Hrvatski Nogometni Klub Rijeka)

Stadium

The club initially played at the <u>Honved</u> training field in front of today's Popular University of Rijeka in the central *Scoglietto* suburb of Rijeka. During the 1920s, the club was allowed to build a new and, at the time, modern facility in Scoglietto, and toward the end of the decade, it started using <u>Stadion Kantrida</u> as its primary field, naming it *Campo Sportivo Olympia*. Kantrida was the club's traditional home ground for over 95 years (with a short hiatus between 1947 and 1951 due to refurbishing) until July 2015. Since August 2015, Rijeka has been based at the newly built Stadion Rujevica, a modern all-seater with a capacity of 8,279. Stadion Rujevica is



The Kantrida stadium in season 1921–22. At the time, the field was named Campo Sportivo Olimpia, as per the club's original name.

part of Rijeka's new training centre and is the club's temporary home ground. Following the club's move to Rujevica, plans emerged to build a new, state-of-the-art, all-seater Stadion Kantrida. [43][44] The project was on hold for close to a decade as the club was seeking funding and co-investors to make the project viable. In December 2023, plans were unveiled that, in addition to the stadium, investors plan to build a commercial complex, which may include three residential highrise towers and a



Rujevica stadium, NK Rijeka's current home.

hotel, with a total cost exceeding €100 million. The new Kantrida stadium will be located at the previous location but rotated 90 degrees from the previously proposed location, facing north-south. The facility is designed to accommodate 12,000 to 14,000 spectators and will meet UEFA's fourth-category standards. [45]

Support

Rijeka's <u>ultras</u> group is called <u>Armada Rijeka</u>, or simply Armada. The group has been active since 1987, but some forms of organised (albeit not registered as associations) support were present and following the club already in the decades before, with the earliest reported in the 1920s.

During most home matches, the majority of the seats are occupied by <u>season ticket</u> holders. For the <u>2023–24</u> season, the club has more than 5,500 season ticket holders and 14,400 members.

Rivalries

Rijeka's greatest rivalry nowadays is with <u>Hajduk Split</u>. Since 1946, the <u>Adriatic derby</u> has been contested between the two most popular Croatian football clubs from the <u>Adriatic</u> coast, Rijeka and Hajduk. Other rivalries exist with other major clubs in Croatia <u>Dinamo Zagreb</u> and a milder with <u>Osijek</u>. The primary regional derby is with <u>Istra Pula</u>. The origins of the Rijeka–Pula rivalry date back to the clashes between <u>Fiumana</u> and <u>Grion Pola</u>

since the late 1920s. The city derby with <u>Orijent</u> is probably the oldest, with its roots in the clashes between CS Olimpia and CS Gloria against Orijent and the other more successful in those early years Sušak-based club, Victoria.

Kit manufacturers and shirt sponsors

Period	Kit manufacturer	Shirt partner
1998–1999	Adidas	
1999–2002	Kronos	<u>INA</u>
2002–2003	Torpedo	
2003–2004	Torpedo	Lero
2004–2005	Lagas	Leio
2005–2006	Legea	INA
2006–2008	Карра	Creatia Osigurania
2008–2012	Jako	Croatia Osiguranje
2012–2014	Lotto	
2014–2016	laka	_
2017–2018	<u>Jako</u>	Sava Osigurania
2018–2023	Joma	Sava Osiguranje
2023–	JUIIIa	Favbet

Players

Current squad

As of 13 February 2024^[46]

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	<u>GK</u>	CRO	Nediljko Labrović (captain)	23	<u>DF</u>	CRO	Alen Grgić
3	<u>DF</u>	CRO	Bruno Goda	24	<u>FW</u>	CRO	Mirko Marić (on loan from Monza)
4	MF	CRO	Niko Janković	25	MF	CRO	Veldin Hodža
5	<u>DF</u>	CRO	Niko Galešić	26	<u>DF</u>	N BIH	Stjepan Radeljić
6	<u>DF</u>	CRO	Matej Mitrović	28	<u>DF</u>	CRO	Ivan Smolčić
7	MF	USA	Steven Juncaj	30	FW	CRO	Bruno Bogojević
9	<u>FW</u>	COL	Jorge Obregón	32	<u>DF</u>	CRO	Marijan Čabraja
12	MF	ZAM	Emmanuel Banda	47	MF	₹ SRB	Damjan Pavlović
13	<u>GK</u>	N BIH	Martin Zlomislić	66	<u>DF</u>	AUT	Emir Dilaver
16	MF	SVN	Dejan Petrovič	77	DF	POR	Danilo Veiga
18	MF	ALB	Lindon Selahi	87	<u>FW</u>	CRO	Marco Pašalić
20	<u>FW</u>	CRO	Marko Pjaca	89	<u>FW</u>	CRO	Franjo Ivanović
21	MF	CRO	Toni Fruk	99	FW	GUI	Momo Yansané

Other players under contract

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



Dual registration

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
14	<u>FW</u>	CRO	Niko Gajzler (at Orijent)	_	DF	CRO	Noel Bodetić (at <u> </u>
16	<u>FW</u>	CRO	Dominik Simčić (at Orijent)		MF	CRO	Antonio Galešić (at Orijent)
45	GK	₹ SRB	Aleksa Todorović <i>(at Orijent)</i>	_	MF	CRO	Karlo Valjan <i>(at <mark>====</mark> Orijent)</i>

Out on loan

As of 16 February 2024

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
15	<u>DF</u>	CRO	Anton Krešić (at CFR Cluj until 30 June 2024)	55	<u>DF</u>	CRO	Duje Dujmović (at <u> Šibenik</u> until 19 June 2024)
27	<u>MF</u>	N BIH	Silvio Ilinković (at Zrinjski Mostar until 18 June 2024)	92	FW	AUT	Marco Djuricin (at Spartak Trnava until 19 June 2024)
29	ME	CRO	Andro Babić <i>(at <mark>N</mark> Posušje until</i> 19 June 2024)	99	ME	FRA	Naïs Djouahra (at Leganés until 19 June 2024)
48	DF	CRO	Tino Agić <i>(at <mark>tare Cibalia</mark> until 20</i> June 2024)	_	<u>DF</u>	CRO	Mateo Pavlović (at Rudeš until 19 June 2024)

Club officials and technical staff

Position	Staff
President	Damir Mišković
Vice-president	Dean Šćulac Zlatan Hreljac
General director	Igor Butorac
Administrative director	Marina Vela
Director of finance	Marina Cesarac Dorčić
Director of communications	Alen Fućak
Director of football	Srećko Juričić
Sporting director	Z Darko Raić-Sudar
Sporting director (assistant)	Antonini Čulina
Academy director	Luka Pavlović
Club secretary	Milica Alavanja
Press secretary	Sandra Nešić
Power of attorney	Vlatko Vrkić
Head coach	Željko Sopić
Assistant coach	Radomir Đalović Dario Grabušić
Team manager	Alen Rivetti
Performance analyst	Rade Ljepojević
Chief scout	Ranko Buketa
Fitness coach	Ivan Ćuković
Goalkeeping coach	Mario Jozić
Team doctor	Nataša Bakarčić Boban Dangubić
Physiotherapist	Marin Polonijo Matija Čargonja Matej Lulić
Kit manager	Denis Miškulin

Last updated: 30 August 2023

Source: Club officials (https://nk-rijeka.hr/klub/organizacija/)

Notable players

To appear in this section a player must have satisfied all of the following three criteria:

- (1) player has at least 100 appearances in official matches, including first division (Yugoslav First League and Croatian First Football League), domestic cup (Yugoslav Cup, Croatian Cup and Croatian Supercup) and UEFA club competitions;
- (2) player has scored at least 20 goals in official matches if <u>forward</u>, 5 if <u>midfielder</u> and no goal requirement if <u>defender</u> or <u>goalkeeper</u> in first division (<u>Yugoslav First League</u> and <u>Croatian First Football League</u>), domestic cup (<u>Yugoslav Cup</u>, <u>Croatian Cup</u> and <u>Croatian Supercup</u>) and <u>UEFA club competitions</u>; and
- (3) player has played at least one international match for their national team while under contract with Rijeka.
- Otherwise, also included are 30 of the club's top scorers and most capped players in the first division.
- ■ Ezio Loik
- Rodolfo Volk
- Mario Varglien
- 🛮 📕 Giovanni Varglien
- Luigi Ossoinach
- Andrea Kregar
- ■ Giovanni Maras
- Ernő Egri Erbstein
- Ferenc Molnár
- Balassa Béla
- Alexander Gorgon
- Senad Brkić
- Admir Hasančić
- Zoran Kvržić
- Servición de la propertie de la p
- Fredi Bobic
- Filip Bradarić
- Elvis Brajković
- Antonio Čolak
- Zario Knežević
- Zamarić
- Mate Maleš
- Matej Mitrović
- Mladen Mladenović
- Roberto Paliska
- Z Dubravko Pavličić
- Mladen Romić
- Daniel Šarić
- Keonard Zuta
- Radomir Đalović
- Marko Vešović
- Roman Bezjak

- Josip Drmić
- Mario Gavranović
- Radojko Avramović
- Marijan Brnčić
- Boško Bursać
- Telescopie
 Telescopie
- Z Damir Desnica
- Adriano Fegic
- Tenad Gračan
- Tonči Gulin
- Miloš Hrstić
- Janko Janković
- Marijan Jantoljak
- Srećko Juričić
- Miodrag Kustudić
- Wadimir Lukarić
- Sergio Machin
- Zanko Matrijan
- X Nikica Milenković
- Anđelo Milevoj
- Welimir Naumović
- Petar Radaković
- Zvjezdan Radin
- Milan Radović
- Mauro Ravnić
- Milan Ružić
- ivilian Nuzic
- Miroslav Šugar
- Edmond Tomić
- Bruno Veselica
- Mladen Vranković
- Tedeljko Vukoje

Source: Appearances and Goals. Last updated 23 April 2022.

All-time Best 11

According to a 2005–07 survey of former players (older than 40 years of age) and respected journalists, Marinko Lazzarich found that the best all-time team of Rijeka is as follows:

1. <u>Jantoljak</u>, 2. <u>Milevoj</u>, 3. <u>Hrstić</u>, 4. <u>Radaković</u>, 5. <u>Radin</u>, 6. <u>Juričić</u>, 7. <u>Lukarić</u>, 8. <u>Gračan</u>, 9. <u>Osojnak</u>, 10. Naumović, 11. Desnica. [47]

Rijeka's daily, *Novi list*, in 2011 declared the following 11 players as Rijeka's best all time team:

1. <u>Jantoljak</u>, 2. <u>Šarić</u>, 3. <u>Radin</u>, 4. <u>Juričić</u>, 5. <u>Hrstić</u>, 6. <u>Loik</u>, 7. <u>Radaković</u>, 8. <u>Mladenović</u>, 9. <u>Naumović</u>, 10. Skoblar, 11. Desnica. [48]

Best 11 (2010-20)

In 2020, the club's fans voted to select the best squad over the past decade to fit in a 4-2-3-1 formation:

<u>Prskalo</u> – <u>Ristovski</u>, <u>Župarić</u>, <u>Mitrović</u>, <u>Zuta</u> – <u>Kreilach</u>, <u>Moisés</u> – <u>Vešović</u>, <u>Andrijašević</u>, <u>Sharbini</u> – <u>Kramarić</u>. <u>Manager: Kek. [49]</u>

Historical list of coaches

- Karoly Bela (September 1926 July 27)
- Delfino Costanzo Valle (August 1927 July 29)
- Imre Emmerich Poszonyi (August 1929 July 32)
- Luigi Ossoinak (August 1932 July 33)
- Andrea Kregar (August 1933 July 36)
- Eugen Payer (August 1936 July 38)
- Marcello Mihalich (August 1938 July 40)
- Angelo Piccalunga (August 1940 July 42)
- Artur Kolisch (August 1942 44)
- Hans Bloch (July 1946 August 46)
- Z Jozo Matošić (August 1946 August 47)
- Ivan Smojver & TANte Vukelić (September 1947 October 47)
- Franjo Glaser (October 1947 July 48)
- Zvonko Jazbec (September 1948 December 48)
- Franjo Glaser (January 1949 December 50)
- Slavko Kodrnja (January 1951 December 51)
- Ljubo Benčić (January 1952 August 52)
- Tambér 1952 April 53)
- Antun Lokošek (May 1953 December 53)
- Ratomir Čabrić (January 1954 July 54)
- Franjo Glaser (August 1954 July 56)
- X Nikola Duković (September 1956 July 57)
- Milorad Ognjanov (September 1957 October 59)
- Luka Kaliterna (November 1959 May 60)
- Stojan Osojnak (May 1960 June 61)

- Stoja Simić (June 1961 May 62)
- Angelo Ziković (August 1962 December 62)
- Virgil Popescu (January 1963 September 64)
- Stojan Osojnak (October 1964 June 67)
- Z Vladimir Beara (May 1967 November 68)
- Angelo Ziković (November 1968 June 70)
- **I**lijas Pašić (June 1970 June 71)
- Stevan Vilotić (June 1971 June 72)
- 🔹 💳 Marcel Žigante (June 1972 May 73)
- Ivica Šangulin (May 1973 June 74)
- Gojko Zec (June 1974 June 76)
- Z Dragutin Spasojević (June 1976 April 79)
- Marijan Brnčić (interim) (April 1979 June 79)
- Miroslav Blažević (June 1979 January 81)
- Marijan Brnčić (January 1981 April 83)
- Josip Skoblar (May 1983 December 86)
- Mladen Vranković (January 1987 June 89)
- Z Vladimir Lukarić (June 1989 January 91)
- Z Nikola "Pape" Filipović (January 1991)
- Mladen Vranković (February 1991)
- Željko Mudrovičić (March 1991 June 91)
- Marijan Jantoljak (June 1991 November 92)
- Srećko Juričić & Mile Tomljenović (November 1992)
- Srećko Juričić (January 1993 June 94)
- 🔹 💳 Zvjezdan Radin (June 1994 March 95)
- Mladen Vranković (April 1995)
- Josip Skoblar (April 1995 June 95)
- 🔹 💳 Marijan Jantoljak (June 1995 September 95)
- Ranko Buketa (interim) (September 1995 October 95)
- Josip Skoblar (October 1995 November 95)
- Miroslav Blažević & Nenad Gračan (January 1996 June 96)
- Luka Bonačić (June 1996 August 96)
- zz Ivan Kocjančić (interim) (August 1996)
- Branko Ivanković (August 1996 March 98)
- Nenad Gračan (March 1998 November 2000)
- Boris Tičić (interim) (November 2000 December 2000)
- Predrag Stilinović (December 2000 1 May)
- 🔹 💳 Ivan Katalinić (May 2001 2 May)
- Zlatko Kranjčar (May 2002 2 November)
- Mladen Mladenović (November 2002 3 March)
- Tiekoslav Lokica (March 2003 3 July)
- Ivan Katalinić (July 2003 4 May)
- Elvis Scoria (1 July 2004 30 September 2005)
- Tagan Skočić (1 October 2005 30 September 2006)
- 🛚 💳 Milivoj Bračun (1 October 2006 13 March 2007)
- Josip Kuže (12 March 2007 4 June 2007)
- Zlatko Dalić (1 June 2007 30 June 2008)
- Mladen Ivančić (7 July 2008 8 October 2008)

- Stjepan Ostojić (interim) (4 October 2008 13 October 2008)
 - Robert Rubčić (13 October 2008 21 September 2009)
- Zoran Vulić (22 September 2009 10 November 2009)
- Nenad Gračan (10 November 2009 6 November 2010)
- Elvis Scoria (7 November 2010 16 June 2011)
- Alen Horvat (20 June 2011 4 October 2011)
- No Ištuk (4 October 2011 18 March 2012)
- Dragan Skočić (19 March 2012 30 April 2012)
- Mladen Ivančić (interim) (30 April 2012 2 May 2012)
- Elvis Scoria (2 May 2012 24 February 2013)
- Matjaž Kek (27 February 2013 6 October 2018)
- Igor Bišćan (9 October 2018 22 September 2019)
- Simon Rožman (23 September 2019 27 February 2021)
- Goran Tomić (1 March 2021 27 May 2022)
- Dragan Tadić (20 June 2022 16 August 2022)
- Fausto Budicin (interim) (16 August 2022 5 September 2022)
- Serse Cosmi (5 September 2022 13 November 2022)
- Sergej Jakirović (30 November 2022 21 August 2023)
- Darko Raić-Sudar (interim) (22 August 2023 25 August 2023)
- Željko Sopić (25 August 2023)

Source: [50][51]

Winning managers

Name	Nationality	Honours	Total
Matjaž Kek	Slovenia	2013–14 Croatian Cup, 2014 Croatian Super Cup, 2016–17 Croatian First League, 2016–17 Croatian Cup	4
Dragutin Spasojević	Yugoslavia	1977–78 Yugoslav Cup, 1977–78 Balkans Cup	2
Delfino Costanzo Valle	Italy	1926–27 Italian Federal Cup	1
Marijan Brnčić	Yugoslavia	1978–79 Yugoslav Cup	1
Elvis Scoria	Croatia	2004–05 Croatian Cup	1
Dragan Skočić	Croatia	2005–06 Croatian Cup	1
Igor Bišćan	Croatia	2018–19 Croatian Cup	1
Simon Rožman	Slovenia	2019–20 Croatian Cup	1

Presidents

- Antonio Carlo de Schlemmer 1918–1920
- Antonio Marcich 1920–1921
- Pietro Pasquali 1921–1923
- Clemente Marassi 1923–1925
- Nino Host-Venturi 1925–1926
- Giovanni Stiglich 1926–1928

- Ramiro Antonini 1928–1929
- Oscar Sperber 1929–1931
- Costanzo Delfino 1931–1936
- Alessandro Szemere 1936–1937
- Eugenio Zoncada 1937–1938
- Alessandro Andreanelli 1938–1939
- Giuseppe lanetti 1939–1940
- Alesandro Andreanelli 1940–1941
- Carlo Descovich 1941–1942
- Andrea Gastaldi 1942-1945
- Luigi Sošić, 1946
- Giovanni Cucera, 1946–1948
- Ambrosio Stečić, 1948–1952
- Dr. Zdravko Kučić, 1953–1954
- Milorad Doričić, 1955–1956
- Milan Blažević, 1957–1959
- Stjepan Koren, 1960–1963
- Milorad Doričić, 1964–1969
- Vilim Mulc, 1969–1971
- Davor Sušanj, 1971
- Ljubo Španjol, 1972–1978
- Zvonko Poščić, 1978–1979
- Nikola Jurčević, 1980
- Marijan Glavan, 1981
- Davor Sušanj, 1981–1984
- Stjepko Gugić, 1985–1986
- Dragan Krčelić, 1986–1989
- Želimir Gruičić, 1989–1991
- Darko Čargonja, 1991–1992
- Josip Lokmer, 1993-1994
- Krsto Pavić, 1994–1995
- Hrvoje Šarinić, 1995–1996
- Franjo Šoda, 1996–1997
- Prof. Žarko Tomljanović, 1997–2000
- Hrvoje Šarinić, Dr. Ivan Vanja Frančišković, Robert Ježić, 2000
- Robert Ježić, 2000
- Sanjin Kirigin, 2000–2002
- Duško Grabovac, 2002–2003
- Robert Ježić, 2003–2008
- Dr. Ivan Vanja Frančišković, 2008–2009
- Ivan Turčić, 2009–2011
- Robert Komen, 2011–2012
- Damir Mišković, 2012–

Source: [50][51]

Seasons, statistics and records

Honours

Rijeka has won one Croatian First Football League title, two Yugoslav Cups and six Croatian Cups, one Italian Coppa Federale. In European competitions, the club has reached the quarter-final of the Cup Winners' Cup in 1979–80, UEFA Cup Round of 32 in 1984–85, and group stages of the UEFA Europa League in 2013–14, 2014–15, 2017–18 and 2020–21. The club has also won the 1977–78 Balkans Cup. [52]

Domestic

Croatia

- Croatian First League
 - Winners (1): 2016–17
 - Runners-up (7): 1998–99, 2005–06, 2013–14, 2014–15, 2015–16, 2017–18, 2018–19
- Croatian Cup
 - Winners (6): 2004–05, 2005–06, 2013–14, 2016–17, 2018–19, 2019–20
 - Runners-up: (2) 1993–94, 2021–22
- Croatian Super Cup
 - Winners (1): 2014
 - Runners-up (3): 2005, 2006, 2019

Yugoslavia

- Yugoslav Second League
 - Winners (6): 1952, 1957–58, 1969–70, 1970–71, 1971–72, 1973–74
- Yugoslav Cup
 - Winners (2): 1977–78, 1978–79
 - Runners-up: 1986–87

Italy

- Italian Coppa Federale
 - Winners (1): 1927–28
- Italian North-East league
 - Winners (1): 1923–24
 - Runners-up: 1924–25
- Italian Third League
 - Winners (1): 1940–41
- Julian March Championship
 - Winners (2): 1921–22, 1922–23
- Friuli and Julian March Cup

• Winners (1): 1922–23

Free State of Fiume

Fiuman championship

• Winners (1): 1920–21

• Fiuman-Julian Cup

• Winners (1): 1921

Austria-Hungary

Grazioli Cup

Runners-up: 1919

International

Balkans Cup

Winners: <u>1977–78</u>Runners-up: 1979–80

The Atlantic Cup:

• Winners: 2017

Source:, [53] Last updated 31 July 2020.

Rankings

UEFA club coefficient ranking

The following data indicates Rijeka's coefficient rankings through the years. [54]

(As of 1 November 2021), Source: [55]

Rank	Team	Points
94	Midtjylland	16.000
95	R. Standard de Liège	16.000
96	Rijeka	15.000
97	Rosenborg BK	15.000
97	Roselboly BK	13.000

All time UEFA ranking: [56] **271**

European record

By competition

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Last season played
UEFA Champions League	8	2	2	4	10	11	2017–18
UEFA Cup / UEFA Europa League	68	26	17	25	98	86	2020–21
UEFA Europa Conference League	14	7	3	4	24	14	2023–24
UEFA Cup Winners' Cup	10	3	3	4	8	9	1979–80
UEFA Intertoto Cup	4	1	1	2	3	5	2008
Total	104	39	26	39	143	125	

Source: uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/teamsandplayers/teams/club=52356/profile/history/index.html), Fully up to date on 31 August 2023.

Pld = Matches played; W = Matches won; D = Matches drawn; L = Matches lost; GF = Goals for; GA = Goals against. Defunct competitions indicated in italics.

By ground

Ground	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Home	52	27	12	13	86	50	+36
Away	52	12	14	26	57	75	-18
Total	104	39	26	39	143	125	+18

Source: <u>uefa.com</u> (http://www.uefa.com/teamsandplayers/teams/club=52356/profile/history/index.html), Fully up to date on 31 August 2023.

Pld = Matches played; W = Matches won; D = Matches drawn; L = Matches lost; GF = Goals for; GA = Goals against.

By season

Non-UEFA competitions are listed in *italics*.

[show] Season	Competition	Round	Opponent	Home	Away	Agg.
	Intertoto Cup	Group	Rot-Weiß Oberhausen	2–1	3–4	1st out of
1962–63		B3	♣ Basel	5–1	2–2	4
			PSV	3–1	3–2	
		QF	Dozsa Pecs	2–2	1–2	3–4
			Motor Jena	0–3	1–3	
1965–66	Intertoto Cup	Group	Tatran Prešov	0–0	1–3	4th out of
		B1	Szombierki Bytom	0–3	1–0	4
		Group	T atabánya	3–1	1–3	2nd out of
1974–75	Mitropa Cup	A	Wacker Innsbruck	1–3	0–0	3
			Frem Kobenhavn	2–2	0–2	
1977	Intertoto Cup	Group 6	Ruch Chorzów	0–1	4–2	3rd out of 4
			Grazer AK	1–1	3–0	
	Balkans Cup	Group	Skënderbeu	6–0	0–1	1st out of
1978		В	Aris Thessaloniki	2–0	2–1	3
		Final	Jiul Petroşani	4–1	0–1	4–2
1978–79	UEFA Cup Winners'	R1	Wrexham	3–0	0–2	3–2
1970-79	<u>Cup</u>	R2	Beveren	0–0	0–2	0–2
	Balkans Cup	Group	PAS Giannina	2–1	3–1	1st out of
1979–80		Α	Partizani Tirana	3–0	1–4	3
		Final	Sportul Studențesc	1–1	0–2	1–3
		R1	Germinal Beerschot	2–1	0–0	2–1
1979–80	UEFA Cup Winners' Cup	R2	Lokomotíva Košice	3–0	0–2	3–2
		QF	Juventus	0–0	0–2	0–2
1004 05	LICEA Com	R1	Real Valladolid	4–1	0–1	4–2
1984–85	UEFA Cup	R2	Real Madrid	3–1	0–3	3–4
4005.00	A4"	SF	Debreceni	0-	.1 [†]	_
1985–86	Mitropa Cup	3rd Pl.	Sigma Olomouc	3–	3–2†	
1986–87	UEFA Cup	R1	■ Standard Liège	0–1	1–1	1–2

Season	Competition	Round	Opponent	Home	Away	Agg.
1999–00	UEFA Champions League	QR2	Partizan	0–3	1–3	1–6
2000–01	2000 04 LIEFA Cup		<u></u> Valletta	3–2	5–4 (<u>aet</u>)	8–6
2000-01	UEFA Cup	R1	Celta Vigo	0–1 (<u>aet</u>)	0–0	0–1
2002	UEFA Intertoto Cup	R1	St Patrick's Athletic	3–2	0–1	3–3 (<u>a</u>)
2004–05	UEFA Cup	QR2	Gençlerbirliği	2–1	0–1	2–2 (<u>a</u>)
2005–06	UEFA Cup	QR2	Litex Lovech	2–1	0–1	2–2 (<u>a</u>)
2006–07	UEFA Cup	QR1	<u></u> ✓ Omonia	2–2	1–2	3–4
2008	UEFA Intertoto Cup	R1	Renova	0–0	0–2	0–2
2009–10	UEFA Europa League	QR2	Differdange	3–0	0–1	3–1
2009-10	OEFA Europa League	QR3	Metalist Kharkiv	1–2	0–2	1–4
		QR2	20 Prestatyn Town	5–0	3–0	8–0
	UEFA Europa League	QR3	 Žilina	2–1	1–1	3–2
		РО	VfB Stuttgart	2–1	2–2	4–3
2013–14			Vitória de Guimarães	0–0	0–4	4th out of
		Group I	Real Betis	1–1	0–0	411 001 01
			Lyon	1–1	0–1	
		QR2	Ferencváros	1–0	2–1	3–1
		QR3	→ Víkingur	4–0	5–1	9–1
2014 15		РО	Sheriff Tiraspol	1–0	3–0	4–0
2014–15	UEFA Europa League		Standard Liège	2–0	0–2	
		Group G	Sevilla	2–2	0–1	3rd out of 4
			Feyenoord	3–1	0–2	_
2015–16	UEFA Europa League	QR2	Aberdeen	0–3	2–2	2–5
2016–17	UEFA Europa League	QR3	istanbul Başakşehir	2–2	0–0	2–2 (<u>a</u>)
2017–18		QR2	** The New Saints	2–0	5–1	7–1
	UEFA Champions League	QR3	Red Bull Salzburg	0–0	1–1	1–1 (<u>a</u>)
		РО	Olympiacos	0–1	1–2	1–3
	UEFA Europa League	Group D	AEK Athens	1–2	2–2	3rd out of 4

Season	Competition	Round	Opponent	Home	Away	Agg.
			■ Milan	2–0	2–3	
			Austria Wien	1–4	3–1	
2018–19	UEFA Europa League	QR3	Sarpsborg 08	0–1	1–1	1–2
2019–20	LICEA Europa Laggue	QR3	X Aberdeen	2–0	2–0	4–0
2019-20	UEFA Europa League	РО	■ Gent	1–1	1–2	2–3
	2020–21 <u>UEFA Europa League</u>	QR3	Kolos Kovalivka	2-0 (aet)	_	_
		РО	Copenhagen	_	1–0	_
2020–21			■ Napoli	1–2	0–2	
		Group F	Real Sociedad	0–1	2–2	4th out of 4
			AZ	2–1	1–4	_
		QR2	Gżira United	1–0	2–0	3–0
2021–22	UEFA Europa Conference League	QR3	⋉ Hibernian	4–1	1–1	5-2
		РО	PAOK	0–2	1–1	1–3
2022–23	UEFA Europa Conference League	QR2	Djurgårdens IF	1–2	0–2	1–4
		QR2	Dukagjini	6–1	1–0	7–1
2023–24	<u>UEFA Europa</u> Conference League	QR3	+ B36 Tórshavn	2–0	3–1	5–1
	Conference League	РО	Lille	1–1 (aet)	1–2	2–3

Last updated on 31 August 2023.

Note: List includes matches played in competitions not endorsed by <u>UEFA</u>.

Player records

- Most appearances in UEFA club competitions: 38 appearances^[57]
 - Zoran Kvržić
 - Ivan Tomečak
- Top scorer in UEFA club competitions: **8 goals**^[57]
 - Andrej Kramarić

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[†] Matches played at neutral ground in Ascoli and Pisa, Italy.

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External links

- Official
 - Official website (https://nk-rijeka.hr/) / (in English and Croatian)
 - team profile (http://www.uefa.com/teamsandplayers/teams/club=52356/profile/index.html) on UEFA.com
- Unofficial
 - Hoću Ri (http://www.hocuri.com/) (in Croatian)
 - Forza Fiume (http://www.forza-fiume.com/) (in Croatian)
- Supporters
 - Armada Rijeka official website (http://www.armada-rijeka.hr/) (in Croatian)