

Bulgaria national football team

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

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

History

1922–1945: early history

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

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

1960s and 1970s

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div><div>Austria 6–0 Bulgaria</div></div>	<div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div></div> <div>(<u>Vienna, Austria</u>; 21 May 1924)</div>	
Biggest win		
<div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div><div>Singapore 2–10 Bulgaria</div></div>	<div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div></div> <div>(<u>Singapore</u>; 13 December 1956)</div>	
Biggest defeat		
<div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div><div>Spain 13–0 Bulgaria</div></div>	<div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div></div> <div>(<u>Madrid, Spain</u>; 21 May 1933)</div>	
World Cup		
Appearances	7 (<i>first in</i> <u>1962</u>)	
Best result	Fourth place (<u>1994</u>)	
European Championship		
Appearances	2 (<i>first in</i> <u>1996</u>)	
Best result	Group stage (<u>1996</u> , <u>2004</u>)	
Medal record		
[show]		
World Cup		
<div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div>	<u>1994 United States</u> ^{*[3]}	<u>Team</u>
Olympic Games		
<div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div>	<u>1968 Mexico City</u>	<u>Team</u>
<div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div>	<u>1956 Melbourne</u>	<u>Team</u>
Balkan Cup		
<div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div>	<u>1931 Bulgaria</u>	<u>Team</u>
<div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div>	<u>1932 Yugoslavia</u>	<u>Team</u>
<div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div>	<u>1973–76 Europe</u>	<u>Team</u>
<div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div>	<u>1935 Bulgaria</u>	<u>Team</u>
<div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div>	<u>1936 Romania</u>	<u>Team</u>
<div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div>	<u>1933 Romania</u>	<u>Team</u>



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

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

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

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

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

1986–2000

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

Early 21st century

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

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

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

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

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

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



The national team in 2012

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



Bulgaria in 2010

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

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

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

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

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

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

2018–present

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Team image

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

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

Colours



Kit sponsorship

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

Ultras and controversy

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

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

Home stadium

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

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

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











Vasil Levski National Stadium

Results and fixtures

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

☐ Win ☐ Draw ☐ Loss ☐ Fixture

2023

<u>UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</u>	24 March 19:00 <u>UTC+2</u>	<u>Bulgaria</u>  0–1  <u>Montenegro</u>	Razgrad, Bulgaria [show]
		Report (https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/2036302/) <u>Krstović</u> ⚽ 70'	Stadium: <u>Huvepharma Arena</u> Attendance: 9,180 Referee: <u>Aliyar Aghayev</u> (Azerbaijan)
<u>UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</u>	27 March 21:45 <u>UTC+2</u>	<u>Hungary</u>  3–0  <u>Bulgaria</u>	Budapest, Hungary [show]
		<u>Vécsei</u> ⚽ 7' <u>Szoboszlai</u> ⚽ 26' <u>Ádám</u> ⚽ 39' Report (https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/2036325/) <u>Report</u> (https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/2036325/)	Stadium: <u>Puskás Aréna</u> Attendance: 53,000 Referee: <u>Halil Umut Meler</u> (Turkey)
<u>UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</u>	17 June 16:00 <u>UTC+3</u>	<u>Lithuania</u>  1–1  <u>Bulgaria</u>	Kaunas, Lithuania [show]
		<u>Girdvainis</u> ⚽ 15' <u>Report</u> (https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/2036349/) <u>M. Petkov</u> ⚽ 27'	Stadium: <u>Darius and Girėnas Stadium</u> Attendance: 14,230 Referee: <u>Jakob Alexander Sundberg</u> (Denmark)
<u>UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</u>	20 June	<u>Bulgaria</u>  1–1  <u>Serbia</u>	Razgrad, Bulgaria [show]

	21:45 UTC+3	Despodov 🟡 47'	Report (https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036372/)	Lazović 🟡 90+6'	Stadium: Huvepharma Arena Attendance: 6,700 Referee: Craig Pawson (England)
Friendly	7 September 19:00 UTC+3	Bulgaria 🇧🇬	0–1	Iran 🇮🇷 Mohebi 🟡 14'	Plovdiv, Bulgaria [show] Stadium: Stadion Hristo Botev Attendance: 9,500 Referee: Lazar Lukić (Serbia)
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	10 September 19:00 UTC+3	Montenegro 🇲🇳	2–1	Bulgaria 🇧🇬 Savić 🟡 45+1' Jovetić 🟡 90+6'	Podgorica, Montenegro [show] Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 4,232 Referee: Harm Osmers (Germany)
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	14 October 19:00 UTC+3	Bulgaria 🇧🇬	0–2	Lithuania 🇱🇹 Report (https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036440/) Širvys 🟡 45', 55'	Sofia, Bulgaria [show] Stadium: Vasil Levski National Stadium Attendance: 6,916 Referee: Giorgi Kruashvili (Georgia)
Friendly	17 October 18:00 UTC+2	Albania 🇦🇱	2–0	Bulgaria 🇧🇬 Laçi 🟡 41' Muçi 🟡 81'	Tirana, Albania [show] Stadium: Arena Kombëtare Attendance: 17,232 Referee: Mervan Bejtullahu (Kosovo)
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 November 19:00 UTC+2	Bulgaria 🇧🇬	2–2	Hungary 🇭🇺 Delev 🟡 24' Despodov 🟡 79' (pen.)	Sofia, Bulgaria [show] Stadium: Vasil Levski National Stadium Attendance: 230 Referee: Daniel Stefański (Poland)
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 November 16:00 UTC+2	Serbia 🇷🇸	2–2	Bulgaria 🇧🇬 Veljković 🟡 17' Babić 🟡 82'	Leskovac, Serbia [show] Stadium: Dubočica Stadium Attendance: 7,325

		m/europe an-qualifi ers/match/203651 0/)		Referee: Erik Lambrechts (Belgium)	
2024					
2024 FIFA World Series	22 March 15:00 UTC+2	<u>Bulgaria</u> 	v	 <u>Tanzania</u>	<u>Baku, Azerbaijan</u> [show] Stadium: <u>Dalga Arena</u>
2024 FIFA World Series	25 March 18:00 UTC+2	<u>Azerbaijan</u> 	v	 <u>Bulgaria</u>	<u>Baku, Azerbaijan</u> [show] Stadium: <u>Tofiq Bahramov Republican Stadium</u>
Friendly	4 June	<u>Romania</u> 	v	 <u>Bulgaria</u>	<u>Bucharest, Romania</u> [show] Stadium: <u>Stadionul Steaua</u>
Friendly	8 June	<u>Slovenia</u> 	v	 <u>Bulgaria</u>	<u>Ljubljana, Slovenia</u> [show] Stadium: <u>Stožice Stadium</u>
UEFA Nations League C	5 September	<u>Belarus</u> 	v	 <u>Bulgaria</u>	TBA [show] Stadium: TBA
UEFA Nations League C	8 September	<u>Bulgaria</u> 	v	 <u>Northern Ireland</u>	Bulgaria [show] Stadium: TBA
UEFA Nations League C	12 October	<u>Bulgaria</u> 	v	 <u>Luxembourg</u>	Bulgaria [show] Stadium: TBA
UEFA Nations League C	15 October	<u>Northern Ireland</u> 	v	 <u>Bulgaria</u>	<u>Belfast, Northern Ireland</u> [show] Stadium: <u>Windsor Park</u>
UEFA Nations League C	15 November	<u>Luxembourg</u> 	v	 <u>Bulgaria</u>	<u>Luxembourg City, Luxembourg</u> [show] Stadium: <u>Stade de Luxembourg</u>
UEFA Nations League C	18 November	<u>Bulgaria</u> 	v	 <u>Belarus</u>	Bulgaria [show] Stadium: TBA

Coaching staff

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

Coaching history




















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

Players

Current squad

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






























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

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

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

Recent call-ups

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

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Plamen Andreev	15 December 2004	0	0	 Levski Sofia	v.  Serbia , 20 June 2023
GK	Svetoslav Vutsov	9 July 2002	4	0	 Slavia Sofia	v.  Hungary , 27 March 2023
DF	Anton Nedyalkov	30 April 1993	29	0	 Ludogorets Razgrad	v.  Serbia , 19 November 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Patrik-Gabriel Galchev	14 April 2001	3	0	 Levski Sofia	v.  Albania , 17 October 2023
DF	Dimo Krastev	10 February 2003	3	0	 Feralpisalò	v.  Lithuania , 14 October 2023 ^{INJ}
DF	Hristiyan Petrov	24 June 2002	2	0	 CSKA Sofia	v.  Serbia , 20 June 2023
DF	Plamen Galabov	2 November 1995	5	0	 Beitar Jerusalem	v.  Hungary , 27 March 2023
DF	Ivaylo Markov	5 June 1997	1	0	 Slavia Sofia	v.  Hungary , 27 March 2023
MF	Marin Petkov	2 October 2003	10	2	 Levski Sofia	v.  Albania , 17 October 2023
MF	Ivan Yordanov	7 November 2000	4	0	 Ludogorets Razgrad	v.  Lithuania , 14 October 2023 ^{INJ}
MF	Nikola Iliev	6 June 2004	8	0	 CSKA 1948	v.  Iran , 7 September 2023 ^{U21}
MF	Iliyan Stefanov	20 September 1998	8	2	 Levski Sofia	v.  Serbia , 20 June 2023
MF	Stanislav Shopov	23 February 2002	2	0	 CSKA Sofia	v.  Serbia , 20 June 2023
MF	Yanis Karabelyov	23 January 1996	12	0	 Botev Plovdiv	v.  Hungary , 27 March 2023
FW	Radoslav Kirilov	29 June 1992	12	2	 CSKA 1948	v.  Hungary , 27 March 2023
Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ^{INJ} = Player withdrew from the current squad due to injury. ^{COVID} = Player withdrew from the current squad due to testing positively for COVID-19 or having to self-isolate because of it. ^{U21} = Not part of the squad due to U-21 call up. ^{PRE} = Preliminary squad. ^{RET} = Player had announced retirement from international football. ^{SUS} = Player is serving a suspension. ^{PRV} = Player absent due to private circumstances. ^{WD} = Withdrawn. 						

Player records

As of 20 June 2023^[26]

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

Most appearances

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



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

Top goalscorers

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



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

Youngest debutants

As of 15 November 2021.































Results list Bulgaria's goal tally first.

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

Competitive record

























FIFA World Cup

☐ **Champions** ☐ **Runners-up** ☐ Third place ☐ Fourth place

FIFA World Cup record										Qualification record					
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
 1930	Did not enter									Declined invitation					
 1934	Did not qualify									3	0	0	3	3	14
 1938										2	0	1	1	1	7
 1950	Did not enter									Declined participation					
 1954	Did not qualify									4	0	1	3	3	7
 1958										4	2	0	2	11	7
 1962	Group stage	15th	3	0	1	2	1	7	Squad	5	4	0	1	7	4
 1966		15th	3	0	0	3	1	8	Squad	5	4	0	1	11	7
 1970		13th	3	0	1	2	5	9	Squad	6	4	1	1	12	7
 1974		12th	3	0	2	1	2	5	Squad	6	4	2	0	13	3
 1978	Did not qualify									4	1	2	1	5	6
 1982										8	4	1	3	11	10
 1986	Round of 16	15th	4	0	2	2	2	6	Squad	8	5	1	2	13	5
 1990	Did not qualify									6	1	1	4	6	8
 1994	Fourth place	4th	7	3	1	3	10	11	Squad	10	6	2	2	19	10
 1998	Group stage	29th	3	0	1	2	1	7	Squad	8	6	0	2	18	9
  2002	Did not qualify									10	5	2	3	14	15
 2006										10	4	3	3	17	17
 2010										10	3	5	2	17	13
 2014										10	3	4	3	14	9
 2018										10	4	1	5	14	19
 2022										8	2	2	4	6	14
   2026	To be determined									To be determined					
   2030															
 2034															
Total	Fourth place	7/22	26	3	8	15	22	53	—	137	62	29	46	215	191

**Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.*

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record										Qualifying record					
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
 1960	Did not qualify									2	0	1	1	1	3
 1964										5	3	0	2	7	7
 1968										8	5	2	1	13	4
 1972										6	3	1	2	11	7
 1976										6	2	2	2	12	7
 1980										8	2	1	5	6	14
 1984										6	2	1	3	7	8
 1988										8	4	2	2	12	6
 1992										8	3	3	2	15	8
 1996	Group stage	11th	3	1	1	1	3	4	Squad	10	7	1	2	24	10
  2000	Did not qualify									8	2	2	4	6	8
 2004	Group stage	16th	3	0	0	3	1	9	Squad	8	5	2	1	13	4
  2008	Did not qualify									12	7	4	1	18	7
  2012										8	1	2	5	3	13
 2016										10	3	2	5	9	12
 2020										9	1	3	5	7	20
 2024										8	0	4	4	7	14
  2028										To be determined					
  2032															
Total	Group stage	2/17	6	1	1	4	4	13	—	130	50	33	47	171	154

**Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.*

UEFA Nations League

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

**Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.*

Olympic Games

Olympic Games record									
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad
 1908	<i>Did not enter</i>								
 1912									
 1920									
 1924	Round of 16	12th	1	0	0	1	0	1	Squad
 1928	<i>Did not enter</i>								
 1936									
 1948									
 1952	Round of 16	13th	1	0	0	1	1	2	Squad
 1956	Bronze medal	3rd	3	2	0	1	10	3	Squad
 1960	Group stage	5th	3	2	1	0	8	3	Squad
 1964	<i>Did not qualify</i>								
 1968	Silver medal	2nd	6	3	2	1	16	10	Squad
 1972	<i>Did not qualify</i>								
 1976									
 1980									
 1984									
 1988									
Since 1992	<i>Olympic football has been an under-23 tournament</i>								
Total	1 Silver medal	5/17	14	7	3	4	35	19	—


Balkan Cup

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




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

**Competition abandoned with Bulgaria in third place.*




















Head-to-head record

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

☐ Positive Record
 ☐ Neutral Record
 ☐ Negative Record

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

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

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

- a. Includes matches against  Czechoslovakia.
- b. Includes matches against  West Germany.
- c. Includes matches against  Soviet Union.

d. Includes matches against  [Yugoslavia](#) and  [Serbia and Montenegro](#).

Ranking history

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



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

As of 21 December 2023

Honours

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

Major


- [Olympic Games](#):
 -  Runners-up (1): [1968](#)
 -  Third place (1): [1956](#)


Other

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

See also

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

[Association football portal](#)

[Bulgaria portal](#)

Notes

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External links

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