



# Albania national football team

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

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

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

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

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

## History

### 20th century



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

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

### Albania



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

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

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

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



Manifest of the Fifth Albanian Football Spartakiad (1984).

## 21st century

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

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

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

	Albania 5–0 Vietnam	
(Bastia Umbra, Italy; 12 February 2003)		
	Albania 6–1 Cyprus	
(Tirana, Albania; 12 August 2009)		
	Albania 5–0 San Marino	
(Elbasan, Albania; 8 September 2021)		

## Biggest defeat

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

## European Championship

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



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



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

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

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

On 17 November 2023, Albania qualified for UEFA Euro 2024.<sup>[34]</sup>

## Team image

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### Nicknames

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

### Kits

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



Albania home kit at 2016–17 season.

## Kit sponsorship

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

## Home stadium

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



Construction of Arena Kombëtare in the city center, 2019

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

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

### Albania national football team home stadiums

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

### Rivalries

## Kosovo

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

## Serbia

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

## Supporters



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Media coverage

### Current

Broadcaster	Television channel	Period	Broadcast matches		Broadcaster	Television channel	Period
			Qualifying	Friendly			
SuperSport Albania		N/A–present	✓	✓	Albanian Radio Television		until 2022
TV Klan		2022–present <sup>[78]</sup>	✓	✓	Radio Television of Kosovo	RTK 1	
ArtMotion	ArtSport	2022–present	✓	✗			
	Klan Kosova		✓	✗			

## Results and fixtures

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

Win  Draw  Loss  Fixture

### 2023

Euro 2024 qualifying	27 March 20:45	<b>Poland</b> 1–0 <b>Albania</b> Świderski  41' Report ( <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036321/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036321/</a> )	Warsaw, Poland Stadium: Stadion Narodowy Attendance: 56,227 Referee: Slavko Vinčić (Slovenia)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	17 June 20:45	<b>Albania</b> 2–0 <b>Moldova</b> Asani  52' Report ( <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036344/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036344/</a> ) Bajrami  76'	Tirana, Albania Stadium: Arena Kombëtare Attendance: 20,944 Referee: Dennis Higler (Netherlands)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	20 June 20:45 (19:45 UTC+1)	<b>Faroe Islands</b> 1–3 <b>Albania</b> Færø  45+1' Report ( <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036345/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036345/</a> ) Bajrami  20' Asllani  51' Muçi  90+1'	Tórshavn, Faroe Islands Stadium: Tórsvøllur Attendance: 2,507 Referee: Chrysovalantis Theouli (Cyprus)	[show]

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

## 2024

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

[Friendly](#)

3 June

[Albania](#)[v](#)[Liechtenstein](#)[Austria](#)

[show]

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

[Euro 2024](#)15 June  
21:00 CEST[Italy](#)[v](#)[Albania](#)[Dortmund, Germany](#)

[show]

Report (<https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036164/>)

[Euro 2024](#)19 June  
15:00 CEST[Croatia](#)[v](#)[Albania](#)[Hamburg, Germany](#)

[show]

Report (<https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036176/>)

[Euro 2024](#)24 June  
21:00 CEST[Albania](#)[v](#)[Spain](#)[Düsseldorf, Germany](#)

[show]

Report (<https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036187/>)

[2024–25 Nations League](#)7 September  
20:45[Ukraine](#)[v](#)[Albania](#)[TBD<sup>\[b\]</sup>](#)

[show]

Report (<https://www.uefanationleague.match/2040066/>)

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

[show]

Report (<https://www.uefanationleague.match/2040086/>)

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

[show]

Report (<https://www.uefanationleague.match/2040109/>)

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

[show]

Report (<https://www.uefanationleague.match/2040129/>)

[2024–25 Nations League](#)16 November  
20:45[Albania](#)[v](#)[Czech Republic](#)[Tirana, Albania](#)

[show]

Report (<https://www.uefanationleague.match/2040129/>)

Stadium: [Arena Kombëtare](#)

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

## Coaching staff

### Current coaching staff

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



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

## Players

### Current squad

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

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

## Recent call-ups

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

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

### Notes

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

# Records

As of 20 November 2023<sup>[82]</sup>

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

## Most appearances

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



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

## Top goalscorers

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



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

## Competitive record

### FIFA World Cup

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

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

## UEFA European Championship

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

2028

2032

To be determined

To be determined

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

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

## UEFA Nations League

### UEFA Nations League record

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

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

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

## Summer Olympic Games

### Olympic Games record

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

### Qualification record

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

## Other tournaments

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

## FIFA rankings

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

Best Ranking  Worst Ranking  Best Mover  Worst Mover

### Albania's FIFA world rankings

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

## Honours

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

- ① **Champions** (1): 2000<sup>[85]</sup>

## Head-to-head record

*As of 17 November 2023 after the match against Moldova*

### Key

<b>Positive balance</b> (more Wins)
<b>Neutral balance</b> (Wins = Losses)
<b>Negative balance</b> (more Losses)



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

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

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

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

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

## Notes

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

## See also

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

## Notes and references

### Notes

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

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## External links

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- Official website (<http://www.fshf.org/index.php/sq/>) (in Albanian)
  - [Albania](https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/ALB/) (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/ALB/>) at [UEFA](#)
  - [Albania](https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/ALB) (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/ALB>) at [FIFA](#)
  - Tifozat Kuq e Zi / Red and Black Fan Club (<http://www.tifozatkuqezi.com/>)
  - RSSSF – Albania national football team international matches (<https://www.rsssf.org/tables/alba-intres.html>)
  - Stadia in Albania (<http://www.worldstadiums.com/europe/countries/albania.shtml>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20190924033623/http://www.worldstadiums.com/europe/countries/albania.shtml>) 24 September 2019 at the Wayback Machine
- 

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Albania\\_national\\_football\\_team&oldid=1211191182](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Albania_national_football_team&oldid=1211191182)"



# Bosnia and Herzegovina national football team



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

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

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

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

## History

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

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

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

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

## Bosnia and Herzegovina



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



First colours



Second colours

<b>FIFA ranking</b>	
<b>Current</b>	71 <span style="color:red">▼</span> 2 (15 February 2024) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Highest</b>	13 (August 2013)
<b>Lowest</b>	173 (September 1996)
<b>First international</b>	
	Albania 2–0 Bosnia and Herzegovina (Tirana, Albania; 30 November 1995) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Biggest win</b>	

goal against Denmark.<sup>[12]</sup>

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

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

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

 <u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u> 7–0 <u>Estonia</u> 
(Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 10 September 2008)
 <u>Liechtenstein</u> 1–8 <u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u> 
(Vaduz, Liechtenstein; 7 September 2012)
<b>Biggest defeat</b>
 <u>Argentina</u> 5–0 <u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u> 
(Córdoba, Argentina; 14 May 1998)
 <u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u> 0–5 <u>Portugal</u> 
(Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 16 October 2023)
<b>World Cup</b>
<b>Appearances</b> 1 ( <i>first in 2014</i> )
<b>Best result</b> Group stage (2014)
<b>Website</b> <a href="https://www.nfsbih.ba/">nfsbih.ba</a> ( <a href="https://www.nfsbih.ba/">https://www.nfsbih.ba/</a> )



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

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

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

Rules for classification: Tie-breaking criteria

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

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

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



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

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

## Team image

### Nickname

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

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

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

### Home stadiums

Currently, the national team uses Grbavica Stadium as its home ground following its renovation in 2018.<sup>[27][28][29]</sup>

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

Another stadium Bosnia and Herzegovina has used is Koševo City Stadium.<sup>[37]</sup>

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



Grbavica in Sarajevo.

### Supporters

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

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

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



Bosnian supporters in Brussels, 2005-03-26.<sup>[39]</sup>

## Kits

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

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

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

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

## Results and fixtures

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

Win  Draw  Loss  Fixture

### 2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	23 March 20:45 UTC+1	<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	3–0	Iceland	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	<a href="#">[show]</a>
		Krunić  14', 40' Report (ht)			Stadium: Bilino Polje	
		Dedić  63' tps://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/matches/h/2036312/			Attendance: 9,234	
					Referee: Donatas Rumšas (Lithuania)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	26 March 20:45 UTC+1	<b>Slovakia</b>	2–0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bratislava, Slovakia	<a href="#">[show]</a>
		Mak  13' Report (ht)			Stadium: Tehelné pole	
		Haraslin  40' tps://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/			Attendance: 6,052	
					Referee: Marco Di Bello (Italy)	

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 June	<b>Portugal</b>  <b>3–0</b>  <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Lisbon, Portugal	[show]
	19:45 UTC+1	<u>B. Silva</u>  44' Report (ht) <u>Fernandes</u>  77', <a href="https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/58/">https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/58/</a> Report (ht) <a href="https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/58/">https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/58/</a>	Stadium: Estádio da Luz Attendance: 55,058 Referee: Davide Massa (Italy)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	20 June	<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>  <b>0–2</b>  <b>Luxembourg</b>	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	<u>Report</u> (ht) <u>Borges Sanches</u>  4' <a href="https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203638/0/">https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203638/0/</a> Report (ht) <a href="https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203638/0/">https://uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203638/0/</a>	Stadium: Bilino Polje Attendance: 8,600 Referee: Gal Leibovitz (Israel)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	8 September	<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>  <b>2–1</b>  <b>Liechtenstein</b>	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	<u>Džeko</u>  3' Report (ht) <u>Wolfinger</u>  21' <u>Lüchinger</u>  19' (o.g.) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/6403/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/6403/</a> Report (ht) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/6403/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/20363/6403/</a>	Stadium: Bilino Polje Attendance: 6,189 Referee: Sayat Karabayev (Kazakhstan)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	11 September	<b>Iceland</b>  <b>1–0</b>  <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Reykjavík, Iceland	[show]
	18:45 UTC±0	<u>Finnbogason</u>  90+1' Report (h) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203642/5/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203642/5/</a> Report (h) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203642/5/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203642/5/</a>	Stadium: Laugardalsvöllur Attendance: 5,229 Referee: Lawrence Visser (Belgium)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	13 October	<b>Liechtenstein</b>  <b>0–2</b>  <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Vaduz, Liechtenstein	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	<u>Report</u> (h) <u>Rahmanović</u>  13' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203645/0/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203645/0/</a> Report (h) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203645/0/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203645/0/</a>	Stadium: Rheinpark Stadion Attendance: 5,874 Referee: Damian Sylwestrzak (Poland)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 October	<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>  <b>0–5</b>  <b>Portugal</b>	Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	<u>Report</u> (ht) <u>Ronaldo</u>  5' (pen.), 20' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203672/6472/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203672/6472/</a> Report (ht) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203672/6472/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203672/6472/</a>	Stadium: Bilino Polje Attendance: 13,047 Referee: Halil Umut Meler (Turkey)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 November	<b>Luxembourg</b>  <b>4–1</b>  <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Luxembourg City, Luxembourg	[show]
	20:45 UTC+1	<u>Olesen</u>  6' Report (h) <u>Gojković</u>  90+3' <u>Rodrigues</u>  30' (pen.), 90+5' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203673/6473/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203673/6473/</a> <u>Mujakić</u>  55' (o.g.) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203673/6473/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203673/6473/</a> Report (h) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203673/6473/">https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/203673/6473/</a>	Stadium: Stade de Luxembourg Attendance: 8,520 Referee: Andris Treimanis (Latvia)	

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

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

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

16 November

**Germany** 

v

 **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Germany

[show]

20:45 CEST (UTC+01:00)

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Stadium: TBD

2024–25 UEFA Nations League

19 November

**Bosnia and Herzegovina** 

v

 **Netherlands**

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[show]

20:45 CEST (UTC+01:00)

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atch/2040  
194/\)](https://www.uefa.com/uefanationssleague/match/2040194/)

Stadium: TBD

## Coaching staff

### Current technical staff

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

### Coaching history

As of 19 November 2023<sup>[53]</sup>

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

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

b. Due to an illness to Fuad Muzurović, assistant manager Borče Sredojević took charge of the team on 6 June 2007.<sup>[54]</sup>

c. Due to a suspension of Mehmed Baždarević for unsportsmanlike behaviour, assistant manager Stéphane Gilli took charge of the team on 25 March 2017.<sup>[55][56]</sup>

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

# Players

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## Current squad

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

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

## **Recent call-ups**

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

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

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

## Notes

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

## Individual records

As of 19 November 2023<sup>[53]</sup>

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

### Most appearances

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



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

### Top goalscorers

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

# Most clean sheets

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



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

## Captains

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

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

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

Table correct as of match played on 19 November 2023.

## Centuriate goals

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

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



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

## **Competitive record**

# FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record										FIFA World Cup qualification record							
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Position	
1930 to 1990	Part of  Yugoslavia										Part of  Yugoslavia						
	as  Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina										as  Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina						
1994	Could not enter										Could not enter						
1998	Did not qualify										8	3	0	5	9	14	4/5
	as  Bosnia and Herzegovina										as  Bosnia and Herzegovina						
2002	Did not qualify										8	2	2	4	12	12	4/5
2006											10	4	4	2	12	9	3/6
2010											12	6	1	5	25	15	2/6 Lost play-offs
2014	Group stage	20th	3	1	0	2	4	4	Squad	10	8	1	1	30	6	1/6	
2018	Did not qualify										10	5	2	3	24	13	3/6
2022											8	1	4	3	9	12	4/5
2026	To be determined										To be determined						
2030																	
2034																	
Total	—	—	3	1	0	2	4	4	—	66	29	14	23	121	81	—	

# **UEFA European Championship**

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

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

## UEFA Nations League

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

## Minor tournaments

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

## FIFA ranking history

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

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

## Head-to-head record

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### Key

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

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

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

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

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

## Notable victories

Source: Results ([http://www.eloratings.net/Bosnia\\_Herz.htm](http://www.eloratings.net/Bosnia_Herz.htm))

- Unofficial games not included.

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

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

## Honours

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

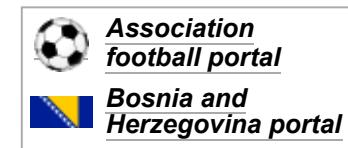
## Minor tournaments

- [Kirin Cup](#)
  - [Winners \(1\): 2016](#)
- [Millennium Super Cup](#)
  - [Runners-up \(1\): 2001<sup>\[67\]</sup>](#)

## See also

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



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# Bulgaria national football team

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

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

## History

### 1922–1945: early history

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

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

### 1960s and 1970s

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

### Bulgaria



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

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

### Biggest win

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

### Biggest defeat

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

### World Cup

**Appearances** 7 (first in 1962)

**Best result** Fourth place (1994)

### European Championship

**Appearances** 2 (first in 1996)

**Best result** Group stage (1996, 2004)

### Medal record

[show]

#### World Cup

B 1994 United States<sup>\*[3]</sup>

Team

#### Olympic Games

S 1968 Mexico City

Team

B 1956 Melbourne

Team

#### Balkan Cup

G 1931 Bulgaria

Team

G 1932 Yugoslavia

Team

G 1973–76 Europe

Team

S 1935 Bulgaria

Team

S 1936 Romania

Team

B 1933 Romania

Team



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 1986–2000

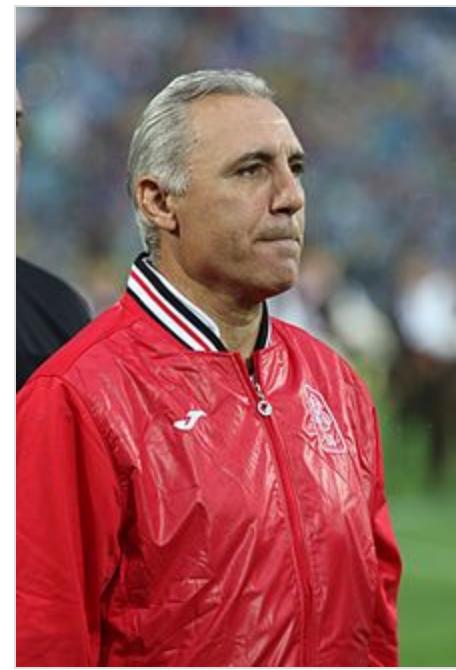
Bulgaria qualified for the 1986 World Cup in Mexico by finishing second in Group Four, behind France with 11 points, but ahead of powerful rivals Yugoslavia and East Germany. This was their fifth World Cup appearance. They were drawn in Group A with Italy, Argentina, and South Korea. In the opening match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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

## Early 21st century

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

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

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

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

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

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



The national team in 2012

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



Bulgaria in 2010

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

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

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

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

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

Bulgaria were drawn in a strong World Cup qualification group with the Netherlands, France, Sweden, Belarus and Luxembourg. They began with a 4–3 win against Luxembourg at home.<sup>[6]</sup> This was followed by heavy losses to France (4–1) and Sweden (3–0).<sup>[7][8]</sup> In November 2016, the Lions beat Belarus in Sofia 1–0,<sup>[9]</sup> 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.<sup>[10]</sup> Bulgaria then beat the group leaders Sweden 3–2 in Sofia to move one point behind their opponents in the table.<sup>[11]</sup> 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.<sup>[12]</sup>

## 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.<sup>[13]</sup> 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.<sup>[14][15]</sup>

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.<sup>[16]</sup> Bulgaria would then play away to Wales, where they held the hosts leveled 0–0 until another 90th minute injury time goal that resulted in 0–1 loss. The problems would continue with another set of narrow losses to Finland and Wales, forcing Bulgaria to miss out on promotion to League A. With two more matches left, Bulgaria finished winless against Finland and Ireland, relegating the Lions to League C.

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

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

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

## Team image

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

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

### Colours



### Kit sponsorship

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

### Ultras and controversy

In recent years, ultras of the Bulgarian team have developed a reputation for racism. After racist chanting and monkey noises directed at Ashley Young, Ashley Cole and Theo Walcott during a qualifier for Euro 2012, the Bulgarian Football Union was fined €40,000 by UEFA.<sup>[17]</sup> The BFU denied that racism would be an issue during Euro 2020 qualifiers, claiming that the issue was worse in England.<sup>[18]</sup> 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.<sup>[19]</sup> 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.<sup>[20]</sup>

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

## Home stadium

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

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

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



Vasil Levski National Stadium

## Results and fixtures

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

Win  Draw  Loss  Fixture

### 2023

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

21:45 UTC+3

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

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

Friendly	7 September 19:00 UTC+3	<b>Bulgaria</b> <b>0–1</b> <a href="#">Iran</a>	Report (ht <a href="#">Mohebi</a> 14' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/09/07/world友誼賽/bulgaria/iran/a/iran/4167842/">https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/09/07/world友誼賽/bulgaria/iran/a/iran/4167842/</a> )	Plovdiv, Bulgaria	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	10 September 19:00 UTC+3	<b>Montenegro</b> <b>2–1</b> <a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	Savić 45+1' Report (ht <a href="#">Borukov</a> 79' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/09/07/world友誼賽/montenegro/bulgaria/a/iran/4167841/">https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/09/07/world友誼賽/montenegro/bulgaria/a/iran/4167841/</a> )	Podgorica, Montenegro	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	14 October 19:00 UTC+3	<b>Bulgaria</b> <b>0–2</b> <a href="#">Lithuania</a>	Report (ht <a href="#">Širvys</a> 45', 55' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/10/17/world友誼賽/bulgaria/lithuania/a/4167440/">https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/10/17/world友誼賽/bulgaria/lithuania/a/4167440/</a> )	Sofia, Bulgaria	[show]
Friendly	17 October 18:00 UTC+2	<b>Albania</b> <b>2–0</b> <a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	Laci 41' Report (ht Muçi 81' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/10/17/world友誼賽/albania/bulgaria/a/4167843/">https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/10/17/world友誼賽/albania/bulgaria/a/4167843/</a> )	Tirana, Albania	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 November 19:00 UTC+2	<b>Bulgaria</b> <b>2–2</b> <a href="#">Hungary</a>	Delev 24' Report (ht <a href="#">Ádám</a> 10' Despodov 79' (pen.) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/11/06/world友誼賽/bulgaria/hungary/a/4167486/">https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/11/06/world友誼賽/bulgaria/hungary/a/4167486/</a> )	Sofia, Bulgaria	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 November 16:00 UTC+2	<b>Serbia</b> <b>2–2</b> <a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	Veljković 17' Report (ht <a href="#">Rusev</a> 59' Babić 82' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/11/19/world友誼賽/serbia/bulgaria/a/4167486/">https://www.uefa.com/matches/2023/11/19/world友誼賽/serbia/bulgaria/a/4167486/</a> )	Leskovac, Serbia	[show]

## 2024

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

## Coaching staff

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

## Coaching history

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

## Players

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### Current squad

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

*Caps and goals as of 19 November 2023, after the match against Serbia.<sup>[24][25]</sup>*

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

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
						<u>More</u>
	MF	<a href="#">Georgi Kostadinov</a>	7 September 1990	37	3	 APOEL
	MF	<a href="#">Yoni Stoyanov</a>	22 May 2001	8	0	 Hapoel Be'er Sheva
	MF	<a href="#">Lukas Petkov</a>	1 November 2000	4	0	 Greuther Fürth
	MF	<a href="#">Hristo Ivanov</a>	16 December 2000	2	0	 Lokomotiv Plovdiv
7	FW	<a href="#">Georgi Rusev</a>	2 July 1998	14	1	 Sion
9	FW	<a href="#">Spas Delev</a>	22 September 1989	47	5	 Ludogorets Razgrad
11	FW	<a href="#">Kiril Despodov (captain)</a>	11 November 1996	45	12	 PAOK
13	FW	<a href="#">Stanislav Ivanov</a>	16 April 1999	2	0	 Arda
14	FW	<a href="#">Preslav Borukov</a>	23 April 2000	4	1	 Marítimo
17	FW	<a href="#">Aleksandar Kolev</a>	8 December 1992	2	0	 Krumovgrad
21	FW	<a href="#">Martin Minchev</a>	22 April 2001	15	0	 Çaykur Rizespor
	FW	<a href="#">Georgi Minchev</a>	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 <sup>INJ</sup>
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 <sup>INJ</sup>
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 <sup>INJ</sup>
MF	Nikola Iliev	6 June 2004	8	0	CSKA 1948	v.  Iran, 7 September 2023 <sup>U21</sup>
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

- 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<sup>[26]</sup>

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

## Most appearances

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



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

## Top goalscorers

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



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

## Youngest debutants

As of 15 November 2021.

Results list Bulgaria's goal tally first.

Rank	Player	Age on debut	Opponent	Result	Year
1	Vladimir Todorov	15 years 08 months 14 days	Romania	2–3	1929
2	Aleksandar Belokapov	15 years 10 months 11 days	Germany	1–2	1939
3	Georgi Sokolov	16 years 10 months 24 days	Netherlands	3–2	1959
4	Radoslav Maznikov	17 years 02 months 12 days	Romania	0–3	1929
5	Nikola Staykov	17 years 07 months 28 days	Yugoslavia	1–3	1926
6	Nikolay Mihaylov	17 years 10 months 13 days	Scotland	1–5	2006
7	<b>Martin Minchev</b>	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

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### FIFA World Cup

Champions  Runners-up  Third place  Fourth place

FIFA World Cup record

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

Qualification record

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

\*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

## UEFA European Championship

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

\*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

## UEFA Nations League

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

\*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

## Olympic Games

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

## Balkan Cup

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

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

\*Competition abandoned with Bulgaria in third place.

## Head-to-head record

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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 <sup>[a]</sup>		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 <sup>[b]</sup>		24	4	2	18	28	62	-34
Gibraltar		3	2	1	0	9	2	+7
Greece		26	13	7	6	48	35	+13

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

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

a. Includes matches against  Czechoslovakia.

b. Includes matches against  West Germany.

c. Includes matches against  Soviet Union.

## Ranking history

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

- FIFA-ranking yearly averages for Bulgaria (1992–2023)<sup>[28]</sup>

As of 21 December 2023

## Honours

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

### Major

- **Olympic Games:**

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

### Other

- **Balkan Cup:**

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

## See also

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



## Notes

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## External links

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



# Greece national football team

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

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

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

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

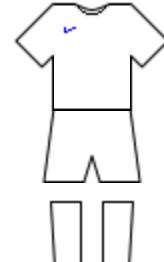
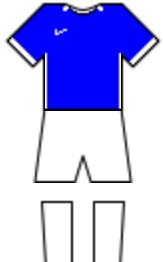
## History

### First years

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

### Greece



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

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

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

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

## 1930s Balkan Cups

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

## 1950s Mediterranean Cups

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

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

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



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

## 1970s World Cups near misses

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

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



Greece squad for the 1970 Olympics.

## Euro 1980

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



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

## Wilderness before 1994

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

## 1994 World Cup

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

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

## Near misses

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

## European Champions: Euro 2004 triumph



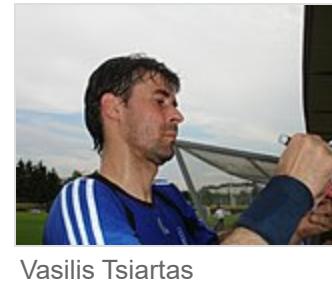
Greece line-up in Euro 2004

### Qualification

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

### Before the tournament

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



Vasilis Tsiartas



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

## Group stage

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

## Quarter-finals

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

## Semi-finals

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

## Final

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



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

## Recognition



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

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

## 2005 Confederations Cup

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

## 2006 World Cup qualifying

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

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

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

## Euro 2008

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

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

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

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

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



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

## 2010 World Cup

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

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

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

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

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



Fernando Santos

## Euro 2012

### Qualifying

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

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

### Group stage in Poland

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



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

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

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

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

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

## Quarter-finals

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



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

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

## 2014 World Cup

### Qualifying

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

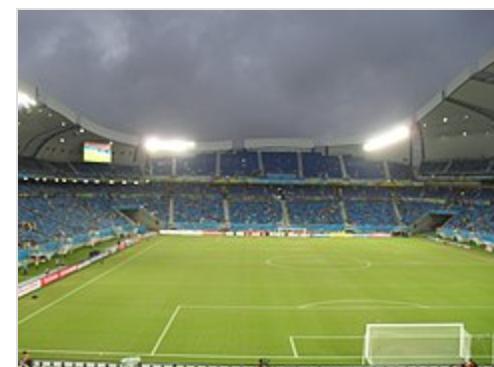


Greece national team in 2013

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

### Finals

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



Arena das Dunas before the Japan vs Greece match.

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

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

## Post Brazil 2014

### Euro 2016 qualifying: Reorganization and decline

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

### 2018 World Cup qualifying: Resurgence

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

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

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

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

### 2020–21 Nations League and 2022 World Cup Qualifying

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

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

## 2022–23 UEFA Nations League and Euro 2024

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

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

## Home stadium

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



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

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

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

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

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

## Team image

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

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

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

## Kit sponsorship

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

## Nicknames

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



Flag of Greece held by fans

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

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

## Rivalries

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

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

## Media coverage

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

## Results and fixtures

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

Win  Draw  Loss  Fixture

### 2023

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

UEFA Euro 2024	16 June 2023	Greece  2–1  Republic of Ireland	Nea Filadelfeia, Greece	<a href="#">[show]</a>
qualifying		21:45 UTC+3 Bakasetas  15' (pen.) Report (h) Collins  29' Masouras  49' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036338/">https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036338/</a> 8/)	Stadium: Agia Sofia (OPAP Arena) Attendance: 17,452 Referee: Harald Lechner (Austria)	
UEFA Euro 2024	19 June 2023	France  1–0  Greece	Saint-Denis, France	<a href="#">[show]</a>
qualifying		20:45 Mbappé  55' (pen.) Report (ht) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036361/">https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036361/</a> 1/)	Stadium: Stade de France Attendance: 76,500 Referee: Antonio Mateu Lahoz (Spain)	
UEFA Euro 2024	7 September 2023	Netherlands  3–0  Greece	Eindhoven, Netherlands	<a href="#">[show]</a>
qualifying		20:45 De Roon  17' Report (ht) Gakpo  31' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036385/">https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036385/</a> Weghorst  39' 5/)	Stadium: Philips Stadion Attendance: 32,079 Referee: Michael Oliver (England)	
UEFA Euro 2024	10 September 2023	Greece  5–0  Gibraltar	Nea Filadelfeia, Greece	<a href="#">[show]</a>
qualifying		21:45 UTC+3 Pelkas  9' Report (ht) Mavropanos  23', 82' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036408/">https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036408/</a> Masouras  70', 90+1' 8/)	Stadium: Agia Sofia (OPAP Arena) Attendance: 9,774 Referee: Manfredas Lukjančukas (Lithuania)	
UEFA Euro 2024	13 October 2023	Republic of Ireland  0–2  Greece	Dublin, Republic of Ireland	<a href="#">[show]</a>
qualifying		19:45 UTC+1 Report (ht) Giakoumakis  20' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036431/">https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036431/</a> Masouras  45+4' 1/)	Stadium: Aviva Stadium Attendance: 41,239 Referee: Glenn Nyberg (Sweden)	
UEFA Euro 2024	16 October 2023	Greece  0–1  Netherlands	Nea Filadelfeia, Greece	<a href="#">[show]</a>
qualifying		21:45 UTC+3 Report (ht) Van Dijk  90+3' (pen.) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036453/">https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/matc/h/2036453/</a> 3/)	Stadium: Agia Sofia (OPAP Arena) Attendance: 24,967 Referee: Alejandro Hernández Hernández (Spain)	
Friendly	17 November 2023	Greece  2–0  New Zealand	Athens, Greece	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	19:00 UTC+2 Konstantelias  10' Report (ht) Giakoumakis  29' <a href="https://www.skysports.com/football/2023/11/17/greece-new-zealand-fifa-world-cup-qualifier-report">https://www.skysports.com/football/2023/11/17/greece-new-zealand-fifa-world-cup-qualifier-report</a>	Stadium: Georgios Kamaras Stadium Attendance: 5,625		

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ece-vs-ne  
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d/stats/49  
9427/)

Referee: Luca Cibelli  
(Switzerland)

UEFA Euro 21 November 2023  
2024 qualifying

21:45 UTC+2

Greece  2–2  France

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

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

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

## 2024

UEFA Euro 2024 21 March 2024  
qualifying play-offs

21:45 UTC+2

Greece  v  Kazakhstan

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

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

Stadium: Agia Sofia (OPAP  
Arena)

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

21:45 UTC+3

Greece  v  Finland

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

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

Stadium: Agia Sophia Stadium

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

19:45 UTC+1



 Greece

Dublin, Ireland

[\[show\]](#)

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

Stadium: Aviva Stadium

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

19:45 UTC+1

**England**  v  Greece

London, England

[\[show\]](#)

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

Stadium: Wembley Stadium

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

Greece 



**Republic of Ireland**

Nea Filadelfeia, Greece

[\[show\]](#)

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

**Greece**  v  **England**

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

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

Stadium: Agia Sophia Stadium

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

**Finland**  v  **Greece**

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

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

Stadium: Helsinki Olympic  
Stadium

## Coaching staff

As of 3 January 2022

Position	Name
Manager	 <a href="#">Gus Poyet</a>
Assistant manager	 <a href="#">Gerard Nus</a>
Assistant manager	 <a href="#">Mauricio Taricco</a>
Assistant manager	 <a href="#">Diego Poyet</a>
Goalkeeping coach	 <a href="#">Fanis Katergiannakis</a>
Chief Analyst	 <a href="#">Dimitris Goumas</a>
Technical director	 <a href="#">Konstantinos Konstantinidis</a>
Sporting director	 <a href="#">Takis Fyssas</a>

## Coaching history

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

Updated 21 November 2023



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



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

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

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

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

# Players

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## Current squad

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

*Caps and goals correct as of 21 November 2023, after the match against the France.<sup>[68][69]</sup>*

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

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

## Recent call-ups

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

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
MF	Giannis Papanikolaou	18 November 1998	4	0	Raków Częstochowa	v.  Gibraltar, 10 September 2023
MF	Kostas Fortounis	16 October 1992	56	9	Olympiacos	v.  Lithuania, 27 March 2023
FW	Dimitris Limnios	27 May 1998	24	3	Panathinaikos	v.  Gibraltar, 10 September 2023
FW	Tasos Douvikas	2 August 1999	15	1	Celta Vigo	v.  Republic of Ireland, 16 June 2023

**Notes**

- PRE = Preliminary squad/standby.

## Player records

As of 10 September 2023<sup>[70]</sup>

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

### Most capped players

Rank	Name	Caps	Goals	Position	Career
1	Giorgos Karagounis	139	10	MF	1999–2014
2	Theodoros Zagorakis	120	3	MF	1994–2007
3	Kostas Katsouranis	116	10	MF	2003–2015
4	Vasilis Torosidis	101	10	DF	2007–2019
5	Angelos Basinas	100	7	MF	1999–2009
6	Stratos Apostolakis	96	5	DF	1986–1998
7	Antonis Nikopolidis	90	0	GK	1999–2008
	Sokratis Papastathopoulos	90	3	DF	2008–2019
9	Angelos Charisteas	88	25	FW	2001–2011
10	Dimitris Salpingidis	82	13	FW	2005–2014



Greece's iconic midfielder and former captain Giorgos Karagounis is the most capped player in the history of the national team with 139 caps.

### Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Period
1	Nikos Anastopoulos	29	74	0.39	1977–1988
2	Angelos Charisteas	25	88	0.28	2001–2011
3	Theofanis Gekas	24	78	0.31	2005–2014

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Period
4	Dimitris Saravakos	22	78	0.28	1982–1994
5	Mimis Papaioannou	21	61	0.34	1963–1978
6	Nikos Machlas	18	61	0.3	1993–2002
7	Demis Nikolaidis	17	54	0.31	1995–2004
	Kostas Mitroglou	17	65	0.26	2009–2019
9	Panagiotis Tsalouchidis	16	76	0.21	1987–1995
10	Giorgos Sideris	14	28	0.5	1958–1970



Nikos Anastopoulos, the top goalscorer of the national team.

## Captains

List of captaincy periods of the various captains throughout the years.



Angelos Charisteas, scorer of Greece's winning goal in Euro 2004 Final and second all-time scorer of Greece with 25 goals.

Name	Period	Notes
Andreas Mouratis	1951–1953	
Thanasis Bebis	1953–1954	
Ilias Rosidis	1954–1960	
Kostas Polychroniou	1961–1967	
Giorgos Sideris	1968–1970	
Mimis Domazos	1970–1979	
Giorgos Koudas	1979–1982	European Championship captain (1980) First captain of Greece national football team in a major competition
Anthimos Kapsis	1982	
Nikos Anastopoulos	1983–1988	
Tasos Mitropoulos	1988–1994	World Cup captain (1994) First captain of Greece national football team in a World Cup
Stratos Apostolakis	1994–1998	
Demis Nikolaidis	1998–1999	
Nikos Machlas	1999	
Marinos Ouzounidis	1999–2001	
Theodoros Zagorakis	2001–2007	European Championship winning captain (2004)
Angelos Basinas	2007–2009	European Championship captain (2008)
Giorgos Karagounis	2009–2014	World Cup captain (2010) European Championship captain (2012) World Cup captain (2014)
Dimitris Salpingidis	2014	
Vasilis Torosidis	2014–2019	
Kostas Stafylidis	2019–2020	
Tasos Bakasetas	2020–	

## Competitive record

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### Competitive results

These are Greece's results in the major competitions that they have participated in. The results in the main tournaments have been listed directly in the total column.

*Updated 21 November 2023*

Competition	Total							Home				Away					
	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	W	D	L	GF	GA	W	D	L	GF	GA
FIFA World Cup	146	58	35	53	172	199	-27	35	16	17	95	62	23	19	36	77	137
UEFA European Championship	143	65	29	49	199	164	+35	39	5	20	117	71	26	24	29	82	93
UEFA Nations League	18	11	3	4	20	8	+12	6	2	1	12	2	5	1	3	8	6
FIFA Confederations Cup	3	0	1	2	0	4	-4	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	2	0	4
Olympic Games	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	1	2
Mediterranean Games	2	2	0	0	6	0	+6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mediterranean Cup	17	4	5	8	15	31	-16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balkan Cup	24	3	4	17	36	76	-40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	354	143	77	134	449	488	-39	80	23	38	224	135	54	45	71	168	242

## FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record										Qualification record					
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1930	Did not enter										Declined invitation				
1934	Did not qualify										1	0	0	1	0
1938	Did not qualify										3	2	0	1	5
1950	Did not enter										Did not enter				
1954											4	2	0	2	3
1958											4	0	1	3	2
1962											4	1	0	3	3
1966											6	2	1	3	10
1970	Did not qualify										6	2	3	1	13
1974											4	0	0	4	5
1978											4	1	1	2	2
1982											8	3	1	4	10
1986											6	1	2	3	5
1990											6	1	2	3	3
1994	Group stage	24th	3	0	0	3	0	10	Squad						
1998	Did not qualify										8	4	2	2	11
2002	Did not qualify										8	2	1	5	7
2006											12	6	3	3	15
2010	Group stage	25th	3	1	0	2	2	5	Squad						

2014	Round of 16	13th	4	1	2	1	3	5	Squad	12	9	2	1	16	6	
2018	<i>Did not qualify</i>										12	5	5	2	18	10
2022	<i>Did not qualify</i>										8	2	4	2	8	8
2026	<i>To be determined</i>										<i>To be determined</i>					
2030	<i>To be determined</i>										<i>To be determined</i>					
2034	<i>To be determined</i>										<i>To be determined</i>					
Total	Round of 16	3/22	10	2	2	6	5	20	—	136	56	33	47	167	179	

\*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

## Greece's World Cup history [show]

<b>First Match</b>	Argentina 4–0 Greece (Foxborough, United States; 21 June 1994)
<b>Biggest Win</b>	Greece 2–1 Nigeria (Bloemfontein, South Africa; 17 June 2010) Greece 2–1 Ivory Coast (Fortaleza, Brazil; 24 June 2014)
<b>Biggest Defeat</b>	Argentina 4–0 Greece (Foxborough, United States; 21 June 1994) Greece 0–4 Bulgaria (Chicago, United States; 26 June 1994)
<b>Best Result</b>	Round of 16 (2014)
<b>Worst Result</b>	Group stage (1994, 2010)

## UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record											Qualifying record																
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA												
1960	Did not qualify											2	0	1	1	2	8										
1964	Did not enter											Did not enter															
1968	Did not qualify											5	2	1	2	7	8										
1972	Did not qualify											6	1	1	4	3	8										
1976	Did not qualify											6	2	3	1	12	9										
1980	Group stage	8th	3	0	1	2	1	4	Squad	6	3	1	2	13	7												
1984	Did not qualify											8	3	2	3	8	10										
1988	Did not qualify											8	4	1	3	12	13										
1992	Did not qualify											8	3	2	3	11	9										
1996	Did not qualify											10	6	0	4	23	9										
2000	Did not qualify											10	4	3	3	13	8										
2004	Champions	1st	6	4	1	1	7	4	Squad	8	6	0	2	8	4												
2008	Group stage	16th	3	0	0	3	1	5	Squad	12	10	1	1	25	10												
2012	Quarter-finals	7th	4	1	1	2	5	7	Squad	10	7	3	0	14	5												
2016	Did not qualify											10	1	3	6	7	14										
2020	To be determined											10	4	2	4	12	14										
2024	To be determined											8	4	1	3	14	8										
2028	To be determined											To be determined															
2032	To be determined											Total	1 Title	4/16	16	5	3	8	14	20	—	127	60	25	42	184	144

\*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

## Greece's European Championship history

[show]

<b>First Match</b>	 <b>Netherlands</b> 1–0 <b>Greece</b>  (Naples, Italy; 11 June 1980)
<b>Biggest Win</b>	 <b>Portugal</b> 1–2 <b>Greece</b>  (Porto, Portugal; 12 June 2004)  <b>France</b> 0–1 <b>Greece</b>  (Lisbon, Portugal; 25 June 2004)  <b>Greece</b> 1–0 (a.e.t.) <b>Czech Republic</b>  (Porto, Portugal; 1 July 2004)  <b>Portugal</b> 0–1 <b>Greece</b>  (Lisbon, Portugal; 4 July 2004)  <b>Greece</b> 1–0 <b>Russia</b>  (Warsaw, Poland; 16 June 2012)
<b>Biggest Defeat</b>	 <b>Greece</b> 1–3 <b>Czechoslovakia</b>  (Rome, Italy; 14 June 1980)  <b>Greece</b> 0–2 <b>Sweden</b>  (Salzburg, Austria; 10 June 2008)  <b>Germany</b> 4–2 <b>Greece</b>  (Gdańsk, Poland; 22 June 2012)
<b>Best Result</b>	<b>Champions</b> (2004)
<b>Worst Result</b>	Group stage (1980, 2008)

## UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record											
Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK	
2018–19	C	2	6	3	0	3	4	5	=	33rd	
2020–21	C	3	6	3	3	0	6	1	=	37th	
2022–23	C	2	6	5	0	1	10	2	▲	34th	
2024–25	B	<i>To be determined</i>									
<b>Total</b>			<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>33rd</b>		

\*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

## Greece's Nations League history [show]

<b>First Match</b>	Estonia 0–1 Greece  (Tallinn, Estonia; 8 September 2018)
<b>Biggest Win</b>	Greece 3–0 Cyprus  (Volos, Greece; 9 June 2022)
<b>Biggest Defeat</b>	Finland 2–0 Greece  (Tampere, Finland; 15 October 2018)
<b>Best Result</b>	—
<b>Worst Result</b>	—

## FIFA Confederations Cup

FIFA Confederations Cup record										
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	
 1992										
 1995										
 1997										
 1999										
 2001										
 2003										
 2005	Group stage	7th	3	0	1	2	0	4	Squad	
 2009										
 2013										
 2017										
<b>Total</b>	<b>Group stage</b>	<b>1/10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	

\*Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks.

## Greece's Confederations Cup history [show]

<b>First Match</b>	 Brazil 3–0 Greece  (Leipzig, Germany; 16 June 2005)
<b>Biggest Win</b>	None
<b>Biggest Defeat</b>	 Brazil 3–0 Greece  (Leipzig, Germany; 16 June 2005)
<b>Best Result</b>	Group stage (2005)
<b>Worst Result</b>	Group stage (2005)

## Olympic Games

Olympic Games record										
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	
 1896	<i>No football tournament was held</i>									
 1900										
 1904	<i>Did not enter</i>									
 1908										
 1912										
 1920	Preliminary round	14th	1	0	0	1	0	9	Squad	
 1924	<i>Did not enter</i>									
 1928										
 1932	<i>No football tournament was held</i>									
 1936	<i>Did not enter</i>									
 1948										
 1952	Preliminary round	21st	1	0	0	1	1	2	Squad	
 1956	<i>Did not enter</i>									
 1960										
 1964										
 1968										
 1972	<i>Did not qualify</i>									
 1976										
 1980										
 1984										
 1988										
Since 1992	See <a href="#">Greece national under-23 football team</a>									
<b>Total</b>	Preliminary round	2/19	2	0	0	2	1	11	—	

## FIFA ranking history

Greece's history in the [FIFA World Rankings](#). The table shows the position that Greece held in December of each year (and the current position as of 202), as well as the highest and lowest positions annually.

[show] Year	Position	Highest	Lowest
1993	<b>34</b>	32	36
1994	<b>28</b>	28	37
1995	<b>34</b>	23	34
1996	<b>35</b>	30	45
1997	<b>42</b>	29	46
1998	<b>53</b>	42	66
1999	<b>34</b>	30	46
2000	<b>42</b>	31	42
2001	<b>57</b>	43	61
2002	<b>48</b>	46	59
2003	<b>30</b>	26	48
2004	<b>18</b>	14	36
2005	<b>16</b>	12	20
2006	<b>16</b>	14	32
2007	<b>11</b>	11	16
2008	<b>20</b>	8	20
2009	<b>13</b>	11	20
2010	<b>11</b>	11	13
2011	<b>14</b>	8	14
2012	<b>13</b>	10	15
2013	<b>12</b>	11	16
2014	<b>24</b>	10	25
2015	<b>41</b>	24	44
2016	<b>42</b>	37	52
2017	<b>47</b>	38	47
2018	<b>43</b>	42	47
2019	<b>54</b>	43	60
2020	<b>53</b>	53	54
2021	<b>55</b>	53	55
2022	<b>51</b>	48	55

- FIFA-ranking yearly averages for Greece<sup>[71]</sup>

## Head-to-head record

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As of 21 November 2023, after the match against  France.

Positive Record  Neutral Record  Negative Record

Against	[show]	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Albania <sup>[72]</sup>		15	6	3	6	13	16
Argentina		2	0	0	2	0	6
Armenia		6	4	1	1	7	3
Australia		11	4	3	4	14	14
Austria		13	4	5	4	20	18
Belarus		2	1	0	1	1	1
Belgium		11	3	4	4	11	13
Bolivia		2	1	1	0	2	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina		11	5	5	1	17	9
Brazil		2	0	1	1	0	3
Bulgaria		24	6	6	12	31	43
Cameroon		1	0	0	1	0	3
Canada		4	3	1	0	5	0
Ivory Coast		1	1	0	0	2	1
Chile		1	1	0	0	1	0
Colombia		2	0	0	2	0	5
Costa Rica		1	0	1	0	1	1
Croatia		8	2	4	2	9	10
Cyprus		29	19	6	4	55	27
Czech Republic		5	2	2	1	3	2
Czechoslovakia		5	0	0	5	2	11
Denmark		16	3	4	9	18	34
East Germany		8	2	0	6	7	12
Ecuador		1	0	1	0	1	1
Egypt		10	5	2	3	18	12
El Salvador		2	2	0	0	6	1
England		9	0	2	7	3	23
England (olympic team)		2	1	0	1	5	3
Estonia		6	3	2	1	9	5
Ethiopia		3	3	0	0	7	3
Faroe Islands		4	2	0	2	11	4
Finland		18	9	3	6	29	22
France		10	1	2	7	9	26
France (2nd team)		6	1	2	3	2	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>641</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>885</b>

Against	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Georgia	9	7	2	0	17	6
Germany	3	0	0	3	4	10
Gibraltar	4	4	0	0	16	1
Great Britain	1	1	0	0	4	2
Ghana	1	0	1	0	1	1
Honduras	1	1	0	0	2	1
Hungary	22	10	6	6	33	37
Hungary (2nd team)	1	0	0	1	2	4
Iceland	3	2	0	1	4	3
Republic of Ireland	5	4	1	0	6	1
Italy	12	1	4	7	6	22
Italy (2nd team)	7	0	2	5	4	20
Israel	17	9	5	3	26	20
Japan	2	0	1	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	3	3	0	0	7	2
Kosovo	6	3	3	0	7	3
North Korea	1	0	1	0	2	2
South Korea	4	0	1	3	1	6
Latvia	8	5	2	1	13	6
Libya	1	1	0	0	4	0
Liechtenstein	5	4	1	0	8	1
Lithuania	4	2	1	1	4	2
Luxembourg	9	8	0	1	17	3
Malta	11	7	3	1	24	7
Mexico	4	1	2	1	4	4
Moldova	7	6	1	0	13	2
Morocco	1	0	1	0	0	0
Montenegro	2	1	0	1	2	2
Netherlands	11	1	1	9	3	24
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	2	0
Nigeria	4	2	1	1	4	3
Northern Ireland	9	6	0	3	13	11
Norway	9	5	2	2	13	10
Palestine	2	2	0	0	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>885</b>

Against	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Paraguay	1	0	0	1	0	2
Poland	18	4	4	10	13	30
Portugal	14	5	5	4	18	16
Qatar	1	1	0	0	1	0
Romania	36	8	10	18	41	73
Russia	11	2	5	4	10	14
San Marino	2	2	0	0	6	0
Saudi Arabia	3	1	1	1	6	4
Scotland	2	1	0	1	1	1
Serbia	2	1	0	1	1	2
Slovakia	5	3	1	1	6	4
Slovenia	7	3	4	0	11	3
Spain	12	1	3	8	11	21
Spain (2nd team)	2	1	0	1	3	7
Senegal	1	0	0	1	0	2
Soviet Union	11	2	0	9	4	25
Sweden	8	3	3	2	10	11
Switzerland	15	2	4	9	12	20
Syria	2	2	0	0	12	0
Turkey	13	3	3	7	11	18 <sup>[66]</sup>
Ukraine	6	2	2	2	3	4
United States	1	0	1	0	1	1
Wales	2	1	0	1	3	4
West Germany	6	0	3	3	5	11
Yugoslavia	2	0	1	1	1	3
Yugoslavia	20	2	2	16	18	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>885</b>

The game against Great Britain's Olympic Team (1952) was recognized as an official game of the Greece National Team by the Hellenic Football Federation

## Honours

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### Major

- **UEFA European Championship**

- ① **Champions (1): 2004**

- Quarter-finalists (1): 2012

## Other

### ▪ UEFA Nations League

- Promotion (1): 2022–23 UEFA Nations League C

### ▪ Mediterranean Games

- **1** Champions (2): 1951, 1991

### ▪ Mediterranean Cup

- **2** Runners-up (1): 1950–53

### ▪ Balkan Cup

- **2** Runners-up (1): 1934–35

- **3** Third place (3): 1929–31, 1935, 1936



The Greece national team at the UEFA Euro 2004 trophy ceremony

## Awards

### ▪ World Soccer (magazine) – Men's World Team of the Year

- **1** Winners (1): 2004

### ▪ Laureus World Sports Award for Team of the Year

- **1** Winners (1): 2005

### ▪ FIFA Confederations Cup FIFA Fair Play Trophy

- **1** Winners (1): 2005

### ▪ Unofficial Football World Championships

- Matches won as Champions: 11<sup>[73]</sup>

## See also

- List of Greece international footballers
- Greece national under-23 football team (Greece Olympic team)
- Greece national under-21 football team
- Greece national under-20 football team
- Greece national under-19 football team
- Greece national under-17 football team
- Greece–Turkey football rivalry



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## Further reading

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- Αρβανίτης, Στάθης (2004). *Εθνική Ελλάδος Ποδοσφαίρου 1929–2004* (in Greek). Εκδόσεις Καστανιώτης. ISBN 960-03-3778-0.
- Μαμουζέλος, Γιάννης Ν. & Νταβέλος, Θοδωρής (2007). *100 χρόνια Εθνική Ελλάδας* (in Greek). Αθήνα, Ελλάδα: Εκδόσεις Άγκυρα. ISBN 978-960-42-2497-5.
- Φασούλας, Χρήστος & Κοντολέων, Δομήνικος (2008). *Εθνική Ελλάδος γεια σου!* (in Greek). Εκδόσεις Παπαδόπουλος. ISBN 978-960-41-2819-8.
- Σαμπράκος, Βασίλης (2018). *Εξηγώντας το Θαύμα* (in Greek). Εκδόσεις Τόπος. ISBN 978-960-499-273-7.

## External links

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- [Official website](http://www.epo.gr/) (<http://www.epo.gr/>) (in Greek)
- [Greece](https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/GRE) (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/GRE>) at [FIFA](#)
- [Greece](https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/GRE/) (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/GRE/>) at [UEFA](#)
- [greecechampion.com](https://www.greecechampion.com/html/welcome_en.htm) ([https://www.greecechampion.com/html/welcome\\_en.htm](https://www.greecechampion.com/html/welcome_en.htm)) [Greece Champions Euro 2004](#)

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Greece\\_national\\_football\\_team&oldid=1211160412](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Greece_national_football_team&oldid=1211160412)"

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# Kosovo national football team



The **Kosovo national football team** (Albanian: *Kombëtarja e futbollit të Kosovës*; Serbian: Фудбалска репрезентација Косова, romanized: *Fudbalska reprezentacija Kosova*) represents Kosovo in men's international football. The team is controlled by the [Football Federation of Kosovo](#), the governing body for [football in Kosovo](#), and is under the jurisdiction of [FIFA](#) globally.

## History

### Pre-independence

#### First ever match

On 29 November 1942, Kosovo for first time in its history played a friendly match as part of the celebrations for 30th Anniversary of the Independence of Albania against Tirana<sup>[a]</sup> and the match ended with a 2–0 away defeat and the starting line-up of that match was Mustafa Daci (GK), Ballanca, Ahmet Zaimi, Mazlum Xerxa, Veseli, Hajdar Hamza, Nabil Dylatahu, Ramadan Vraniqi, Dobrica Barbaroga,<sup>[b]</sup> Bajrami and Henci.<sup>[5][6][4]</sup>

#### Yugoslav era

On 8 November 1967, Kosovo for first time as autonomous province of SFR Yugoslavia played a friendly match against Yugoslavia and the match ended with a 3–3 home draw and the starting line-up of that match was a mix between Albanian and Serbian players as Milosavlević, Stevanović, Mušikić, Abrashi, S. Džukić, V. Džukić, Brovina, Hatibi, Radović, Prekazi and Pindović, for Yugoslavia this match it was a pre-preparation before the [UEFA Euro 1968](#) qualifying match against [Albania](#).

#### As part of Yugoslavia national team

Yugoslav squads at international competitions often included players from Kosovo, such as [Fadil Vokrri](#) and [Stevan Stojanović](#). Three other footballers from Kosovo, Fahrudin Jusufi, Milutin Šoškić and Vladimir Durković, were part of the Yugoslav team that won the gold medal at the [1960 Summer Olympics](#) and silver medal at the [1960 European Nations' Cup](#).

#### After breakup of Yugoslavia

On 20 January 1993, The Football Federation of Kosovo signed a cooperation protocol with the [Albanian Football Association](#) and in the framework of this protocol it was decided to play on 14 February a friendly match between Albania and Kosovo, which was the first match of Kosovo following the breakup of Yugoslavia,<sup>[7]</sup> and this match ended with a 1–3 defeat and the starting line-up of that match was Ahmet Beselica (GK), Arđan Kozniku, Bardhec Seferi, Fadil Berisha, Gani Llapashtica, Genc Hoxha, Isa Sadriu, Kushtrim Munishi, Muhamrem Sahiti, Sadullah Ajeti and Selajdin Jerliu.<sup>[8]</sup>

#### After Kosovo War

On 7 September 2002, Kosovo for first time after the [Kosovo War](#) played a friendly match against Albania and the match ended with a 0–1 home minimal defeat and the starting line-up of that match was Ahmet Beselica (GK), Arđan Kozniku, Arsim Abazi, Besnik Kollari, Fadil Ademi, Faruk Statovci, Ismet Munishi, Mehmet Dragusha, Sunaj Keqi, Xhevdet Llumnica and Zenun Selimi.<sup>[10]</sup>

One of the most important international matches was a 1–0 win over [Saudi Arabia](#) played on 15 June 2007. It was the first time that Kosovo played against a team that has taken part in the [FIFA World Cup](#) and the winning goal was scored by [Kristian Nushi](#) from the penalty kick on

### Kosovo



Nickname(s)	Dardanët (Dardanians)
Association	Football Federation of Kosovo (FFK)
Confederation	UEFA (Europe)
Head coach	Franco Foda
Captain	Vedat Muriqi
Most caps	Amir Rahmani (55)
Top scorer	Vedat Muriqi (26)
Home stadium	Fadil Vokrri Stadium
FIFA code	KOS <sup>[1]</sup>
First colours	
Second colours	
Third colours	
FIFA ranking	
Current	102 ▼ 1 (15 February 2024) <sup>[2]</sup>
Highest	101 (November 2023 <sup>[3]</sup> )
Lowest	190 (July–August 2016 <sup>[3]</sup> )
First international	
Unofficial	Albania 3–1 Kosovo (Tirana, Albania; 14 February 1993)
Official	Kosovo 0–0 Haiti (Mitrovica, Kosovo; 5 March 2014)
Biggest win	
Unofficial	Monaco 1–7 Kosovo (Cap d'Ail, France; 22 April 2006)
Official	Malta 0–5 Kosovo (Ta' Qali, Malta; 17 November 2018)

the 84th minute.<sup>[11]</sup> On 22 April 2006, Kosovo achieved their biggest win, defeating Monaco 7–1. If one included matches played before Kosovo became a FIFA member, this scoreline is their best result yet.<sup>[12]</sup>

 Kosovo 5–0 Burkina Faso   
(Pristina, Kosovo; 24 March 2022)

## Biggest defeat

 Kosovo 0–6 Croatia   
(Shkodër, Albania; 6 October 2016)

## After independence

### First match

On 17 February 2010, for the first time since its declaration of independence, Kosovo played a friendly match against Albania (the match ended with a 2–3 home defeat for Kosovo). The starting line-up of that match was Kushtrim Mushica (GK), Anel Rashkaj, Dukagjin Gashi, Enis Zabergja, Fisnik Papuci, Ilir Nallbani, Liridon Kukaj, Robert Gjeraj, Shpëtim Hasani and Yll Hoxha. This match had a charity character as the profits gathered from this meeting went to those affected by floods in Shkodër.<sup>[13]</sup>

"The reason of this friendly match is that we wanted to face with a team that has the same temperament and character as Albania national team."

—The reasoning of the then head coach of Yugoslavia, Rajko Mitić for the reason for organizing the Kosovo–Yugoslavia match.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Efforts for internationalization

On 6 May 2008, after its declaration of independence from Serbia, Kosovo applied for FIFA membership. On 24 October 2008, Kosovo's application was discussed at the FIFA Congress in Zürich and Kosovo's bid was rejected. At the occasion, FIFA's determined Kosovo could not even play friendly matches against FIFA members' national teams.<sup>[14]</sup>

In September 2012, Albania international Lorik Cana, along with Swiss internationals Granit Xhaka, Valon Behrami and Xherdan Shaqiri, all of them with Kosovo Albanian origin, wrote a declaration to FIFA President Sepp Blatter, asking him to allow Kosovo to play friendly matches. The declaration was also signed by eight other Albanian footballers hailing from Kosovo as Ahmed Januzi, Alban Meha, Armend Dallku, Burim Kukeli, Etrit Berisha, Fatmire Bajramaj, Lorik Cana, Mërgim Mavraj and Samir Ujkani.<sup>[15]</sup> Some players, especially Kosovo Serbs as Milan Biševac and Miloš Krasić, continued to play for Serbia.<sup>[16][17]</sup>

"I am very pleased with the team's performance even though we had predicted a stronger opponent. However, I want to emphasize that our players have been fantastic. The fact that we do not play many international matches may have inspired the players to give it their all this time."

—Opinion of the then coach Muharrem Sahiti after the match against Monaco.<sup>[9]</sup>

### Permission by FIFA to play friendlies

On 6 February 2013, FIFA decided to allow Kosovan club teams to play friendly games against clubs from countries whose national teams were members of FIFA.<sup>[20]</sup> However, it was stipulated that Kosovan clubs and teams could not display national symbols such as the Kosovan flag, emblem, etc., or play the Kosovan anthem.<sup>[20]</sup>

On 5 March 2014, the Kosovan football team was finally allowed by FIFA to play its first international friendly match, against Haiti; the match ended in a 0–0 draw.<sup>[21][22]</sup> Before the match, some players of Kosovo posed with guns at a shooting range, causing a stir in Serbia.<sup>[23]</sup> On the eve of the match, supporters of Kosovo burned the flag of Serbia.<sup>[24]</sup> This incident prompted the Football Association of Serbia to request that FIFA revoked Kosovo's right to play international friendlies.<sup>[25]</sup>

After the match against Haiti, six more matches were held in 2014, against Turkey, Senegal, Oman, Equatorial Guinea and Albania. The first win in these friendlies was against Oman, by 1–0,<sup>[26]</sup> while the biggest defeat a 1–6 against Turkey.<sup>[27]</sup>



Kosovo starting line-up in first international friendly against Haiti (4–3–3)<sup>[18][19]</sup>

### Membership in UEFA and FIFA

In September 2015, at an UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Malta, the request from Kosovo for admission in UEFA was scheduled for deliberation in the next Ordinary Congress, to be held in Budapest.<sup>[28]</sup> On 3 May 2016, at the Ordinary Congress, Kosovo was accepted into UEFA after members voted 28–24 in favor of Kosovo.<sup>[29][30]</sup> Ten days later, Kosovo was accepted in FIFA during their 66th Congress in Mexico, with 141 votes in favour and 23 against.<sup>[31]</sup>

## First tournament

### Debut in World Cup qualification and nearly successful first Euro attempt

Kosovo began to make their debut in the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification, where Kosovo was assigned with Croatia, Finland, Iceland, Turkey and Ukraine.<sup>[32][33]</sup> The Kosovars created its first major surprise, holding host Finland to a 1–1 draw,<sup>[34]</sup> but it turned to be the lone point of Kosovo in the qualification, as the team lost the remaining games and finished last.

Following the failure to qualify for 2018 FIFA World Cup, Kosovo participated in the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League D sharing group with Azerbaijan, Faroe Islands and Malta,<sup>[37][38]</sup> where the Kosovars topped their group undefeated to reach the country's first-ever play-offs in its attempt to qualify for UEFA Euro 2020.<sup>[39]</sup> After the successful Nations League, Kosovo entered the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying, where they shared group A with Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Montenegro and 2018 World Cup fourth place finisher England.<sup>[40]</sup> As the dark horse of the qualification, Kosovo however created a major phenomenon, managed to beat Bulgaria, Montenegro and especially, a shock home win over the Czechs to take the second place behind England, being 15 matches and on that time nearly two years without defeat winning 11 of these 15 matches. The game against England away even saw the Kosovars took an early lead in the surprise, even though they were unable to protect it and fell 3–5 away, ending the longest unbeaten run in the football history of Kosovo.<sup>[41]</sup> In the decisive match against the Czechs away, which Kosovo needed a win to directly qualify for the first time, Kosovo gained a shock lead, but failed to protect it again as they lost 1–2 and could only participate in the play-off,<sup>[42]</sup> but this remained to be Kosovo's greatest success up to date.



## Setback

After successfully obtained a play-off position, Kosovo headed to the 2020–21 UEFA Nations League C, being drawn with Greece, Moldova and Slovenia.<sup>[43]</sup> After impressive performance in the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying, Kosovo was tipped favorably to promote to League B. Yet, Kosovo began the Nations League with a disappointing 1–1 away draw to Moldova,<sup>[44]</sup> before the team which was halved due to the absences of key players suffered a 1–2 home loss against Greece.<sup>[45]</sup>

In Kosovo's first ever competitive UEFA Euro play-offs, Kosovo was drawn against North Macedonia.<sup>[42]</sup> However, Kosovo was eliminated after losing 1–2 to the Macedonians in Skopje.<sup>[46]</sup> After the elimination in the play-off's semifinals, the Kosovo's setback continues and the year 2020 was ended six losses, two draws and a victory in the last match of the year against Moldova, a victory which secured the attitude even for another season in the League C of the UEFA Nations League.<sup>[47]</sup>

## Team image

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### Nicknames

The Kosovo national football team has been known or nicknamed as the "*Dardanët*" ("Dardanians"). In addition to the official nickname, the Kosovo national team had different nicknames in different periods as:

- "Shqipëria B" ("Albania B") — During the period before 2016, the national teams of Kosovo and Albania have exchanged players with each other, which influenced these two teams to be nicknamed reserve (B) teams of each other, the Kosovo national team was nicknamed Albania B due to many players came to play for Kosovo as they had no space to play for Albania, but the same thing happened with the Albanian national team which was nicknamed Kosovo B due to of the large number of players of Kosovo Albanian descent in its composition.<sup>[48]</sup>
- "Ekipi i Kosovës" ("Team Kosovo") — The Kosovo national team during the 2009–10 period was introduced with the nickname that was used as an alternative name in order to avoid possible sanctions by UEFA and FIFA against Kosovo and the opponents that Kosovo played. After Kosovo was allowed on 6 February 2013 by FIFA to play against FIFA member associations in international friendlies,<sup>[20]</sup> this alternative name was no longer used.
- "Brazili i Ballkanit" ("Brazil of the Balkans") — The Kosovo national team was nicknamed the Brazil of the Balkans during their fifteen-match unbeaten run during the 2018–19 season.<sup>[36][49][50]</sup>

### Kits and crest



The Kosovo kit has been mostly red and black before declaration of independence with few changes throughout the years and after the independence the kits are mostly blue and yellow. On 5 October 2016, Kosovo signed with Spanish sportswear company [Kelme](#) to a four-year contract and was the first official kit suppliers of Kosovo after membership in UEFA and FIFA.<sup>[51]</sup> On 23 February 2022, Kosovo signed with Italian sportswear company [Erreà](#) to a three-year contract for it to be the kit suppliers of Kosovo.<sup>[52]</sup>

## Kit sponsorship

Kit supplier	Period	Contract	
		Announcement	Duration
 Legea	2014	March 2014	
 Puma	2014	May 2014	
 Legea	2014	September 2014	
 Umbro	2015	October 2015	November 2015
 Puma	2016	June 2016	
 Kelme	2016–2018	5 October 2016	2016–2020 (4 years)
 Fourteen	2018–2022	16 June 2018	2018–2022 (4 years)
 Erreà	2023–present	23 February 2023	2023–2026 (3 years)

## Home stadium



Fadil Vokrri Stadium

Loro Borici Stadium

Adem Jashari Olympic Stadium

Kosovo's home stadium is the Fadil Vokrri Stadium. The stadium capacity is 13,500, which makes it the second largest national stadium in Kosovo. Kosovo's previous national stadium was the Adem Jashari Olympic Stadium which is currently under renovation. Kosovo also used Loro Borici Stadium during the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign,<sup>[53][54]</sup> and this happened after the two stadiums in Pristina and Mitrovica at that time were under renovation and do not meet UEFA standards.<sup>[55]</sup> On 12 July 2019, the construction of Kosovo National Stadium began,<sup>[56]</sup> and two days later the project of this stadium was presented which would have a capacity of 30,000 seats,<sup>[57]</sup> but after the presentation, the construction was suspended for political reasons related to the location.<sup>[58]</sup>

As of 9 September 2023<sup>[59]</sup>

Kosovo national football team home stadiums													
Stadium	Capacity	Location	Pld	W	D	L	Win %	First match		Last match		UEFA category	Ref
								Opponent	Date	Opponent	Date		
Fadil Vokrri Stadium	13,500	Pristina, Kosovo	35	15	10	10	42.86	 Yugoslavia	8 November 1967	 Israel	12 November 2023		[60]
Loro Borici Stadium	16,000	Shkodër, Albania	5	0	0	5	0.00	 Croatia	6 October 2016	 Ukraine	6 October 2017		[61]
Adem Jashari Olympic Stadium	18,500	Mitrovica, Kosovo	3	1	1	1	33.33	 Haiti	5 March 2014	 Latvia	13 November 2017		[62]

## Rivalries

### Albania

This derby is otherwise known as Brotherly derby (Albanian: *Derbi vëllazëror*), also known as the Brotherly (Albanian: *Vëllazërorja*). The documented beginnings of this derby date back to the time during the World War II, respectively on 29 November 1942, where they played a friendly match as part of the celebrations for 30th Anniversary of the Independence of Albania and the match ended with a 2–0 win for

Tirana,[a][5][6][4] this derby is back 50 years after the first match, when the Football Federation of Kosovo signed a cooperation protocol with the Albanian Football Association and in the framework of this protocol it was decided to play on 14 February a friendly match between these two national teams,[7] and this match ended with a 3–1 win for Albania.[8]

## Media coverage

### Current

Broadcaster	Television channel	Period	Broadcast matches	
			Qualifying	Friendly
SuperSport Albania	SuperSport 1	2014–present <sup>[63]</sup>	✓	✗
	SuperSport 3		✓	✗
ArtMotion	ArtSport 1	2022–present <sup>[64]</sup>	✓	✓
	Klan Kosova		✓	✓

### Previous

Broadcaster	Television channel	Period
Radio Television of Kosovo	RTK 1	2014–2022
	RTK 2	2016–2022

## Results and fixtures

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

Win  Draw  Loss  Fixture

### 2023

Euro 2024 qualifying	25 March 18:00 (20:00 UTC+3)	<b>Israel</b>  1–1 <b>Kosovo</b>  Peretz 56' Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036308/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036308/</a> )	Tel Aviv, Israel Stadium: Bloomfield Stadium Attendance: 28,935 Referee: Willie Collum (Scotland)	<a href="#">[show]</a>
Euro 2024 qualifying	28 March 20:45	<b>Kosovo</b>  1–1 <b>Andorra</b>  Zhegrova 59' Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036332/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036332/</a> )	Pristina, Kosovo Stadium: Fadil Vokri Stadium Attendance: 12,600 Referee: Sebastian Gishamer (Austria)	<a href="#">[show]</a>
Euro 2024 qualifying	16 June 20:45	<b>Kosovo</b>  0–0 <b>Romania</b>  Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036355/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036355/</a> )	Pristina, Kosovo Stadium: Fadil Vokri Stadium Attendance: 12,600 Referee: Danny Makkelie (Netherlands)	<a href="#">[show]</a>
Euro 2024 qualifying	19 June 20:45	<b>Belarus</b>  2–1 <b>Kosovo</b>  Morozov 73' Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036378/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036378/</a> )	Budapest, Hungary <sup>[c]</sup> Stadium: Szusza Ferenc Stadion <sup>[c]</sup> Attendance: 0 <sup>[c]</sup> Referee: Julian Weinberger (Austria)	<a href="#">[show]</a>
Euro 2024 qualifying	9 September 20:45	<b>Kosovo</b>  2–2 <b>Switzerland</b>  Muricqi 65', 90+4' Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036401/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036401/</a> )	Pristina, Kosovo Stadium: Fadil Vokri Stadium Attendance: 12,700 Referee: Jakob Kehlet (Denmark)	<a href="#">[show]</a>
Euro 2024 qualifying	12 September 20:45	<b>Romania</b>  2–0 <b>Kosovo</b>  Stanciu 83' Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036424/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036424/</a> )	Bucharest, Romania Stadium: Arena Națională Attendance: 29,982 Referee: Willy Delajod (France)	<a href="#">[show]</a>
Euro 2024 qualifying	12 October	<b>Andorra</b>  0–3 <b>Kosovo</b> 	Andorra la Vella, Andorra	<a href="#">[show]</a>

	20:45		Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036446/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036446/</a> )	Rashica 26', 71' Zeqiri 83'	Stadium: Estadi Nacional Attendance: 1,207 Referee: Nick Walsh (Scotland)
Euro 2024 qualifying	12 November [d] 20:45	Kosovo  1–0 Israel 	Rashica 41' Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036470/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036470/</a> )		Pristina, Kosovo Stadium: Fadil Vokrri Stadium Attendance: 5,245 Referee: Ivan Kružliak (Slovakia)
Euro 2024 qualifying	18 November 20:45	Switzerland  1–1 Kosovo 	Vargas 47' Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036492/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036492/</a> )	Hyseni 82'	Basel, Switzerland Stadium: St. Jakob-Park Attendance: 33,000 Referee: António Nobre (Portugal)
Euro 2024 qualifying	21 November 20:45	Kosovo  0–1 Belarus 	Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036516/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifier/s/match/2036516/</a> )	Antilevsky 43'	Pristina, Kosovo Stadium: Fadil Vokrri Stadium Attendance: 5,026 Referee: Georgi Kabakov (Bulgaria)

## 2024

Friendly	22 March	Armenia  v Kosovo 	Report ( <a href="http://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18759">http://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18759</a> )	Yerevan, Armenia Stadium: Vazgen Sargsyan Republican Stadium	[show]
Friendly	26 March	Hungary  v Kosovo 	Report ( <a href="http://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18740">http://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18740</a> )	Budapest, Hungary Stadium: Puskás Aréna	[show]
Friendly	5 June	Norway  v Kosovo 	Report ( <a href="http://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18758">http://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18758</a> )	Oslo, Norway Stadium: Ullevaal Stadion	[show]
2024–25 Nations League	6 September 20:45	Kosovo  v Romania 	Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040053/">http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040053/</a> )	TBD	[show]
2024–25 Nations League	9 September 20:45 (21:45 UTC+3)	Cyprus  v Kosovo 	Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040082/">http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040082/</a> )	Cyprus	[show]
2024–25 Nations League	12 October 15:00	TBD ? v Kosovo 	Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040112/">http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040112/</a> )	TBD	[show]
2024–25 Nations League	15 October 20:45	Kosovo  v Cyprus 	Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040143/">http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040143/</a> )	TBD	[show]
2024–25 Nations League	15 November 20:45 (21:45 UTC+2)	Romania  v Kosovo 	Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040143/">http://www.uefa.com/european-nations-league/match/2040143/</a> )	Romania	[show]

2024–25 Nations League 18 November  
20:45

Kosovo v TBD

Report (<http://www.uefa.com/uefanationsleague/match/2040184/>)

TBD

## Coaching staff

### Current coaching staff

Position	Name
Head coach	Franco Foda
Assistant coach(es)	Thomas Kristl
	Robert Ibertsberger
Goalkeeping coach	Ahmet Beselica
Team manager	Bajram Shala
Sports director	Muharrem Sahiti
	Samir Ujkani



Franco Foda, the current head coach of Kosovo national football team.

### Manager history

No.	Name	Period	Record				
			G	W	D	L	Win %
1	Ajet Shosholli	1993–2002	1	0	0	1	0.00
2	Bylbyl Sokoli	2002–2005	1	0	0	1	0.00
3	Muharrem Sahiti	2005–2006	3	2	0	1	66.67
4	Edmond Rugova	2006–2009	1	1	0	0	100.00
5	Albert Bunjaki	2009–2017	18	3	3	12	16.67
C	Muharrem Sahiti	2017–2018	1	1	0	0	100.00
6	Bernard Challandes	2018–2021	40	17	8	15	42.50
	→  Muharrem Sahiti <sup>[e]</sup>	2020					
C	Primož Gliha	2021–2022	2	0	1	1	0.00
7	Alain Giresse	2022–2023	14	4	6	4	28.57
8	Primož Gliha	2023	6	2	2	2	33.33
9	Franco Foda	2024–present	0	0	0	0	—



Muharrem Sahiti has been the manager of the national team in three separate stints.

## Players

### Current squad

- The following players were called up for the UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying matches against Israel, Switzerland and Belarus, on 12, 18, and 21 November 2023.<sup>[72]</sup>
- Caps and goals are correct as of 21 November 2023 after the match against Belarus.<sup>[73]</sup>

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Visar Bekaj	24 May 1997	7	0	Hatayspor
16	GK	Kenan Haxhihamza	28 December 1996	0	0	Dukagjini
15	DF	Mërgim Vojvoda	1 February 1995	53	2	Torino
3	DF	Fidan Aliti (captain)	3 October 1993	52	1	Alanyaspor
2	DF	Florent Hadergjonaj	31 July 1994	32	1	Alanyaspor
4	DF	Lirim Kastrati	2 February 1999	15	0	Widzew Łódź
13	DF	Lumbardh Dellova	1 January 1999	7	0	Ballkani
5	DF	Ilir Krasniqi	2 April 2000	5	0	Llapi
6	DF	Kreshnik Hajrizi	28 May 1999	4	0	Lugano
23	MF	Bernard Berisha	21 October 1991	26	1	Akhmat Grozny
8	MF	Florent Muslija	6 July 1998	23	1	SC Freiburg
19	MF	Florian Loshaj	13 August 1996	22	0	İstanbulspor
10	MF	Zymer Bytyqi	11 September 1996	22	1	Antalyaspor
20	MF	Meriton Korenica	15 December 1996	5	0	Ballkani
17	MF	Qëndrim Zyba	3 February 2001	4	0	Legia Warsaw
22	MF	Altin Zeqiri	18 July 2000	3	1	Çaykur Rizespor
18	MF	Alban Ajdini	9 July 1999	1	0	Stade Lausanne Ouchy
11	FW	Elbasan Rashani	9 May 1993	27	5	Clermont
21	FW	Ermal Krasniqi	7 September 1998	4	0	Rapid Bucureşti
14	FW	Muhamed Hyseni	6 February 2001	2	1	Llapi

## Recent call-ups

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

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Arijanet Muric	7 November 1998	36	0	+ Burnley	v. Switzerland, 18 November 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
DF	Leart Paqarada	10 August 1994	30	1	1. FC Köln	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
DF	Betim Fazliji	25 April 1999	22	0	+ St. Gallen	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023
DF	Ismajl Beka	31 October 1999	1	0	+ Luzern	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
DF	Amir Rahmani	24 February 1994	55	6	‑ Napoli	v. Romania, 12 September 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
DF	Ibrahim Drešević	24 January 1997	25	0	‑ Machida Zelvia	v. Romania, 12 September 2023
DF	Valon Zumberi	24 November 2002	0	0	+ Schaffhausen	v. Switzerland, 9 September 2023 <sup>U21</sup>
DF	Andi Hoti	2 March 2003	0	0	1. FC Magdeburg	v. Switzerland, 9 September 2023 <sup>U21</sup>
DF	Mirlind Kryeziu	26 January 1997	11	0	+ Zürich	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023
DF	Amar Gérxhaliu	26 April 2002	0	0	‑ Antalyaspor	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023 <sup>U21</sup>
MF	Milot Rashica	28 June 1996	53	11	‑ Beşiktaş	v. Switzerland, 18 November 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
MF	Edon Zhegrovă	31 March 1999	34	4	‑ Lille	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
MF	Valon Berisha	7 February 1993	40	4	‑ LASK	v. Romania, 12 September 2023
MF	Arbër Zeneli	25 February 1995	33	9	Unattached	v. Romania, 12 September 2023
MF	Bersant Celina	9 September 1996	37	2	‑ AIK	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023
MF	Hekuran Kryeziu	12 February 1993	29	0	Unattached	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023
MF	Donat Rrudhani	2 May 1999	10	2	+ Lausanne-Sport	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023
MF	Blendi Idrizi	2 May 1998	6	0	1. FC Schalke 04	v. Andorra, 28 March 2023
FW	Vedat Muriqi	24 April 1994	51	26	‑ Mallorca	v. Switzerland, 18 November 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
FW	Albion Rahmani	31 August 2000	2	0	‑ Rapid Bucureşti	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
FW	Shkelqim Vladi	21 September 2000	0	0	+ Lugano	v. Andorra, 12 October 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
FW	Jetmir Topalli	7 February 1998	6	0	‑ Manisa	v. Belarus, 19 June 2023

#### Notes

- INJ = Not part of the current squad due to injury.
- U21 = Was called up from national U21 squad.

## Records

As of 21 November 2023<sup>[74][75]</sup>

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

## Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Pos.	Career
1	<b>Amir Rahmani</b>	55	6	DF	2014–present
2	<b>Milot Rashica</b>	53	11	MF	2016–present
	<b>Mërgim Vojvoda</b>	53	2	DF	2017–present
4	<b>Fidan Aliti</b>	52	1	DF	2017–present
5	<b>Vedat Muriqi</b>	51	26	FW	2016–present
6	<b>Valon Berisha</b>	40	4	MF	2016–present
7	<b>Bersant Celina</b>	37	2	MF	2014–present
8	Samir Ujkani	36	0	GK	2014–2022
	<b>Arianet Muric</b>	36	0	GK	2018–present
10	<b>Besar Halimi</b>	34	3	MF	2015–present
	<b>Edon Zhegrov</b>	34	4	FW	2018–present



Milot Rashica is the joint second-most capped player in the history of Kosovo with 53 appearances.

## Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	<b>Vedat Muriqi</b>	26	51	0.51	2016–present
2	<b>Milot Rashica</b>	11	53	0.21	2016–present
3	<b>Arbër Zeneli</b>	9	33	0.27	2016–present
4	<b>Amir Rahmani</b>	6	55	0.11	2014–present
5	<b>Elbasan Rashani</b>	5	27	0.19	2015–present
6	<b>Benjamin Kololi</b>	4	24	0.17	2016–present
	<b>Edon Zhegrov</b>	4	34	0.12	2018–present
	<b>Valon Berisha</b>	4	40	0.1	2016–present
9	Albert Bunjaku	3	6	0.5	2014–2016
	Atdhe Nuhiu	3	19	0.16	2017–2020
	Besar Halimi	3	34	0.09	2015–2021



Vedat Muriqi is the top scorer in the history of Kosovo with 26 goals.

## Captains

As of 21 November 2023<sup>[76]</sup>

A portrait of Samir Ujkani in a yellow and blue Kosovar national team jersey.	Samir Ujkani is the joint-most capped player as captain in the history of Kosovo, with 30 appearances.
A portrait of Anel Rashkaj in a blue Kosovar national team jersey.	Anel Rashkaj is the first captain who led Kosovo in the first international match against Haiti.



Rank	Pos.	Player	As captain		Total	
			Career	Caps	Career	Caps
1	GK	Samir Ujkani	2015–2022	30	2014–2022	36
	DF	Amir Rahmani	2019–present	30	2014–present	55
3	DF	Fidan Aliti	2020–present	3	2017–present	52
	MF	Valon Berisha	2018–present	3	2016–present	40
6	MF	Anel Rashkaj	2014	3	2014–2020	14
	FW	Vedat Muriqi	2022–present	2	2016–present	51
9	MF	Herolind Shala	2019–2020	2	2016–2021	27
	GK	Visar Bekaj	2021–present	2	2015–present	7
9	MF	Hekuran Kryeziu	2019–present	1	2015–present	30
	MF	Florian Loshaj	2021–present	1	2020–present	22
	DF	Lirim R. Kastrati	2022–present	1	2017–present	15
	MF	Enis Alushi	2014	1	2014–2017	10
	MF	Besnik Hasi	2007	1	2007	1
	MF	Genc Hoxha	1993	1	1993	1

## Competitive record

### FIFA World Cup

On 9 June 2016, the UEFA Emergency Panel decided that Kosovo would join Croatia, Finland, Iceland, Turkey and Ukraine in Group I, and also decided that Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia should not play against Kosovo for security reasons.<sup>[32][33]</sup> On 5 September 2016, Kosovo made its debut in FIFA World Cup qualification with a 1–1 away draw against Finland, with Kosovo's equalizing goal being scored by newcomer Valon Berisha from a penalty kick in the 60th minute.<sup>[34]</sup> On 2 September 2021, Kosovo achieved their first win in the FIFA World Cup qualifications a 1–0 away win against Georgia.<sup>[77]</sup>

FIFA World Cup record									Qualification record										
Year	Round	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA			
1930 to  1938		Part of  Kingdom of Yugoslavia									Part of  Kingdom of Yugoslavia								
1950 to  1990		Part of  SFR Yugoslavia									Part of  SFR Yugoslavia								
1994 to  2002		Part of  Yugoslavia									Part of  Serbia and Montenegro								
2006		Part of  Serbia and Montenegro									Not a FIFA member								
2010		Not a FIFA member									Part of  Serbia and Montenegro								
2014		Did not qualify									Not a FIFA member								
2018		Did not qualify									To be determined								
2022		To be determined									To be determined								
2026		To be determined									To be determined								
2030 <sup>[1]</sup>		To be determined									To be determined								
2034		To be determined									To be determined								
Total	—	0/2	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	2/2	18	1	3	14	8	39			

■ Draws include knockout matches decided on penalty kicks; correct as of 14 November 2021 after the match against Greece.<sup>[79]</sup>

### UEFA European Championship

On 2 December 2018, in Dublin, it was decided that Kosovo should be part in Group A of the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying, together with Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Montenegro and 2018 World Cup fourth place finisher England.<sup>[40]</sup> On 25 March 2019, Kosovo made their debut on UEFA European Championship qualifying with a 1–1 home draw against Bulgaria and the draw goal was scored by Arbëri Zeneli on the 61st minute.<sup>[80]</sup> On 11 June 2019, Kosovo won their first ever qualifying match for a major tournament by defeating Bulgaria 3–2.<sup>[81]</sup>

UEFA European Championship record											
Year	Round	Pos	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad		
1960 to  1992				<i>Part of  SFR Yugoslavia</i>							
1996 to  2000				<i>Part of  Yugoslavia</i>							
2004				<i>Part of  Serbia and Montenegro</i>							
2008				<i>Part of  Serbia</i>							
2012				<i>Not a UEFA member</i>							
2016				<i>Not a UEFA member</i>							
2020				<i>Did not qualify</i>							
2024				<i>To be determined</i>							
2028				<i>To be determined</i>							
2032				<i>To be determined</i>							
Total	—	0/2	0	0	0	0	0	0	—		

Qualification record						
Pos	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
<u>Part of  SFR Yugoslavia</u>						
<u>Part of  Yugoslavia</u>						
<u>Part of  Serbia and Montenegro</u>						
<u>Part of  Serbia</u>						
<i>Not a UEFA member</i>						
3rd (PO)	9	3	2	4	14	18
5th	10	2	5	3	10	10
<i>To be determined</i>						
2/2	19	5	7	7	24	28

- Draws include knockout matches decided via penalty shoot-out; correct as of 21 November 2023 after match against Belarus.<sup>[82]</sup>

# UEFA Nations League

On 24 January 2018, in Lausanne, it was decided that Kosovo should be part of League D in Group 3 of the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League, together with Azerbaijan, Faroe Islands and Malta.<sup>[37][38]</sup> On 7 September 2018, Kosovo made their debut in the UEFA Nations League with a 0–0 away draw against Azerbaijan.<sup>[83]</sup> On 10 September 2018, Kosovo achieved their first win in the UEFA Nations League, which was also the team's first-ever competitive win, a 2–0 home win against the Faroe Islands.<sup>[84]</sup> Kosovo finished the league unbeaten (with four wins and two draws) and will be promoted to the next tier (C league) for the next edition.<sup>[39]</sup>

Kosovo's Nations League record			
<b>First match</b>	 Azerbaijan 0–0 Kosovo  (Baku, Azerbaijan; 7 September 2018)		
<b>Biggest win</b>	 Malta 0–5 Kosovo  (Ta' Qali, Malta; 17 November 2018)		
<b>Biggest defeat</b>	<b>Three matches</b>  Kosovo 1–2 Greece  (Pristina, Kosovo; 6 September 2020)  Slovenia 2–1 Kosovo  (Ljubljana, Slovenia; 15 November 2020)  Northern Ireland 2–1 Kosovo  (Belfast, Northern Ireland; 24 September 2022)		[show]
<b>Best result</b>	<b>39th place</b> in <u>2022–23</u>		
<b>Worst result</b>	<b>44th place</b> in <u>2020–21</u>		

- Draws include knockout matches decided via penalty shoot-out; correct as of 27 September 2022 after match against  Cyprus.<sup>[85]</sup>

## Non-FIFA Tournament

Kosovo for first time after the Kosovo War participated in a tournament held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cyprus Turkish Football Association. Kosovo lost against the host with result 1–0 and won against Sàpmi with result 4–1.<sup>[86]</sup>

Year	Round	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad
KTFF 50th Anniversary Cup	Runners-up	2nd	2	1	0	1	4	2	Squad
Total	Runners-up	1/1	2	1	0	1	4	2	—

## FIFA ranking history

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As of 29 October 2023<sup>[3]</sup>

Best ranking  Worst ranking  Best mover  Worst mover

Rank	Year	Pld	W	D	L	Win %	Ranking		Move	
							Best	Worst	Best (+)	Worst (-)
101	2023	10	2	5	3	20.00	101	111	30 (November)	21 (September)
107	2022	10	4	3	3	40.00	106	109	2 (February)	1 (October)
111	2021	14	5	2	7	35.71	109	120	6 (September)	4 (October)
117	2020	9	1	2	6	11.11	115	117	0 (February)	1 (October)
115	2019	10	4	3	3	40.00	114	130	6 (June)	1 (November)
131	2018	9	7	2	0	77.78	131	178	24 (August)	1 (January)
177	2017	7	1	0	6	14.29	164	184	9 (November)	6 (April)
165	2016	5	1	1	3	20.00	164	190	22 (September)	190 (July)

## Head-to-head record

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As of 21 November 2023 after the match against Belarus.<sup>[73]</sup>

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	Reference
1993–present									
Albania	6	1	1	4	9	11	-2	16.67	H2H results [6][87][88]
Andorra	2	1	1	0	4	1	+3	50.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=5">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=5</a> )
Armenia	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=9">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=9</a> )
Azerbaijan	2	1	1	0	4	0	+4	50.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=15">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=15</a> )
Bulgaria	2	1	1	0	4	3	+1	50.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=32">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=32</a> )
Belarus	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=36">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=36</a> )
Burkina Faso	2	2	0	0	7	0	+7	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=306">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=306</a> )
Croatia	2	0	0	2	0	7	-7	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=47">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=47</a> )
Cyprus	2	2	0	0	7	1	+6	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=49">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=49</a> )
Czech Republic	2	1	0	1	3	3	+0	50.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=95">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=95</a> )
Denmark	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=56">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=56</a> )
England	2	0	0	2	3	9	-6	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=60">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=60</a> )
Equatorial Guinea	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=300">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=300</a> )
Faroe Islands	4	2	2	0	5	1	+4	50.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=129">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=129</a> )
Finland	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=70">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=70</a> )
Gambia	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=158">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=158</a> )
Georgia	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	50.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=85">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=85</a> )
Gibraltar	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=90">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=90</a> )
Greece	6	0	3	3	3	7	-4	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=175">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=175</a> )
Guinea	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=184">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=184</a> )
Haiti	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=96">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=96</a> )
Iceland	2	0	0	2	1	4	-3	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=103">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=103</a> )
Israel	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	50.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=210">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=210</a> )
Jordan	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=118">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=118</a> )
Latvia	1	1	0	0	4	3	+1	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=231">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=231</a> )
Lithuania	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=234">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=234</a> )
Madagascar	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=362">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=362</a> )
Malta	3	3	0	0	10	2	+8	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=136">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=136</a> )
Moldova	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	50.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=138">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=138</a> )
Monaco	1	1	0	0	7	1	+6	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://www.national-football-teams.com/encounter/teams/219/259/Monaco_vs_Kosovo.html">https://www.national-football-teams.com/encounter/teams/219/259/Monaco_vs_Kosovo.html</a> )
Montenegro	2	1	1	0	3	1	+2	50.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=140">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=140</a> )
North Macedonia	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=236">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=236</a> )
Northern Ireland	2	1	0	1	4	4	+0	50.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=148">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=148</a> )
Northern Cyprus	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://www.national-football-teams.com/encounter/teams/259/239/Kosovo_vs_Northern_Cyprus.html">https://www.national-football-teams.com/encounter/teams/259/239/Kosovo_vs_Northern_Cyprus.html</a> )
Oman	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=151">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=151</a> )
Romania	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=165">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=165</a> )
San Marino	1	1	0	0	4	1	+3	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=173">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=173</a> )
Sápmi	1	1	0	0	4	1	+3	100.00	
Saudi Arabia	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://www.national-football-teams.com/encounter/coach/161/259/58250/Saudi_Arabia_vs_Kosovo_under_Helio_Dos_Anjos.html">https://www.national-football-teams.com/encounter/coach/161/259/58250/Saudi_Arabia_vs_Kosovo_under_Helio_Dos_Anjos.html</a> )
Senegal	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=255">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=255</a> )
Slovenia	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_match.php?id=17024">https://eu-football.info/_match.php?id=17024</a> )
Spain	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=185">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=185</a> )
Sweden	3	0	0	3	0	7	-7	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=191">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=191</a> )
Switzerland	3	0	3	0	4	4	+0	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=194">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=194</a> )

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	Reference
<b>1993–present</b>									
 Turkey	3	0	0	3	2	12	-10	0.00	H2H results ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=203">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=203</a> )
 Ukraine	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0.00	H2H results* ( <a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=204">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;oppo=204</a> )
<b>46 countries</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>34.48</b>	<b>All H2H results (<a href="https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;data=1">https://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=122&amp;data=1</a>)</b>

## See also

### Men's

- [Under-21](#)
- [Under-19](#)
- [Under-17](#)
- [Under-15](#)
- [Futsal](#)

### Women's

- [National team](#)
- [Under-19](#)
- [Under-17](#)

## Notes and references

### Notes

- a. The alternative name of the [Albania national team](#) that was used during this match.<sup>[4]</sup>
- b. Dobrica Barbaroga was the Albanianized full name of Dobrica Barbarović by the media of that time, which seems to be expression of peaceful coexistence with national minorities even in Kosovo at that time.<sup>[5]</sup>
- c. Due to the [country's involvement in the Russian invasion of Ukraine](#), Belarus are required to play their home matches at neutral venues and [behind closed doors](#) until further notice.<sup>[65]</sup>
- d. The Kosovo v Israel match, originally scheduled to be played on 15 October 2023, was postponed to 12 November 2023 due to the [Israel–Hamas war](#).<sup>[66][67]</sup>
- e. On 11 November 2020, [Bernard Challandes](#) tested positive with COVID-19 and [Muharrem Sahiti](#) was named as his replacement for the November 2020 matches,<sup>[68]</sup> against [Albania](#) (2–1 away defeat),<sup>[69]</sup> [Slovenia](#) (2–1 away defeat),<sup>[70]</sup> and [Moldova](#) (1–0 home win).<sup>[71]</sup>
- f. Additional matches are scheduled to be played in [Argentina](#), [Paraguay](#), and [Uruguay](#) in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the [first world cup](#), however they are not considered to be official hosts of the tournament.<sup>[78]</sup>

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## External links

- [Official website](http://www.ffk-kosova.com/) (<http://www.ffk-kosova.com/>) (in Albanian and English)
- [Kosovo](https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/KOS) (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/KOS>) at FIFA
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# Montenegro national football team

The **Montenegro national football team** (Montenegrin: *Fudbalska reprezentacija Crne Gore*) has represented Montenegro in men's international football since 2007. It is controlled by the [Football Association of Montenegro](#), the governing body for football in Montenegro. Montenegro's home ground is Podgorica City Stadium in Podgorica.

Montenegro is one of the world's youngest international teams, having joined [FIFA](#) and [UEFA](#) in 2007, following the restoration of [Montenegrin independence](#) in 2006. Montenegro played its first official international match against [Hungary](#) in March 2007, and competed in their first [FIFA World Cup](#) qualifiers in 2010.

## History

### Formation

Following the [independence of Montenegro from Serbia and Montenegro](#), Serbia was set to represent both Serbia and Montenegro in the [Euro 2008 qualifying stage](#). [UEFA](#), however, would be willing to include Montenegro as a late entry if [FIFA](#) ratified a separate [Montenegrin Football Association](#) before September 2006. However, this did not occur before the competition began.<sup>[3][4][5]</sup>

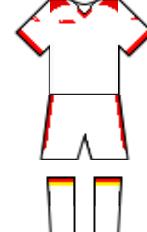
In October 2006, Montenegro was granted provisional membership of [UEFA](#), with a debate regarding full membership scheduled at a full [UEFA Congress](#) in January 2007.<sup>[6]</sup> Montenegro's first [FIFA World Ranking](#) was joint 199th place, the last place on the list by default.

### First matches

On 26 January 2007, the Montenegro FA was granted full membership of [UEFA](#).<sup>[7]</sup> The team played its first [FIFA-recognized friendly match](#) against [Hungary](#) on 24 March 2007 at Stadion Pod Goricom in Podgorica. Montenegro won 2–1 in front of 12,000 spectators. Striker [Mirko Vučinić](#) scored the country's first goal in the 62nd minute.<sup>[8][9]</sup> On 31 May 2007, Montenegro was admitted as [FIFA's 208th member](#).<sup>[10]</sup> Montenegro's first coach was [Zoran Filipović](#). In 23 matches, Filipović recorded eight victories, eight draws and seven defeats. He left in January 2010 when his contract expired. During his tenure, Montenegro rose to 73rd position in the [FIFA rankings](#). Montenegro played at the 2007 [Kirin Cup](#), but finished in last place behind [Japan](#) and [Colombia](#). On 26 March 2008, Montenegro recorded one of its best results with a 3–1 win over [Norway](#).

### First competitive matches

On 6 September 2008, Montenegro played their first [World Cup qualifier](#) against [Bulgaria](#) at the Podgorica City Stadium. Bulgaria took the lead in the 11th minute with a goal from [Stiliyan Petrov](#). Mirko Vučinić scored in the 61st minute to tie the game, before [Igor Burzanović](#) put Montenegro ahead 82nd minute from a penalty. However, a last-minute equalizer from [Blagoy Georgiev](#) denied Montenegro their first competitive win. In their next match on 10 September, they achieved another notable result when they held the [Republic of Ireland](#) to a 0–0 draw. Another near-upset came in a narrow 2–1 loss against [Italy](#). After Alberto Aquilani's early strike, Vučinić quickly equalized, but Aquilani scored the

Montenegro	
	
<b>Nickname(s)</b>	<i>Hrabri sokoli / Храбри соколи</i> (The Brave Falcons)
<b>Association</b>	<a href="#">Football Association of Montenegro (FSCG)</a>
<b>Confederation</b>	<a href="#">UEFA (Europe)</a>
<b>Head coach</b>	<a href="#">Robert Prosinečki</a>
<b>Captain</b>	<a href="#">Stevan Jovetić</a>
<b>Most caps</b>	<a href="#">Fatos Bećiraj (86)</a>
<b>Top scorer</b>	<a href="#">Stevan Jovetić (34)</a>
<b>Home stadium</b>	<a href="#">Podgorica City Stadium</a>
<b>FIFA code</b>	MNE
	
<b>First colours</b>	<b>Second colours</b>
<b>FIFA ranking</b>	
<b>Current</b>	72  2 (15 February 2024) <sup>[11]</sup>
<b>Highest</b>	16 (June 2011)
<b>Lowest</b>	199 (June 2007)
<b>First international</b>	
 Montenegro	2–1 Hungary 
(Podgorica, Montenegro; 24 March 2007)	
<b>Biggest win</b>	
 San Marino	0–6 Montenegro 
(Serravalle, San Marino; 11 September 2012)	

## **Biggest defeat**

England 7–0 Montenegro   
(London, England; 14 November 2019)

## **World Cup**

**Appearances** 2 (*first in 1998 as FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro*  
*Never qualified as Montenegro*)

**Best result** As FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro: Round of 16 (1998)  
As Montenegro: 3rd in qualification group (2014 qualifying, 2018 qualifying)

## **European Championship**

**Appearances** 1 (*first in 2000 as FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro*  
*Never qualified as Montenegro*)

**Best result** As FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro: Quarter-finals (2000)  
As Montenegro: Play-off finals (2012)



Montenegro national team squad in  
EURO 2020 qualifiers

winning goal ten minutes later. Their second match against Italy ended 2–0 in favour of the world champions. Another disappointment came when the team could only draw 0–0 against Georgia, followed by a 2–2 draw against Cyprus after being two goals down. On 5 September 2009, Montenegro took an early lead against Bulgaria in Sofia with Stevan Jovetić putting them 1–0 up, only for Bulgaria to recover and win 4–1. After drawing 1–1 with Cyprus, Montenegro finally registered their first competitive win, beating Georgia 2–1. They then drew 0–0 with the Republic of Ireland at Croke Park. They finished fifth in the group with nine points, below Cyprus on goal difference.

## **Golden era**

During the UEFA Euro 2012 qualification campaign, the team recorded further success. They opened their campaign with a 1–0 victory over Wales; Mirko Vučinić scored the only goal. A few days later, the team defeated Bulgaria 1–0 in Sofia. The next month, they beat Switzerland 1–0 and then recorded a 0–0 draw in London against England. On 4 June 2011, Montenegro drew 1–1 against Bulgaria, with Radomir Đalović scoring for Montenegro early in the second half, but Ivelin Popov scoring minutes later, to keep Montenegro second in the group, behind England on goal difference. Montenegro were beaten 2–1 by Wales in Cardiff. They were still second in Group G, but Switzerland closed the gap between them to only three points. In the June 2011 FIFA rankings, Montenegro recorded their highest ranking of 16th. On 7 October, Montenegro came back from 2–0 down to draw 2–2 against England in Podgorica, after Wayne Rooney was sent off. Wales beat Switzerland 2–0 to ensure Montenegro won a play-off place, putting the team two matches away from qualifying for Euro 2012. In their last match in the qualifiers, Montenegro lost 2–0 to Switzerland in Basel. On 13 October, the draw for the UEFA Euro 2012 qualifying play-offs was held in Kraków, Poland. Montenegro were paired with the Czech Republic, but they lost 3–0 on aggregate and failed to qualify. Montenegro were drawn in Group H in the qualifiers, along with England, Poland, Ukraine, Moldova and San Marino. In their first match, Montenegro tied against Poland in a 2–2 draw. On 11 September, Montenegro played against San Marino in Seravalle. In a one-sided match, Montenegro won 6–0,<sup>[11]</sup> the biggest win in the team's history. Montenegro then beat Ukraine 1–0 in Kyiv,<sup>[12]</sup> with the only goal scored by Dejan Damjanović. In their last match in 2012, Montenegro faced San Marino in Podgorica on 14 November, and won 3–0. Montenegro played their fifth qualifier match against Moldova in Chișinău on 22 March 2013, winning 1–0 through Mirko Vučinić's goal. Montenegro then returned to Podgorica to play the second-placed England. The outcome was a 1–1 draw. Leading their World Cup qualifying group, Montenegro hosted Ukraine on 7 June 2013. They suffered their first defeat in the group, losing 4–0. The match also saw Montenegro finish the match with nine men after Vladimir Volkov and Savo Pavićević were sent off. Their last four matches yielded just a single point; a 1–1 draw in Poland. Their 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign finished with a 5–2 home defeat to Moldova, and they finished third behind England and Ukraine.

## **Ups and downs**

On 23 February 2014 in Nice, Montenegro were drawn for qualification in UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying Group G alongside Russia, Sweden, Austria, Moldova and Liechtenstein. Though they opened their campaign with a 2–0 win over Moldova, they failed to qualify with a 0–0 tie against Liechtenstein, a 1–0 loss to Austria and a 1–1 tie at home to Sweden. On 27 March 2015, Montenegro's home match against Russia was abandoned after 67 minutes due to crowd violence, after the Russian left-back Dmitri Kombarov was hit by a projectile. The score was 0–0 and Russia had missed a penalty moments before the match was abandoned. The Russian goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev was hit by a flare, causing a second 33-minute delay.<sup>[13]</sup> The abandoned match was ruled a 3–0 win in Russia's favour. Montenegro finished fourth at the end of the campaign and placed 95th on the FIFA ranking list. Montenegro participated in the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification and were placed with Poland, Denmark, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Romania. Poland and Romania had been participants in the UEFA Euro 2016, but Montenegro began by drawing 1–1 away to Romania, beating Kazakhstan 5–0 at home and defeating Denmark 1–0.

However, they then lost 3–2 away to Armenia despite leading 2–0, and were defeated 2–1 at home by Poland. Montenegro then rebounded, beating Armenia 4–1 and Kazakhstan 3–0. They later eliminated Romania with a 1–0 victory, but losses to the Danes and Poles ended Montenegro's chance of qualifying.

Having failed to reach the World Cup, Montenegro had a dismal performance in the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League C. The team was grouped with Serbia, Romania and Lithuania. Montenegro only managed two victories, all against Lithuania, and suffered two losses to Serbia, one defeat to Romania at home and an away draw to the Romanian side as well. This effectively denied Montenegro a chance to qualify to the UEFA Euro 2020 playoff.



Mirko Vučinić was the first captain of Montenegro

## Worst campaign

The Euro 2020 qualifiers for Montenegro have been the worst in the team's short history. After an unsuccessful Nations League campaign, the team started off with a 1–1 away draw to Bulgaria, following a controversial penalty for the hosts. It was followed with a 1–5 loss at home to England despite having taken an early lead. On the day of the match with Kosovo, Serbian coach Ljubiša Tumbaković and two players originated from Serbia, due to political reasons, abandoned the national team, betraying the squad in unprecedented condition before the two crucial matches for qualifiers. Montenegro managed to avoid defeat against Kosovo (1–1), however they lost to Czech Republic 0–3. The same result occurred in the rematch, one month later. With no chances to qualify directly, Montenegro failed to win the match against last placed Bulgaria (0–0), and lost to Kosovo (0–2). At the end of their worst campaign, Montenegro suffered their biggest defeat in history. On 14 November 2019, they were defeated against England in London 7–0. Not only did they finish the qualifying campaign without a single victory, Montenegro managed to score only three goals in eight matches, but conceded 22. Also, throughout the entire qualifying campaign the team had troubles with injuries to key players, most notably Stevan Jovetić and Stefan Savić.

## Comeback

The team topped the group in 2020–21 UEFA Nations League above Luxembourg, Azerbaijan and Cyprus and were promoted into League B. They were also an important team in fight to qualify for 2022 FIFA World Cup. They were 4th of 6 teams in group with Netherlands, Turkey, Norway, Latvia and Gibraltar.

## Stadium and facilities

Montenegro play home matches at the Podgorica City Stadium (Montenegrin: *Stadion pod Goricom*). The stadium's capacity is 15,230, but international matches reduce this to between 10,700 and 13,000.

## Camp FSCG

The Football Association of Montenegro owns Camp FSCG, a Montenegrin training ground. Built in 2007, the centre has a total area of 54,000 square metres.<sup>[14]</sup> It is located on Ćemovsko polje, a plain located in the outskirts of Podgorica outskirts between the settlements of Stari Aerodrom and Konik. It consists of six pitches with stands and floodlights,<sup>[15]</sup> and *House of Football* – the seat of the Football Association of Montenegro.<sup>[16]</sup>

The camp currently represents an important asset for the whole Montenegrin football system. The grounds are home to all Montenegrin national teams (men and women) and numerous local teams from Podgorica. CAMP FSCG meets the criteria for Montenegrin First League games and UEFA competitions for young players.

## Team image

### Nickname

Under the official [FIFA Trigramme](#), the team's name is abbreviated as **MNE**, which is also the country's [ISO 3166-1 code](#). The team's nickname is "The Brave Falcons" (Montenegrin: *Hrabri Sokoli*).



Montenegrin supporters

## Kits and colours

Montenegro's traditional home colours are red, with a gold trim. This reflects the country's flag. The team's away kits have usually been white, with a red trim.

The current kit is produced by the Italian company [Legea](#).

Manufacturer	Period
 daCapo	2007–2008
 Legea	2008–present

## Supporters

At competitive matches, the Montenegrin home ground [Podgorica City Stadium](#) is often filled to capacity. The stadium is regarded as too small to meet the needs of the national team. Demand for the World Cup qualifier against Italy in 2009 was 30,000 tickets; 40,000 for the Euro 2012 qualifying match against England in 2011.

Montenegro's loudest and most loyal supporters are named *Ultra Crna Gora* (Ултра Црна Гора; *Ultra Montenegro*). As an ultras group, their support consists of standing up and singing for 90 minutes both home and away. They occupy the north and south stands of [Podgorica City Stadium](#). Choreography is usually performed at the beginning of games. *Ultra Crna Gora* consists of many subgroups, mostly named after Podgorica's neighborhoods and [Montenegrin towns](#) in other parts of the country.

## Results and fixtures

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

Win  Draw  Loss  Fixture

### 2023

<a href="#">UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</a>	24 March 2023 21:45 UTC+2	<a href="#">Bulgaria</a>  <b>0–1</b> <a href="#">Montenegro</a> 	Razgrad, Bulgaria <a href="#">Report (htt ps://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036302/)</a> Stadium: Huvepharma Arena Attendance: 9,234 Referee: Aliyar Aghayev (Azerbaijan)	[show]
<a href="#">UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</a>	27 March 2023 20:45 UTC+1	<a href="#">Montenegro</a>  <b>0–2</b> <a href="#">Serbia</a> 	Podgorica, Montenegro <a href="#">Report (htt ps://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036326/)</a> Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 9,831 Referee: Clément Turpin (France)	[show]
<a href="#">UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</a>	17 June 2023 18:00 UTC+2	<a href="#">Montenegro</a>  <b>0–0</b> <a href="#">Hungary</a> 	Podgorica, Montenegro <a href="#">Report (htt ps://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036326/)</a> Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 6,761 Referee: Jesús Gil Manzano (Spain)	[show]

Friendly	20 June 2023 20:45 UTC+2	<b>Montenegro</b> 🇩🇪 1–4 <b>Czech Republic</b>	Report (htt ps://int.soc cerway.co m/matche s/2023/06/ 20/world/fri endlies/mo ntenegro/c zech-repub lic/402666 4/)	Podgorica, Montenegro Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 1,792 Referee: Matthew De Gabriele (Malta)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	7 September 2023 21:45 UTC+3	<b>Lithuania</b> 🇳୍ଯ 2–2 <b>Montenegro</b>	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qu alifiers/mat ch/203639 5/)	Kaunas, Lithuania Stadium: Darius and Girėnas Stadium Attendance: 11,328 Referee: Mohammed Al-Hakim (Sweden)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	10 September 2023 18:00 UTC+2	<b>Montenegro</b> 🇩🇪 2–1 <b>Bulgaria</b>	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qu alifiers/mat ch/203641 7/)	Podgorica, Montenegro Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 4,232 Referee: Harm Osmers (Germany)	[show]
Friendly	12 October 2023 18:00 UTC+2	<b>Montenegro</b> 🇩🇪 3–2 <b>Lebanon</b>	Report (htt ps://int.soc cerway.co m/matche s/2023/10/ 12/world/fri endlies/mo ntenegro/le banon/423 4317/)	Podgorica, Montenegro Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 1,337 Referee: Eldorjan Hamiti (Albania)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 October 2023 20:45 UTC+2	<b>Serbia</b> 🇷🇸 3–1 <b>Montenegro</b>	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qu alifiers/mat ch/203646 3/)	Belgrade, Serbia Stadium: Rajko Mitić Stadium Attendance: 25,884 Referee: Szymon Marciniak (Poland)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 November 2023 18:00 UTC+1	<b>Montenegro</b> 🇩🇪 2–0 <b>Lithuania</b>	Report (htt ps://www.u efa.com/eu ropean-qu alifiers/mat ch/203648 7/)	Podgorica, Montenegro Stadium: Podgorica City Stadium Attendance: 3,647 Referee: Artur Soares Dias (Portugal)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 November 2023	<b>Hungary</b> 🇭🇺 3–1 <b>Montenegro</b>		Budapest, Hungary	[show]

15:00 UTC+1

Szoboszlai 66', 68' Report (htt  
 Nagy 90+3' Rubežić 36'  
[ps://www.u  
 efa.com/eu  
 ropean-qu  
 alifiers/mat  
 ch/203650  
 9/\)](http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036509/)

Stadium: Puskás Aréna  
 Attendance: 59,600  
 Referee: Danny Makkelie  
 (Netherlands)

## 2024

Friendly	21 March	<b>Montenegro</b>	v	<b>Belarus</b>	Antalya, Turkey	[show]
Friendly	26 March	<b>Montenegro</b>	v	<b>North Macedonia</b>	Antalya, Turkey	[show]
Friendly	5 June	<b>Belgium</b>	v	<b>Montenegro</b>	Brussels, Belgium	[show]
Friendly	9 June	<b>Montenegro</b>	v	<b>Georgia</b>	Podgorica, Montenegro	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	6 September	<b>Iceland</b>	v	<b>Montenegro</b>	Iceland	[show]
	18:45 UTC±0					
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	9 September	<b>Montenegro</b>	v	<b>Wales</b>	Montenegro	[show]
	19:45 UTC±0					
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	11 October	<b>Turkey</b>	v	<b>Montenegro</b>	Turkey	[show]
	21:45 UTC+3					
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	14 October	<b>Wales</b>	v	<b>Montenegro</b>	Wales	[show]
	19:45 UTC±0					
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	16 November	<b>Montenegro</b>	v	<b>Iceland</b>	Montenegro	[show]
	18:00 UTC+1					
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	19 November	<b>Montenegro</b>	v	<b>Turkey</b>	Montenegro	[show]
	20:45 UTC+1					

## Coaching history

Manager	Career	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	GF	GA	Win %
Zoran Filipović	2006–2009	23	8	8	7	28	31	34.78%
Zlatko Kranjčar	2010–2011	13	6	2	5	14	11	46.15%
Branko Brnović	2011–2015	34	11	9	14	44	50	32.35%
Ljubiša Tumbaković	2016–2019	26	7	7	12	33	33	26.92%
Miodrag Džudović	2019 (acting)	2	0	1	1	1	4	00.00%
Faruk Hadžibegić	2019–2020	13	5	4	4	13	16	38.46%
Miodrag Radulović	2020–2023	23	6	4	13	22	35	26.08%
Robert Prosinečki	2024–present	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%

## Players

In international football, players can normally only play for one national team once they play in all or part of any match recognised as a full international by FIFA. However, an exception is made in cases where one or more newly independent states are created out of a former state. Based on current FIFA rules, a player will be eligible to play for Montenegro, even if he had previously represented Serbia and Montenegro or any other country, if at least one of the following statements applies:<sup>[17]</sup>

- The player was born in Montenegro;

- At least one of their parents and/or at least one of their grandparents was born in Montenegro;
- The player has lived in Montenegro continuously for any five-year period.

Due to mixed ancestries, it is likely that a high percentage of the players eligible to play for Montenegro will also remain eligible to play for Serbia, and vice versa. However, once they have played for either Serbia or Montenegro in any competitive fixture, they are no longer eligible to play for any other nation.

## Current squad

The following players were called up for games against Lithuania on 16 November and against Hungary on 19 November 2023.<sup>[18]</sup>

*Caps and goals as of 19 November 2023, after the match against Hungary.*<sup>[19][20]</sup>

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Milan Mijatović	26 July 1987	36	0	Železničar Pančevo
22	GK	Filip Đukić	6 August 1999	1	0	Hvidovre
12	GK	Nikola Ivezić	1 April 2003	0	0	Lommel
15	DF	Stefan Savić ( <i>vice-captain</i> )	8 January 1991	72	9	Atlético Madrid
13	DF	Žarko Tomašević	22 February 1990	64	5	Free Agent
7	DF	Marko Vešović	28 August 1991	50	2	Qarabağ
3	DF	Risto Radunović	4 May 1992	33	1	FCSB
5	DF	Igor Vujačić	8 August 1994	31	0	Rubin Kazan
2	DF	Andrija Vukčević	11 October 1996	7	0	Juárez
23	DF	Miloš Milović	22 December 1995	4	0	Qingdao Hainiu
	DF	Slobodan Rubežić	21 March 2000	3	1	Aberdeen
19	DF	Marko Tući	4 December 1998	3	0	Gangwon
	MF	Vladimir Jovović	26 October 1994	54	0	Sogdiyona Jizzakh
10	MF	Marko Janković	9 July 1995	45	1	Qarabağ
4	MF	Marko Vukčević	7 June 1993	20	1	Varaždin
6	MF	Miloš Raičković	2 October 1993	18	0	Budućnost
20	MF	Stefan Lončar	19 February 1996	13	0	Debrecen
18	MF	Driton Camaj	7 March 1997	12	1	Kisvárda
14	MF	Edvin Kuč	27 October 1993	4	3	Ballkani
16	MF	Andrija Radulović	3 July 2002	3	0	Vojvodina
	MF	Vladan Bubanja	21 February 1999	1	0	Lokomotiva
8	FW	Stevan Jovetić ( <i>captain</i> )	2 November 1989	74	34	Olympiacos
21	FW	Milutin Osmajić	25 July 1999	22	2	Preston North End
11	FW	Nikola Krstović	5 April 2000	14	2	Lecce
9	FW	Dušan Bakić	23 February 1999	5	0	Omonia Nicosia
17	FW	Viktor Đukanović	29 January 2004	3	0	Hammarby

## Recent call-ups

The following players have been called on the last 12 months.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Danijel Petković	25 May 1993	25	0	Kisvárda	v.  Lithuania, 16 November 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
GK	Suad Ličina	8 February 1995	0	0	Mladost DG	v.  Serbia, 17 October 2023
GK	Miloš Dragojević	3 February 1989	2	0	Budućnost Podgorica	v.  Bulgaria, 10 September 2023
GK	Matija Šarkić	23 July 1997	7	0	Millwall	v.  Bulgaria, 10 September 2023
GK	Lazar Carević	16 March 1999	2	0	Vojvodina	v.  Hungary, 17 June 2023 <sup>PRE</sup>
DF	Adam Marušić	17 October 1992	57	3	Lazio	v.  Lithuania, 16 November 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
DF	Nikola Šipčić	17 May 1995	7	0	Tenerife	v.  Lebanon, 12 October 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
DF	Jonathan Drešaj	15 March 2000	0	0	Dečić	v.  Czech Republic, 20 June 2023
MF	Nebojša Kosović	24 February 1995	33	1	Meizhou Hakka	v.  Serbia, 17 October 2023
MF	Marko Bakić	1 November 1993	24	0	OFI	v.  Serbia, 17 October 2023
MF	Aleksandar Šćekić	12 December 1991	40	0	Partizan	v.  Bulgaria, 10 September 2023
MF	Sead Hakšabanović	4 May 1999	33	1	Stoke City	v.  Bulgaria, 10 September 2023
MF	Vukan Savićević	29 January 1994	19	0	Vojvodina	v.  Bulgaria, 10 September 2023
MF	Novica Eraković	12 November 1999	4	0	Omonia	v.  Czech Republic, 20 June 2023
MF	Aleksandar Boljević	12 December 1995	26	2	Željezničar	v.  Serbia, 27 March 2023
FW	Stefan Mugoša	23 February 1992	53	15	Incheon United	v.  Lithuania, 16 November 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
FW	Uroš Đurđević	2 March 1994	12	0	Sporting Gijón	v.  Bulgaria, 10 September 2023

#### Notes

- INJ = Withdrawn due to injury
- PRE = Preliminary squad/standby
- RET = Retired from the national team
- SUS = Serving suspension
- WD = Player withdrew from the squad due to non-injury issue.

## Player records

As of 19 November 2023<sup>[21]</sup>

*Players in bold are still active with Montenegro.*

## Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	Fatos Bećiraj	86	15	2009–2022
2	<b>Stevan Jovetić</b>	74	34	2007–present
3	<b>Stefan Savić</b>	72	9	2010–present
4	<b>Žarko Tomašević</b>	64	5	2010–present
5	Elsad Zverotić	61	5	2008–2017
6	<b>Adam Marušić</b>	57	3	2015–present
7	<b>Vladimir Jovović</b>	54	0	2013–present
8	<b>Stefan Mugoša</b>	53	15	2015–present
9	<b>Nikola Vukčević</b>	51	1	2014–present
10	<b>Marko Simić</b>	50	2	2013–present
	<b>Marko Vešović</b>	50	2	2013–present



Fatos Bećiraj is Montenegro's most capped player.

## Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Average	Career
1	<b>Stevan Jovetić</b>	34	74	0.46	2007–present
2	Mirko Vučinić	17	46	0.37	2007–2017
3	<b>Stefan Mugoša</b>	15	53	0.28	2015–present
	Fatos Bećiraj	15	86	0.17	2009–2022
5	<b>Stefan Savić</b>	9	72	0.13	2010–present
6	Dejan Damjanović	8	30	0.27	2008–2015
7	Radomir Đalović	7	26	0.27	2007–2012
8	Andrija Delibašić	6	21	0.29	2009–2013
9	Elsad Zverotić	5	61	0.08	2008–2017
	<b>Žarko Tomašević</b>	5	64	0.08	2014–present



Stevan Jovetić is the national team top scorer.

## Competitive record

Montenegro have participated in seven qualification rounds for World Cup or European Championship tournaments. Montenegro have never qualified, and their biggest success was reaching the play-offs for Euro 2012.

Montenegro first tried to qualify for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, but they finished fifth in their group. They had more success in the Euro 2012 qualifiers, when they finished second in their group to reach the play-offs, but lost to the Czech Republic.

In the qualifiers for the 2014 World Cup, Montenegro finished third, and two years later, in the qualifiers for Euro 2016, they finished fourth in their group. They again finished third in their 2018 World Cup qualifying group. Worst performance came in the qualifiers for Euro 2020, as Montenegro finished last-placed in the group without single victory.

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
FIFA World Cup qualifiers	40	13	13	14	61	58	+3
UEFA European Championship qualifiers	43	8	9	16	25	51	-26
UEFA Nations League	16	7	3	6	20	12	+8
Friendly games	50	18	13	18	59	62	-3
<b>Overall</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>-18</b>

Updated: 19 November 2023

## FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record									Qualification record													
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pos	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA							
1930	Part of  Yugoslavia									Part of  Yugoslavia												
1934	Part of  Yugoslavia									Part of  Yugoslavia												
1938																						
1950																						
1954																						
1958																						
1962																						
1966																						
1970	Part of  Yugoslavia									Part of  Yugoslavia												
1974																						
1978																						
1982																						
1986																						
1990																						
1994																						
1998	Part of  Yugoslavia									Part of  Yugoslavia												
2002																						
2006	Part of  Serbia and Montenegro									Part of  Serbia and Montenegro												
2010																						
2014																						
2018	Did not qualify																					
2022																						
2026																						
2030										To be determined												
2034																						
<b>Total</b>	<b>0/4</b>															<b>—</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>58</b>

## UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record	Qualification record	Qualification play-offs record
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# UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record										
Season	Division	Group	Plid	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK
2018–19	C	4	6	2	1	3	7	6	=	35th
2020–21	C	1	6	4	1	1	10	2	▲	34th
2022–23	B	3	6	2	1	3	6	6	=	28th
2024–25	B	<i>To be determined</i>								
Total			18	8	3	7	23	14	28th	

## Head-to-head record

Below is a summary of Montenegrin national team results against every opponent country.

*As of 19 November 2023*

<b>Opponent</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GD</b>	<b>Win %</b>
Albania	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0.00
Armenia	3	1	0	2	6	5	+1	33.33
Austria	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0.00
Azerbaijan	3	2	1	0	4	0	+4	66.67
Belarus	4	2	2	0	4	1	+3	50.00
Belgium	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	0.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	0	3	1	1	2	-1	0.00
Bulgaria	8	3	4	1	9	9	+0	37.50
Colombia	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0.00
Cyprus	5	2	3	0	9	3	+6	40.00
Czech Republic	5	0	0	5	1	13	-12	0.00
Denmark	3	1	0	2	2	3	-1	33.33
England	6	0	3	3	5	19	-14	0.00
Estonia	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00
Finland	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0.00
Georgia	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	50.00
Ghana	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00
Gibraltar	2	2	0	0	7	1	+6	100.00
Greece	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	50.00
Hungary	5	2	2	1	8	8	+0	40.00
Iceland	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	100.00
Israel	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0.00
Iran	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	0.00
Italy	2	0	0	2	1	4	-3	0.00
Japan	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0.00
Kazakhstan	4	3	1	0	11	0	+11	75.00
Kosovo	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	0.00
Latvia	4	2	2	0	5	2	+3	50.00
Lebanon	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	100.00
Liechtenstein	2	1	1	0	2	0	+2	50.00
Lithuania	4	3	1	0	10	3	+7	75.00
Luxembourg	3	2	0	1	6	3	+3	66.67
Moldova	4	3	0	1	7	5	+2	75.00
North Macedonia	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	33.33
Netherlands	2	0	1	1	2	6	-4	0.00
Northern Ireland	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	100.00
Norway	4	1	0	3	4	6	-2	25.00
Poland	4	0	2	2	6	9	-3	0.00
Republic of Ireland	2	0	2	0	0	0	+0	0.00
Romania	7	3	2	2	7	6	+1	42.86
Russia	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0.00

<b>Opponent</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GD</b>	<b>Win %</b>
San Marino	2	2	0	0	9	0	+9	100.00
Serbia	4	0	0	4	2	9	-7	0.00
Slovakia	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	0.00
Slovenia	3	0	1	2	1	4	-3	0.00
Sweden	3	0	1	2	3	6	-3	0.00
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	50.00
Turkey	4	0	2	2	5	7	-2	0.00
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	1	4	-3	50.00
Uzbekistan	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00
Wales	3	2	0	1	4	3	+1	66.67
<b>51 Teams</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>33.33</b>

## FIFA rankings

### See also

- [Montenegro men's national football team results](#)
- [Montenegro men's national football team records and statistics](#)
- [List of Montenegro international footballers](#)
- [Montenegro women's national football team](#)
- [Montenegro women's national under-17 football team](#)
- [Football in Montenegro](#)
- [Sport in Montenegro](#)



Association  
football portal

### Notes

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## External links

- Football Association of Montenegro (<http://www.fscg.me/>) (in Montenegrin)
- Montenegro (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/MNE>) on *FIFA.com* (in English)
- Montenegro (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/MNE/>) on *UEFA.com* (in English)
- List of players (<http://www.football-lineups.com/country/me/Players/>) (in English)
- Montenegro national team match reports ([http://eu-football.info/\\_matches.php?id=140](http://eu-football.info/_matches.php?id=140)) (in English)

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Montenegro\\_national\\_football\\_team&oldid=1208205722](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Montenegro_national_football_team&oldid=1208205722)"



# North Macedonia national football team

The **North Macedonia men's national football team** (Macedonian: Фудбалска репрезентација на Северна Македонија, romanized: *Fudbalska reprezentacija na Severna Makedonija*, represents North Macedonia in men's international football, and is administered by the [Football Federation of Macedonia](#). The team play their home matches at the [Toše Proeski National Arena](#) in Skopje.

North Macedonia have been rising in football in recent years, reaching [Euro 2020](#) (their first major tournament) and the European qualifying play-off final of the [2022 World Cup](#) (after defeating [Germany](#) in Duisburg and [Italy](#) in Palermo).<sup>[3]</sup>

## History

The National team was represented within the Federal team since 1919. Between 1945 and 1992, [SR Macedonia](#) was ineligible to play as a team for official matches. The team had mostly played exhibition matches against teams from other republics of [SFR Yugoslavia](#) and was represented by Macedonian players under the traditional red, yellow and white colors. As an independent team, it started to compete on international level after the split of the federation in 1991.

### Early years (1993–96)

In 1994, the Republic of Macedonia became a single member of [FIFA](#) and [UEFA](#) after the independence and split of the [Yugoslavia](#). They recorded their first match as a 4–1 victory against Slovenia in a friendly on 13 October 1993 under coach [Andon Dončevski](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

They went on to win their next two friendlies against Slovenia and [Estonia](#).

### Euro 1996 qualifiers

The [Euro '96 qualifiers](#) was the first major qualifying tournament that Macedonia participated in as an independent nation, grouped with [Spain](#), [Denmark](#), [Belgium](#), [Cyprus](#) and [Armenia](#). In their opening game, which was also their first ever official match, Macedonia played the reigning European champions Denmark, finishing 1–1 after Macedonia led for most of the game.<sup>[5]</sup> In Euro '96 qualifying, Macedonia suffered one of its worst-ever defeats, 5–0 to Belgium on 7 June 1995.<sup>[6]</sup> They failed to qualify for [Euro '96](#), finishing fourth in the group with seven points.<sup>[7]</sup>

### Hadžievski, Kanatlarovski and Jovanovski's era (1996–2001)

#### 1998 World Cup qualifiers

Macedonia's first qualifying attempt for the [World Cup](#) saw them grouped with [Romania](#), [Republic of Ireland](#), [Lithuania](#), [Iceland](#), and [Liechtenstein](#).

The tournament began on 24 April 1996 with a 3–0 win at home against Liechtenstein. On 9 November 1996, Macedonia recorded their biggest ever, an 11–1 thrashing of Liechtenstein.<sup>[8]</sup> Macedonia defeated the Republic of Ireland 3–2 at home, their first win over a major European team, but failed again to qualify for the [1998 World Cup](#) in France, finishing fourth in the group on 13 points.<sup>[9]</sup>

#### Euro 2000 qualifiers

Macedonia's journey to qualify for the [Euro 2000](#) tournament in the Netherlands and Belgium saw them grouped with [FR Yugoslavia](#), [Republic of Ireland](#), [Croatia](#), and [Malta](#). They once again opened their qualifying campaign with a win after beating Malta 4–0 at home on 6 September 1998. Their most notable result in the campaign was a 1–1 draw against Croatia in June 1999, with an equalizer of [Gjorgji Hristov](#) 10 minutes before the end of the game. They helped Yugoslavia to qualify directly and eliminate Croatia because they drew 1–1 against the Republic of Ireland with a last-minute equalizer of [Goran Stavrevski](#). However, they failed to qualify again, finishing fourth in the group with eight points.<sup>[10]</sup>

#### 2002 World Cup qualifiers

### North Macedonia



**Nickname(s)** Рисови  
*Risovi (Lynxes)*  
Лавови  
*Lavovi (Lions)*

**Association** Football Federation of Macedonia

**Confederation** UEFA (Europe)

**Head coach** Blagoja Milevski

**Captain** Enis Bardhi

**Most caps** Goran Pandev (122)

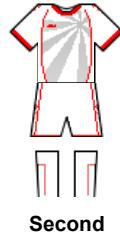
**Top scorer** Goran Pandev (38)

**Home stadium** Toše Proeski Arena

**FIFA code** MKD



First colours



Second colours

#### FIFA ranking

**Current** 68 ▼ 3 (15 February 2024)<sup>[11]</sup>

**Highest** 46 (October 2008)

**Lowest** 166 (March 2017)

#### First international

Slovenia 1–4 Macedonia   
(Kranj, Slovenia; 13 October 1993)

#### Biggest win

Liechtenstein 1–11 Macedonia   
(Eschen, Liechtenstein; 9 November 1996)

#### Biggest defeat

England 7–0 North Macedonia   
(Manchester, England; 19 June 2023)

#### European Championship

**Appearances** 1 (first in 2020)

**Best result** Group stage (2020)

**Website** [ffm.mk](http://ffm.mk) (<https://ffm.mk/>)

Macedonia's [2002 World Cup](#) qualifying campaign saw them grouped with Sweden, Turkey, Slovakia, Moldova, and Azerbaijan. They were unsuccessful in their opening match, going down to Slovakia 2–0 in Bratislava on 3 September 2000. The Macedonians once again failed to qualify for the 2002 World Cup as they finished fourth in the group with seven points.<sup>[11]</sup>



## Ups and downs (2001–06)

### Euro 2004 qualifiers

The Euro 2004 Qualifiers saw Macedonia grouped alongside England, Turkey, Slovakia, and Liechtenstein. Macedonia played England in Southampton, England's first home game in Southampton in almost 100 years. Macedonia grabbed the lead early in the first half after [Artim Šakiri](#) scored directly from a corner kick. England soon leveled the game, before Macedonia led again. The game eventually ended 2–2.<sup>[12]</sup> Macedonia lost to England 2–1 at home in the return leg, which took place in September 2003.<sup>[13]</sup> Macedonia's only win of the campaign came on 7 June 2003, when they beat Liechtenstein 3–1 at home.

### 2006 World Cup qualifiers

Macedonia was drawn in Group 1 and was grouped with the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Romania, Finland, Armenia, and Andorra. They managed to open their campaign with a comfortable 3–0 win at home against Armenia on 18 August 2004. Macedonia did not win another home game for more than three years.

On 9 October 2004, Macedonia managed to hold the Netherlands to a surprise 2–2 draw in Skopje in front of a crowd of 17,000 at the Skopje City Stadium,<sup>[14]</sup> but just four days later, they suffered a 1–0 loss away to Andorra.<sup>[15]</sup> Macedonia then set a new team record for most goals conceded in a game when they lost 6–1 away to the Czech Republic in June 2005.

Macedonia went on to concede a further eight goals in the next two qualifying games, both against Finland. On 23 August 2005, coach [Slobodan Santrač](#) resigned as coach of Macedonia after just five months due to personal problems, with former player [Boban Babunski](#) temporarily taking over as coach. The resignation came just days after they were beaten 3–0 by Finland in Skopje. Despite failing to qualify for the 2006 World Cup, Macedonia was the only team in the group to not lose against the Netherlands.

### Iran tournament

Following the completion of the 2006 World Cup qualifying tournament, in November 2005, Macedonia took part in a friendly tournament in [Iran](#) consisting of four teams: Macedonia, [Iran](#), Paraguay, and [Togo](#). In their opening match, they won 2–1 against host nation Iran, booking a spot in the final against Paraguay, where they lost 1–0.



Agim wearing a yellow jersey away kit

### Srečko Katanec's era and best FIFA ranking (2006–10)

#### Euro 2008 qualifiers

On 17 February 2006, former Slovenian national team coach [Srečko Katanec](#) was appointed as the head coach and was given a two-year contract.

In the lead-up to the beginning of the qualifiers for Euro 2008, Macedonia managed two wins in friendlies, against [Ecuador](#) 2–1 in [Madrid](#), and 1–0 [Turkey](#). Macedonia was placed in Group E for the [Euro 2008](#) qualifiers alongside [England](#), [Croatia](#), [Russia](#), [Israel](#), [Estonia](#), and [Andorra](#).

Macedonia opened its [UEFA Euro 2008](#) qualifying campaign with a 1–0 win away to Estonia on 16 August 2006. Macedonia hosted England on 6 September in their second game of the qualifiers. England went on to win 1–0; this was the first time that Macedonia failed to score against England.<sup>[16]</sup>

A month later, on 7 October 2006, the two teams met once again in [Manchester](#), where England was held to a 0–0 draw in front of 72,062 people.<sup>[17]</sup> On 17 October 2007, Macedonia recorded their first win on home soil since August 2004 when they defeated [Andorra](#) 3–0 in Skopje.<sup>[18]</sup>

Macedonia then recorded one of their most impressive wins to date when they picked up a 2–0 victory over eventual group winners Croatia on 17 November 2007; it was also a first win for Macedonia over a side that was ranked in the top ten of the [FIFA World Rankings](#).<sup>[19]</sup> Despite this, Macedonia failed to qualify for Euro 2008 after finishing fifth in the group with 14 points.<sup>[20]</sup>

### 2010 World Cup qualifiers

On 25 November 2007, just days after Macedonia completed its qualifying campaign for Euro 2008, the groups for European qualifiers for the [2010 World Cup](#) were held in [Durban](#), [South Africa](#), where Macedonia was seeded in Pot 4 and grouped along with the [Netherlands](#), [Scotland](#), [Norway](#) and [Iceland](#).<sup>[21]</sup> Manager Srečko Katanec received a two-year extension on 21 December 2007, which meant he would be under contract through the end of the 2010 World Cup qualifiers.<sup>[22]</sup> In the lead up to the campaign, Macedonia played three friendlies against [Serbia](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and [Poland](#), which all ended in draws.

Macedonia opened their campaign with a 1–0 home win against Scotland on 6 September 2008 when [Ilčo Naumoski](#) scored on a rebound after a missed free-kick by [Goce Sedloški](#). Following these impressive results, Macedonia moved up 10 places to 46 in the [FIFA World Rankings](#) list for October 2008 which was their highest ever ranking. [Srečko Katanec](#) left the team following a 4–0 loss to the Netherlands in [Amsterdam](#) in April 2009 for allegedly

getting into an argument with Goran Pandev.<sup>[23]</sup>

Soon afterward, the manager of the under-21 squad, Mirsad Jonuz, became the new coach of the Macedonian senior team and was signed until the end of the World Cup qualifying campaign.<sup>[24]</sup> On 12 August 2009, a friendly match against Spain was held at the newly built City Park Stadium in Skopje. The defending European champions won 3–2 after being 2–0 down at halftime.<sup>[25]</sup> In September, Macedonia lost 2–0 to Scotland and then to Norway; Macedonia missed the World Cup again.



Vancho Shikov

## Fall and resurgence (2010–2018)

### Euro 2012 qualifiers

On 7 February 2010, Macedonia was placed in Group B for the Euro 2012 qualifiers alongside Russia, Slovakia, Republic of Ireland, Armenia and Andorra.<sup>[26]</sup> In the lead up to the qualifiers, an under-strength Macedonia side played friendlies against Azerbaijan, Romania, and Malta, winning the first two 3–1 and 1–0 respectively, and tied 1–1 against Malta later the summer.

Macedonia finished in fifth in the group with only two wins against minnows Andorra and two draws, against Armenia and Slovakia, both at home. Manager Mirsad Jonuz was dismissed on 18 June 2011<sup>[27]</sup> and replaced by John Toshack.<sup>[28]</sup>



Veliche Shumulikoski

### 2014 World Cup qualifiers

Macedonia's 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign saw them grouped with Croatia, Serbia, Belgium, Scotland and Wales.<sup>[29]</sup> In August 2012, prior to the qualifications, John Toshack would leave as manager<sup>[30]</sup> and would be replaced by Čedomir Janevski.<sup>[31]</sup> The national team would begin the qualification round with a loss to Croatia in Zagreb and would go on to draw against Scotland in Glasgow. They lost again to Croatia and won against Serbia in Skopje after a penalty kick taken by Agim Ibraimi.<sup>[32]</sup> Later in qualification, the national team would go on to lose twice to the eventual group winners Belgium.

Macedonia would win against Wales and lose against Scotland at home. Around the end of September 2013, Janevski would leave the team for Belgian club R.A.E.C. Mons<sup>[33]</sup> and would be replaced by Zoran Stratev for the last two matches.<sup>[34]</sup> Away losses to Wales and Serbia meant they would finish last in their group.

After the qualification run, Goran Pandev, Nikolče Noveski, Veliče Šumulikoski and others would retire from the national team due to turbulent relations with the Football Federation of Macedonia.<sup>[35]</sup> In November 2013, Boško Gjurovski would be appointed the new national team manager.<sup>[36]</sup>

### Euro 2016 qualifiers

On 23 February 2014, Macedonia was placed in Group C for the Euro 2016 qualifiers alongside Spain, Ukraine, Slovakia, Belarus and Luxembourg.<sup>[37]</sup> With 5–1 loss to Spain in Valencia, the only win they collected was against Luxembourg in Skopje.

After that match, Macedonia was brought into a run of a four losses; manager Boško Gjurovski was dismissed on 7 April 2015<sup>[38]</sup> and replaced by Ljubinko Drulović.<sup>[39]</sup> Further losses ensued against Slovakia and surprisingly Luxembourg by late goal of Sébastien Thill.

In the last match against Belarus in Barysaw, Macedonia played a draw that broke the streak of seven losses. The team still ended qualification last of the group.

### 2018 World Cup qualifiers

On 25 July 2015, in the middle of the Euro 2016 qualifying, the group draws for European qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup were held in Saint Petersburg. Macedonia was seeded in Pot 5 and grouped along with Spain again, for the first time with Italy, along with Albania, Israel and Liechtenstein.<sup>[40]</sup>

In October 2015, Drulović left the national team to join Serbian club Partizan<sup>[41]</sup> and the manager place was taken over by the former manager of Rabotnički, Igor Angelovski.<sup>[42]</sup> That same month, 2010 UEFA Champions League champion Goran Pandev came back to the national team after two years of absence.<sup>[43]</sup>

Macedonia started with another disappointing performance with a loss to Albania in Shkodër, with a goal scored by Bekim Balaj in the last moments of the game, in a match that was played over two days because of interruption in the 76th minute due to weather.<sup>[44][45]</sup> Later on they also lost to Israel at home after missing a penalty kick by Adis Jahović.<sup>[46]</sup> After that, the national team also lost to Italy beside their 2–1 lead with the goals scored by Ilja Nestorovski and Ferhan Hasani.<sup>[47]</sup> At the end of 2016, Macedonia was outclassed by Spain in Granada 4–0;<sup>[48]</sup> Macedonia had not scored a single point, the worst qualifying start in the history of the national team.<sup>[49]</sup>

The National team before a match with Ukraine 2014

time with Italy, along with Albania, Israel and Liechtenstein.<sup>[40]</sup>

In October 2015, Drulović left the national team to join Serbian club Partizan<sup>[41]</sup> and the manager place was taken over by the former manager of Rabotnički, Igor Angelovski.<sup>[42]</sup> That same month, 2010 UEFA Champions League champion Goran Pandev came back to the national team after two years of absence.<sup>[43]</sup>

Macedonia started with another disappointing performance with a loss to Albania in Shkodër, with a goal scored by Bekim Balaj in the last moments of the game, in a match that was played over two days because of interruption in the 76th minute due to weather.<sup>[44][45]</sup> Later on they also lost to Israel at home after missing a penalty kick by Adis Jahović.<sup>[46]</sup> After that, the national team also lost to Italy beside their 2–1 lead with the goals scored by Ilja Nestorovski and Ferhan Hasani.<sup>[47]</sup> At the end of 2016, Macedonia was outclassed by Spain in Granada 4–0;<sup>[48]</sup> Macedonia had not scored a single point, the worst qualifying start in the history of the national team.<sup>[49]</sup>

Finally, in March 2017, Macedonia recorded their first win in qualifying against Liechtenstein, 3–0.<sup>[50]</sup> Then they lost to Spain in Skopje 2–1.<sup>[51]</sup> They also defeated Israel away through the lone goal by Goran Pandev, which was also a first ever win against Israel.<sup>[52]</sup> Macedonia later tied Albania in Strumica 1–1.<sup>[53]</sup>

## 2018–present

### 2018–19 UEFA Nations League D

In the first edition of the UEFA Nations League, Macedonia played in League D, the lowest division.<sup>[54]</sup> Macedonia were drawn in Group 4 with Armenia, Liechtenstein and Gibraltar.<sup>[55]</sup> The national team won the group with five wins and one loss, and were promoted to the League C for the next edition of the Nations League. North Macedonia were assured of a UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying play-offs place.<sup>[56]</sup>



Goran Pandev the captain

### Euro 2020 qualifiers

For UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying North Macedonia were placed in Group G, along with Austria, Israel, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia.<sup>[57]</sup> North Macedonia managed two first impressive results, drawing Slovenia 1–1 away<sup>[58]</sup> and before that, defeated Latvia 3–1 at home.<sup>[59]</sup> However, North Macedonia would soon fall 1–0 to Poland<sup>[60]</sup> and 4–1 to Austria.<sup>[61]</sup> Then, the recently renamed country recorded a 1–1 away draw to Israel,<sup>[62]</sup> and a 2–1 win over Slovenia at home.<sup>[63]</sup> North Macedonia then lost 2–0 away to Poland,<sup>[64]</sup> and 2–1 away to Austria, ending up in third place.<sup>[65]</sup>

However, due to having successfully taken first place in the UEFA Nations League earlier, North Macedonia was able to reach the country's first ever competitive playoff in history and was scheduled against Kosovo. Eventually, in the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying play-offs first game, North Macedonia overcame Kosovo 2–1 at home. Then they faced Georgia in the final of Path D's play-offs on 13 November, winning 1–0.<sup>[66]</sup>



Stefan Ristovski

### 2020–21 UEFA Nations League C

After winning the League D group in the first edition of the UEFA Nations League, North Macedonia were promoted to the third division of the competition, League C. North Macedonia was drawn in Group 2 together with Armenia, Estonia and Georgia.<sup>[67]</sup>

### UEFA Euro 2020

North Macedonia made their Euros debut in 2020, postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All three Group C matches ended up in a loss, to Austria, Ukraine and the Netherlands; Goran Pandev equalized against Austria in the 28th minute and Ezgjan Alioski scored against Ukraine. North Macedonia was the second debutant, after Finland.

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	Netherlands (H)	3	3	0	0	8	2	+6	9	Advance to knockout phase
2	Austria	3	2	0	1	4	3	+1	6	
3	Ukraine	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3	
4	North Macedonia	3	0	0	3	2	8	-6	0	

Source: UEFA (<https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/standings/#grp-2006440>)

(H) Hosts

- 13 June 2021 at Arena Națională, Bucharest: Austria 3–1 North Macedonia
- 17 June 2021 at Arena Națională, Bucharest: Ukraine 2–1 North Macedonia
- 21 June 2021 at Johan Cruyff Arena, Amsterdam: North Macedonia 0–3 Netherlands<sup>[68]</sup>

### 2022 World Cup qualifiers

For the 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign, North Macedonia was drawn in Group J with Germany, Romania, Iceland, Armenia and Liechtenstein.<sup>[69]</sup> On matchday 3, North Macedonia inflicted a 2–1 defeat on Germany in Duisburg, which was Germany's first World Cup qualification defeat since 2001 and only the third in their history.<sup>[70][71]</sup> In the last two games against Armenia and Iceland, North Macedonia won both (5–0 away against Armenia, 3–1 against Iceland) to put them in 2nd in Group J. Qualifying for the play-offs, they defeated reigning European champions Italy in Palermo on 24 March 2022, and faced Portugal in the play-off final on 29 March where they lost 2–0.<sup>[72][73]</sup>



The starting lineup against Austria in group C at the UEFA Euro 2020

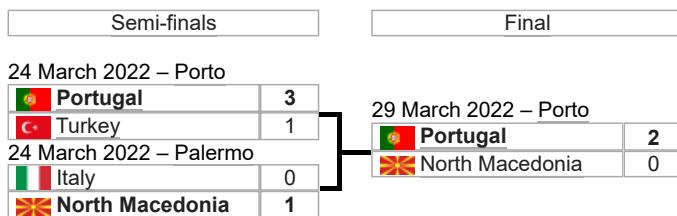


Ezgjan Alioski

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification	Germany	North Macedonia	Romania	Armenia	Iceland	Liechtenstein
1	Germany	10	9	0	1	36	4	+32	27	Qualification for 2022 FIFA World Cup	—	1–2	2–1	6–0	3–0	9–0
2	North Macedonia	10	5	3	2	23	11	+12	18		0–4	—	0–0	0–0	3–1	5–0
3	Romania	10	5	2	3	13	8	+5	17		0–1	3–2	—	1–0	0–0	2–0
4	Armenia	10	3	3	4	9	20	-11	12		1–4	0–5	3–2	—	2–0	1–1
5	Iceland	10	2	3	5	12	18	-6	9		0–4	2–2	0–2	1–1	—	4–0
6	Liechtenstein	10	0	1	9	2	34	-32	1		0–2	0–4	0–2	0–1	1–4	—

Source: [FIFA](https://www.fifa.com/tournaments/mens/worldcup/qatar2022/qualifiers/uefa) (<https://www.fifa.com/tournaments/mens/worldcup/qatar2022/qualifiers/uefa>), [UEFA](https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/standings/#grp-2008227) (<https://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/standings/#grp-2008227>)

Rules for classification: [Tiebreakers](#)



## 2022–23 UEFA Nations League C

North Macedonia played in the [UEFA Nations League](#) against Georgia, Gibraltar, and Bulgaria. In the end they managed to get the third place.

## Euro 2024 qualification

## Team image

### Stadiums



Number of matches	Stadium	First international	Last international
122	Toše Proeski Arena, Skopje <sup>[74]</sup>	23 March 1994	20 November 2023
5	Stadion Goce Delčev, Prilep <sup>[75]</sup>	27 March 1996	15 November 2011
5	Stadion Mladost, Strumica <sup>[76]</sup>	12 April 1995	17 October 2023
1	Gradski stadion, Tetovo <sup>[77]</sup>	14 May 1994	14 May 1994
1	Gradski stadion, Kumanovo <sup>[78]</sup>	29 September 1998	29 September 1998

### Kit sponsorship

Kit supplier	Period
Adidas	1992–1993
Gems	1994–1998
Puma	1998–2014
Jako	2015–present



### Results and fixtures

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

Win  Draw  Loss  Fixture

#### 2023

Euro 2024 qualifying	23 March 20:45	<b>North Macedonia</b> <b>2–1</b> <b>Malta</b> Elmas 66' Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036295/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036295/</a> ) Churlinov 72'	Skopje, North Macedonia Stadium: Toše Proeski Arena Attendance: 9,991 Referee: Kristo Tohver (Estonia)	[show]
Friendly	27 March 18:00	<b>North Macedonia</b> <b>1–0</b> <b>+ Faroe Islands</b> Mioski 82' Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/macedonianfootball.com/mkd-fro-match-report/">http://www.uefa.com/macedonianfootball.com/mkd-fro-match-report/</a> )	Skopje, North Macedonia Stadium: Toše Proeski Arena Attendance: 500 Referee: Miloš Savović (Montenegro)	[show]
Euro 2024 qualifying	16 June 20:45	<b>North Macedonia</b> <b>2–3</b> <b>Ukraine</b> Bardhi 31' (pen.) Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036303/">http://www.uefa.com/european-qualifiers/match/2036303/</a> ) Elmas 39'	Skopje, North Macedonia Stadium: Toše Proeski Arena Attendance: 14,370 Referee: Lukas Fähndrich (Switzerland)	[show]

Euro 2024 qualifying	19 June 20:45	<b>England</b> + 7–0	<b>North Macedonia</b>	Manchester, England Stadium: Old Trafford Attendance: 70,708 Referee: István Kovács (Romania)	[show]
		Kane 29', 73' (pen.) Saka 38', 47', 51' Rashford 45' Phillips 64'	Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/2036363">http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/2036363</a> ) 3/)		
Euro 2024 qualifying	9 September 20:45	<b>North Macedonia</b> 1–1	<b>Italy</b>	Skopje, North Macedonia Stadium: Toše Proeski Arena Attendance: 28,126 Referee: Felix Zwayer (Germany)	[show]
		Bardhi 81'	Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/203638">http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/203638</a> ) 7/)		
Euro 2024 qualifying	12 September 20:45	<b>Malta</b> 0–2	<b>North Macedonia</b>	Ta' Qali, Malta Stadium: National Stadium Attendance: 3,158 Referee: Henrik Nalbandyan (Armenia)	[show]
		Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/203641">http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/203641</a> ) 0/)	Elmas 5' Manev 41'		
Euro 2024 qualifying	14 October 15:00	<b>Ukraine</b> 2–0	<b>North Macedonia</b>	Prague, Czech Republic Stadium: Stadion Letná Attendance: 12,939 Referee: Slavko Vinčić (Slovenia)	[show]
		Sudakov 30' Karavayev 90+5'	Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/203643">http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/203643</a> ) 2/)		
Friendly	17 October 15:00	<b>North Macedonia</b> 3–1	<b>Armenia</b>	Strumica, North Macedonia Stadium: Stadion Blagoj Istatov Attendance: 2,000 Referee: Nikola Dabanović (Montenegro)	[show]
		Trajkovski 43' Ristovski 59' Daci 88'	Report ( <a href="http://int.soccerway.com/matches/2023/10/17/worldfriendly/macedonia-armenia/420947">http://int.soccerway.com/matches/2023/10/17/worldfriendly/macedonia-armenia/420947</a> ) 4/)	Spertsyan 90+4'	
Euro 2024 qualifying	17 November 20:45	<b>Italy</b> 5–2	<b>North Macedonia</b>	Rome, Italy Stadium: Stadio Olimpico Attendance: 56,364 Referee: Felix Zwayer (Germany)	[show]
		Darmian 17' Chiesa 41', 45+2' Raspadori 81' El Shaarawy 90+3'	Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/203647">http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/203647</a> ) 8/)	Atanasov 52', 74'	
Euro 2024 qualifying	20 November 20:45	<b>North Macedonia</b> 1–1	<b>England</b>	Skopje, North Macedonia Stadium: Toše Proeski Arena Attendance: 27,982 Referee: Filip Glova (Slovakia)	[show]
		Bardhi 41'	Report ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/203650">http://www.uefa.com/europea/n-qualifiers/match/203650</a> ) 2/)	Atanasov 59' (o.g.)	

**2024**

Friendly	21 March	<b>Moldova</b> 🇲🇩 v	<b>North Macedonia</b>	Antalya, Turkey
Friendly	25 March	<b>Montenegro</b> 🇩>,	<b>North Macedonia</b>	Antalya, Turkey
Friendly	3 June	<b>Croatia</b> 🇭🇷 v	<b>North Macedonia</b>	Rijeka, Croatia Stadium: Stadion Rujevica
Friendly	10 June	<b>Czech Republic</b> 🇨🇿 v	<b>North Macedonia</b>	Prague, Czech Republic Stadium: TBD
2024–25 Nations League	7 September 14:00 UTC+1	<b>Faroe Islands</b> +	v <b>North Macedonia</b>	Tórshavn, Faroe Islands Stadium: Tórsvøllur
2024–25 Nations League	10 September 20:45 UTC+2	<b>North Macedonia</b> 🇺🇸	v <b>Armenia</b>	North Macedonia Stadium: TBD
2024–25 Nations League	10 October 21:45 UTC+3	<b>Latvia</b> 🇱🇻	v <b>North Macedonia</b>	Latvia Stadium: TBD
2024–25 Nations League	13 October 20:00 UTC+4	<b>Armenia</b> 🇦🇲	v <b>North Macedonia</b>	Armenia Stadium: TBD
2024–25 Nations League	14 November 20:45 UTC+1	<b>North Macedonia</b> 🇺🇸	v <b>Latvia</b>	North Macedonia Stadium: TBD
2024–25 Nations League	17 November 15:00 UTC+1	<b>North Macedonia</b> 🇺🇸	v <b>+ Faroe Islands</b>	North Macedonia Stadium: TBD

**Coaching history**

Name	First game	Last game	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	Achievements
Andon Dončevski	13 October 1993	15 November 1995	17	5	5	7	23	23	+0	29.41	
Gjoko Hadžievski	27 March 1996	9 June 1999	28	10	7	11	42	37	+5	35.71	
Dragi Kanatlarovski	5 September 1999	13 February 2005	31	8	8	15	32	37	-5	25.81	
Gjore Jovanovski	2 June 2001	10 January 2002	13	0	6	7	9	27	-18	0.00	
Nikola Ilievski	27 March 2002	11 June 2003	13	3	4	6	23	24	-1	23.08	
Slobodan Santrač	30 March 2005	17 August 2005	4	1	0	3	4	12	-8	25.00	
Boban Babunski (caretaker)	7 September 2005	10 August 2011	4	2	1	1	4	6	-2	50.00	
Srećko Katanec	1 March 2006	1 April 2009	27	9	7	11	28	29	-1	33.33	
Mirsad Jonuz	6 June 2009	4 June 2011	20	7	4	9	21	19	+2	35.00	
Vlatko Kostov (caretaker)	7 September 2010	7 September 2010	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	0.00	
John Toshack	2 September 2011	29 May 2012	8	1	4	3	4	8	-4	12.50	
Goce Sedloski (caretaker)	15 August 2012	15 August 2012	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100.00	
Čedomir Janevski	7 September 2012	10 September 2013	14	5	1	8	15	19	-4	35.71	
Zoran Stratev (caretaker)	11 October 2013	15 October 2013	2	0	0	2	1	6	-5	0.00	
Boško Gjurovski	5 March 2014	30 March 2015	11	2	3	6	7	12	-5	18.18	
Ljubinko Drulović	14 June 2015	12 October 2015	5	0	1	4	1	6	-5	0.00	
Igor Angelovski	12 November 2015	21 June 2021	52	23	11	18	83	62	+21	44.23	UEFA Euro 2020 group stage
Blagoja Milevski	2 September 2021		21	7	6	8	30	28	+2	33.33	
Total			269	84	69	116	325	355	-30	31.23	—

## Players

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### Current squad

- The following players were called up for the Euro 2024 qualifying matches against Italy and against England on 17 and 20 November 2023, respectively.<sup>[80]</sup>
- Caps and goals are correct as of 20 November 2023, after the match against + England.<sup>[81][82]</sup>

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	<a href="#">Stole Dimitrevski</a>	25 December 1993	66	0	Rayo Vallecano
12	GK	<a href="#">Igor Aleksovski</a>	24 February 1995	1	0	Rabotnicki
22	GK	<a href="#">Damjan Shishkovski</a>	18 March 1995	11	0	Ararat-Armenia
2	DF	<a href="#">Ahmed Iljazovski</a>	31 July 1997	2	0	Hvidovre
3	DF	<a href="#">Stefan Ashkovski</a>	24 February 1992	28	0	Alashkert
4	DF	<a href="#">Nikola Serafimov</a>	11 August 1999	12	0	Fehérvár
6	DF	<a href="#">Visar Musliu</a>	13 November 1994	57	1	SC Paderborn
8	DF	<a href="#">Ezgjan Alioski</a>	12 February 1992	72	12	Al-Ahli
14	DF	<a href="#">Bojan Dimoski</a>	23 November 2001	9	0	Akron
15	DF	<a href="#">Jovan Manev</a>	25 January 2001	6	1	Adana Demirspor
23	DF	<a href="#">Todor Todoroski</a>	26 February 1999	6	0	Politehnica Iași
5	MF	<a href="#">Arijan Ademi</a>	29 May 1991	33	4	Dinamo Zagreb
7	MF	<a href="#">Eljif Elmas</a>	24 September 1999	56	12	RB Leipzig
10	MF	<a href="#">Enis Bardhi (captain)</a>	2 July 1995	62	16	Trabzonspor
11	MF	<a href="#">Darko Churlinov</a>	11 July 2000	22	4	Schalke 04
13	MF	<a href="#">Dimitar Mitrovski</a>	28 January 1999	1	0	Varaždin
16	MF	<a href="#">Tihomir Kostadinov</a>	4 March 1996	20	0	Piast
17	MF	<a href="#">Agon Elezi</a>	1 March 2001	9	0	VfL Bochum
18	MF	<a href="#">Isnik Alimi</a>	2 February 1994	5	0	Sepsi OSK
21	MF	<a href="#">Jani Atanasov</a>	31 October 1999	14	2	Cracovia
	MF	<a href="#">David Babunski</a>	1 March 1994	15	0	Mezőkövesd
9	FW	<a href="#">Bojan Miovski</a>	24 June 1999	20	2	Aberdeen
19	FW	<a href="#">Milan Ristovski</a>	8 April 1998	22	4	Bohemians
20	FW	<a href="#">Erdon Daci</a>	4 July 1998	1	1	Westerlo
	FW	<a href="#">Aleksandar Trajkovski</a>	5 September 1992	86	21	Hajduk

## Recent call-ups

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

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Davor Taleski	19 May 1995	0	0	Shkëndija	v.  Malta, 12 September 2023
GK	Dejan Iliev <sup>INJ</sup>	25 February 1995	1	0	Sarajevo	v.  England, 19 June 2023
GK	Kristijan Naumovski	17 September 1988	7	0	DPMM	v.  Faroe Islands, 27 March 2023
DF	Gjoko Zajkov <sup>INJ</sup>	10 February 1995	27	1	Universitatea Craiova	v.  Malta, 12 September 2023
DF	Darko Velkovski	21 June 1995	48	3	Dinamo Bucureşti	v.  Malta, 12 September 2023
DF	Stefan Ristovski	12 February 1992	82	2	Dinamo Zagreb	v.  England, 19 June 2023
DF	Egzon Bejtulai	7 January 1994	27	0	Drita	v.  England, 19 June 2023
DF	Vladica Brdarovski	7 February 1990	9	0	Vardar	v.  England, 19 June 2023
DF	Kire Ristevski	22 October 1990	59	0	Ethnikos	v.  Faroe Islands, 27 March 2023
MF	Valon Ethemi	3 October 1997	4	0	Konyaspor	v.  Ukraine, 14 October 2023 <sup>WD</sup>
MF	Davor Zdravkovski	29 March 1998	0	0	Motherwell	v.  Malta, 12 September 2023
MF	Sefer Emini	15 July 2000	0	0	Sønderjyske	v.  England, 19 June 2023
FW	Ljupcho Doriev	13 September 1995	9	0	Sogdiana	v.  Armenia, 17 October 2023
FW	Ilija Nestorovski	12 March 1990	52	10	Ascoli	v.  Malta, 12 September 2023
FW	Dorian Babunski	29 August 1996	7	0	Grasshopper	v.  Malta, 12 September 2023
FW	Marjan Radeski	10 February 1995	17	1	Struga	v.  Italy, 9 September 2023 <sup>WD</sup>

#### Notes

- INJ = Withdrawn due to injury
- PRE = Preliminary squad / standby
- RET = Retired from the national team
- SUS = Serving suspension
- U21 = Player called up to the U21 squad.
- WD = Player withdrew from the squad.

## Statistics

As of 18 November 2023[83]

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

### Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	Goran Pandev	122	38	2001–2021
2	Goce Sedloski	100	8	1996–2010
3	Aleksandar Trajkovski	86	21	2011–present
4	Veliche Shumulikoski	84	1	2002–2013
5	Stefan Ristovski	82	2	2011–present
6	Artim Shakiri	73	15	1996–2006
7	Ezgjan Alioski	72	12	2013–present
8	Igor Mitreski	70	1	2001–2011
9	Ivan Trichkovski	67	7	2010–2021
10	Stole Dimitrevski	66	0	2015–present



Goran Pandev is North Macedonia's top goalscorer and their most capped player.

### Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	Goran Pandev	38	122	0.31	2001–2021
2	Aleksandar Trajkovski	21	86	0.24	2011–present
3	Gjorgji Hristov	16	48	0.33	1995–2003
	Enis Bardhi	16	62	0.26	2015–present

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
5	Artim Shakiri	15	73	0.21	1996–2006
6	Elif Elmas	12	56	0.21	2017–present
	Ezgjan Alioski	12	72	0.17	2013–present
8	Goran Maznov	10	45	0.22	2001–2009
	Ilija Nestorovski	10	52	0.19	2016–present
10	Ilcho Naumoski	9	46	0.2	2003–2012

## Captains

This is a list of Macedonian captains for five or more official and friendly matches.

Player	Period	Games as captain (Total caps)	Major tournaments as captain (Games)
Darko Pančev	1993–1995	6 (6)	
Toni Micevski	1996–2001	12 (44)	
Artim Šakiri	2002–2005	10 (72)	
Goce Sedloski	2004–2009	43 (100)	
Veliče Šumulikoski	2009–2012	11 (84)	
Goran Pandev	2010–2013	22 (75)	
Tome Pachovski	2014–2015	10 (46)	
Goran Pandev	2016–2021	69 (122)	UEFA Euro 2020 (3)
Stefan Ristovski	2019–2023	16 (82)	
Enis Bardhi	2021–	12 (62)	

**Note:** Some of the other players to have captained the team include: [Dragi Kanatlarovski](#) (1 cap; 1993), [Ilija Najdoski](#) (3; 1994), [Dančo Celeski](#) (2; 1995), [Ljupčo Markovski](#) (4; 1995 to 1997), [Mitko Stojkovski](#) (2; 1998), [Boban Babunski](#) (2; 1996 and 1999), [Gjorgji Hristov](#) (2; 2002 to 2003), [Petar Miloševski](#) (2; 2004 and 2008), [Ilcho Naumoski](#) (1; 2008), [Igor Mitreski](#) (4; 2007 to 2010), [Aleksandar Lazevski](#) (1; 2010), [Nikolče Noveski](#) (4; 2011 to 2013), [Daniel Mojsov](#) (1; 2012), [Boban Grncharov](#) (3; 2012 to 2014), [Blazhe Ilijoski](#) (1; 2014), [Blagoja Todorovski](#) (1; 2014), [Vanche Shikov](#) (4; 2015), [Ivan Trichkovski](#) (4; 2018 to 2020), [Ilija Nestorovski](#) (1; 2019), [Darko Velkovski](#) (1; 2022) and [Elif Elmas](#) (1; 2023).

## Competitive record

### FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record									Qualification record							
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Position	
1930 to 1990	Part of  Yugoslavia									Part of  Yugoslavia						
1994	Did not enter									Did not enter						
1998	Did not qualify									10	4	1	5	22	18	4/6
2002										10	1	4	5	11	18	4/6
2006										12	2	3	7	11	24	5/7
2010										8	2	1	5	5	11	4/5
2014										10	2	1	7	7	16	6/6
2018										10	3	2	5	15	15	5/6
2022										12	6	3	3	24	13	2/6 (play-offs)
2026	To be determined									To be determined						
2030										72	20	15	37	95	115	—
2034																
Total			0/7	-	-	-	-	-								

### UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record									Qualification record							
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Position	
1960 to 1992	Part of  Yugoslavia									Part of  Yugoslavia						
1996	Did not qualify									10	1	4	5	9	18	4/6

2000		8	2	2	4	13	14	4/5
2004		8	1	3	4	11	14	4/5
2008		12	4	2	6	12	12	5/7
2012		10	2	2	6	8	14	5/6
2016		10	1	1	8	6	18	6/6
2020	Group stage	23rd	3	0	0	3	2	8
2024	<i>Did not qualify</i>							
2028	<i>To be determined</i>							
2032		78	19	18	41	84	123	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>Group stage</b>	<b>1/8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>

# Olympic Record

- #### ■ Within Yugoslavia Team

1920 Round 1, 1924 Preliminary, 1928 Preliminary, 1948(2nd), 1952(2nd), 1956 (2nd), 1960 Champion, 1964 1/4 finals, 1980(4th), 1984(3rd), 1988 group

- Since 1996 under 21 team plays at Olympics
  - 1996 couldn't participate
  - 2000-2020 didn't qualify

# UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record												
Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P/R	RK	
2018–19	D	4	6	5	0	1	14	5	+9	▲	41st	
2020–21	C	2	6	2	3	1	9	8	+1	=	40th	
2022–23	C	4	6	2	1	3	7	7	0	=	42nd	
2024–25	C	Future event										
Total			18	9	4	5	30	20	+10		40th	

## Minor tournaments

- #### ▪ **Yugoslav Football Tournament**

- 5th place: 1945

Team Macedonia

Rustenov, Bogojevski, Vidovik, Martinovski, Petrovski, Davidovski, Janevski, Adamovski, Atanaskov, Balevski, Gerov. Manager: Illes Spitz

## Head-to-head record

*As of 20 November 2023, after the match against England.*

[show]

## Macedonia all-time head-to-head record

Against	Region	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	First match	Last match
Albania	UEFA	10	4	4	2	12	7	+5	40%	14 May 1994	5 September 2017
Andorra	UEFA	6	4	1	1	9	1	+8	66.67%	13 October 2004	6 September 2011
Angola	CAF	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%		29 May 2012
Armenia	UEFA	13	6	3	4	23	18	+5	41.67%	10 May 1995	17 October 2023
Australia	AFC	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	0%	12 March 1997	30 March 2015
Austria	UEFA	3	0	0	3	3	9	-6	0%	10 June 2019	13 June 2021
Azerbaijan	UEFA	8	5	2	1	15	8	+7	62.5%	26 July 2000	20 November 2022
Bahrain	AFC	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0%		7 January 2001
Belarus	UEFA	3	1	1	1	4	2	+2	33.33%	27 March 2015	28 March 2017
Belgium	UEFA	4	0	1	3	1	9	-8	0%	16 November 1994	26 March 2013
Bosnia and Herzegovina	UEFA	5	1	3	1	8	8	0	20%	3 June 1998	26 March 2008
Bulgaria	UEFA	9	2	2	5	4	9	-5	22.22%	12 April 1995	26 September 2022
Cameroon	CAF	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0%	9 February 2011	26 May 2014
Canada	CONCACAF	2	1	0	1	3	1	+2	50%	18 May 1998	14 November 2009
China	AFC	5	0	2	3	0	4	-4	0%	27 January 2004	22 June 2014
Croatia	UEFA	8	1	2	5	9	12	-3	12.5%	14 October 1998	12 October 2012
Cyprus	UEFA	2	1	1	0	4	1	+3	50%	17 December 1994	11 October 1995
Czech Republic	UEFA	3	0	1	2	2	9	-7	0%	28 February 2001	8 June 2005
Denmark	UEFA	3	1	1	1	4	2	+2	33.33%	7 September 1994	6 February 2013
Ecuador	CONMEBOL	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	100%		28 May 2006
Egypt	CAF	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0%		29 September 1998
England	UEFA	6	0	3	3	4	13	-9	0%	16 October 2002	20 November 2023
Estonia	UEFA	6	4	2	0	13	7	+6	66.67%	1 June 1994	15 November 2020
Faroe Islands	UEFA	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	100%		27 March 2023
Finland	UEFA	6	1	2	3	3	12	-9	16.67%	10 January 2002	17 November 2022
Yugoslavia	UEFA	3	0	0	3	4	9	-5	0%	5 September 1999	23 February 2000
Georgia	UEFA	5	1	2	2	3	7	-4	20%	8 September 2020	23 September 2022
Germany	UEFA	2	1	0	1	2	5	-3	50%	31 March 2021	11 October 2021
Gibraltar	UEFA	4	4	0	0	12	0	+12	100%	6 September 2018	12 June 2022
Hungary	UEFA	2	0	1	1	0	5	-5	0%	22 April 1998	14 November 2001
Iceland	UEFA	6	3	2	1	9	5	+4	50%	1 June 1996	14 November 2021
Iran	AFC	3	0	1	2	3	7	-4	0%	9 June 2000	2 June 2016
Israel	UEFA	7	2	1	4	7	9	-2	28.57%	20 November 2002	6 September 2019
Italy	UEFA	5	1	2	2	7	10	-3	20%	9 October 2016	17 November 2023
Jamaica	CONCACAF	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	100%		20 April 1998
Kazakhstan	UEFA	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	100%		4 June 2021
Kosovo	UEFA	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	100%		8 October 2020
Latvia	UEFA	3	3	0	0	7	2	+5	100%	5 March 2014	9 September 2019
Lebanon	AFC	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0%		17 November 2015
Liechtenstein	UEFA	11	10	1	0	42	5	+37	90.91%	24 April 1996	8 October 2021
Lithuania	UEFA	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	33.33%	6 September 1997	15 August 2012
Luxembourg	UEFA	4	2	0	2	8	6	+2	50%	20 August 2008	5 September 2015

### Macedonia all-time head-to-head record

Against	Region	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Win %	First match	Last match
Malta	UEFA	8	7	1	0	19	3	+16	87.5%	27 March 1996	12 September 2023
Moldova	UEFA	3	0	3	0	3	3	0	0%	11 October 2000	11 February 2009
Montenegro	UEFA	3	2	0	1	7	4	+3	66.67%	19 November 2008	15 August 2012
Netherlands	UEFA	5	0	2	3	3	11	-8	0%	9 October 2004	21 June 2021
Nigeria	CAF	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%	22 August 2007	
Norway	UEFA	4	1	1	2	3	4	-1	25%	6 June 2009	11 November 2017
Oman	AFC	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0%	30 December 2001	
Poland	UEFA	5	0	1	4	2	11	-9	0%	14 February 2003	13 October 2019
Portugal	UEFA	3	0	1	2	0	3	-3	0%	2 April 2003	29 March 2022
Qatar	AFC	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	33.33%	25 July 2001	30 May 2014
Republic of Ireland	UEFA	6	1	1	4	5	11	-6	16.67%	9 October 1996	4 June 2011
Romania	UEFA	7	1	1	5	7	14	-7	14.29%	14 December 1996	8 September 2021
Russia	UEFA	4	0	0	4	0	7	-7	0%	15 November 2006	2 September 2011
Saudi Arabia	AFC	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	0%	1 August 2001	22 October 2022
Scotland	UEFA	4	1	1	2	3	5	-2	25%	6 September 2008	10 September 2013
Serbia	UEFA	3	1	1	1	3	6	-3	33.33%	6 February 2008	15 October 2013
Slovakia	UEFA	8	0	2	6	3	16	-13	0%	3 September 2000	14 June 2015
Slovenia	UEFA	7	4	2	1	13	7	+6	57.14%	13 October 1993	1 June 2021
South Korea	AFC	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	0%	18 April 1998	7 June 2000
Spain	UEFA	7	0	0	7	4	20	-16	0%	12 October 1994	11 June 2017
Sweden	UEFA	3	0	0	3	1	4	-3	0%	24 March 2001	3 June 2013
Turkey	UEFA	8	1	2	5	9	14	-5	12.5%	31 August 1994	5 June 2017
Ukraine	UEFA	7	1	1	5	4	10	-6	25%	11 October 2003	16 October 2023
United States	CONCACAF	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%	16 May 1998	
Wales	UEFA	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	50%	6 September 2013	11 October 2013
Total	67 nations	280	87	70	123	338	382	-44	31.07%		

## FIFA ranking history

FIFA-ranking yearly averages for North Macedonia. The country reached 46th in October 2008, and 166th in March 2017. As of 25 March 2022, they sit in 66th.<sup>[84]</sup>

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
x	90	94	86	92	59	68	76	89	85
<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
92	92	87	54	58	56	65	76	103	81
<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
83	100	136	162	76	68	68	65	67	

## See also

- [List of Macedonia international footballers](#)
- [Macedonia national football team results](#)
- [Macedonia national under-21 football team](#)
- [Macedonia national under-19 football team](#)
- [Macedonia national under-17 football team](#)

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## External links

- Official website (<http://ffm.mk/>) (in Macedonian)
- Macedonia (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/MKD>) at [FIFA](#)
- Macedonia (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/MKD/>) at [UEFA](#)
- Macedonian Football (<http://www.macedonianfootball.com>)
- Fans forum (<http://www.fudbalforum.com>) (in English and Macedonian)
- Macedonia – International Results (<https://www.rsssf.org/tables/fyrom-intres.html>) (1993–present) at the [RSSSF](#)



# Romania national football team

The **Romania national football team** (Romanian: *Echipa națională de fotbal a României*) represents Romania in men's international football, and is administered by the **Romanian Football Federation** (Romanian: *Federația Română de Fotbal*), also known as FRF. They are colloquially known as *Tricolorii* (The Tricolours).

Romania is one of only four national teams from Europe—the other three being Belgium, France, and Yugoslavia—that took part in the inaugural FIFA World Cup in 1930. Including that participation, Romania has qualified for seven World Cup editions, the latest in 1998. The national team's finest hour came in 1994, when led by playmaker Gheorghe Hagi it defeated Argentina 3–2 in the round of 16, before being eliminated by Sweden on a penalty shoot-out in the quarter-finals.

At the European Championships, Romania's best performance was in 2000 when they advanced to the quarter-finals from a group with Germany, Portugal, and England, before falling to eventual runners-up Italy. They also reached the last eight in 1960, 1972 and 1984, and have qualified for a total of six tournaments.

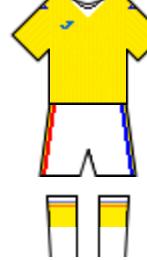
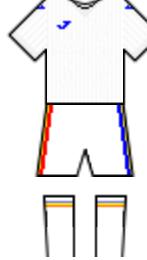
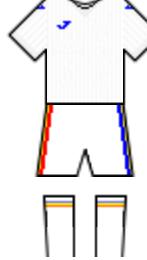
## History

### Early years

The Romanian Football Federation (*Federația Română de Fotbal*) was established in October 1909 in Bucharest. Romania played their first international match on 8 June 1922, a 2–1 win over Yugoslavia in Belgrade, being coached by Teofil Moraru.<sup>[4]</sup> Several temporary coaches were employed, before Moraru resumed control in August 1924, managing the side for nearly four years. Romania enjoyed some success during the 1930s; manager Costel Rădulescu took them to the first three FIFA World Cup tournaments, a feat matched only by Brazil, Belgium and France.

### World Cups in the 1930s

At the 1930 World Cup, Romania won their first match against Peru, 3–1, with goals from Adalbert Deșu, Constantin Stanciu, and Nicolae Kovács and Samuel Zauber as goalkeeper, before being thrashed 4–0 by hosts and eventual winners Uruguay.

Romania	
	
<b>Nickname(s)</b>	<i>Tricolorii</i> (The Tricolours)
<b>Association</b>	<i>Federația Română de Fotbal</i> (FRF)
<b>Confederation</b>	UEFA (Europe)
<b>Head coach</b>	<u>Edward Iordănescu</u>
<b>Captain</b>	<u>Nicolae Stanciu</u>
<b>Most caps</b>	<u>Dorinel Munteanu</u> (134)
<b>Top scorer</b>	<u>Adrian Mutu</u> <u>Gheorghe Hagi</u> (35)
<b>Home stadium</b>	Various
<b>FIFA code</b>	ROU
	
<b>First colours</b>	<b>Second colours</b>
	
<b>Third colours</b>	
FIFA ranking	
<b>Current</b>	45  2 (15 February 2024) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Highest</b>	3 (September 1997)
<b>Lowest</b>	57 (February 2011, September 2012)
First international	
 Kingdom of SCS 1–2 Romania  (Belgrade, Kingdom of SCS; 8 June 1922)	

## Biggest win

 Romania 9–0 Finland   
(Bucharest, Romania; 14 October 1973)

## Biggest defeat

 Hungary 9–0 Romania   
(Budapest, Hungary; 6 June 1948)

## World Cup

**Appearances** 7 (first in 1930)

**Best result** Quarter-finals (1994)

## European Championship

**Appearances** 6 (first in 1984)

**Best result** Quarter-finals (2000)

## Medal record

[show]

## Balkan Cup

	1929–31	Team
	1933 Romania	Team
	1936 Romania	Team
	1980 Turkey	Team
	1976 Romania	Team
	1932 Yugoslavia	Team
	1934–35 Greece	Team
	1946 Albania	Team
	1947	Team



Romania playing against Peru at the 1930 World Cup in Uruguay

Romania qualified for the next World Cup in 1934 after beating Yugoslavia 2–1 in a repeat of their first international. At the finals, Romania played only one game in a new knock-out format, losing 2–1 to Czechoslovakia in Trieste, Italy, with Stefan Dobay scoring their only goal of the tournament.

Romania qualified by default for the 1938 World Cup after their qualifying playoff opponents Egypt withdrew. They suffered a shock defeat in the finals in France, losing to minnows Cuba, who, like Romania, had only qualified due to the withdrawal of their qualifying opponents, the United States. The first match at the Stade du T.O.E.C. in Toulouse ended 3–3 after extra time, but Cuba won the replay four days later 2–1.

## 1970 World Cup

Despite a 3–0 thrashing by Portugal in Lisbon and two unconvincing draws against unfancied Greece, Romania was able to qualify for the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. Angelo Niculescu's promising side were given the toughest of draws, in Group 3 with holders England, giants Brazil and Czechoslovakia.

A Geoff Hurst goal gave England a narrow victory in Romania's first match at the Estadio Jalisco in Guadalajara in what was a very physical game. Chances were improved with a 2–1 win over the Czechs. After going behind early to a Ladislav Petráš goal, Romania turned it around after half-time with Alexandru Neagu and Florea Dumitache scoring to give them two vital points. Even then, only a win over the Brazilians would take them into the quarter-finals.

There were rumours before the match that Brazil might prefer Romania to progress than world champions England; after beating them 1–0 in their previous match in Guadalajara, the South American giants still viewed England as one of its biggest obstacles to tournament victory. But Brazil played some of the best football of the competition, with Pelé scoring twice and a Jairzinho goal in between. Romania battled bravely; Dumitache pulled the score back to 2–1 before the break and a late Emerich Dembrowski goal made it 3–2, but they were out.

## 1972 to 1978

On 26 September 1972, under new coach Valentin Stănescu, Romania suffered a significant defeat to East Germany in Leipzig. The East Germans won 2–0 to effectively seal their first ever qualification for the World Cup, which would be held over the border in West Germany. With East Germany scoring a predictable 4–1 win in Albania, Romania were out, despite a huge 9–0 win over Finland in Bucharest.

Romania continued to suffer poor form in the UEFA European Championship. In their qualifying group for the 1976 European Football Championship, they were out-qualified by Spain despite an impressive 1–1 draw in the away match. Romania failed to win matches, drawing twice with Scotland and Spain and dropping points in Denmark with a dismal goalless draw.

Romania were again beaten by Spain for a place in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. After a 1–0 win in Bucharest, Romania lost a match at home to Yugoslavia 6–4 having led 3–2 at half time. Spain won 1–0 in Belgrade to seal passage to Argentina.



Romania and the Netherlands drawing goalless at De Kuip, 1974

## 1984 European Championship

Romania's sole successful qualifying campaign between 1970 and 1990 was for the European Championships in 1984 in France. At the finals, Romania were drawn with Spain, holders West Germany and Portugal. Under head coach Mircea Lucescu, an encouraging opening game in Saint-Étienne saw them draw with the Spanish. Francisco José Carrasco opened the scoring from the penalty spot but Romania equalized before half-time with a goal from Laszlo Böloni.

Against the Germans in Lens, Marcel Coraş scored an equalizer in the first minute of the second half in response to Rudi Völler's opener, but Völler would score a winning goal. Their last match in Nantes was a must-win match, but Nené's late winner meant Portugal progressed with Spain, who netted a dramatic late winner against West Germany at the Parc des Princes in Paris.

Romania stuttered throughout the rest of the decade, but a stronger squad at the end of the decade saw them qualify for their fifth World Cup in 1990. A win over Denmark in their last match took Emerich Jenei's side to the finals for the first time in 20 years.

## Golden Team era

### 1990 World Cup

With an increasing trend for big clubs in Italy and Spain buying up the best foreign talent, Romania's squad was entirely domestic-based. Midfielder Ilie Dumitrescu, striker Florin Răducioiu and genius playmaker Gheorghe Hagi, were in the squad. After world champions Argentina stunned by Cameroon in the tournament's opening match, Romania did their chances no harm with a convincing win over the Soviet Union at the San Nicola in Bari, with Marius Lăcătuş scoring in each half. The result was all the more impressive given the absence of Hagi. There was controversy, however, as Lăcătuş' second was a penalty given for a handball by Vagiz Khidiatullin that television replays clearly showed to be some way outside the penalty area.

Romania lost to Cameroon next; cult hero Roger Milla, aged 38, came on as a substitute for Emmanuel Maboang Kessack and scored twice before Gavril Balint pulled one back. Romania needed a point in their last match against improving Argentina at the San Paolo in Naples; Pedro Monzón gave Argentina the lead after an hour, but Balint quickly equalized and Romania held on to reach Round 2.

Against Jack Charlton's Republic of Ireland side in Genoa, Romania did not have the quality to break down a defensive opposition. Daniel Timofte was the only player to miss in the penalty shoot-out – his kick saved by Packie Bonner – and Romania were out.

### 1994 World Cup

Romania missed out on Euro 1992. Scotland qualified after Romania drew a must-win last match in Sofia against Bulgaria, with Nasko Sirakov's equalizer sealing their fate.

Romania was successful, however, in reaching another World Cup in the United States in 1994. After losing in Belgium and suffering a heavy 5–2 defeat in Czechoslovakia, Romania went into their last match at Cardiff Arms Park with Wales needing a win to pip them to a place in the finals. Goals from Gheorghe Hagi and Dean Saunders meant the game was finely balanced, before Wales were awarded a penalty. Paul Bodin of Swindon Town stepped up but hit the woodwork and Romania went on to win 2–1, Florin Răducioiu's late goal proving unnecessary as Czechoslovakia dropped a point in Belgium and were eliminated.<sup>[5]</sup>



At the finals, Romania were one of the most entertaining teams in the early stages, with Gheorghe Hagi, Florin Răducioiu and Ilie Dumitrescu on form. Romania beat Colombia 3–1 at the Pasadena Rose Bowl in Los Angeles (all but one of Romania's games took place in California, and they were awarded the advantage of playing most of their games in LA). Răducioiu opened the scoring before Hagi scored a spectacular second from wide on the left touchline. Adolfo Valencia pulled one back with a headed goal just before half-time, but Romania held on and Răducioiu sealed the win with a late third.

In Detroit's indoor Pontiac Silverdome, the temperature soared due to the greenhouse effect in the indoor arena. Switzerland, acclimatized after having already played the hosts there, outran Romania in the second half and turned a 1–1 half time score into a 4–1 win. Romania responded by beating the hosts 1–0 in Pasadena with an early Dan Petrescu goal.

In the Round of 16 knockout stage they faced Argentina, minus Diego Maradona who had been thrown out of the tournament for taking drugs, in Los Angeles. The suspended Răducioiu was hardly missed, as coach Anghel Iordănescu pushed Dumitrescu forward to play as a striker and the player responded by scoring twice in the first 20 minutes, one a subtle left foot flick from a right-wing Hagi cross slotted between the Argentine defenders. In between, Gabriel Batistuta scored a penalty, but after half-time Romania netted a third on the counterattack, with Hagi beating goalkeeper Luis Islas. Abel Balbo pulled one back, but Romania held on for a shock win.

Romania would suffer penalty heartbreak again in the quarter-final against Sweden in San Francisco. With just 13 minutes to play, a tight match opened up as Sweden's Thomas Brolin scored from a clever free-kick move, the ball passed outside the Romanian wall by Håkan Mild for Brolin to smash in. Iordănescu threw caution to the wind and the returning Răducioiu found a late equalizer, again from a free-kick move but this time down to a deflection and a failure of the Swedes to clear. In extra time Răducioiu scored again after a mistake by Patrik Andersson, but Sweden then scored their own late equalizer as giant striker Kennet Andersson climbed above goalkeeper Florin Prunea to head home a long ball. Prunea had come in after two matches to replace Bogdan Stelea, whose confidence was shattered by the 4–1 loss to the Swiss. In the shoot-out, Dan Petrescu and Miodrag Belodedici had their kicks saved by Thomas Ravelli and Sweden went through.

## Euro 1996

At Euro 1996, held in England, Romania arrived as a highly thought-of and popular team but had a nightmare. Iordănescu's side were based in the north east, with their first two games at St James' Park in Newcastle. Against France, they lost to a Christophe Dugarry header reminiscent of Kennet Andersson's two years earlier, beating the goalkeeper to a lofted through ball. An early goal from Bulgaria striker Hristo Stoichkov at St James' Park put Romania on the back foot in Euro 1996, but Dorinel Munteanu appeared to have kept Romania in the match – and in the tournament – with a thunderbolt that hit the bar, bounced over the line, and back out. Referee Peter Mikkelsen merely waved play on, however, and Romania went on to lose the game 1–0 a defeat which sent them out of the tournament. English manager Harry Redknapp was in the crowd that day, and later said that it convinced him there and then that goal-line technology was needed in football. Romania finally

scored in their last game, Florin Răducioiu equalizing an early goal by Spain's Javier Manjarín. Spain had to win to qualify with France at the expense of Bulgaria and did so when Guillermo Amor stooped to head a late winner. Romania exited in total shame, with no points and tons of regrets of what could have been.

## 1998 World Cup

Despite a poor performance at Euro 1996, Romania impressed in qualifying, finishing ten points clear of the Republic of Ireland and were seeded for the final tournament of the 1998 World Cup thanks to their strong showing in 1994.

Adrian Ilie scored the only goal with a fine chip in their first match against Colombia at Lyon's Stade Gerland. In Toulouse, they met an England side starting with prodigal striker Michael Owen on the bench, with Teddy Sheringham preferred alongside Alan Shearer. A mistake by Tony Adams was punished by Viorel Moldovan, who played for Coventry City, before Owen came on to claim an equalizer. But Romania won with a wonderful late goal from Dan Petrescu, also playing in England with Chelsea, fighting off his club teammate Graeme le Saux and nutmegging goalkeeper David Seaman.

The next match was against Tunisia. With England–Colombia being the more decisive game, the Stade de France in Paris was an 80,000-strong sell out and the crowd were nearly rewarded with a shock as Skander Souayah scored an early penalty to give the north Africans the lead. Romania needed a point to win the group and, crucially, avoid Argentina in the round of 16, and got it when Moldovan volleyed a late equalizer. It did them little good, however, as in the round of 16 match at Bordeaux against Croatia, Davor Šuker scored a twice-taken penalty to eliminate Romania.

## Euro 2000

Romania had a strong qualifying campaign, winning a tough Group 7 with Portugal, Slovakia, Hungary, Azerbaijan and Liechtenstein. The Romanians impressed, never losing and winning seven times, including a big upset in Porto after defeating Portugal thanks to a late goal scored by Dorinel Munteanu. In Bucharest, the score finished 1–1.

At Euro 2000, held in Belgium and the Netherlands, Romania was facing a very difficult group against 1996 champions Germany, semi-finalists England and Portugal. The chances for the Romanians to qualify through quarter-finals were seen as slim.

Romania, however, started brightly against the Germans in Liège, with Viorel Moldovan scoring from close range. A long-range Mehmet Scholl equalizer meant they had to be content with a point and their position looked shaky after Costinha headed a last minute winner for Portugal in their second match.

Emerich Jenei, back as coach, threw caution to the wind in the last match in Charleroi against England, a match which Romania had to win. Defender Cristian Chivu's cross went in off the post in the 22nd minute but, despite

Romania dominating, England led at half-time through an Alan Shearer penalty and a late Michael Owen goal after he rounded goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea to score a tap-in, both in the last five minutes of the half. Romania attacked after the break and were quickly rewarded; Dorinel Munteanu punishing a poor punch from Nigel Martyn, a late replacement for injured goalkeeper David Seaman, to equalize three minutes after the restart. England cracked under the pressure. Unable to retain possession or pose an attacking threat, they fell deep and late on Phil Neville, playing out of position at left-back, conceded a penalty scored by Ioan Ganea in the 89th minute.



Line-ups for Romania versus England at the UEFA Euro 2000

Romania's relief was tempered by tough opposition in the last eight, and Italy, who would end up seconds from being crowned European champions in an agonizing final, comfortably saw them off 2–0 in Brussels. Francesco Totti and Filippo Inzaghi scoring towards the end of the first half. In the 35th minute, Gheorghe Hagi, in his final international tournament, hit the woodwork with goalkeeper Francesco Toldo stranded off his line and, after the break, was sent off for diving. Romania's tournament was over and Emerich Jenei left his job as coach again.

## 2000s – World Cup dry spell

Romania failed to qualify for the next three major tournaments. They drew Slovenia, who had been surprise qualifiers for Euro 2000 in a playoff for a place in the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan. A narrow 2–1 deficit – having led through a Marius Niculae goal – after the first leg in Ljubljana was not irretrievable. With fans' hero Gheorghe Hagi now coaching the side, they were confident of getting the win they needed in Bucharest against the Balkan upstarts, but Slovenia took the lead before the hour through Mladen Rudonja. Right wing-back Cosmin Contra quickly equalized but Romania could not find the goal they needed to force extra time and Slovenia, with maverick manager Srećko Katanec, were in a major tournament again.

### Euro 2004

Romania were confident of qualifying for the tournament, drawn in Group 2 with seeds Denmark, Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina and minnows Luxembourg, with Anghel Iordanescu back as coach. Despite a good start – a 3–0 win away to Bosnia in Sarajevo – Romania stuttered. Steffen Iversen's late goal gave Norway a surprise win in Bucharest and they were stunned at home by the Danes, 5–2, with Thomas Gravesen scoring a spectacular goal from around 50 yards out, despite leading twice. They recovered slightly, completing a double over the Bosnians and earning a point in Oslo, but conceded a cutting injury time equalizer in Denmark to draw 2–2. It was decisive, as they now required Norway to fail to win at home to Luxembourg to stand any realistic chance of qualifying. Eventually, the Danes got a point in Bosnia to scrape through a tight group, with Norway going to a play-off with Spain.

### 2006 World Cup

Romania were put in a difficult group for the qualifying tournament for the 2006 World Cup in Germany. The Netherlands and the Czech Republic were ranked first and second in Europe respectively. Early wins over Finland and Macedonia were unconvincing, and they were behind the two leaders by the time they earned a 2–0 home win over the Czechs. Despite a record of eight wins, three losses and one draw, they finished third behind the Dutch and the Czechs and missed out on another major tournament.

### Euro 2008

Romania were drawn in a group with group favourites the Netherlands and tough opponents Bulgaria for Euro 2008 qualifying. Romania, however, had a good qualifying campaign, losing only away against Bulgaria and beating the Netherlands 1–0 at home with a goal scored by Dorin Goian from a suspicious off-side position not seen by referee Kyros Vassaras. On 17 October 2007, Romania became the fourth team to qualify for Euro 2008, the nation's first international tournament since Euro 2000. Coincidentally, Victor Pițurcă also led Romania to qualification for Euro 2000, only to sit back and let Emerich Jenei coach the team in the final tournament; this time, however, he stayed in the role, the first time he coached a national team in the final stages of a tournament.

Romania was drawn in the so-called "Group of death" alongside the Netherlands, world champions Italy and France, runners-up in the 2006 World Cup. Romania started with a 0–0 draw against a lacklustre France while Italy were soundly beaten by the Netherlands, 3–0. In their next match, against Italy, Adrian Mutu opened the scoring early in the second half. Their lead was a very short one, however, as Italy's Christian Panucci scored a minute later off of a corner kick. Nearing the end of the match, Daniel Niculae earned a penalty for his team, but goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon saved the subsequent Mutu penalty, leaving Romania with two points and needing a

win against the Netherlands, who defeated France 4–1 that same evening. The Netherlands beat Romania 2–0 in the final game of the group, which meant that Italy joined the Netherlands in the quarter-finals and Romania finished third, ahead of France.

## 2010 World Cup

Romania were drawn into the UEFA qualifying round for the [2010 World Cup](#) alongside France, [Serbia](#), [Austria](#), [Lithuania](#) and the [Faroe Islands](#). Although Romania were seeded in the second pot, they eventually finished fifth, above only the Faroe Islands. Their campaign was a disaster that began with a 3–0 home loss to Lithuania and included a 5–0 trashing in Belgrade by Serbia. Furthermore, various problems were caused during the poor campaign, such as the retirement from international football of Cosmin Contra, Mirel Rădoi and Adrian Mutu (the latter would later be recalled after a year's absence). Coach Victor Pițurcă resigned and was replaced by [Răzvan Lucescu](#).



Arena Națională, opened in 2011, the national stadium of Romania, as seen on a Romanian stamp (2011)

## Euro 2012

In [Euro 2012](#) qualifying, Romania was drawn into Group D along with France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Albania and Luxembourg. Although the team initially seemed prepared to continue their awful form from their disastrous World Cup campaign, beginning with a 1–1 draw with Pot 5 members Albania and following up with a goalless draw with Belarus and a pair of losses to France and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the team was able to rebound somewhat and register their first two victories. The first was a win against Luxembourg but the second was an important win in the rematch against Bosnia and Herzegovina. Romania's last decent result came when they battled France to a goalless draw before ending the campaign the way it began – two disappointing draws with Albania and Belarus. They finished qualification in a distant third place and only one point ahead of Belarus.



Romanian fans at the new Arena Națională in June 2013

## 2014 World Cup

Romania was drawn into the [2014 FIFA World Cup](#) qualifying round with the Netherlands, [Turkey](#), [Hungary](#), [Estonia](#) and [Andorra](#). They made an impressive start with a 2–0 away win in Estonia followed by a 4–0 win at home against modest Andorra and another away win in Turkey (1–0). After that, Romania was defeated by the Netherlands, both at home and away, and managed to secure only a draw in Hungary, in between. Romania started the last part of the campaign with a victory at home, against Hungary, but was defeated by Turkey. The last two match days were decisive, with Romania securing its place in the play-off with two wins, against Andorra and Estonia, while qualification rivals Turkey and Hungary were both defeated by the winner of the group, the Netherlands. Romania were drawn to play Greece for a place in the World Cup finals, but a 3–1 loss in Greece and a 1–1 home draw ended its run.

## Euro 2016

For the qualifying stage of the [Euro 2016](#) Romania was drawn into Group F along with Greece, [Hungary](#), [Finland](#), [Northern Ireland](#) and the [Faroe Islands](#). Romania began its first successful qualification campaign since 2008 with a win over group favourites Greece before following up with a 1–1 draw with Pot 2 member Hungary and a 2–0 win over Finland. Despite the initial success, Romania decided to part with coach Victor Pițurcă by mutual consent. Anghel Iordănescu came out of retirement to return to coach Romania for a third time.



France's 2–1 win over Romania at the Stade de France opened the UEFA Euro 2016

Under Iordănescu, Romania was able to follow up with comfortable 2–0 win over Northern Ireland and, despite a disappointing 1–0 win over the Faroe Islands and a 0–0 draw in the return game against Northern Ireland, Romania remained on top of Group F, one point above Northern Ireland and three points above third-placed Hungary. After a goalless draw in the match against Hungary in Budapest, however, the team fell back on the second place, one point behind Northern Ireland and three above Hungary, still placed third. Following a 1–1 draw clinched in overtime at home against Finland, Romania secured their spot at the final tournament in the last game after a confident 3–0 win in the Faroe Islands. Romania finished the qualification group second, one point behind group winners Northern Ireland, completing their first successful qualification campaign in eight years undefeated after five wins and five draws. With only two goals conceded, Romania had the best defence in the qualifiers.

Romania advanced to Euro 2016, where they were drawn in Group A, being named to play the opening match against the hosts France. The match began better for the Romanian side, who almost scored the first goal of the tournament in the fourth minute, after Bogdan Stancu tricked the French defence at a corner kick executed by his co-national Nicușor Stanciu and his shot was narrowly saved by the French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris. Shortly after the half-time, the match began being dominated by France, who scored the first goal of the tournament after a header of Olivier Giroud in the 57th minute. Not more than eight minutes later, Nicușor Stanciu was fouled by Patrice Evra in the French box, the Hungarian referee Viktor Kassai giving Romania a penalty which the same Bogdan Stancu scoring for the Romanian side. With the match coming to an end, just after Romania narrowly missed an opportunity after a free kick, Dimitri Payet shot hard from outside the box and scored France's second goal, crushing Romania's dream of a perfect start in Euro.

In the second match, Romania faced Switzerland, in a match that began with the Swiss side dominating. In the 17th minute, Alexandru Chipciu was fouled in the box, the second penalty of the tournament being accorded again to Romania. The same Bogdan Stancu went on and scored, giving an advantage for the Romanian side. Just after Switzerland almost scored an own goal, Admir Mehmedi scored for an equalizer in the 57th minute. The score remained the same and the match ended 1–1.

With one point accumulated and on the third place in the group before the final match, Romania needed a victory against Albania in order to be among the first four best-third-placed teams and to qualify further in Euro. The match began good for the Romanian side, but Armando Sadiku's header in the 43rd minute went past Ciprian Tătărușanu, giving Albania the lead and their first ever goal in a tournament. The despondent Romanian side failed to score in this match, with Florin Andone striking the post in the 76th minute. The negative score meant that Romania ended on the last place of the group, ending their Euro dream with no victory and after one draw, two defeats, two goals scored (both from penalties) and four conceded, with only one point, the poor results making the manager Anghel Iordănescu to resign before the matches for the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers began three months later.

## 2018 World Cup

For the qualification round, Romania was drawn in Group E, being in Pot 1. Romania's opponents were Denmark and Poland, Montenegro, Armenia and Kazakhstan. The qualifying campaign started with a 1–1 home draw against Montenegro followed by a thrashing away victory against Armenia, 0–5. In the next match, Romania recorded another draw (0–0), against Kazakhstan. The last match played in 2016 was a 0–3 defeat

against Poland, with Robert Lewandowski scoring a double. After an uninspiring campaign, Romania ended in the fourth place in Group E with 13 points. After 8 of the 10 games, due to lackluster performances, coach Christoph Daum was fired and replaced with Cosmin Contra.

## 2018–19 Nations League

Romania's poor performance previously meant that the country had to participate in the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League C, where they were grouped again with Montenegro, alongside neighbor Serbia and minnows Lithuania. Romania managed an acceptable performance, with the team beating Lithuania and Montenegro, but three draws, two against Serbia, meant that Romania was unable to gain the top spot or a direct playoff ticket. However, when UEFA revised the format, Romania was officially promoted to 2020–21 UEFA Nations League B.

## Euro 2020

Romania was drawn in a group including Spain, Sweden, and Norway alongside Malta and the Faroe Islands in UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying. In the opening game, Romania suffered a 1–2 away defeat to Sweden.<sup>[6]</sup> This was followed by an easy 4–1 victory over the Faroe Islands and a 2–2 draw with Norway in Oslo, two victories over Malta and a 1–2 loss at home to Spain. Eventually, Romania stayed on track by beating Faroe Islands 3–0 away, but it was later followed with a disappointing 1–1 home draw to the Norwegians.<sup>[7]</sup> This had significantly reduced their chances of automatic qualification, as they had to meet the Swedish and Spanish sides for the two remaining competitive games. A 0–2 home defeat to Sweden ensured that Romania would be unable to finish in the automatic qualification places.<sup>[8]</sup> Romania eventually qualified for the playoff, but their performance cost Cosmin Contra his coaching position, as he was sacked prior to the playoff. Romania went on to lose 1–2 to Iceland, and was eliminated from UEFA Euro 2020 contention.



Romania playing Sweden at Friends Arena, March 2019

## 2020–21 Nations League

On the other hand, Romania, promoted to League B thanks to UEFA's rule change despite finishing 2nd in 2018 behind Serbia, have had a lacklustre 2020–21 Nations League, showing no signs of improvement in their play. During group matches, the team was unable to win the opening match at home to Northern Ireland (1–1), conceding a late equaliser following a Northern Irish red card, and was soundly beaten in Norway (0–4) on matchday 3. However, they avoided relegation to League C at the expense of the Northern Irish thanks to a 3–2 win over Austria on matchday 2 and a 3–0 victory at home to Norway, as the Scandinavians were unable to travel to Bucharest following Omar Elabdellaoui's positive test for COVID-19 and the restrictive measures imposed by the Norwegian Ministry of Health.<sup>[9]</sup>

## World Cup 2022

For the 2022 FIFA World Cup hosted in Qatar, Romania was drawn in UEFA Group J, along with Germany, Armenia, North Macedonia, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.<sup>[10]</sup> Romania failed to qualify, finishing in third in the group.

## 2022–23 Nations League and Euro 2024

Romania participated in the 2022–23 UEFA Nations League B, where they were grouped with Bosnia-Herzegovina, Finland, and Montenegro. Romania managed an acceptable performance, with the team beating Finland twice, but three losses, two against Montenegro, meant that they were relegated to League C.<sup>[11]</sup>

Their terrible Nations League performance meant that they must realistically qualify for UEFA Euro 2024 directly. Romania, in Euro 2024 qualifiers, finished at the top of their group and unbeaten with six wins and four draws. In particular, Romania achieved two results against Switzerland (a 2–2 away draw in the first leg after trailing 0–2, and a 1–0 home win in the return on the final day to consolidate their position as leaders) and showed defensive solidity with only five goals conceded, thus marking the Tricolorii's return to a Euro final phase after an eight-year absence.<sup>[12][13][14][15]</sup>

## Team image

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### Rivalry

Romania has a long-standing rivalry with its neighbours Hungary. The rivalry between the two nations dates back from the Treaty of Trianon, where Hungary lost Transylvania to Romania, after World War I.<sup>[16]</sup> Usually flares and matches are thrown by the two sides and that often ends in a fight between the Hungarian and Romanian supporters, however, recently also before the matches conflicts have emerged outside the stadium. They shared the same group in 1982 FIFA World Cup qualifying, UEFA Euro 2000 qualifying, 2002 World Cup qualifying, 2014 World Cup qualifying and UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying.

Romania has also a football rivalry against Greece, because it is the team that has been their opponent the most times in their history (36 times – 37 matches were played against Yugoslavia which does not exist anymore). Romania has won 18 of the matches, Greece won 8 and 10 ended in a draw.

### Kits

Romania's kits have been supplied by Spanish company Joma from 2015, which replaced Adidas following a three-decade contract. In 2017, the Romanian Football Federation announced its first brand identity and a new kit; the new emblem references the coat of arms of all five Romanian provinces with the intention to symbolise the unity of Romania.<sup>[17]</sup>

Kit provider	Period
 Le Coq Sportif	1977–1983
 Adidas	1984–2015
 Joma	2015–present

### Home stadium

The Romania national team mainly plays its home games at the Arena Națională in Bucharest, the largest stadium in the country, which was opened in 2011 and has a capacity of 55,600 seats. The National Stadium is a Category 4 venue and hosted the 2012 UEFA Europa League Final and UEFA Euro 2020 matches.

Other games, including not only friendlies but also FIFA World Cup and UEFA European Championship qualifiers, have been played in recent years at other venues such as the Steaua Stadium (Bucharest), the Ion Oblemenco Stadium (Craiova), the Cluj Arena (Cluj-Napoca), or the smaller Dr. Constantin Rădulescu (Cluj-Napoca), Ilie Oană (Ploiești) and Rapid-Giulești (Bucharest) stadiums.

### Romanian national team home stadiums



Arena Națională-Bucharest



Stadionul Ion Oblemenco-Craiova



Stadionul Rapid Giulești-Bucharest

## Media coverage

Romania's [UEFA Nations League](#) games, major tournament qualifiers and friendlies are to be televised on [Pro TV](#) up until 2022. Between 2008 and 2014, [Antena 1](#) had the rights to broadcast the country's home matches, friendlies and qualifiers. From 2014 to 2018, Romania's qualifying matches for the European Championship and the World Cup, plus two pre-Euro and one post-Euro friendly match were taken over by [TVR](#). The friendly matches that were not broadcast by TVR were taken over by Pro TV. In March 2019, the latter took over all broadcasts of Romania's fixtures from TVR, with the effective broadcasting starting in September 2018.

## Results and fixtures

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

Win  Draw  Loss  Fixture

### 2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	25 March 2023	<b>Andorra</b> <b>0–2</b> <b>Romania</b>	Andorra la Vella, Andorra	[show]
	20:45	Report (ht Man  35' tps://ww Alibec  50' w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203630 9/)	Stadium: Estadi Nacional Referee: Dario Bel (Croatia)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	28 March 2023	<b>Romania</b> <b>2–1</b> <b>Belarus</b>	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
	21:45	Stanciu  17' Report (ht Morozov  86' Burcă  19' tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203633 1/)	Stadium: Arena Națională Attendance: 27,837 Referee: Allard Lindhout (Netherlands)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 June 2023	<b>Kosovo</b> <b>0–0</b> <b>Romania</b>	Pristina, Kosovo	[show]
	20:45	Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co	Stadium: Fadil Vokri Stadium Attendance: 11,000	

m/europe  
an-qualifi  
ers/matc  
h/203635  
5/)

Referee: Danny Makkelie  
(Netherlands)

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 June 2023	<b>Switzerland</b>  <b>2–2</b>  <b>Romania</b>	Lucerne, Switzerland	[show]
	20:45	Amdouni  28', 41' Report (ht Mihăilă  89', 90+2' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203637.html">https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203637.html</a> 6/)	Stadium: <u>Swissporarena</u> Attendance: 14,000 Referee: <u>Daniele Orsato</u> (Italy)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	9 September 2023	<b>Romania</b>  <b>1–1</b>  <b>Israel</b>	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
	21:45	Alibec  27' Report (ht Gloukh  54' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203640.html">https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203640.html</a> 0/)	Stadium: <u>Arena Națională</u> Attendance: 49,193 Referee: <u>Slavko Vinčić</u> (Slovenia)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	12 September 2023	<b>Romania</b>  <b>2–0</b>  <b>Kosovo</b>	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
	21:45	Stanciu  83' Report (ht Mihăilă  90+3' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203642.html">https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203642.html</a> 4/)	Stadium: <u>Arena Națională</u> Referee: <u>Willy Delajod</u> (France)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	12 October 2023	<b>Belarus</b>  <b>0–0</b>  <b>Romania</b>	Budapest, Hungary	[show]
	20:45	Report (ht <a href="https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203644.html">https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203644.html</a> 7/)	Stadium: <u>Szusza Ferenc Stadion</u> Attendance: 0 Referee: <u>Espen Eskås</u> (Norway)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	15 October 2023	<b>Romania</b>  <b>4–0</b>  <b>Andorra</b>	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
	21:45	Stanciu  23' Report (ht Hagi  28' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203646.html">https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203646.html</a> R. Marin  44' (pen.) Coman  50' an-qualifi ers/matc h/203646 9/)	Stadium: <u>Arena Națională</u> Attendance: 21,723 Referee: <u>Kristo Tohver</u> (Estonia)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	18 November 2023	<b>Israel</b>  <b>1–2</b>  <b>Romania</b>	Felcsút, Hungary <sup>[note 1]</sup>	[show]
	21:45	Zahavi  2' Report (ht Pușcaș  10' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203649.html">https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203649.html</a> Hagi  63'	Stadium: <u>Pancho Aréna</u> Attendance: 2,921 Referee: <u>François Letexier</u> (France)	

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	21 November 2023	Romania  1–0  Switzerland	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
	21:45	Alibec  50' Report (ht <a href="https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/matches/2036514/">https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/matches/2036514/</a> )	Stadium: Arena Națională Attendance: 50,224 Referee: Davide Massa (Italy)	

## 2024

Friendly	22 March 2024	Romania  –  Northern Ireland	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
Friendly	26 March 2024	Romania  –  Colombia	Madrid, Spain	[show]
Friendly	4 June 2024	Romania  –  Bulgaria	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
Friendly	8 June 2024	Romania  –  Liechtenstein	Bucharest, Romania	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group E	17 June 2024	Romania  – Play-off winner B	Munich, Germany	[show]
	15:00	Report (ht <a href="https://www.uefaeuro2024.com/matches/2036170/">https://www.uefaeuro2024.com/matches/2036170/</a> )	Stadium: Allianz Arena	
UEFA Euro 2024 Group E	22 June 2024	Belgium  –  Romania	Cologne, Germany	[show]
	21:00	Report (ht <a href="https://www.uefaeuro2024.com/matches/2036181/">https://www.uefaeuro2024.com/matches/2036181/</a> )	Stadium: RheinEnergieStadion	
UEFA Euro 2024 Group E	26 June 2024	Slovakia  –  Romania	Frankfurt, Germany	[show]
	18:00	Report (ht <a href="https://www.uefaeuro2024.com/matches/2036194/">https://www.uefaeuro2024.com/matches/2036194/</a> )	Stadium: Waldstadion	
2024–25 Nations League	6 September 2024	Kosovo  v  Romania	Kosovo	[show]
	20:45			
2024–25 Nations League	9 September 2024	Romania  v  Gibraltar/Lithuania	Romania	[show]
	21:45			
2024–25 Nations League	12 October 2024	Cyprus  v  Romania	Cyprus	[show]
	21:45			
2024–25 Nations League	15 October 2024	Gibraltar  /Lithuania  v  Romania	TBD or Lithuania	[show]
	20:45			
2024–25 Nations League	15 November 2024	Romania  v  Kosovo	Romania	[show]
	20:45 (21:45 UTC+2)			

21:45

## Coaching staff

Role	Name
Head Coach	 Edward Iordănescu
Assistant Coaches	 Florin Constantinovici  Jerry Gane
Goalkeeping Coach	 Leontin Toader
Fitness Coaches	 Cristian Dragotă  Darius Hîmpea
Video Analyst	 Alexandru Radu
Data Analyst	 Michele Iannucci
Doctor	 Claudiu Stamatescu  Iulian Mircea  Gabriel Niculescu
Physiotherapists	 Ovidiu Blendea  Adrian Gherovăț  Dragoș Paraschiv
Head of Performance Analysis	 Rareș Ene
Team Manager	 Cătălin Gheorghiu
Kit Manager	 Cornel Mateiași
Technical Director	 Mihai Stoichită



Edward Iordănescu, the head coach of the Romania national team since 2022.

## Coaching history

Below is the full list of all former coaches for Romania from 1922 onwards:<sup>[18]</sup>

-  Teofil Moraru (1922–1923)
-  Costel Rădulescu (1923, 1928–1934, 1935–1938)
-  Adrian Suciu (1923–1924)
-  Teofil Moraru (1924–1928)
-  Josef Uridil (1934)
-  Peter Farmer (1934–1935)
-  Alexandru Săvulescu (1938)
-  Liviu Iuga (1938–1939, 1940)
-  Virgil Economu (1939–1940, 1941–1942, 1946)
-  Ion Lăpușneanu (1942–1943)
-  Emerich Vogl (1943, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950–1952)
-  Coloman Braun-Bogdan (1945)
-  Colea Vâlcov (1947)
-  Francisc Ronnay (1947)
-  Colea Vâlcov (1948, 1949)
-  Petre Steinbach (1948)
-  Iuliu Baratky (1948)
-  Ion Mihăilescu (1949)
-  Gheorghe Albu (1950)
-  Volodea Vâlcov (1950)
-  Gheorghe Popescu (1951–1957, 1961, 1962)
-  Augustin Botescu (1958–1960)
-  Constantin Tească (1962, 1967)
-  Silviu Ploșteanu (1962–1963)
-  Ilie Oană (1965–1966, 1967)
-  Bazil Marian (1967)
-  Angelo Niculescu (1967–1971, 1972)
-  Gheorghe Ola (1972)
-  Valentin Stănescu (1973–1975, 1980–1981)
-  Cornel Drăgușin (1975)
-  Stefan Kovács (1976–1979, 1980)
-  Florin Halagian (1979)
-  Constantin Cernăianu (1979)
-  Mircea Lucescu (1981–1986)
-  Emerich Jenei (1986–1990)
-  Gheorghe Constantin (1990)
-  Mircea Rădulescu (1990–1992)

-  [Cornel Dinu](#) (1992–1993)
-  [Anghel Iordănescu](#) (1993–1998, 2001–2004, 2014–2016)
-  [Victor Pițurcă](#) (1998–1999)
-  [Emerich Jenei](#) (2000)
-  [Ladislau Bölöni](#) (2000–2001)
-  [Gheorghe Hagi](#) (2001)
-  [Victor Pițurcă](#) (2005–2009, 2011–2014)
-  [Răzvan Lucescu](#) (2009–2011)
-  [Christoph Daum](#) (2016–2017)
-  [Cosmin Contra](#) (2017–2019)
-  [Mirel Rădoi](#) (2019–2021)
-  [Edward Iordănescu](#) (2022–present)

# Players

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## Current squad

The following players were called up for the [UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying](#) matches against [Israel](#) and [Switzerland](#) on 18 and 21 November 2023.<sup>[19]</sup>

*Caps and goals correct as of 21 November 2023, after the match against Switzerland.*

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	<a href="#">Florin Niță</a>	3 July 1987	19	0	<a href="#">Gaziantep</a>
12	GK	<a href="#">Horațiu Moldovan</a>	20 January 1998	9	0	<a href="#">Atlético Madrid</a>
16	GK	<a href="#">Ionuț Radu</a>	28 May 1997	4	0	<a href="#">Bournemouth</a>
<hr/>						
2	DF	<a href="#">Andrei Rațiu</a>	20 June 1998	15	1	<a href="#">Rayo Vallecano</a>
3	DF	<a href="#">Radu Drăgușin</a>	3 February 2002	13	0	<a href="#">Tottenham Hotspur</a>
4	DF	<a href="#">Adrian Rus</a>	18 March 1996	19	1	<a href="#">Pafos</a>
11	DF	<a href="#">Nicușor Bancu</a>	18 September 1992	34	2	<a href="#">Universitatea Craiova</a>
15	DF	<a href="#">Andrei Burcă</a>	15 April 1993	25	1	<a href="#">Al-Ohdood</a>
22	DF	<a href="#">Vasile Mogos</a>	31 October 1992	4	0	<a href="#">CFR Cluj</a>
23	DF	<a href="#">Andres Dumitrescu</a>	11 March 2001	0	0	<a href="#">Sepsi OSK</a>
	DF	<a href="#">Bogdan Racovițan</a>	6 June 2000	0	0	<a href="#">Raków Częstochowa</a>
<hr/>						
5	MF	<a href="#">Vladimir Screciu</a>	13 January 2000	4	0	<a href="#">Universitatea Craiova</a>
6	MF	<a href="#">Marius Marin</a>	30 August 1998	15	0	<a href="#">Pisa</a>
8	MF	<a href="#">Alexandru Cicâldău</a>	8 July 1997	35	4	<a href="#">Konyaspor</a>
10	MF	<a href="#">Nicolae Stanciu (captain)</a>	7 May 1993	66	14	<a href="#">Damac</a>
13	MF	<a href="#">Valentin Mihăilă</a>	2 February 2000	17	4	<a href="#">Parma</a>
14	MF	<a href="#">Ianis Hagi</a>	22 October 1998	31	4	<a href="#">Alavés</a>
17	MF	<a href="#">Florinel Coman</a>	10 April 1998	12	1	<a href="#">FCSB</a>
18	MF	<a href="#">Răzvan Marin</a>	23 May 1996	52	3	<a href="#">Empoli</a>
20	MF	<a href="#">Darius Olaru</a>	3 March 1998	15	0	<a href="#">FCSB</a>
21	MF	<a href="#">Olimpiu Moruțan</a>	25 April 1999	14	1	<a href="#">Ankaragücü</a>

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
	MF	<u>Marius Ștefănescu</u>	14 August 1998	2	0	 <u>Sepsi OSK</u>
	MF	<u>Andrei Arteam</u>	14 August 1993	0	0	 <u>Apollon Limassol</u>
7	FW	<u>Denis Alibec</u>	5 January 1991	36	5	 <u>Muainter</u>
9	FW	<u>George Pușcas</u>	8 April 1996	40	11	 <u>Bari</u>
19	FW	<u>Denis Drăguș</u>	6 July 1999	8	2	 <u>Gaziantep</u>
	FW	<u>Florin Tănase</u>	30 December 1994	17	2	 <u>Al-Okhdood</u>

## Recent call-ups

The following players have been called up for the team within the last 12 months.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Ştefan Târnovanu	9 May 2000	1	0	FCSB	v.  Kosovo, 12 September 2023
GK	Mihai Aioani	7 September 1999	0	0	Rapid Bucureşti	v.  Kosovo, 12 September 2023
DF	Deian Sorescu	29 August 1997	14	0	Gaziantep	v.  Andorra, 15 October 2023
DF	Andrei Borza	12 November 2005	0	0	Rapid Bucureşti	v.  Andorra, 15 October 2023
DF	Mário Camora <small>INJ</small>	10 November 1986	10	0	CFR Cluj	v.  Belarus, 12 October 2023
DF	Cristian Manea	9 August 1997	24	2	CFR Cluj	v.  Kosovo, 12 September 2023
DF	Ionuț Nedelcearu	25 April 1996	25	2	Palermo	v.  Switzerland, 19 June 2023
DF	Raul Opruț	4 January 1998	3	0	Kortrijk	v.  Switzerland, 19 June 2023
DF	Valentin Țicu	19 September 2000	0	0	Petrolul Ploiești	v.  Switzerland, 19 June 2023
MF	Dennis Man	26 August 1998	20	6	Parma	v.  Andorra, 15 October 2023
MF	Tudor Băluță	27 March 1999	12	0	Farul Constanța	v.  Kosovo, 12 September 2023
MF	Octavian Popescu	27 December 2002	7	0	FCSB	v.  Belarus, 28 March 2023
MF	Alex Dobre	30 August 1998	2	0	Famalicão	v.  Belarus, 28 March 2023
MF	Adrian Șut	30 April 1999	0	0	FCSB	v.  Belarus, 28 March 2023
FW	Daniel Bîrligeanu <small>INJ</small>	19 April 2000	1	0	CFR Cluj	v.  Israel, 18 November 2023
FW	Louis Munteanu	16 June 2002	1	0	Farul Constanța	v.  Belarus, 12 October 2023
<b>Notes</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ INJ = Player withdrew from the squad due to an injury</li> <li>■ COV = Player withdrawn from the squad due to positive COVID-19 test</li> <li>■ RET = Player who retired from national team</li> <li>■ WD = Player withdrew from the squad</li> <li>■ SUS = Player suspended</li> </ul>						

## Records

As of 18 November 2020.<sup>[20]</sup>

*Players in bold are still active with Romania.*

## Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	Dorinel Munteanu	134	16	1991–2007
2	Gheorghe Hagi	124	35	1983–2000
3	Gheorghe Popescu	115	16	1988–2003
4	Răzvan Raț	113	2	2002–2016
5	László Bölöni	102	23	1975–1988
6	Dan Petrescu	95	12	1989–2000
7	Bogdan Stelea	91	0	1988–2005
8	Michael Klein	89	5	1981–1991
9	Bogdan Lobonț	86	0	1998–2018
10	Marius Lăcătuș	83	13	1984–1998
	Mircea Rednic	83	2	1981–1991



Dorinel Munteanu is Romania's most capped player with 134 appearances.

## Most goals



Adrian Mutu and Gheorghe Hagi are Romania's joint top goalscorers with 35 goals each.

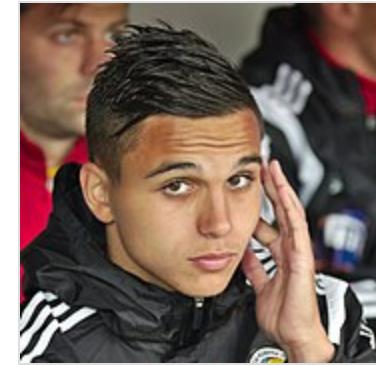
Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Average	Career
1	Adrian Mutu	35	77	0.45	2000–2013
	Gheorghe Hagi	35	124	0.28	1983–2000
3	Iuliu Bodola	31	48	0.65	1931–1939
4	Viorel Moldovan	25	70	0.36	1993–2005
	Ciprian Marica	25	72	0.35	2003–2014
6	László Bölöni	23	102	0.23	1975–1988
7	Dudu Georgescu	21	40	0.53	1973–1984
	Florin Răducioiu	21	40	0.53	1990–1996
	Anghel Iordănescu	21	57	0.37	1971–1981
	Rodion Cămătaru	21	73	0.29	1978–1990

# Youngest debutants

As of 15 November 2021.<sup>[21]</sup>

Results list Romania's goal tally first.

Rank	Player	Age on debut	Opponent	Result	Year	Ref.
1	<a href="#">Enes Sali</a>	15 years, 8 months and 22 days	 Liechtenstein	2–0	2021	[22]
2	<a href="#">Cristian Manea</a>	16 years, 9 months and 22 days	 Albania	1–0	2014	[23]
3	<a href="#">Grățian Sepi</a>	17 years, 3 months and 15 days	 Turkey	4–2	1928	[23]
4	<a href="#">Ilie Balaci</a>	17 years, 6 months and 10 days	 France	0–1	1974	[23]
5	<a href="#">Nicolae Kovács</a>	17 years, 8 months and 17 days	 Bulgaria	3–2	1929	[23]



In 2014, Cristian Manea (pictured) broke Grățian Sepi's record from 1928 for being the youngest debutant of Romania. He was surpassed by Enes Sali in 2021.

## Managers with the most matches

As of 8 August 2022.<sup>[24]</sup>

Rank	Manager	Matches
1	<a href="#">Anghel Iordănescu</a>	101
2	<a href="#">Victor Pițurcă</a>	95
3	<a href="#">Mircea Lucescu</a>	58
4	<a href="#">Emerich Jenei</a>	51
5	<a href="#">Constantin Rădulescu</a>	49
6	<a href="#">Angelo Niculescu</a>	38
7	<a href="#">Valentin Stănescu</a>	36
8	<a href="#">Ștefan Kovács</a>	34
9	<a href="#">Gheorghe Popescu</a>	28
10	<a href="#">Cosmin Contra</a>	24



Anghel Iordănescu managed Romania with the most matches for any manager, with 101.

## Competitive record

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## Champions      Runners-up      Third place

# FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record									
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	
1930	Group stage	8th	2	1	0	1	3	5	
1934		12th	1	0	0	1	1	2	
1938	Round of 16	9th	2	0	1	1	4	5	
1950		<i>Did not enter</i>							
1954									
1958									
1962									
1966									
1970	Group stage	10th	3	1	0	2	4	5	
1974									
1978									
1982									
1986									
1990	Round of 16	12th	4	1	2(1*)	1	4	3	
1994	Quarter-finals	6th	5	3	1*	1	10	9	
1998	Round of 16	11th	4	2	1	1	4	3	
● 2002									
2006									
2010									
2014									
2018									
2022									
2026									
2030									
2034									
Total	Quarter-finals	7/22	21	8	5	8	30	32	

FIFA World Cup qualification record							
Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
<i>Qualified as invitees</i>							
2	2	1	1	0	4	3	
<i>Egypt withdrew<sup>[25]</sup></i>							
<i>Declined participation</i>							
2	4	2	0	2	5	5	
2	4	2	1	1	6	4	
<i>Withdrew</i>							
3	6	3	0	3	9	7	
1	6	3	2	1	7	6	
2	6	4	1	1	17	4	
2	4	2	0	2	7	8	
3	8	2	4	2	5	5	
3	8	3	3	2	12	7	
1	6	4	1	1	10	5	
1	10	7	1	2	29	12	
1	10	9	1	0	37	4	
Playoffs	10	5	2	3	12	10	
3	12	8	1	3	20	10	
5	10	3	3	4	12	18	
Playoffs	12	6	2	4	21	16	
4	10	3	4	3	12	10	
3	10	5	2	3	13	8	
<i>To be determined</i>							
Total	138	72	29	37	238	142	

*\*Denotes draws including knockout matches decided via penalty shoot-out. Normal colour indicates loss.*

# **UEFA European Championship**

UEFA European Championship record										
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA		
1960										
1964										
1968										
1972										
1976										
1980										
1984	Group stage	7th	3	0	1	2	2	4		
1988										
1992										
1996	Group stage	15th	3	0	0	3	1	4		
2000	Quarter-finals	7th	4	1	1	2	4	6		
2004										
2008	Group stage	12th	3	0	2	1	1	3		
2012										
2016	Group stage	19th	3	0	1	2	2	4		
2020										
2024										
2028										
2032										
Total	Quarter-finals	6/17	16	1	5	10	10	21		

UEFA European Championship qualifying record						
Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
Quarter-Finals	4	1	0	3	3	7
Preliminary round	2	1	0	1	3	7
First round	6	3	0	3	18	14
Quarter-finals	9	4	3	2	15	7
First round	6	1	5	0	11	6
3	6	2	2	2	9	8
1	8	5	2	1	9	3
2	6	4	1	1	13	3
3	8	4	2	2	13	7
1	10	6	3	1	18	9
1	10	7	3	0	25	3
3	8	4	2	2	21	9
1	12	9	2	1	26	7
3	10	3	5	2	13	9
2	10	5	5	0	11	2
Play-off	11	4	2	5	18	17
1	10	6	4	0	16	5
<i>To be determined</i>						
Total	136	69	41	26	242	123

\*Red border colour indicates tournament was held on home soil.

## UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record										
Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK
2018–19	C	4	6	3	3	0	8	3	▲	32nd
2020–21	B	1	6	2	2	2	8	9	≡	26th
2022–23	B	3	6	2	1	3	6	8	▼	29th
2024–25	C	Future event								
Total			18	7	6	5	22	20	26th	

## Summer Olympics

Football at the Summer Olympics was first played officially in 1908. The Olympiads between 1896 and 1980 was only open for amateur players. The 1984 and 1988 tournaments were open to players with no appearances in the FIFA World Cup. After the 1988 Olympics, the football event was changed into a tournament for U23 teams, with a maximum of three older players. See [Romania Olympic football team](#) for competition records from 1992 until present day.

Host nation(s) – Year	Result	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1900 to 1920	<i>Did not enter</i>			—			
1924	Round of 16	1	0	0	1	0	6
1928 to 1948	<i>Did not qualify</i>			—			
1952	Preliminary Round	1	0	0	1	1	2
1956 to 1960	<i>Did not qualify</i>			—			
1964	Quarter-Finals	6	4	1	1	12	6
1968 to 1976	<i>Did not qualify</i>			—			
1980 to 1988	<i>Did not enter</i>			—			
Since 1992	<i>See Romania Olympic football team</i>						
Total	3/24	8	4	1	3	13	14

## Balkan Cup

Balkan Cup record							
Edition	Result	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1929–31	Champions	6	5	0	1	26	13
1931	<i>Did not enter</i>						
1932	Third place	3	1	0	2	4	5
1933	Champions	3	3	0	0	13	0
1934–35	Third place	3	1	1	1	5	8
1935	Fourth place	3	0	1	2	2	8
1936	Champions	2	2	0	0	9	3
1946	Third place	3	1	1	1	4	4
1947	Third place	4	2	0	2	8	8
1948*	Fourth place	6	2	1	3	6	18
1973–76	Runners-up	4	2	1	1	7	5
1977–80	Champions	6	3	2	1	12	5
Total	4 titles	43	22	7	14	96	77

\*Edition abandoned.

## All-time head-to-head record

Last match updated was against  Switzerland on 21 November 2023.

Positive record  Neutral record  Negative record

Against	[show]	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	% Won
 Albania		17	11	3	3	64.71%
 Algeria		5	1	2	2	20%
 Andorra		6	6	0	0	100%
 Argentina		6	1	2	3	16.67%
 Armenia		7	5	1	1	66.67%
 Australia		1	1	0	0	100%
 Austria		12	4	5	3	33.33%
 Azerbaijan		4	4	0	0	100%
 Belarus		7	4	3	0	57.14%
 Belgium		12	5	2	5	41.67%
 Bolivia		1	1	0	0	100%
 Bosnia and Herzegovina		6	4	0	2	66.67%
 Brazil		3	0	0	3	0%
 Bulgaria		33	18	6	9	54.55%
 Cameroon		1	0	0	1	0%
 Chile		3	3	0	0	100%
 China		2	2	0	0	100%
 Colombia		3	2	1	0	66.67%
 Croatia		4	0	1	3	0%
 Cuba		2	0	1	1	0%
 Cyprus		13	9	3	1	69.23%
 Czech Republic		2	1	0	1	50%
 Czechoslovakia		32	7	8	17	21.88%
 Denmark		11	4	4	3	36.36%
 DR Congo		2	0	2	0	0%
 East Germany		16	5	3	8	31.25%
 Ecuador		1	0	0	1	0%
 Egypt		6	3	2	1	50%
 England		12	3	6	3	25%
 Estonia		4	3	0	1	75%
 Faroe Islands		8	8	0	0	100%
Finland		13	9	4	0	69.23%

Against	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	% Won
France	16	3	5	8	18.75%
Georgia	8	5	2	1	62.5%
Germany	15	2	3	10	13.33%
Greece	36	18	10	8	50%
Honduras	1	1	0	0	100%
Hungary	26	7	8	11	23.08%
Iceland	5	3	1	1	60%
Iran	2	0	2	0	0%
Iraq	2	0	2	0	0%
Israel	25	13	7	5	52%
Italy	17	2	5	10	11.76%
Ivory Coast	1	0	0	1	0%
Japan	4	3	1	0	75%
Jordan	1	0	0	1	0%
Kazakhstan	2	1	1	0	50%
Kosovo	2	1	1	0	50%
Latvia	5	4	1	0	80%
Liechtenstein	6	6	0	0	100%
Lithuania	12	11	0	1	90.91%
Luxembourg	6	6	0	0	100%
Malta	2	2	0	0	100%
Mexico	2	1	0	1	50%
Moldova	4	4	0	0	100%
Montenegro	7	2	2	3	28.57%
Morocco	3	2	0	1	66.67%
Nigeria	2	2	0	0	100%
Netherlands	14	1	3	10	7.14%
North Macedonia	7	5	1	1	71.43%
Northern Ireland	8	2	3	3	25%
Norway	14	4	7	3	28.57%
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	50%
Peru	5	2	2	1	40%

Against	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	% Won
Poland	35	14	15	6	40%
Portugal	11	4	2	5	36.36%
Republic of Ireland	5	1	2	2	20%
Russia	2	1	0	1	50%
San Marino	3	3	0	0	100%
Serbia	6	1	2	3	20%
Scotland	6	2	2	2	33.33%
Slovakia	11	5	5	1	45.45%
Slovenia	9	3	3	3	33.33%
South Korea	1	1	0	0	100%
Soviet Union	9	3	2	4	33.33%
Spain	18	5	6	7	27.78%
Sweden	11	3	3	5	27.27%
Switzerland	15	6	5	4	40%
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	0	0	100%
Tunisia	1	0	1	0	0%
Turkey	26	14	7	5	53.85%
Turkmenistan	1	1	0	0	100%
Ukraine	6	3	1	2	50%
United Arab Emirates	1	0	0	1	0%
United States	4	2	1	1	50%
Uruguay	5	1	2	2	20%
Wales	5	3	1	1	60%
Yugoslavia	37	15	5	17	40.54%
<b>Total</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>44.24%</b>

## FIFA ranking history

The following is a chart of yearly averages of Romania's [FIFA ranking](#).<sup>[26]</sup>

## Honours

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- [Balkan Cup](#)
- ① [Winners \(4\) – Record: 1929–31, 1933, 1936, 1977–80](#)

- **2** Runners-up (1): [1973–76](#)
- **3** Third place (4): [1932](#), [1934–35](#), [1946](#), [1947](#)

## See also

- [Romania Olympic football team](#)
- [Romania national under-21 football team](#)
- [Romania national under-20 football team](#)
- [Romania national under-19 football team](#)
- [Romania national under-17 football team](#)
- [Romania national futsal team](#)
- [Romania national beach soccer team](#)
- [Romania women's national football team](#)
- [Hungary–Romania football rivalry](#)



## Notes

1. The Israel v Romania match, originally scheduled to be played at the [Teddy Stadium, Jerusalem](#), was relocated to a neutral site due to the [Israel–Hamas war](#).

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## External links

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- Official website (<http://www.frf.ro/>) (in Romanian)
- Romania national football team (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalaRomanieiOfficial>) on Facebook
- Romania national football team (<https://www.instagram.com/echipanationala/>) on Instagram
- Romania (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/ROU/>) at UEFA
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# Serbia national football team

The **Serbia men's national football team** (Serbian Cyrillic: Фудбалска репрезентација Србије, romanized: *Fudbalska reprezentacija Srbije*) represents Serbia in men's international football competition. It is controlled by the Football Association of Serbia, the governing body for football in Serbia.

After the breakup of SFR Yugoslavia and its football team in 1992 Serbia was represented (alongside Montenegro) within the new FR Yugoslavia national football team. Despite qualifying for Euro 1992 the team was banned from participating in the tournament due to international sanctions, with the ruling also enforced for 1994 World Cup and Euro 1996 qualifiers. The national team played its first friendly in December 1994, and with the easing of sanctions the generation of the 1990s eventually participated at the 1998 World Cup, reaching the round of 16, and the quarter-finals at Euro 2000. The team played in the 2006, 2010, 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups, but failed to progress past the group stage on each occasion.<sup>[3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10]</sup>

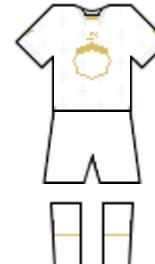
Between February 2003 and June 2006 Serbia participated as Serbia and Montenegro due to the countries' name change. Following a 2006 referendum Montenegro declared its independence, leading to separate football federations which resulted in the teams final renaming and establishment as the Serbia national football team.<sup>[11][12][13][14][15][16]</sup> Serbia is considered by FIFA and UEFA to be the official successor team of FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro national football teams, but also the Kingdom of Yugoslavia/SFR Yugoslavia team.<sup>[17][18][19][20]</sup>

## History

### Serbia within Yugoslavia (1920–1992)

The Football Federation of what was then the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia) was founded in Zagreb in 1919 under the name *Jugoslavenski nogometni savez* (*Jugoslavian Football Association*). Jovan Ružić was the first Serb to represent the national team in its international debut match, a 7–0 drubbing by Czechoslovakia at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, Belgium.<sup>[21]</sup>

<b>Serbia</b>

<b>Nickname(s)</b> Орлови / <i>Orlovi</i> (Eagles)
<b>Association</b> Fudbalski savez Srbije (FSS)
<b>Confederation</b> UEFA (Europe)
<b>Head coach</b> Dragan Stojković
<b>Captain</b> Dušan Tadić
<b>Most caps</b> Branislav Ivanović (105)
<b>Top scorer</b> Aleksandar Mitrović (57)
<b>Home stadium</b> Red Star Stadium
<b>FIFA code</b> SRB
 <b>First colours</b>
 <b>Second colours</b>
<b>FIFA ranking</b>
<b>Current</b> 32 <span style="color: green;">▲ 2</span> (15 February 2024) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Highest</b> 6 (December 1998)
<b>Lowest</b> 101 (December 1994)
<b>First international</b>
 Czechoslovakia 7–0 <b>Kingdom of SCS</b>  (Antwerp, Belgium; 28 August 1920)
<i>as Serbia</i> <i>Unofficial</i>

In 1921 the Belgrade Football Subassociation organized a friendly match between the France national football team and a Belgrade XI, dubbed the "Serbian representatives". The team featured footballers from SK Jugoslavija and BSK, two of the Serbian clubs of the interwar period. The French delegation was on a four-game tour of Yugoslavia with the last exhibition game being played in Belgrade's SK Jugoslavija Stadium on 3 July. Prince Regent Aleksandar I and FIFA President Jules Rimet were in attendance as the visitors triumphed 3–0.<sup>[22]</sup>

In the lead-up to the 1930 World Cup, a dispute regarding the relocation of the FAs headquarters from Zagreb to the capital Belgrade erupted, culminating in a boycott by the Zagreb Subassociation which disallowed its members to participate in the upcoming tournament. The *de facto* Serbian team led by coach Boško Simonović, composed largely of players from Belgrade's BSK, SK Jugoslavija and BASK, reached the semi-final, losing to hosts and eventual winners Uruguay 6–1.<sup>[23][24][25]</sup> The royal interbellum era featured footballers such as Blagoje Marjanović, Aleksandar Tirnanić, Milorad Arsenijević, Đorđe Vučadinović, Branislav Sekulić and Milutin Ivković. Due to the dismemberment of Yugoslavia during World War II the football federation and national team ceased activities but reformed following the end of hostilities.

In 1945 Svetislav Glišović led the first unofficial national team representing the Federal State of Serbia in a tournament held to mark the end of World War II.<sup>[26]</sup> The Serbian team encompassing the newly established Red Star squad won its first game by beating FS Montenegro 2–1, FS Croatia 3–1 in the semi-final, then proceeding to win the tournament against the Yugoslav People's Army team 1–0 in Belgrade.<sup>[27][28]</sup>

The reconstituted Yugoslavia reached the UEFA European Championship finals in 1960 and 1968, and finished fourth place at the 1962 FIFA World Cup. During its existence Serbian footballers would continually play a role in the Yugoslavia national team throughout the socialist era, with the likes of Rajko Mitić, Branko Stanković, Vladimir Beara, Vučadin Boškov, Todor Veselinović, Miloš Milutinović, Borivoje Kostić, Milan Galić, Vladimir Durković, Velibor Vasović, Dragan Džajić, Jovan Aćimović, Dušan Bajević, Vladimir Petrović and others until the states disintegrated in the 1990s. The national team of SFR Yugoslavia played its last game on 25 March 1992, losing 2–0 to the Netherlands.<sup>[29]</sup>

## FR Yugoslavia/Serbia & Montenegro era (1992–2006)

While the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, consisting of Serbia and Montenegro, was formed on 27 April 1992,<sup>[30]</sup> its teams were banned from all international sporting events, including

 **FS Serbia** 2–1 FS Montenegro   
(Belgrade, Yugoslavia; 3 September 1945)

Official

 Czech Republic 1–3 Serbia   
(Uherské Hradiště, Czech Republic; 16 August 2006)

### Bigest win

 **Yugoslavia** 10–0 Venezuela   
(Curitiba, Brazil; 14 June 1972)

### as Serbia

 Azerbaijan 1–6 Serbia   
(Baku, Azerbaijan; 17 October 2007)  
 Serbia 6–1 Bulgaria   
(Belgrade, Serbia; 19 November 2008)  
 Serbia 5–0 Romania   
(Belgrade, Serbia; 10 October 2009)  
 Serbia 6–1 Wales   
(Novi Sad, Serbia; 11 September 2012)  
 Serbia 5–0 Russia   
(Belgrade, Serbia; 18 November 2020)

### Bigest defeat

 Czechoslovakia 7–0 Kingdom of SCS   
(Antwerp, Belgium; 28 August 1920)  
 Uruguay 7–0 Kingdom of SCS   
(Paris, France; 26 May 1924)  
 Czechoslovakia 7–0 Kingdom of SCS   
(Prague, Czechoslovakia; 28 October 1925)

### as Serbia

 Ukraine 5–0 Serbia   
(Lviv, Ukraine 7 June 2019)

### World Cup

**Appearances** 13 (*first in 1930 as Yugoslavia*  
*1998 as FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro*  
*2010 as Serbia*)  
**Best result** As Yugoslavia: Fourth place (1930, 1962)  
As FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro: Round of 16 (1998)  
As Serbia: Group stage (2010, 2018, 2022)

### European Championship

**Appearances** 6 (*first in 1960 as Yugoslavia*  
*2000 as FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro*  
*2024 as Serbia*)

the national football team as a result of U.N. sanctions stemming from the conflict in Yugoslavia.<sup>[31]</sup> Consequently, the national team did not play its first game as a new country before 23 December 1994, a friendly match played in Porto Alegre and in which Brazil won 2–0.<sup>[32]</sup> This was the first ever team composed of Serbian and Montenegrin players exclusively, while Slobodan Santrač, a former Yugoslavia national team player, was named the team's first ever manager. The next game was played three days later, this time in Buenos Aires, resulting in a 1–0 loss to Argentina.<sup>[33]</sup>

Due to international sanctions, the team could not participate in 1994 World Cup qualifying nor the Euro 1996 qualifying process.<sup>[31][34]</sup>

## 1998 World Cup

As FR Yugoslavia joined FIFA and UEFA in 1994, the team was available to participate in the 1998 World Cup qualifiers. Slobodan Santrač was appointed manager for the team.<sup>[35]</sup> In the qualifiers, Yugoslavia was drawn in Group 6 with Euro 1996 runners-up Czech Republic, Slovakia, Spain, Faroe Islands and Malta. With 23 points, Yugoslavia ended up in second place behind Spain. Yugoslavia qualified for the play-off in which they were drawn to play against Hungary. Winning 12–1 on aggregate, Yugoslavia qualified for the World Cup.<sup>[36]</sup>

The draw put the team in Group F alongside Germany, the United States, and Iran. Yugoslavia won its first game 1–0 against Iran thanks to a goal from defender Siniša Mihajlović.<sup>[37]</sup> The next game was a draw for Yugoslavia; after leading Germany 2–0, a free kick from Michael Tarnat deflected off Mihajlović and into the goal, then Oliver Bierhoff equalised it at 2–2 at the 80th minute.<sup>[38]</sup> Yugoslavia responded in the next game against the United States and won 1–0 due to a goal in the fourth minute by Slobodan Komljenović.<sup>[39]</sup> Yugoslavia finished second in the group behind Germany on goal difference.

Due to their second position, Yugoslavia saw itself face the Netherlands in the Round of 16. Yugoslavia entered in the match with a sole attacker, but its defensive tactics proved unsuccessful as Dennis Bergkamp put the Netherlands in front in the 38th minute. Following the start of the second half, Yugoslavia pressured the Dutch, who conceded a header from Komljenović. The turning point of this match was a penalty awarded to Yugoslavia after Vladimir Jugović was fouled.<sup>[40]</sup> Predrag Mijatović missed, and the scoreline remained the same at 1–1.<sup>[41]</sup> Such an event demoralized the Yugoslavs, as the Dutch took the initiative. In the late seconds of the game Edgar Davids' shot towards the Yugoslav net from a distance of 20 meters and beat goalkeeper Ivica Kralj.<sup>[40]</sup>

## Euro 2000

The draw for the Euro 2000 qualifiers saw first-seeded Yugoslavia drawn in a group with Croatia, thus marking the first games between the two teams after the breakup of Yugoslavia. The other teams in the group were the Republic of Ireland, Macedonia, and Malta. Milan Živadinović was dismissed and was replaced by Vujadin

<b>Best result</b>	As Yugoslavia: Runners-up (1960, 1968) as FR Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro: Quarter-finals (2000) As Serbia: To be determined (2024)	
<b>Medal record</b>	[show]	
<b>UEFA European Championship</b>		
S	1960 France	Team
S	1968 Italy	Team
<b>Olympic Games</b>		
G	1960 Rome	Team
S	1948 London	Team
S	1952 Helsinki	Team
S	1956 Melbourne	Team
B	1984 Los Angeles	Team
<b>Balkan Cup</b>		
G	1934–35 Greece	Team
G	1935 Bulgaria	Team
<b>Mediterranean Games</b>		
G	1971 Izmir	Team
G	1979 Split	Team



Yugoslavia at the 1930 FIFA World Cup, featured an all Serbian team following a boycott by Croat representatives.

The team started with a 1–0 win over Ireland in Belgrade, before beating Malta 3–0 in Ta' Qali. The home fixture against the Maltese followed, but was moved to Thessaloniki, Greece due to the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. The team won 4–1. The first match against Croatia took place in Belgrade after the bombing ended, and was interrupted due to a power outage at the beginning of the second half, resuming after 43 minutes and eventually finishing 0–0.<sup>[44]</sup> A 2–1 defeat against Ireland in Dublin was followed by victories home and away against Macedonia (3–1 and 4–2 respectively), meaning that Yugoslavia needed to win its final qualifier against Croatia in Zagreb, or to draw with Ireland failing to beat Macedonia in Skopje, in order to qualify automatically for Euro 2000. In the event, Ireland conceded an injury-time equaliser, meaning that Yugoslavia's 2–2 draw with the Croatians put them through.

The draw for the finals placed Yugoslavia in Group C along with Spain, Norway and another former Yugoslav republic, Slovenia. The Slovenians took a 3–0 lead in the first game at the Stade du Pays de Charleroi, but three goals in six second-half minutes enabled Yugoslavia to secure a 3–3 draw. The team then beat Norway 1–0 in Liège, thanks to an early Savo Milošević backheel strike. The final group game, against Spain in Bruges, saw the Yugoslavs take the lead three times, before a Gaizka Mendieta penalty and an Alfonso strike in injury-time secured a 4–3 win for the Spaniards and top spot in the group. Yugoslavia nonetheless finished second, level on points with Norway but ranked ahead due to its victory in Liège. In each of the three games, the team had one player sent off (Siniša Mihajlović, Mateja Kežman, and Slaviša Jokanović, respectively).<sup>[45]</sup> In the quarter-finals, Yugoslavia was paired with the Netherlands. The co-hosts won 6–1 in Rotterdam with Patrick Kluivert scoring a hat-trick. Despite Yugoslavia's elimination, Savo Milošević was crowned the joint top scorer of the tournament alongside Patrick Kluivert. Both players scored five goals, although Milošević played one game fewer.<sup>[46]</sup>

## 2002 World Cup campaign

Ilija Petković replaced Boškov as head coach in July 2000.<sup>[47]</sup> For the 2002 World Cup qualifiers, Yugoslavia was drawn in Group 1 with Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland, the Faroe Islands and Luxembourg. After winning against Luxembourg, Petković was sacked and replaced with a three-pieced team which consisted of Boškov, Dejan Savićević and Ivan Ćurković. Despite winning both games against Luxembourg and Faroe Islands as well and away game against Switzerland, Yugoslavia managed to suffer a home loss and away draw against Russia, a home draw against Switzerland and both draw games against Slovenia. Yugoslavia ended the qualifying campaign in the third place of the group just one point behind second-placed Slovenia.<sup>[48]</sup>

## Euro 2004 campaign

Savićević was appointed as coach in July 2002.<sup>[49]</sup> For the Euro 2004 qualifiers Yugoslavia was drawn in Group 9 with Italy, Wales, Finland and Azerbaijan. During qualifying, the country went under a political transformation, and the newly named Serbia and Montenegro appeared for the first time in a game against Azerbaijan in February 2003.<sup>[50]</sup> In June, after a 2–1 loss to Azerbaijan, Savićević resigned and was replaced by Ilija Petković.<sup>[51]</sup> Despite drawing both games against eventual group winners Italy and winning both games against runners-up Wales, Serbia and Montenegro failed to qualify, mostly due to a 2–2 home draw, the 2–1 loss to Azerbaijan, as well as a 3–0 away loss to Finland.

## 2006 World Cup

Petković remained as manager for the team.<sup>[52]</sup> Qualifying for the 2006 World Cup resulted in six wins and four draws, with Serbia and Montenegro ending up first in the group with an undefeated record in their qualification group ahead of Spain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lithuania and San Marino. The Serbia and Montenegro team also allowed only one goal in the ten matches, the best defensive record of all 51 teams participating in qualification.



Serbia and Montenegro and Ivory Coast playing at the Allianz Arena in the 2006 FIFA World Cup

On 3 June 2006, following a [referendum](#), Montenegro declared its independence from Serbia. As the World Cup was about to start, it was decided that the Serbia and Montenegro team that had qualified for the tournament would compete, with the split into separate teams representing the new countries of Montenegro and Serbia to take place once the team was no longer in the tournament.

In the [group stage](#), Serbia and Montenegro lost their opening game to the Netherlands. The final score was 1–0 after [Arjen Robben](#) scored the only goal of the game. They also lost their second game to Argentina 6–0, Serbia and Montenegro's worst ever international result. With the team's two losses and with Netherlands and Argentina winning both their games, Serbia and Montenegro could no longer qualify for the knockout matches and was playing for pride alone in their final group game against [Ivory Coast](#). After a 2–0 lead for much of the first half, *the Elephants* managed to come back and win 3–2, leaving Serbia and Montenegro with no points.<sup>[53]</sup>

## Independent Serbia (2006–present)

### Euro 2008 campaign

Javier Clemente, Serbia's first-ever foreign coach, was appointed to lead the team for the 2008 Euro campaign.<sup>[54]</sup> After Montenegro declared independence, Serbia marked their split from [Montenegro](#) with a 3–1 win over the Czech Republic. For the [Euro 2008 qualifiers](#), Serbia was drawn in [Group A](#) along with [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Belgium](#), [Finland](#), [Kazakhstan](#), [Armenia](#) and [Azerbaijan](#). A strong start in qualification was overshadowed by the final hurdle of matches where inconsistency took over, the side dropping points against the likes of Finland, Belgium, Armenia and Kazakhstan. They eventually finished third, three points behind runners-up Portugal and Group A winners Poland. Clemente was sacked after the team's failure to qualify.<sup>[55]</sup>

Serbia replaced Clemente with Miroslav Đukić, who then left the position on 19 August of the following year without having played any official games, due to disagreements with the Football Association of Serbia.

### 2010 World Cup



Atmosphere at the start of match vs France, 9 September 2009

Subsequent to Đukić's departure, Radomir Antić was appointed coach. Serbia's [World Cup](#) qualification campaign began in 2008. Their qualification group featured [1998 World Cup](#) winners and [2006 World Cup](#) runners-up [France](#), [Romania](#), as well as [Austria](#), [Lithuania](#) and the [Faroe Islands](#). Serbia played consistently during the qualifiers and this led to the team automatically qualifying for the [2010 FIFA World Cup](#) in South Africa. They confirmed qualification with a 5–0 win at home against Romania.

The 2010 World Cup team featured captain Dejan Stanković, who became the only player to feature in a World Cup having played under three different national names (although he never changed nationality; this was a result of geopolitical events involving the identity of Yugoslavia).<sup>[57]</sup> They were to face [Ghana](#), [Germany](#) and [Australia](#).



Serbia's starting XI under coach Radomir Antić in their 1–0 win over Germany at the 2010 FIFA World Cup.<sup>[56]</sup>

Their opening group game was against Ghana and chances came to both sides but a red card to Aleksandar Luković and a handball by substitute Zdravko Kuzmanović in the second half gave Ghana a penalty to take all three points at the death. Asamoah Gyan converted eight minutes from full-time and Serbia were defeated 1–0. In Serbia's second group match, they defeated Germany by a score of 1–0 with a goal by Milan Jovanović in the first half. FIFA's official YouTube channel called the win "the most famous day in Serbia's footballing history".<sup>[58]</sup>

Serbia only needed a single point to reach the knockout stages, but was defeated by Australia 2–1. Australia scored two goals in the second half through Tim Cahill and Brett Holman. A late Marko Pantelić goal served only as a consolation. They finished last in the group.

## Euro 2012 campaign

Radomir Antić was sacked two games into the Euro 2012 qualification process, a 1–1 draw at home to Slovenia spelling the end to his two-year stint. The sacking meant the bringing in of Vladimir Petrović to the job.

For the Euro 2012 qualifying, Serbia was drawn in Group C featuring Italy, Slovenia, Estonia, Northern Ireland and the Faroe Islands. The qualifying stage began with Radomir Antić as coach and finished with Vladimir Petrović. Serbia and Antić started the first two games with a 3–0 win away to Faroe Islands and a 1–1 draw at home to Slovenia but this result brought the end of Antić's reign as the country's coach.<sup>[59]</sup> New coach Petrović faced setbacks with a 3–1 loss at home to Estonia<sup>[60]</sup> and an abandoned match resulting in a 3–0 loss to Italy due to crowd trouble from the Serbian away supporters in Genoa.<sup>[61]</sup>

Serbia returned to form with a 2–1 win at home over Northern Ireland but could only manage a 1–1 draw away to Estonia. Afterwards, Serbia won back to back games with a 1–0 win away to Northern Ireland and a crucial 3–1 win at home against Faroe Islands. These results put Serbia in pole position to confirm a play-off spot behind Italy.

Serbia needed a win at home against Italy to confirm a play-off spot but their efforts only resulted in a 1–1 draw. The team, however, still had one more chance to confirm a play-off place when they faced Slovenia away. This game was a must-win even though Serbia had a superior goal difference over Estonia; a draw was not good enough for progression. Neither side played decisively better in the first half, but a long-range goal put Slovenia up 1–0 at half time.<sup>[62]</sup> In the second half, Nemanja Vidić missed penalty.<sup>[62]</sup> Serbia left empty-handed after a 1–0 loss and exited the tournament for the third time in a row during the qualifying group stages, missing out by one point behind Estonia. Serbia once again failed to qualify for the European Championships.<sup>[62]</sup> Vladimir Petrović was sacked after the team's failure to qualify.

## 2014 World Cup campaign

Ahead of the qualifying campaign for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, Dejan Stanković and Nemanja Vidić announced that they were retiring from international football.<sup>[63][64]</sup> Branislav Ivanović became the new captain. Siniša Mihajlović, a former member of the national team, was appointed as the coach on 24 April 2012. Serbia was drawn in Group A in qualification for the 2014 World Cup, together with Croatia, Belgium, Scotland, Macedonia, and Wales. The team began the qualification campaign with a goalless draw with Scotland and a 6–1 win over Wales. In the next two games, Serbia suffered two defeats, from Macedonia and Belgium.

On 22 March 2013, Serbia played in Zagreb against Croatia. The game was highly anticipated in both countries due to their rivalry both on and off the pitch. Croatia won 2–0.<sup>[65]</sup> Serbia then defeated Scotland 2–0 at home in a crucial qualifier, though their World Cup hopes were taken away after a 2–1 defeat to Belgium. Serbia drew with Croatia 1–1 in the corresponding fixture at home, where 18-year-old Aleksandar Mitrović scored an equalizer in the second-half after Mario Mandžukić opened the scoring.<sup>[66]</sup> They then defeated Wales 3–0 in Cardiff. Dejan Stanković's farewell game was completed in a friendly against Japan, which Serbia won 2–0. He

finished his career with 103 appearances for the national team, a record previously held by Savo Milošević, with 102 appearances. Serbia finished qualifying with a 5–1 home win against Macedonia,<sup>[67]</sup> putting them in third in the group, three points from a playoff spot behind Croatia and group winners Belgium.

## Euro 2016 campaign

After failing to qualify for the 2014 World Cup, Dick Advocaat was appointed as the coach in 2014.<sup>[68]</sup> Serbia was drawn in Group I in qualification for UEFA Euro 2016, together with Portugal, Denmark, Albania and Armenia. Advocaat started with a draw in a friendly 1–1 game against France. The team began qualification with a 1–1 draw against Armenia. The following game was a game against Albania in Belgrade, abandoned as a result of crowd trouble after a drone carrying an Albanian flag and a map of Greater Albania was flown over the pitch.<sup>[69]</sup> Serbia was originally awarded with a 3–0 victory by UEFA, and deducted three points, but on 10 July 2015, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) reversed the earlier decision and awarded Albania a 3–0 win.<sup>[69]</sup> On 14 November 2014, Serbia played against Denmark in Belgrade and lost, 1–3. After this game, Advocaat left,<sup>[70]</sup> whereupon Radovan Ćurčić was announced as a new coach on 25 November.<sup>[71]</sup>

Serbia's first match in 2015 was a qualifying match against Portugal in Lisbon, during which Serbia lost 2–1, cutting their chances for qualification to Euro 2016. On 13 June 2015, Serbia played a qualifying match against Denmark in Copenhagen, losing 2–0. With the 10 July ruling by CAS on the abandoned game against Albania, Serbia would become mathematically eliminated from Euro 2016 qualification. On 4 September 2015, Serbia had their first victory, winning 2–0, against Armenia. On 8 October 2015, Serbia defeated Albania with a goal each from Aleksandar Kolarov and Adem Ljajić. In the table of Group I, Serbia finished second to last place with four points in a five-team group.

## 2018 World Cup

After failing to qualify for Euro 2016, Slavoljub Muslin was appointed as a coach. Serbia was drawn in Group D in qualification for the 2018 FIFA World Cup with Euro 2016 semi-finalists Wales, Austria, Ireland, Georgia and Moldova. They started off their campaign with a 2–2 draw against Ireland at the Red Star Stadium and eventually won against Austria, Georgia and Moldova.



Serbia team at the 2018 World Cup in Russia

Serbia beat Moldova in Belgrade with goals from Aleksandar Kolarov, Aleksandar Mitrović and Mijat Gaćinović. This consolidated their first position going into their top-of-the group clash with Ireland. They won this match with a 55th-minute goal from Kolarov. Serbia finished the qualifying campaign with a 1–0 home win against Georgia, and ended at the top of Group D and therefore qualified for the 2018 tournament. Despite Serbia's qualification, Muslin was sacked by the Football Association of Serbia as a result on differences regarding team selection.<sup>[72]</sup> Muslin was criticized for not inviting Sergej Milinković-Savić to play in the campaign which sparked controversy in Serbia. Mladen Krstajić took the place as a temporary coach after Muslin's dismissal and led the team in the World Cup.<sup>[73]</sup>

In the World Cup, Serbia opened their match against Costa Rica. Kolarov's free kick at the second half meant Serbia won their first World Cup game in eight years. Serbia lost their later encounters, losing 1–2 to Switzerland with a 90th-minute goal scored by Xherdan Shaqiri<sup>[74]</sup> and 0–2 to Brazil, thus being eliminated in the group stage.<sup>[75]</sup>

## 2018–19 UEFA Nations League

Due to the performance of Serbia in previous years, the country found itself started the campaign of the inaugural Nations League, where they were drawn into Group 4 with Montenegro, Lithuania and Romania. With both wins against Lithuania and Montenegro and both draw games against Romania, Serbia finished on top of

the group, securing the Euro 2020 play-off spot and being promoted into League B for 2020–21 season. With six goals, Aleksandar Mitrović finished the tournament as the top scorer.

## Euro 2020 campaign

In December 2017, Mladen Krstajić became the permanent coach for Serbia.<sup>[76]</sup> Serbia started the campaign of 2018–19 UEFA Nations League, which served as a part of UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying campaign.

For Euro 2020 qualifiers, Serbia was drawn into Group B with Euro 2016 champions Portugal, Ukraine, Lithuania and Luxembourg. Serbia kicked off the qualifiers with 1–1 away draw against Portugal. But in the next away game against Ukraine, Serbia lost 5–0. Krstajić was sacked after the loss and replaced with Ljubiša Tumbaković. Tumbaković started with a 2–4 home loss against Portugal. The next two games were away wins against Luxembourg and Lithuania, before beating Luxembourg at home. Serbia then drew 2–2 to Ukraine at home, meaning they could not finish in the top two and a play-off would ensue.

After the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying play-offs were resumed, Serbia placed itself against Norway in Oslo. Two goals, one in extra time helped Serbia to overcome Norway 2–1, thus marching to the final playoff game against Scotland at home.<sup>[77]</sup> The game was won by Scotland in a penalty shootout (5–4) after the game was tied 1–1 after full time.<sup>[78]</sup> Serbia once again failed to qualify for the Euros, making 20 years since the country last took part in the tournament. Tumbaković was sacked after the team's failure to qualify for the tournament.<sup>[79]</sup>

## 2022–23 UEFA Nations League

Serbia was drawn in 2022–23 UEFA Nations League B Group 4 alongside Norway, Sweden and Slovenia, finishing first and being promoted after wins against Sweden at home and Norway in Oslo.

## 2022 World Cup

Serbia was drawn in Group A in qualification for the 2022 FIFA World Cup with Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Luxembourg and Azerbaijan.<sup>[80]</sup>

After a penalty shootout loss against Scotland in the Euro 2020 qualifying play offs, Ljubiša Tumbaković was sacked and replaced with Dragan Stojković.

Serbia started qualification with a 3–2 win against the Republic of Ireland in Belgrade in March 2021. After a 2–2 draw against Portugal, Serbia won against Azerbaijan in Baku 2–1. Mixed results meant Serbia needed a victory against Portugal to qualify directly from the group. On 14 November 2021, Serbia faced Portugal at the Estádio da Luz, and trailed by a goal. However, an equaliser by Dušan Tadić and a decisive goal from Aleksandar Mitrović in the final minutes of the second half meant Serbia automatically booked a ticket for Qatar.<sup>[81]</sup>

Serbia was drawn in Group G with 2018 opponents Brazil and Switzerland, and African representatives Cameroon. Serbia was defeated in the first match against Brazil 2–0. They then drew Cameroon 3–3, and lost against Switzerland 3–2 after a fight between multiple Serbians and Granit Xhaka, ending up with only one point.<sup>[82]</sup>

## Euro 2024

Following the elimination in the group stage at the 2022 World Cup, Stojković stayed as a coach with a goal to bring Serbia to UEFA Euro 2024.<sup>[83]</sup>

Serbia was drawn in Group G in qualification for Euro 2024 with Hungary, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Lithuania.<sup>[84]</sup> Serbia started the qualifying campaign with a 2–0 wins against the Lithuania in Belgrade and Montenegro in Podgorica in March 2023. After a crucial friendly game against Jordan in which Serbia won 3–2,

Serbia ended up in a draw 1–1 against Bulgaria in Razgrad. The next game against Hungary in Belgrade, Serbia was forced to play behind closed doors, due to UEFA sanctioning the Serbian association because of chants against Montenegrins. Serbia eventually lost the game 1–2. The next game was another win against Lithuania in Kaunas, 3–1, with Aleksandar Mitrović scoring a hat-trick. On 14 October 2023 Serbia once again lost against Hungary in Budapest 1–2, but three days later Serbia won against Montenegro in Belgrade 3–1. After the crucial final game against Bulgaria at home which ended in a draw 2–2, Serbia ended the campaign in second place in group G with 14 points, therefore qualifying for a first European Championship in 24 years.<sup>[85]</sup>

## Rivalries

- **Serbia v. Croatia:** The rivalry stems from political roots, and is listed as one of the ten greatest international rivalries by Goal.com.<sup>[86]</sup> and as the most politically charged football rivalry by the Bleacher Report.<sup>[87]</sup> The two sides started the football rivalry in the 1990 when they were part of Yugoslavia, which dissolved after a series of wars. The two nations have played four times, with Croatia winning one and drawing the other three games.<sup>[88]</sup>
- **Serbia v. Albania:** The rivalry stems from historical tensions and the Kosovo question.<sup>[89]</sup>
- **Serbia v. Switzerland:** The rivalry is connected to the Albanian diaspora players in the Swiss football team and is linked to the tensions between the Albanians and the Serbs.<sup>[90]</sup>

## Team image

The badge of the Football Association of Serbia is modelled on the Serbian cross inescutcheon featured on the Serbian coat of arms. It consists of a modified version of the four firesteels and cross, with the addition of a football. The team is nicknamed "*the Eagles*" (Serbian Cyrillic: *Орлови*) in reference to the white double-headed eagle, a national symbol of Serbia.<sup>[91][92][93][94][95]</sup> In 2022 the Football Association of Serbia launched a new, national team specific emblem for brand and marketing purposes. The previous FA crest was replaced by a stylised logo inspired by the lesser coat of arms of the Republic of Serbia.<sup>[96]</sup>

For years following the breakup of SFR Yugoslavia the national team experienced an identity crisis, which despite its name, was seen as *de facto* representative of Serbia. From 1994 to 2006 the obsolete and unpopular Communist era national anthem "*Hej, Sloveni*" was often jeered, booed and whistled by home supporters as players refrained from singing the lyrics. During this period the team continued to officially carry the old nickname "*Plavi*" (*the Blues*), badge and kit design indicative of the Yugoslav tricolour.<sup>[97][94][98]</sup>



Serbia team before a friendly match versus Ireland in Dublin in May 2008

Following the secession of Montenegro in 2006 the national team adopted red shirts, blue shorts and white socks in honor of the Serbian tricolour. Between 2010 and 2016 a cross motif inspired by the country's coat of arms was incorporated in the jersey. In years Serbia has utilised all-red uniforms due to FIFA's kit clash regulations. Away kits are traditionally white with blue or white shorts.<sup>[99][100]</sup>

Serbia does not have an official national stadium and the team has played at grounds throughout the country. The Rajko Mitić Stadium is the most popular venue following by Partizan Stadium, both ground are located in the capital city Belgrade.<sup>[101][102][103]</sup>

## Kit sponsorship

In July 2014, a partnership was announced between the Football Association of Serbia and English manufacturer Umbro, which is Serbia's official supplier, before Puma took over with their home and away kits, debuting 7 September 2014 in the friendly match against France. That same day, Serbia unveiled their latest kits

also worn at the Euro 2016 qualifiers campaign.<sup>[104]</sup>

Kit Supplier	Period
Adidas	1974–2002
Lotto	2002–2006
Nike	2006–2014
Umbro	2014–2018
Puma	2018–2024



The 53,000 capacity Rajko Mitić Stadium is the largest in Serbia, and is often utilised for international fixtures.

## Results and fixtures

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

Win  Draw  Loss  Fixture

### 2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	24 March 2023	<b>Serbia</b> <b>2–0</b> <b>Lithuania</b>	Belgrade, Serbia	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45	Tadić  16' Report (ht Vlahović  53'	Stadium: <a href="#">Rajko Mitić Stadium</a> Attendance: <a href="#">21,125</a> Referee: <a href="#">Lawrence Visser (Belgium)</a>	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	27 March 2023	<b>Montenegro</b> <b>0–2</b> <b>Serbia</b>	Podgorica, Montenegro	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45	Report (ht Vlahović  78', 90+6'	Stadium: <a href="#">Podgorica City Stadium</a> Attendance: <a href="#">9,831</a> Referee: <a href="#">Clément Turpin (France)</a>	
International friendly	16 June 2023	<b>Serbia</b> <b>3–2</b> <b>Jordan</b>	Vienna, Austria	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:30	Eraković  7' Report (ht Al-Mardi  54' Joveljić  83', 88' tps://int.soccerway.com/matches/2023/06/16/world友lies-serbia/jordan/4073382/	Stadium: <a href="#">Franz Horr Stadium</a> Attendance: <a href="#">8,854</a> Referee: <a href="#">Stefan Ebner (Austria)</a>	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	20 June 2023	<b>Bulgaria</b> <b>1–1</b> <b>Serbia</b>	Razgrad, Bulgaria	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45	Despodov  47' Report (ht Lazović  90+6'	Stadium: <a href="#">Huvepharma Arena</a> Attendance: <a href="#">6,700</a> Referee: <a href="#">Craig Pawson (England)</a>	

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	7 September 2023	<b>Serbia</b>  <b>1–2</b>  <b>Hungary</b>	Belgrade, Serbia	[show]
	20:45	A. Szalai  10' (o.g.) Report (ht Varga  34' tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203639 4/)	Stadium: Red Star Stadium Attendance: 6,924 Referee: Juan Martínez Munuera (Spain)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	10 September 2023	<b>Lithuania</b>  <b>1–3</b>  <b>Serbia</b>	Kaunas, Lithuania	[show]
	20:45	Paulauskas  45' Report (ht A. Mitrović  21', 32', tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203641 8/)	Stadium: Darius and Girėnas Stadium Attendance: 8,586 Referee: Sascha Stegemann (Germany)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	14 October 2023	<b>Hungary</b>  <b>2–1</b>  <b>Serbia</b>	Budapest, Hungary	[show]
	20:45	Varga  20' Report (ht Pavlović  33' Sallai  34' tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203644 1/)	Stadium: Puskás Aréna Attendance: 58,215 Referee: François Letexier (France)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 October 2023	<b>Serbia</b>  <b>3–1</b>  <b>Montenegro</b>	Belgrade, Serbia	[show]
	20:45	Mitrović  9', 73' Report (ht Jovetić  36' Tadić  77' tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203646 3/)	Stadium: Rajko Mitić Stadium Attendance: 25,884 <sup>[105]</sup> Referee: Szymon Marciniak (Poland)	
International friendly	15 November 2023	<b>Belgium</b>  <b>1–0</b>  <b>Serbia</b>	Leuven, Belgium	[show]
	20:45	Carrasco  2' Report (ht tps://int.s occerway. com/matc hes/2023/ 11/15/wor ld/friendli es/belgiu m-serbia/ 4073275/)	Stadium: Den Dreef Attendance: 0 Referee: Marian Alexandru Barbu (Romania)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 November 2023	<b>Serbia</b>  <b>2–2</b>  <b>Bulgaria</b>	Leskovac, Serbia	[show]

15:00	<a href="#">Veljković</a> 17' <a href="#">Babić</a> 82'	Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203651 0/)	<a href="#">Rusev</a> 59' <a href="#">Despodov</a> 69'	Stadium: Dubočica Stadium Attendance: 7,325 [106] Referee: Erik Lambrechts (Belgium)
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## 2024

International friendly	21 March 2024	<a href="#">Russia</a>	v	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	Moscow, Russia	[show]
International friendly	25 March 2024	<a href="#">Cyprus</a>	v	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	Stadium: VTB Arena Limassol, Cyprus	
International friendly	4 June 2024	<a href="#">Austria</a>	v	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	Vienna, Austria	
International friendly	8 June 2024	<a href="#">Sweden</a>	v	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	Sweden	
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	16 June 2024	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	v	<a href="#">England</a>	Gelsenkirchen, Germany	[show]
	21:00			Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036166/)	Stadium: Arena AufSchalke	
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	20 June 2024	<a href="#">Slovenia</a>	v	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	Munich, Germany	[show]
	15:00			Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036177/)	Stadium: Allianz Arena	
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	25 June 2024	<a href="#">Denmark</a>	v	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	Munich, Germany	[show]
	21:00			Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036190/)	Stadium: Allianz Arena	
2024–25 UEFA Nations League A	5 September 2024	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	v	<a href="#">Spain</a>	Serbia	[show]
	20:45			Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefanat ionsleagu e/match/2 040049--s erbia-vs-s pain/)	Stadium: TBD	
2024–25 UEFA Nations League A	8 September 2024	<a href="#">Denmark</a>	v	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	Copenhagen, Denmark	[show]
	18:00			Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefanat ionsleagu e/match/2 040069--d enmark-)	Stadium: Parken Stadium	

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2024–25 UEFA 12 October 2024  
Nations League A

20:45

**Serbia** 

v

 **Switzerland**

Serbia

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Stadium: TBD

2024–25 UEFA 15 October 2024  
Nations League A

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**Spain** 

v

 **Serbia**

Spain

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UEFA Nations League A

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**Switzerland** 

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 **Serbia**

Switzerland

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Stadium: TBD

2024–25 18 November 2024  
UEFA Nations League A

20:45

**Serbia** 

v

 **Denmark**

Serbia

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Stadium: TBD

## Coaching staff

As of 3 March 2021

## Serbian coaching staff<sup>[107]</sup>

Position	Name
Manager	 Dragan Stojković
Assistant coach	 Goran Đorović
Coach	 Bratislav Živković
Goalkeeping coach	 Goran Čumić
Fitness coach	 Katsuhito Kinoshi
Coach-analyst	 Nebojša Stamenković
Team manager	 Nemanja Filipović
Athletic director	 Stevan Stojanović

## Manager history

*As of 19 November 2023*

Manager	Period	Record							Major competitions
		Matches	Won	Drawn	Lost	Win %	Draw %	Loss %	
Dragan Stojković	2021–	35	20	7	8	57.14	20.00	22.85	Euro 2024 – TBD 2022 World Cup – Group stage
Ilija Stolica (caretaker)	2021	2	0	2	0	0.00	100.00	0.00	—
Ljubiša Tumbaković	2019–2020	14	6	5	3	42.86	35.71	21.43	Euro 2020 – Failed to qualify
Mladen Krstajić	2017–2019	19	9	5	5	47.36	26.32	26.32	2018 World Cup – Group stage
Slavoljub Muslin	2016–2017	15	8	5	2	53.33	33.33	13.33	
Radovan Ćurčić	2014–2016	11	5	0	6	45.45	0.00	55.55	Euro 2016 – Failed to qualify
Dick Advocaat	2014	4	0	2	2	0.00	50.00	50.00	
Ljubinko Drulović (caretaker)	2014	4	2	1	1	50.00	25.00	25.00	—
Siniša Mihajlović	2012–2013	19	7	4	8	36.84	21.05	42.10	2014 World Cup – Failed to qualify
Radovan Ćurčić (caretaker)	2011–2012	5	2	1	2	40.00	20.00	40.00	—
Vladimir Petrović	2010–2011	13	5	3	5	38.46	23.08	38.46	Euro 2012 – Failed to qualify
Radomir Antić	2008–2010	28	17	3	8	60.71	10.71	28.57	2010 World Cup – Group stage
Miroslav Đukić	2007–2008	5	0	2	3	0.00	40.00	60.00	—
Javier Clemente	2006–2007	16	7	7	2	43.75	43.75	12.50	Euro 2008 – Failed to qualify
Ilija Petković	2003–2006	30	11	10	9	36.66	33.33	30.00	2006 World Cup – Group stage
Dejan Savićević	2001–2003	17	4	3	10	23.53	17.65	58.82	Euro 2004 – Failed to qualify
Boškov-Ćurković-Savićević	2001	8	4	2	2	50.00	25.00	25.00	2002 World Cup – Failed to qualify
Milovan Đorić	2001	3	0	2	1	0.00	66.67	33.33	
Ilija Petković	2000–2001	4	2	1	1	50.00	25.00	25.00	—
Vujadin Boškov	1999–2000	15	6	5	4	40.00	33.33	26.67	Euro 2000 – Quarter final
Milan Živadinović	1998–1999	6	3	2	1	50.00	33.33	16.67	—
Slobodan Santrač	1994–1998	43	26	10	7	60.46	23.25	16.28	1998 World Cup – Round of 16
	<b>TOTAL</b>	316	144	82	90	45.56	25.94	28.48	<b>7 out of 14</b>

*For the period before 1992 see: [Yugoslavia national football team#Head coaches](#)*

# Players

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## Current squad

The following players were called up for a friendly against Belgium on 15 November 2023 and UEFA Euro 2024 qualifier against Bulgaria on 19 November 2023.<sup>[108][109]</sup>

*Caps and goals as of 19 November 2023, after the match against Bulgaria.*<sup>[110][111]</sup>

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Predrag Rajković	31 October 1995	30	0	Mallorca
12	GK	Đorđe Petrović	8 October 1999	2	0	Chelsea
23	GK	Vanja Milinković-Savić	20 February 1997	18	0	Torino
	GK	Filip Stanković	25 February 2002	0	0	Sampdoria
<hr/>						
2	DF	Strahinja Pavlović	24 May 2001	32	3	Red Bull Salzburg
3	DF	Filip Mladenović	15 August 1991	29	1	Panathinaikos
4	DF	Nikola Milenković	12 October 1997	50	3	Fiorentina
6	DF	Nemanja Gudelj	16 November 1991	60	1	Sevilla
13	DF	Miloš Veljković	26 September 1995	29	1	Werder Bremen
15	DF	Srđan Babić	22 April 1996	7	1	Spartak Moscow
16	DF	Strahinja Eraković	22 January 2001	6	1	Zenit Saint Petersburg
<hr/>						
5	MF	Nemanja Maksimović	26 January 1995	48	0	Getafe
7	MF	Nemanja Radonjić	15 February 1996	44	5	Mallorca
8	MF	Lazar Samardžić	24 February 2002	5	0	Udinese
10	MF	Dušan Tadić ( <i>captain</i> )	20 November 1988	104	22	Fenerbahçe
11	MF	Filip Kostić	1 November 1992	60	3	Juventus
14	MF	Andrija Živković	11 July 1996	42	1	PAOK
17	MF	Ivan Ilić	17 March 2001	14	0	Torino
19	MF	Uroš Račić	17 March 1998	12	0	Sassuolo
20	MF	Marko Grujić	13 April 1996	24	0	Porto
21	MF	Filip Đuričić	30 January 1992	44	5	Panathinaikos
22	MF	Saša Lukić	13 August 1996	42	2	Fulham
<hr/>						
9	FW	Aleksandar Mitrović ( <i>vice-captain</i> )	16 September 1994	87	57	Al Hilal

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
18	FW	Dušan Vlahović	28 January 2000	25	13	 Juventus

## Recent call-ups

The following players have also been called up for the team in the last twelve months.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Boris Radunović	26 May 1996	0	0	Cagliari	v.  Montenegro, 17 October 2023
GK	Veljko Ilić	21 July 2003	0	0	TSC	v.  Bulgaria, 20 June 2023
GK	Mile Svilar	27 August 1999	1	0	Roma	v.  Jordan, 12 June 2023 <sup>PRE</sup>
GK	Dragan Rosić	15 November 1996	1	0	Vojvodina	v.  Montenegro, 27 March 2023
GK	Marko Dmitrović	24 January 1992	19	0	Sevilla	v.  Lithuania, 24 March 2023 <sup>RET</sup>
GK	Vladan Kovačević	11 April 1998	0	0	Raków Częstochowa	v.  Lithuania, 24 March 2023 <sup>PRE</sup>
DF	Mihajlo Ilić	4 July 2003	0	0	Bologna	v.  Belgium, 15 November 2023 <sup>PRE</sup>
DF	Aleksa Terzić	17 August 1999	6	0	Red Bull Salzburg	v.  Montenegro, 17 October 2023
DF	Mihailo Ristić	31 October 1995	9	0	Celta	v.  Hungary, 14 October 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
DF	Erhan Mašović	22 November 1998	3	0	VfL Bochum	v.  Hungary, 14 October 2023 <sup>PRE</sup>
DF	Nemanja Stojić	15 January 1998	1	0	TSC	v.  Montenegro, 27 March 2023
MF	Sergej Milinković-Savić	27 February 1995	47	7	Al Hilal	v.  Belgium, 15 November 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
MF	Darko Lazović	15 September 1990	29	1	Hellas Verona	v.  Belgium, 15 November 2023 <sup>PRE</sup>
MF	Stefan Mitrović	15 August 2002	2	0	Hellas Verona	v.  Belgium, 15 November 2023 <sup>PRE</sup>
MF	Vladimir Lučić	28 June 2002	1	0	Red Star Belgrade	v.  Belgium, 15 November 2023 <sup>PRE</sup>
MF	Mijat Gaćinović	8 February 1995	24	2	AEK Athens	v.  Montenegro, 17 October 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
MF	Nikola Čumić	20 November 1998	0	0	Rubin Kazan	v.  Bulgaria, 20 June 2023
MF	Veljko Simić	17 February 1995	1	1	Omonia	v.  Lithuania, 24 March 2023 <sup>PRE</sup>
FW	Petar Ratkov	18 August 2003	1	0	Red Bull Salzburg	v.  Belgium, 15 November 2023 <sup>PRE</sup>
FW	Luka Jović	23 December 1997	31	10	Milan	v.  Hungary, 14 October 2023 <sup>PRE</sup>
FW	Dejan Joveljić	7 August 1999	6	2	LA Galaxy	v.  Bulgaria, 20 June 2023
FW	Đorđe Jovanović	11 February 1999	3	0	Basel	v.  Bulgaria, 20 June

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
FW	Nikola Štulić	8 September 2001	1	0	 Charleroi	2023 v.  Lithuania, 24 March 2023 PRE

## Notes

- PRE Preliminary squad
- SUS Suspended
- INJ Withdrew from the roster due to an injury
- RET Retired from the national team
- WD Withdrew from the roster for non-injury related reasons

## Previous squads

### FIFA World Cup squads

- [1930 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1950 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1954 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1958 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1962 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1974 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1982 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1990 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [1998 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [2006 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [2010 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [2018 FIFA World Cup squad](#)
- [2022 FIFA World Cup squad](#)

### UEFA European Football Championship squads

- [UEFA Euro 1960 squad](#)
- [UEFA Euro 1968 squad](#)
- [UEFA Euro 1976 squad](#)
- [UEFA Euro 1984 squad](#)
- [UEFA Euro 2000 squad](#)

## Player records

As of 19 November 2023<sup>[112]</sup>

*Players in bold are still active with Serbia.*

## Most capped players

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Pos.	Career
1	Branislav Ivanović	<b>105</b>	13	DF	2005–2018
2	<b>Dušan Tadić</b>	<b>104</b>	22	MF	2008–present
3	Dejan Stanković	<b>103</b>	15	MF	1998–2013
4	Savo Milošević	<b>102</b>	37	FW	1994–2008
5	Aleksandar Kolarov	<b>94</b>	11	DF	2008–2020
6	<b>Aleksandar Mitrović</b>	<b>87</b>	57	FW	2013–present
7	Dragan Džajić	<b>85</b>	23	MF	1964–1979
8	Dragan Stojković	<b>84</b>	15	MF	1983–2001
	Vladimir Stojković	<b>84</b>	0	GK	2006–2018
10	Zoran Tošić	<b>76</b>	11	MF	2007–2016



Branislav Ivanović is the most capped player in the history of Serbia with 105 appearances.

## Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	<b>Aleksandar Mitrović</b>	<b>57</b>	87	0.66	2013–present
2	Stjepan Bobek	<b>38</b>	63	0.60	1946–1956
	Milan Galić	<b>37</b>	51	0.73	1959–1965
3	Blagoje Marjanović	<b>37</b>	58	0.64	1926–1938
	Savo Milošević	<b>37</b>	102	0.36	1994–2008
6	Rajko Mitić	<b>32</b>	59	0.54	1946–1957
7	Dušan Bajević	<b>29</b>	37	0.78	1970–1977
8	Todor Veselinović	<b>28</b>	37	0.76	1953–1961
9	Predrag Mijatović	<b>27</b>	73	0.37	1989–2003
10	Borivoje Kostić	<b>26</b>	33	0.79	1956–1964



Aleksandar Mitrović is the top scorer in the history of Serbia with 57 goals.

## Captains (since 1994)

Player	Period	Tournaments as the captain
Dragan Stojković	1994–2001	1998 FIFA World Cup, UEFA Euro 2000
Predrag Mijatović	2001–2003	—
Savo Milošević	2003–2006	2006 FIFA World Cup
Dejan Stanković	2006–2011	2010 FIFA World Cup
Nikola Žigić	2011	—
Branislav Ivanović	2012–2017	—

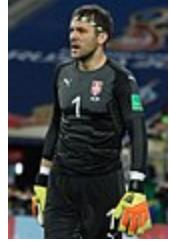
Aleksandar Kolarov	2018–2020	2018 FIFA World Cup
Dušan Tadić	2021–	2022 FIFA World Cup

## Notable players

### Goalkeepers

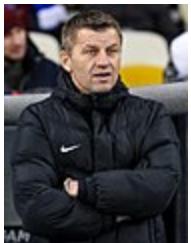


Ivica Kralj played for the team from 1996 to 2001



Vladimir Stojković is the most capped goalkeeper in the team's history with 84 caps

### Defenders



Miroslav Đukić played for the team from 1991 to 2001



Siniša Mihajlović played 63 matches for the team from 1993 to 2003 and managed the team in 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification



Zoran Mirković played for the team from 1995 to 2003



Mladen Krstajić played 59 matches for the team from 1999 to 2008 and managed the team at the 2018 World Cup



Nemanja Vidić played 56 matches, was a participant in two World Cups and named twice in the FIFA World XI



Neven Subotić played 36 matches, was a participant at the 2010 World Cup



Branislav Ivanović is the most capped player in the team's history with 105 caps



Aleksandar Kolarov played 94 matches and captained the team at the 2018 World Cup

## Midfielders



Dragán Stojković  
played from 1983 to  
2001 for the team,  
and is the current  
head coach



Dejan Savićević  
played for the team  
from 1986 to 1999  
and managed the  
team from 2001 to  
2003



Slaviša Jokanović  
played for the team  
from 1991 to 2002



Vladimir Jugović  
played for the team  
from 1991 to 2002



Dejan Stanković is  
the Serbian player  
who won the most  
trophies; he played in  
three World Cups and  
one European  
Championship



Miloš Krasić played  
for the team from  
2006 to 2011



Milan Jovanović  
played for the team  
from 2007 to 2012



Nemanja Matić  
played for the team  
from 2008 to 2019



Dušan Tadić is the  
current captain of the  
team



Filip Kostić has been  
playing for the team  
since 2015

## Forwards



Predrag Mijatović was a top goalscorer in 1998 World Cup qualifiers with 14 goals



Savo Milošević played 102 matches, scored 37 goals and was UEFA Euro 2000 Golden Boot



Darko Kovačević played 59 matches and scored 10 goals between 1994 and 2004



Mateja Kežman was the top goal scorer for the team in 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification



Nikola Žigić played 57 matches and scored 20 goals between 2004 and 2011



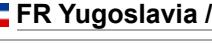
Aleksandar Mitrović is top goal scorer in the history of national team, and was 2018–19 and 2022–23 UEFA Nations League top goalscorer

## Competition records

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Serbia was part of Yugoslavia and its national football team which existed between 1920 and 1992. With the collapse of Yugoslavia, the remaining constituent republics, Serbia and Montenegro, formed the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1992. The country underwent a name change in 2003, and Montenegro left the state union in 2006. FIFA and UEFA consider the Football Association of Serbia a direct successor to the Football Association of Yugoslavia, thereby attributing all records to Serbia.<sup>[113]</sup>

## FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record									Qualification record							
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA		
as  Yugoslavia																
 1930	Fourth place	4th	3	2	0	1	7	7		Invited						
 1934		<i>Did not qualify</i>									2	0	1	1	3	4
 1938		<i>Did not qualify</i>									2	1	0	1	1	4
 1950	Group stage	5th	3	2	0	1	7	3			5	3	2	0	16	6
 1954	Quarter-finals	7th	3	1	1	1	2	3			4	4	0	0	4	0
 1958	Quarter-finals	5th	4	1	2	1	7	7			4	2	2	0	7	2
 1962	Fourth place	4th	6	3	0	3	10	7			4	3	1	0	11	4
 1966		<i>Did not qualify</i>									6	3	1	2	10	8
 1970		<i>Did not qualify</i>									6	3	1	2	19	7
 1974	Second group stage	7th	6	1	2	3	12	7			5	3	2	0	8	4
 1978		<i>Did not qualify</i>									4	1	0	3	6	8
 1982	Group stage	16th	3	1	1	1	2	2			8	6	1	1	22	7
 1986		<i>Did not qualify</i>									8	3	2	3	7	8
 1990	Quarter-finals	5th	5	3	1	1	8	6			8	6	2	0	16	6
as  FR Yugoslavia / Serbia and Montenegro																
 1994		<i>Suspended</i> <sup>[note 1]</sup>									0	0	0	0	0	0
 1998	Round of 16	10th	4	2	1	1	5	4			12	9	2	1	41	8
 ●  2002		<i>Did not qualify</i>									10	5	4	1	22	8
 2006	Group stage	32nd	3	0	0	3	2	10			10	6	4	0	16	1
as  Serbia																
 2010	Group stage	23rd	3	1	0	2	2	3			10	7	1	2	22	8
 2014		<i>Did not qualify</i>									10	4	2	4	18	11
 2018	Group stage	23rd	3	1	0	2	2	4			10	6	3	1	20	10
 2022	Group stage	29th	3	0	1	2	5	8			8	6	2	0	18	9
   2026		<i>To be determined</i>														
   2030 <sup>[a]</sup>		<i>To be determined</i>														
 2034		<i>Future event</i>														
Total	Fourth place	13/22	49	18	9	22	71	71			136	81	33	22	287	123

## Serbia's World Cup record

[show]

<b>First match</b>	Yugoslavia 2–1 Brazil  (14 July 1930; Montevideo, Uruguay)
<b>Biggest Win</b>	Yugoslavia 9–0 Zaire  (7 June 1974; Gelsenkirchen, West Germany)
<b>Biggest Defeat</b>	Argentina 6–0 Serbia and Montenegro  (16 June 2006; Gelsenkirchen, Germany)
<b>Best Result</b>	Fourth place in 1930 and 1962
<b>Worst Result</b>	Group stage in 1950, 1982, 2006, 2010, 2018, and 2022

## UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record									Qualification record					
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
as  Yugoslavia														
 1960	Runners-up	2nd	2	1	0	1	6	6	4	2	1	1	9	4
 1964		Did not qualify							4	2	1	1	6	5
 1968	Runners-up	2nd	3	1	1	1	2	3	6	4	1	1	14	5
 1972		Did not qualify							8	3	4	1	7	5
 1976	Fourth place	4th	2	0	0	2	4	7	8	6	1	1	15	5
 1980		Did not qualify							6	4	0	2	14	6
 1984	Group stage	8th	3	0	0	3	2	10	6	3	2	1	12	11
 1988		Did not qualify							6	4	0	2	13	9
 1992		Qualified, but suspended							8	7	0	1	24	4
as  FR Yugoslavia / Serbia and Montenegro														
 1996		Suspended							Suspended					
 2000	Quarter-finals	8th	4	1	1	2	8	13	8	5	2	1	18	8
 2004		Did not qualify							8	3	3	2	11	11
as  Serbia														
 2008		Did not qualify							14	6	6	2	22	11
 2012									10	4	3	3	13	12
 2016									8	2	1	5	8	13
 2020									10	5	3	2	20	19
 2024		Qualified							8	4	2	2	15	9
 2028		To be determined							To be determined					
 2032									122	64	30	28	221	137
<b>Total</b>	Runners-up	7/17	14	3	2	9	22	39						

Serbia's European Championship record		[show]
<b>First match</b>	France 4–5 Yugoslavia	(Paris, France; 6 July 1960)
<b>Biggest win</b>	France 4–5 Yugoslavia Yugoslavia 1–0 England Norway 0–1 Yugoslavia	(Paris, France; 6 July 1960) (Florence, Italy; 5 June 1968) (Liège, Belgium; 18 June 2000)
<b>Biggest defeat</b>	Denmark 5–0 Yugoslavia Netherlands 6–1 Yugoslavia	(Lyon, France; 16 June 1984) (Rotterdam, Netherlands; 25 June 2000)
<b>Best Result</b>	Runners-up in 1960 and 1968	
<b>Worst Result</b>	Group stage in 1984	

## UEFA Nations League record

Last update : 27 September 2022

UEFA Nations League record											
Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK	
2018–19	C	4	6	4	2	0	11	4	▲	27th	
2020–21	B	3	6	1	3	2	9	7	=	27th	
2022–23	B	4	6	4	1	1	13	5	▲	19th	
2024–25	A	Future event						1st–16th			
<b>Total</b>			18	9	6	3	33	16	1st–16th		

Serbia's Nations League record		[show]
<b>First Match</b>	Lithuania 0–1 Serbia	(Vilnius, Lithuania; 7 September 2018)
<b>Biggest Win</b>	Serbia 5–0 Russia	(Belgrade, Serbia; 18 November 2020)
<b>Biggest Defeat</b>	Russia 3–1 Serbia	(Moscow, Russia; 3 September 2020)
<b>Best Result</b>	19th in 2022–23	
<b>Worst Result</b>	27th in 2018–19 and 2020–21	

## Other

### ▪ Summer Olympics

- **Gold Medal:** 1960
- **Silver Medal:** 1948, 1952, 1956
- **Bronze Medal:** 1984
- **Mediterranean Games**

- **Winners:** 1971, 1979
- Balkan Cup
  - **Winners:** 1934–35, 1935
  - Runners-up: 1929–31, 1932, 1933, 1946, 1947, 1977–80
- 1945 Yugoslav Football Tournament
  - **Winners:** 1945
- Lunar New Year Cup
  - **Winners:** 1995
- Korea Cup
  - Runners-up: 1997
- Kirin Cup
  - Runners-up: 2004

## **Head-to-head records (2006 onward)**

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*As of 19 November 2023*

Opponent [show]	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Competitive matches <sup>[b]</sup>
Albania	2	1	0	1 <sup>[c]</sup>	2	3	-1	2016 EQ
Algeria	1	1	0	0	3	0	+3	
Armenia	5	3	2	0	8	1	+7	2008 EQ 2016 EQ
Australia	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	<b>2010 W</b>
Austria	4	3	0	1	9	6	+3	2010 WQ 2018 WQ
Azerbaijan	5	5	0	0	16	4	+12	2008 EQ 2022 WQ
Bahrain	1	1	0	0	5	1	+4	
Belgium	5	1	0	4	4	9	-5	2008 EQ 2014 WQ
Bolivia	1	1	0	0	5	1	+4	
Brazil	3	0	0	3	0	5	-5	<b>2018 W</b> <b>2022 W</b>
Bulgaria	4	2	2	0	10	4	+6	2024 EQ
Cameroon	2	1	1	0	7	6	+1	<b>2022 W</b>
Chile	2	1	0	1	3	2	+1	
China	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	
Colombia	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	
Costa Rica	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	<b>2018 W</b>
Croatia	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	2014 WQ
Cyprus	4	3	1	0	7	2	+5	
Czech Republic	2	1	0	1	4	5	-1	
Denmark	3	0	0	3	1	8	-7	2016 EQ <b>2024 E</b> 2023–24 NQ
Dominican Republic	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2024 E</b>
Estonia	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	2012 EQ
Faroe Islands	4	4	0	0	10	1	+9	2010 WQ 2012 EQ
Finland	2	1	1	0	2	0	+2	2008 EQ
France	5	0	2	3	4	8	-4	2010 WQ
Georgia	2	2	0	0	4	1	+3	2018 WQ
Germany	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	<b>2010 W</b>
Ghana	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	<b>2010 W</b>
Greece	2	1	0	1	2	1	+1	
Honduras	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	
<b>Total (66)</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>+90</b>	

Opponent	Pl	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Competitive matches <sup>[b]</sup>
Hungary	5	1	1	3	4	6	-2	2020–21 NQ 2024 EQ
Israel	2	2	0	0	5	1	+4	
Italy	2	0	1	1 <sup>[d]</sup>	1	4	-3	2012 EQ
Jamaica	2	1	1	0	3	2	+1	
Japan	3	2	0	1	5	1	+4	
Jordan	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	
Kazakhstan	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	2008 EQ
Lithuania	8	7	0	1	20	6	+14	2010 WQ 2018–19 NQ 2020 EQ 2024 EQ
Luxembourg	4	4	0	0	11	4	+7	2020 EQ 2022 WQ
Morocco	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	
Moldova	2	2	0	0	6	0	+6	2018 WQ
Mexico	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	
Montenegro	4	4	0	0	9	2	+7	2018–19 NQ 2024 EQ
Nigeria	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	
North Macedonia	3	1	1	1	6	3	+3	2014 WQ
Northern Ireland	3	3	0	0	4	1	+3	2012 EQ
Norway	4	2	1	1	5	3	+2	2020 EQ 2022–23 NQ
New Zealand	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	
Panama	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	
Paraguay	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	
Poland	5	0	3	2	3	5	-2	2008 EQ
Portugal	8	1	4	3	11	14	-3	2008 EQ 2016 EQ 2020 EQ 2022 WQ
Qatar	3	2	0	1	8	3	+5	
Republic of Ireland	7	3	4	0	10	7	+3	2018 WQ 2022 WQ
Romania	4	2	2	0	10	4	+6	2010 WQ 2018–19 NQ
Russia	6	1	2	3	9	8	+1	2020–21 NQ
Scotland	3	1	2	0	3	1	+2	2014 WQ 2020 EQ
Slovenia	4	1	2	1	7	5	+2	2012 EQ 2022–23 NQ 2024 E
<b>Total (66)</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>+90</b>	

Opponent	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Competitive matches <sup>[b]</sup>
South Africa	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	
South Korea	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	
Spain	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	2023–24 NQ
Sweden	4	3	0	1	8	3	+5	2022–23 NQ
Switzerland	2	0	0	2	3	5	-2	2018 W 2022 W 2023–24 NQ
Turkey	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2020–21 NQ
Ukraine	5	0	1	4	2	12	-10	2020 EQ
United States	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	
Wales	4	2	2	0	11	3	+8	2014 WQ 2018 WQ
<b>Total (66)</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>+90</b>	

a. Additional matches are scheduled to be played in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the [first world cup](#), however they are not considered to be official hosts of the tournament.<sup>[115]</sup>

b. Legend:

- "W" – [FIFA World Cup](#) match
- "E" – [UEFA European Championship](#) match
- "N" – [UEFA Nations League](#) Finals match
- "Q" – qualifying match or [UEFA Nations League](#) group stage match

In each final tournament of the World Cup, the European Championship and the Nations League (shown in **bold**), Serbia has played one match against the respective opponent, while in each qualifying tournament and each Nations League group stage, it has played two matches against the respective opponent. [Friendly matches](#) and minor tournaments are counted in the table but are not shown in this column.

c. The [Serbia v Albania](#) match was abandoned with the score at 0–0 shortly before halftime after "various incidents", which resulted in the Albania players refusing to return to the field. UEFA ruled that Albania had forfeited the match and awarded a 3–0 win to Serbia, but also deducted three points from Serbia for their involvement in the events. Serbia must also play their next two home qualifying games behind closed doors, and both the Serbian and Albanian FAs were fined €100,000.<sup>[116]</sup> Both the Serbian and Albanian football associations were looking to have the decision revisited,<sup>[117][118]</sup> but the decision was upheld by UEFA.<sup>[119]</sup> Both associations then filed further appeals to the [Court of Arbitration for Sport](#),<sup>[120]</sup> and on 10 July 2015 the Court of Arbitration for Sport rejected the appeal filed by the Serbian FA, and upheld in part the appeal filed by the Albanian FA, meaning the match is deemed to have been forfeited by Serbia with 0–3 and they are still deducted three points.<sup>[121]</sup> Serbian FA announced appeal at the [Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland](#).<sup>[122]</sup>

d. The [Italy v Serbia](#) match was abandoned after six minutes due to rioting by Serbian fans.<sup>[123]</sup> The UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body awarded the match as a 3–0 forfeit win to Italy.<sup>[124]</sup>

## See also

- [Serbia national football team results](#)
- [Serbia and Montenegro national football team results](#)
- [Serbia national under-21 football team](#)

- [Serbia national under-20 football team](#)
- [Serbia national under-19 football team](#)
- [Serbia national under-17 football team](#)
- [List of Serbia international footballers \(including predecessor teams\)](#)
- [Yugoslavia national football team](#)
- [Serbia and Montenegro national football team](#)

## Notes

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1. Draw for [1994 FIFA World Cup qualifiers](#) was made on 8 December 1991, however due to [break-up of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](#) and consequent [military conflict](#), which broke in early 1991, [FSJ](#) ceased to exist as football organization of the SFR Yugoslavia. Organization that remained based in Belgrade, Serbia, was excluded from taking part as FSJ or its successor due to [UN sanctions](#).<sup>[114]</sup>

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## External links

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### Official

- Football Association of Serbia – official site (<http://www.fss.rs>) (in Serbian)
- Serbia (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/SRB>) at FIFA
- Serbia (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/SRB/>) at UEFA
- Serbia/ National Football Team (<http://www.reprezentacija.rs>) (in Serbian)

### Unofficial

- Beli Orlovi (<http://www.beli-orlovi.com>) (in Serbian)
- Serbian football at xtratime.org (<http://www.xtratime.org/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=44>)
- BeliOrlovi.rs – fan site (<http://beliorlovi.rs>) (in Serbian)
- RSSSF – Serbia men's national football team international matches (<https://www.rsssf.org/tabless/serb-intress.html>)

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# Slovenia national football team



The **Slovenia national football team** (Slovene: *Slovenska nogometna reprezentanca*) represents Slovenia in men's international football and is controlled by the Football Association of Slovenia, the governing body for football in Slovenia. The national squad is under the global jurisdiction of FIFA and is governed in Europe by UEFA. It competes in the three major professional tournaments available to European nations: the FIFA World Cup, UEFA Nations League and the UEFA European Championship. Slovenia played its first official match in 1992, one year after the country gained independence from Yugoslavia. The majority of Slovenia's home matches are played at Stožice Stadium in Ljubljana.

Slovenia have qualified for a major tournament four times, twice for the FIFA World Cup and twice for the UEFA European Championship, but have never progressed beyond the group stage of a finals tournament. At the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Slovenia achieved their first (and so far only) victory in a major tournament, defeating Algeria 1–0. The team have achieved some noteworthy results, such as beating the 2006 FIFA World Cup winners Italy 1–0 in 2004, which was Italy's only defeat in the entire 2006 World Cup campaign. Their biggest defeat came in 2002 with a 5–0 loss to France, while their highest-scoring victory was a 7–0 win over Oman in 1999.

Boštjan Cesar holds the record for most appearances for Slovenia, having played 101 times between 2003 and 2018. Zlatko Zahovič scored 35 goals for Slovenia and is the record holder for most goals scored.

## History

### Origins and pre-independence years (1921–1991)

Before Slovenia's independence in 1991, the national football team of Slovenia existed only as a regional team, not officially recognised by FIFA. On 23 June 1921, the Slovenian capital Ljubljana hosted a match between France and a selection of players from Slovenian clubs. One of the guests at the match was the acting FIFA president Jules Rimet,<sup>[2]</sup> who later initiated the first FIFA World Cup tournament. The French team won the match 5–0 and, although the match was not official by international standards, it was, at least in Slovenia, generally accepted as the first appearance of the Slovenian national team.<sup>[2][3]</sup> In the following decades, Slovenia played four more

Slovenia	
	
<b>Association</b>	Football Association of Slovenia
<b>Confederation</b>	UEFA (Europe)
<b>Head coach</b>	Matjaž Kek
<b>Captain</b>	Jan Oblak
<b>Most caps</b>	Boštjan Cesar (101)
<b>Top scorer</b>	Zlatko Zahovič (35)
<b>Home stadium</b>	Stožice Stadium
<b>FIFA code</b>	SVN
 <b>First colours</b>	 <b>Second colours</b>
<b>FIFA ranking</b>	
<b>Current</b>	55 <span style="color:red">▼ 1</span> (15 February 2024) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Highest</b>	15 (October–November 2010)
<b>Lowest</b>	134 (December 1993)
<b>First international</b>	

unofficial friendly matches: in 1956 against China, in 1968 against Austria, in 1990 against Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in 1991 against Croatia.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Independence, first victory and first qualifiers (1992–1998)

In 1992, one year after Slovenia's independence from Yugoslavia, the national team was admitted to UEFA and FIFA.<sup>[4]</sup> On 3 June of the same year, Slovenia played its first FIFA-recognised game, a friendly match against Estonia in Tallinn.<sup>[5]</sup> The match ended in a 1–1 draw, and the first official goal for the team was scored by Igor Benedejčič. The first team manager was Bojan Prašnikar.<sup>[6]</sup> On 7 April 1993, the two teams played another friendly, and this time Slovenia achieved its first international victory by winning the match 2–0.<sup>[7]</sup>

In 1994, managed by Zdenko Verdenik, Slovenia debuted in official competitions as the team competed in the UEFA Euro 1996 qualifiers. Slovenia played in Group 4 and finished in fifth place out of six teams, with eleven points.<sup>[8]</sup> In the opening match of the qualifiers, Slovenia drew 1–1 at home against the 1994 FIFA World Cup finalists Italy.<sup>[9]</sup> In the qualifiers for the 1998 FIFA World Cup, in a group with Denmark, Croatia, Greece and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia finished in last place, registering just one point in eight matches.<sup>[10]</sup>

Unofficial	
 Slovenia	0–5 France 
(Ljubljana, Kingdom of SCS; 23 June 1921)	
Official	
 Estonia	1–1 Slovenia 
(Tallinn, Estonia; 3 June 1992)	
<b>Bigest win</b>	
 Oman	0–7 Slovenia 
(Muscat, Oman; 8 February 1999)	
<b>Bigest defeat</b>	
 France	5–0 Slovenia 
(Saint-Denis, France; 12 October 2002)	
<b>World Cup</b>	
<b>Appearances</b>	2 ( <i>first in 2002</i> )
<b>Best result</b>	Group stage (2002, 2010)
<b>European Championship</b>	
<b>Appearances</b>	1 ( <i>first in 2000</i> )
<b>Best result</b>	Group stage (2000)
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.nzs.si/reprezentanca/?id_menu=8">nzs.si (https://www.nzs.si/reprezentanca/?id_menu=8)</a>

## Golden generation (1998–2002)

### UEFA Euro 2000 campaign

In July 1998, Srečko Katanec was appointed as the new manager of the team.<sup>[11]</sup> Under his guidance, Slovenia finished the UEFA Euro 2000 qualifiers in second place, only behind Norway.<sup>[12]</sup> Zlatko Zahovič scored eight of Slovenia's twelve goals in the qualifiers.<sup>[13]</sup> In the additional playoffs, Slovenia faced Ukraine. The first leg was played in Ljubljana, which Slovenia won 2–1 after going a goal behind. Zahovič scored Slovenia's first goal, and Milenko Ačimovič scored a goal from the halfway line late in the match for the final score of 2–1.<sup>[14]</sup> The second match was played in snowy conditions in Kyiv. Serhii Rebrov scored from the penalty spot in the 68th minute to give Ukraine a lead, while Slovenia equalised eight minutes later with a goal by Miran Pavlin.<sup>[15]</sup> The 1–1 draw meant that Slovenia won 3–2 on aggregate and qualified for its first major tournament.<sup>[15]</sup>

At UEFA Euro 2000, Slovenia were drawn into Group C, together with Spain, FR Yugoslavia and Norway. In the first game, Slovenia played against Yugoslavia and took a 3–0 lead after one hour of play, with Zahovič scoring twice and Pavlin once. However, Yugoslavia made a comeback as they scored three goals in just six minutes for a final score of 3–3, playing with only ten players after Siniša Mihajlović was sent off when the score was still 3–0 for Slovenia.<sup>[16]</sup> The second game against Spain was played in Amsterdam. Spain took a 1–0 lead with a goal by Raúl, but Slovenia equalised after one hour of play as Zahovič scored his third goal of the tournament. Just a minute later, Spain was leading again as Joseba Etxeberria scored the winning goal.<sup>[17]</sup> In the last round of the group stage, Slovenia played against Norway and still had a chance to progress to the quarterfinals. The match finished in a goalless draw and Slovenia won its second point of the tournament, but was eliminated.<sup>[18]</sup>

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
1	Spain	3	2	0	1	6	5	+1	6	Advance to knockout stage
2	Yugoslavia	3	1	1	1	7	7	0	4	
3	Norway	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	4	
4	Slovenia	3	0	2	1	4	5	-1	2	

Source: RSSSF (<https://www.rsssf.org/tables/ooe-final.html>)



Slovenia's lineup for their first ever game at a major tournament, against FR Yugoslavia at the UEFA Euro 2000.<sup>[16]</sup>

## 2002 FIFA World Cup campaign

For the 2002 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, Slovenia were drawn into a group with Russia, FR Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Faroe Islands and Luxembourg.<sup>[19]</sup> In its first five qualifying games, Slovenia won only one match (away at Luxembourg), and even the underdogs Faroe Islands held them to a 2–2 draw, despite the Slovenes leading 2–0 with less than five minutes remaining.<sup>[20]</sup> In the next five matches, Slovenia won four times, including a last minute victory over Russia.<sup>[19]</sup> Slovenia finished in second place without a single defeat, and advanced to the playoff stage.<sup>[19]</sup> In the playoffs, Slovenia faced Romania. They came from a goal down to win the first game 2–1 with the goals from Ačimovič in the first half and Milan Osterc in the second half.<sup>[19]</sup> In the second leg in Bucharest, Slovenia took the lead with a goal scored by Mladen Rudonja.<sup>[19]</sup> The final result was 1–1, and Slovenia qualified for its second consecutive major tournament and first ever World Cup.<sup>[21][22]</sup>

At the World Cup, Slovenia played in Group B with Spain, Paraguay and South Africa. In the first game, Slovenia faced Spain for the second time in a row at a big tournament, having lost the previous game at Euro 2000. Spain took the lead in the first half with the goal from Raúl. Juan Carlos Valerón scored Spain's second goal 15 minutes before full-time for a 2–0 lead. A few minutes later, Sebastjan Cimirotić scored the first World Cup goal for Slovenia to reduce the score to 2–1, before Fernando Hierro scored in the 87th minute for the final score of 3–1.<sup>[23]</sup> The match is notable due to the conflict between manager Katanec and star player Zahovič, after which Katanec announced his retirement after the tournament, while Zahovič was expelled from the team and sent home.<sup>[24]</sup> Slovenia lost the two remaining matches against South Africa (1–0) and Paraguay (3–1) and finished last in the group with three defeats.<sup>[25][26]</sup>

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
1	Spain	3	3	0	0	9	4	+5	9	Advance to knockout stage
2	Paraguay	3	1	1	1	6	6	0	4	
3	South Africa	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4	
4	Slovenia	3	0	0	3	2	7	-5	0	

Source: RSSSF (<https://www.rsssf.org/tables/2002full.html>)

## Decline (2003–2007)

After the resignation of Katanec, Prašnikar took over the team on a four-year contract.<sup>[27]</sup> The team has undergone some major changes, with several key players retiring from the national team.<sup>[28]</sup>

In the UEFA Euro 2004 qualifying campaign, Slovenia played against France, Israel, Cyprus and Malta. The team finished in second place with four wins out of eight games, however, they lost both matches against France without scoring any goals.<sup>[29]</sup> In the playoffs, Slovenia played against its biggest rivals, Croatia. The first leg was

played in Zagreb, where Croatia took the lead as Dado Pršo scored a goal in the fifth minute, while Slovenia equalised in the 22nd minute with a goal by Ermin Šiljak, for the final score of 1–1.<sup>[29][30]</sup> In the second leg, Pršo scored the only goal of the game 15 minutes into the second half.<sup>[29]</sup> Croatia qualified for the UEFA Euro 2004 with the aggregate score of 2–1, and Slovenia failed to qualify for its third consecutive major tournament. Šiljak scored a total of nine goals in the whole campaign, thus becoming the top goalscorer of the whole UEFA qualification tournament.<sup>[31]</sup>

In May 2004, Prašnikar was replaced by Branko Oblak.<sup>[32]</sup> Under Oblak's management, Slovenia played in the 2006 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. Grouped with Italy, Norway, Scotland, Belarus and Moldova, the team started with victories over Moldova and Italy and a draw against Scotland, but still finished in fourth place after securing only five points in the remaining seven matches.<sup>[33]</sup> With the victory over Italy, Slovenia became the only team to beat the eventual world champions, as Italy did not lose another game during the entire campaign (qualifiers and the main tournament).<sup>[34]</sup>

Oblak was still in charge of Slovenia when the UEFA Euro 2008 qualifiers started. Grouped with the Netherlands, Romania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Albania and Luxembourg, the team started out with defeats to Bulgaria and Belarus, thus significantly reducing their chances to qualify, and as a result, in November 2006, Oblak was dismissed by the Football Association of Slovenia.<sup>[35]</sup> During his two-year stint as the manager, Oblak tried out over forty different players.<sup>[36]</sup>

In January 2007, Matjaž Kek was appointed as the new manager of the national team.<sup>[37]</sup> He led Slovenia in the remainder of the Euro 2008 qualifiers, where Slovenia finished in sixth place, only above Luxembourg.<sup>[38]</sup>

## First World Cup victory (2008–2011)



Slovenian players celebrating Nejc Pečnik's goal against Russia in the 2010 World Cup playoffs.

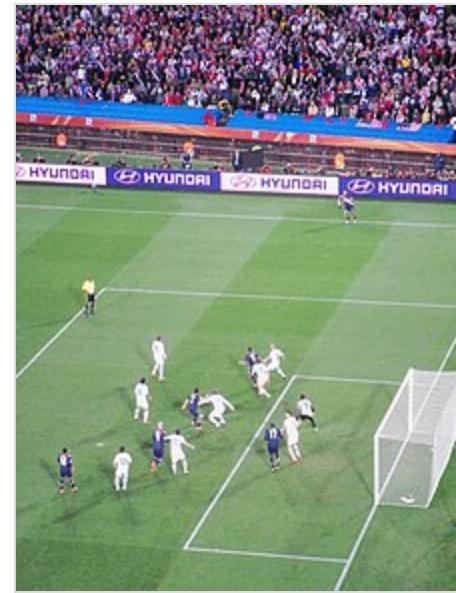
For the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, Slovenia were drawn into a group with the Czech Republic, Poland, Northern Ireland, Slovakia and San Marino.<sup>[39]</sup> In its opening match, Slovenia held Poland to a 1–1 draw in Wrocław, before winning two consecutive home games against Slovakia and Northern Ireland, respectively.<sup>[40]</sup> Slovenia then won only one point in the two games against the Czech Republic and lost away to Northern Ireland, and thus fell to fifth place in the group.<sup>[41]</sup> However, the team greatly improved its form and won the last four games without conceding a single goal.<sup>[40]</sup> As runners-up, Slovenia qualified for the playoffs, where they were drawn against Russia.<sup>[42]</sup> The first leg was played in Moscow. The match ended in a 2–1 win for the home side, with Nejc Pečnik scoring a crucial away

goal for Slovenia late in the game.<sup>[43]</sup> In the second leg, held in Maribor, Slovenia defeated Russia 1–0 with a goal by Zlatko Dedić, advancing to the main tournament with an aggregate score of 2–2 due to the away goals rule.<sup>[44]</sup> The top scorer of the national team during the qualifying campaign was Milivoje Novaković with five goals.<sup>[45]</sup>

At the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Slovenia played in Group C alongside England, Algeria and the United States. In the opening game against Algeria, Slovenia achieved its first ever victory at the World Cup after Robert Koren scored the only goal in the match for a 1–0 victory.<sup>[46]</sup> In their second game against the United States, Slovenia were leading 2–0 at half-time with goals from Valter Birsa and Zlatan Ljubijankić, however, Landon Donovan and Michael Bradley scored in the second half for the United States for the final score of 2–2.<sup>[47]</sup> In their last match of the group stage, Slovenia lost to England 1–0 with a goal by Jermain Defoe. As the United States defeated Algeria with a late goal, Slovenia dropped to third place and was eliminated from the tournament.<sup>[48]</sup>

After the 2010 World Cup, Slovenia achieved their highest ever position in the FIFA World Rankings, as the team was ranked 15th in October 2010.<sup>[49]</sup> However, Slovenia started the UEFA Euro 2012 qualifiers with an unexpected home defeat against Northern Ireland.<sup>[50]</sup> Two defeats against Italy and another unexpected home

defeat, this time against Estonia, meant that Slovenia finished only in fourth place in the group, behind Italy, Estonia and Serbia.<sup>[51]</sup>



Slovenia vs. United States at the 2010 World Cup

## Katanec's second spell and management changes (2011–2018)

In October 2011, the Football Association of Slovenia appointed Slaviša Stojanović as the new manager.<sup>[52]</sup> He led the team in only nine matches, including the first four matches of the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, where Slovenia recorded one victory and three defeats.<sup>[53]</sup> He was sacked by the end of 2012 and was replaced by Katanec, who had previously led the team between 1998 and 2002.<sup>[54][55]</sup> Under his leadership, Slovenia lost at home to Iceland, before winning four consecutive games to finish third in the group, two points behind Iceland.<sup>[53]</sup> In the qualifiers for UEFA Euro 2016, Slovenia came close to directly qualifying for the tournament for the first time, however, the team lost a decisive game away to Switzerland.<sup>[56]</sup> Slovenia led 2–0 with less than 15 minutes remaining, but the Swiss team then scored three times to win 3–2.<sup>[57]</sup> As the third-placed team, Slovenia advanced to the playoffs, where they were eliminated by the Ukraine 3–1 on aggregate.<sup>[56]</sup> The qualifiers for the 2018 FIFA World Cup were similar to the previous ones, as Slovenia narrowly lost two decisive away matches against Slovakia and England.<sup>[58]</sup> After the defeat at Wembley, where Harry Kane scored the only goal of the match in the 94th minute, Katanec announced his resignation as the manager.<sup>[59]</sup> In December 2017, Tomaž Kavčič became the new manager.<sup>[60]</sup>

In 2018, Slovenia competed in the inaugural edition of the UEFA Nations League. In accordance with the FIFA World Rankings, the team competed in the third-tier League C along with Bulgaria, Cyprus and Norway.<sup>[61]</sup> After the poor run of results, in which Slovenia obtained only one point in the first four matches, Kavčič was sacked. He became the manager with the shortest tenure in Slovenian history, leading the team in only seven games.<sup>[62]</sup> As Slovenia finished last in the group, they were supposed to be relegated to the bottom tier League D, but UEFA changed the system for the next edition and the team remained in League C.<sup>[63]</sup>

## Kek's second spell, Nations League promotion, and Euro 2024 (2019 to present)

Kek was appointed as the manager for the second time in November 2018.<sup>[64]</sup> Slovenia failed to make a breakthrough during the UEFA Euro 2020 qualifiers, losing both games against Austria and obtaining only one point against North Macedonia.<sup>[65]</sup> Despite the unexpected 2–0 home victory against Poland, Slovenia finished fourth in the group.<sup>[65]</sup> In the 2020–21 UEFA Nations League C, however, Slovenia remained undefeated in all six games against Greece, Moldova and Kosovo. Under the leadership of team captain Jan Oblak, Slovenia held Greece to a 0–0 draw in both matches and also obtained all twelve available points against Moldova and Kosovo, thus securing first place in the group and promotion to League B for the 2022–23 edition.<sup>[66]</sup> In the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, Slovenia once again failed to qualify for the main event. They started the campaign with a 1–0 home victory versus Croatia with a goal by Sandi Lovrić, which was notably Slovenia's first victory over their neighbour rivals after failing to beat them in the previous eight official matches.<sup>[67]</sup> After two narrow defeats against Russia and a surprising defeat to Cyprus, Slovenia finished fourth in the group with four wins in ten matches, behind Croatia, Russia and Slovakia.<sup>[68]</sup>

In 2022, Slovenia made their maiden appearance in League B of the Nations League, and avoided relegation after finishing third in a group with Serbia, Norway and Sweden.<sup>[69]</sup> Benjamin Šeško scored three of Slovenia's six goals in the competition,<sup>[70]</sup> including a goal in the decisive 1–1 away draw to Sweden that secured a crucial point on the last matchday.<sup>[71]</sup>

In the [UEFA Euro 2024 qualifiers](#), Slovenia finally ended its major tournament drought and qualified for the Euro finals for the first time in 24 years.<sup>[72]</sup> Šeško was once again one of the key players, scoring five goals in nine appearances,<sup>[73]</sup> including a goal in the decisive home game against [Kazakhstan](#) on the final matchday, which Slovenia won 2–1 in front of 16,432 spectators, a record home attendance for the Slovenia national team.<sup>[74][75]</sup> The team finished the qualifiers in second place, behind only Denmark, with a record tally of 22 points from 10 games. In addition, it was also the first time that Slovenia directly qualified for a major tournament without having to play an additional play-off.<sup>[76][77]</sup>

## Team image

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### Nickname and mascot

The Slovenian national team does not have an official nickname and was the only team at the [2010 FIFA World Cup](#) without one.<sup>[78][79]</sup> During the [2010 World Cup qualifiers](#), Slovenian journalists and the [Football Association of Slovenia](#) tried to choose a nickname for the team, but the process failed to gain the support of fans.<sup>[80]</sup> In 2010, the Slovenian web portal [Siol](#) organized a fan vote and the nickname "Kekci", a reference to the Slovenian fictional child character [Kekec](#) and the then national team manager [Matjaž Kek](#), finished in first place.<sup>[81]</sup> However, the nickname was never officially adopted by the [Football Association of Slovenia](#).<sup>[78]</sup> "Kekci" is still occasionally used by the Slovenian media when referring to the national team.<sup>[82][83]</sup>

During the [2010 World Cup](#), some foreign media articles used the nickname "Zmajčeki" (English: Little Dragons) when referring to the Slovenian national team,<sup>[84][85]</sup> however, this was the old nickname of Slovenian club [NK Olimpija Ljubljana](#) when they competed in the [Yugoslav football system](#).<sup>[78]</sup> Because Olimpija had a long tradition in the former [Yugoslav First League](#), football fans and the media in the countries of the former Yugoslavia still use this nickname today when referring to the Slovenian team.<sup>[86][87]</sup> The 1998–2002 generation, managed by [Srečko Katanec](#), is still referred to as the 'golden generation'.<sup>[88][89]</sup>

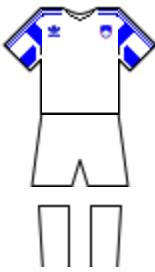
In 2002, Slovenia received an official mascot for its appearance at the [2002 FIFA World Cup](#). The mascot, called Trigi, is based on a round shape representing the Earth or a ball, with a stylized depiction of [Triglav](#), the highest Slovenian mountain, on its head in a green, white and blue colour combination.<sup>[90][91]</sup>

### Kits and colours

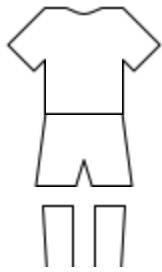
Until 1993,<sup>[92]</sup> Slovenia played its matches in white, blue and red, which are the traditional colours of the country.<sup>[93][94]</sup> In 1993, the board of the [Football Association of Slovenia](#) decided to change the main colours to green and white, inspired by [NK Olimpija](#) from the capital city of [Ljubljana](#).<sup>[95][96]</sup>

In December 2009, the board voted to change the kit's colours to white for home matches and blue for away matches.<sup>[97]</sup> The new colours came into effect in April 2012, when a new all-white home kit with a blue and green trim was unveiled.<sup>[98]</sup> The new away kit, introduced a couple of months earlier, was all-blue with a white and green trim.<sup>[96]</sup> In 2016, the all-green version returned as an away kit, while the light blue kit became the new home kit.<sup>[99]</sup> In 2022, the new Slovenian kits were selected through an online fan vote for the first time.<sup>[100]</sup> The home colours were again changed to all-white and the away colours to all-blue.<sup>[100]</sup>

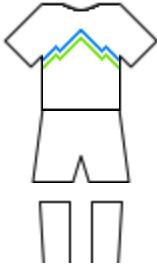
For their World Cup appearances in 2002 and 2010, the Slovenian kit featured a stylized depiction of [Triglav](#).<sup>[95]</sup> Since 2010, the depiction has been used on each new kit set.<sup>[100][101]</sup>



Slovenia's first kit was white, blue and red, inspired by the Slovenian flag.



In the first half of the 1990s, green colour first appeared on the kits.



All-white home kit in 2012, with a prominent depiction of Triglav.

## Kit suppliers

Nike has been the team's kit provider since 2007.<sup>[102]</sup> Previously, the kit providers were Puma, Adidas, Uhlsport, and Kappa.

Kit provider	Period
<u>Puma</u> <sup>[103]</sup>	1993–1996
<u>Adidas</u> <sup>[104]</sup>	1997–2001
<u>Uhlsport</u> <sup>[105]</sup>	2002–2003
<u>Kappa</u> <sup>[106]</sup>	2003–2006
<u>Nike</u> <sup>[102]</sup>	2007–present

## Home stadium

Slovenia's home matches have been held at ten venues in eight cities.<sup>[107]</sup> Since 2010, most matches have been played in Ljubljana at the Stožice Stadium, with a seating capacity of 16,038.<sup>[108][109]</sup> The final training sessions and physical preparation of the team before domestic matches are held at the National Football Centre Brdo in Predoslje.<sup>[110][111]</sup>

The first home stadium of Slovenia was the Bežigrad Stadium, located in the Bežigrad District in Ljubljana. It was the main stadium of the national team until 2004, when UEFA banned it due to insufficient infrastructure.<sup>[112]</sup> In the same year, the newly built Arena Petrol in Celje became the new main venue of the team for the next three years.<sup>[113][114]</sup> For the 2010 World Cup qualifiers, Slovenia moved to the recently renovated Ljudski vrt stadium in Maribor, where the team remained undefeated in their six home matches during the qualifying campaign (five wins and a draw), consequently qualifying for the main tournament.<sup>[115]</sup> Stožice were built in 2010, and since then the venue has hosted most of the national team's home competitive matches.<sup>[116]</sup> The venue also holds the record for the highest home attendance of the Slovenia national team, as 16,432 spectators gathered for the final match of the UEFA Euro 2024 qualifiers against Kazakhstan on 20 November 2023, which saw Slovenia qualify for the 2024 Euros.<sup>[74][117]</sup>



Stožice Stadium, the main stadium of the Slovenia national team

Other venues where Slovenia played at least one home match are the Bonifika Stadium in Koper, Fazanerija City Stadium in Murska Sobota, Domžale Sports Park in Domžale, Nova Gorica Sports Park in Nova Gorica, Stanko Mlakar Stadium in Kranj, and ŽŠD Ljubljana Stadium in Ljubljana.<sup>[107]</sup>

## Rivalries

Slovenia's main football rivals are its neighbours Croatia. The matchup between the two sides is known as the Neighbourhood derby (Slovene: *Sosedski derbi*, Croatian: *Susjedski derbi*).<sup>[28][118]</sup> As of March 2022, they have faced each other twelve times (eleven official matches and one unofficial match).<sup>[119][120]</sup> One of the most notable matches between Slovenia and Croatia took place in 2003, where the two teams met in the qualifying playoffs for UEFA Euro 2004. After a 1–1 draw in the first match in Zagreb, Slovenia then lost 1–0 at home and failed to qualify for its third consecutive major tournament.<sup>[28]</sup> In March 2021, Slovenia finally managed to win a game against Croatia after failing to do so in the previous nine matches, as they won 1–0 at home during the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.<sup>[121]</sup>

## Results and fixtures

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

Win  Draw  Loss  Fixture

### 2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	23 March	Kazakhstan  1–2  Slovenia	Astana, Kazakhstan	[show]
	21:00 UTC+6	Samorodov 24' Report (ht <a href="https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18458">https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18458</a> ) Brekalo 47' Vipotnik 78'	Stadium: Astana Arena Attendance: 27,122 Referee: Glenn Nyberg (Sweden)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	26 March	Slovenia  2–0  San Marino	Ljubljana, Slovenia	[show]
	18:00 UTC+2	Šeško 56' Report (ht <a href="https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18454">https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18454</a> ) Di Maio 60' (o.g.)	Stadium: Stožice Stadium Attendance: 10,282 Referee: Nathan Verboomen (Belgium)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 June	Finland  2–0  Slovenia	Helsinki, Finland	[show]
	19:00 UTC+3	Pohjanpalo 13' Report (ht <a href="https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18447">https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18447</a> ) Antman 64'	Stadium: Helsinki Olympic Stadium Attendance: 32,560 Referee: Guillermo Cuadra Fernández (Spain)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 June	Slovenia  1–1  Denmark	Ljubljana, Slovenia	[show]
	20:45 UTC+2	Šporar 25' Report (ht <a href="https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18450">https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18450</a> ) Højlund 42'	Stadium: Stožice Stadium Attendance: 14,382 Referee: François Letexier (France)	

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	7 September	Slovenia  4–2  Northern Ireland	Ljubljana, Slovenia	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45 UTC+2	Šporar 3', 56' Report (ht Price 7' Evans 17' (o.g.) tps://eu-fo Evans 53' Šeško 42' otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8452)	Stadium: Stožice Stadium Attendance: 12,587 Referee: Marco Guida (Italy)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	10 September	San Marino  0–4 Slovenia 	Serravalle, San Marino	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45 UTC+2	Report (ht Vipotnik 4' tps://eu-fo Mlakar 16' otball.inf Lovrić 61' o/_match. Karničnik 67' php?id=1 8468)	Stadium: San Marino Stadium Attendance: 844 Referee: Mykola Balakin (Ukraine)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	14 October	Slovenia  3–0 Finland 	Ljubljana, Slovenia	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	18:00 UTC+2	Šeško 16' (pen.), 28' Report (ht Janža 90+2' tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8451)	Stadium: Stožice Stadium Attendance: 15,823 Referee: Daniele Orsato (Italy)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 October	Northern Ireland  0–1 Slovenia 	Belfast, Northern Ireland	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	19:45 UTC+1	+ Report (ht Gnezda Čerin 5' tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8462)	Stadium: Windsor Park Attendance: 16,332 Referee: István Kovács (Romania)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	17 November	Denmark  2–1 Slovenia 	Copenhagen, Denmark	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45 UTC+1	Mæhle 26' Report (ht Janža 30' Delaney 54' tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8442)	Stadium: Parken Stadium Attendance: 35,608 Referee: José María Sánchez Martínez (Spain)	
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	20 November	Slovenia  2–1 Kazakhstan 	Ljubljana, Slovenia	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45 UTC+1	Šeško 41' (pen.) Report (ht Orazov 48' Verbič 86' tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8453)	Stadium: Stožice Stadium Attendance: 16,432 Referee: Szymon Marciniak (Poland)	

2024

Friendly	20 January 14:00 UTC-6	<b>United States</b>  0–1  Slovenia	Report (ht Gradišar 26' <a href="https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18672">https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18672</a> )	San Antonio, United States Stadium: Toyota Field Attendance: 9,191 Referee: Pierre-Luc Lauzière (Canada)	[show]
Friendly	21 March 19:00 UTC+1	<b>Malta</b>  v  Slovenia	Report (ht <a href="https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18672">https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18672</a> )	Ta' Qali, Malta Stadium: National Stadium	[show]

Friendly	26 March 20:45 UTC+1	<b>Slovenia</b> v <b>Portugal</b>	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8726)	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: <a href="#">Stožice Stadium</a>	[show]
Friendly	4 June --- UTC+2	<b>Slovenia</b> v <b>Armenia</b>	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8750)	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: <a href="#">Stožice Stadium</a>	[show]
Friendly	8 June --- UTC+2	<b>Slovenia</b> v <b>Bulgaria</b>	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8749)	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: <a href="#">Stožice Stadium</a>	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	16 June 18:00 UTC+2	<b>Slovenia</b> v <b>Denmark</b>	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8686)	Stuttgart, Germany Stadium: <a href="#">MHPArena</a>	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	20 June 15:00 UTC+2	<b>Slovenia</b> v <b>Serbia</b>	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8688)	Munich, Germany Stadium: <a href="#">Allianz Arena</a>	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group C	25 June 21:00 UTC+2	<b>England</b> + v <b>Slovenia</b>	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8689)	Cologne, Germany Stadium: <a href="#">RheinEnergieStadion</a>	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League	6 September 20:45 UTC+2	<b>Slovenia</b> v <b>Austria</b>	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8793)	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: <a href="#">Stožice Stadium</a>	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League	9 September 20:45 UTC+2	<b>Slovenia</b> v <b>Kazakhstan</b>	Report (ht tps://eu-fo otball.inf o/_match. php?id=1 8794)	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: <a href="#">Stožice Stadium</a>	[show]

2024–25 UEFA Nations League	10 October 20:45 UTC+2	<b>Norway</b> v <b>Slovenia</b>	Report (ht <a href="https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18795">tps://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18795</a> )	Oslo, Norway Stadium: <a href="#">Ullevaal Stadion</a>	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League	13 October 18:00 UTC+5	<b>Kazakhstan</b> v <b>Slovenia</b>	Report (ht <a href="https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18796">tps://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18796</a> )	Kazakhstan	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League	14 November 20:45 UTC+1	<b>Slovenia</b> v <b>Norway</b>	Report (ht <a href="https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18797">tps://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18797</a> )	Ljubljana, Slovenia Stadium: <a href="#">Stožice Stadium</a>	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League	17 November 18:00 UTC+1	<b>Austria</b> v <b>Slovenia</b>	Report (ht <a href="https://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18798">tps://eu-football.info/match.php?id=18798</a> )	Austria	[show]

## Management

Since 1991, eight managers have been in charge of the national team.<sup>[122]</sup> Bojan Prašnikar, Srečko Katanec and Matjaž Kek are the only three managers with more than one spell.<sup>[122]</sup>

Tomaž Kavčič is the manager with the shortest managerial tenure, having been in charge for only seven matches in 2018 before being sacked.<sup>[123]</sup> He was replaced by Igor Benedejčič, who became the first manager to be appointed as a caretaker.<sup>[124]</sup>

### List of managers

Statistics updated as of 20 January 2024, after the match against the United States.



Katanec (left) and Kek (right) managed Slovenia at the [FIFA World Cup](#) in 2002 and 2010, respectively.

Manager	Tenure	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Major tournaments	Ref.
Bojan Prašnikar	1991–1993	4	1	2	1	—	[125]
Zdenko Verdenik	1994–1997	32	10	8	14	—	[126]
Bojan Prašnikar	1998	5	1	1	3	—	[125]
Srečko Katanec	1998–2002	47	18	16	13	Euro 2000 – Group stage	[127]
						2002 World Cup – Group stage	
Bojan Prašnikar	2002–2004	16	6	3	7	—	[125]
Branko Oblak	2004–2006	23	6	7	10	—	[128]
Matjaž Kek	2007–2011	49	20	9	20	2010 World Cup – Group stage	[129]
Slaviša Stojanović	2011–2012	9	2	2	5	—	[130]
Srečko Katanec	2013–2017	42	16	7	19	—	[127]
Tomaž Kavčič	2017–2018	7	1	1	5	—	[131]
Igor Benedejčič	2018	2	0	2	0	—	[132]
Matjaž Kek	2018–	51	25	14	12	—	[129]

## Players

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### Current squad

The following 22 players were called up for the friendly match against the [United States](#) on 20 January 2024. [\[133\]](#)

*Caps and goals are correct as of 20 January 2024, after the match against the United States.*

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Igor Vekić	6 May 1998	1	0	Vejle
12	GK	Klemen Mihelak	31 December 2001	0	0	Mura
16	GK	Denis Pintol	7 February 2000	0	0	Olimpija Ljubljana
2	DF	Žan Karničnik	18 September 1994	25	1	Celje
3	DF	Srđan Kuzmić	16 January 2004	1	0	Viborg
4	DF	Marcel Ratnik	23 December 2003	1	0	Olimpija Ljubljana
5	DF	Žan Zaletel	16 September 1999	1	0	Viborg
6	DF	David Zec	5 January 2000	1	0	Celje
7	DF	Mitja Ilenič	26 December 2004	1	0	New York City FC
18	DF	Sven Šoštarič Karič	7 March 1998	1	0	Maribor
21	DF	Matija Kavčič	11 July 1997	0	0	Bravo
8	MF	Luka Vešner Tičić	25 October 2000	1	0	Koper
10	MF	Timi Max Elšnik	29 April 1998	11	0	Olimpija Ljubljana
13	MF	Adrian Zeljković	19 August 2002	1	0	Spartak Trnava
14	MF	Mark Zabukovnik	27 December 2000	1	0	Celje
15	MF	Sandro Jovanović	23 April 2002	0	0	Aluminij
20	MF	Jan Repas	19 March 1997	4	0	Maribor
22	MF	Tamar Svetlin	30 July 2001	1	0	Celje
9	FW	Andrés Vombergar	20 November 1994	3	0	Ittihad Kalba
11	FW	Nejc Gradišar	6 August 2002	1	1	Fehérvár
17	FW	Danijel Šturm	4 January 1999	1	0	Domžale
19	FW	Matej Poplatnik	15 July 1992	1	0	Bravo

## Recent call-ups

The following players have also been selected by Slovenia in the past twelve months, but are not part of the current squad.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Jan Oblak	7 January 1993	62	0	Spain Atlético Madrid	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
GK	Vid Belec	6 June 1990	19	0	Croatia APOEL	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
GK	Martin Turk	21 August 2003	0	0	Slovenia Parma	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
GK	Matevž Vidovšek	30 October 1999	1	0	Slovenia Olimpija Ljubljana	v. Finland, 14 October 2023 INJ
GK	Aljaž Ivačič	29 December 1993	0	0	USA Portland Timbers	v. Finland, 16 June 2023 WD
DF	Petar Stojanović	7 October 1995	50	2	Italy Sampdoria	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	Jaka Bijol	5 February 1999	45	1	Italy Udinese	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	Jure Balkovec	9 September 1994	31	0	Turkey Alanyaspor	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	Miha Blažič	8 May 1993	30	0	Poland Lech Poznań	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	Erik Janža	21 June 1993	7	2	Poland Górnik Zabrze	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	Vanja Drkušić	30 October 1999	4	0	Russia Sochi	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
DF	David Brekalo	3 December 1998	11	1	USA Orlando City	v. Northern Ireland, 17 October 2023
MF	Jasmin Kurtić	10 January 1989	89	2	Italy Südtirol	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Benjamin Verbič	27 November 1993	56	6	Greece Panathinaikos	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Miha Zajc	1 July 1994	39	8	Turkey Fenerbahçe	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Sandi Lovrić	28 March 1998	32	4	Italy Udinese	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Adam Gnezda Čerin	16 July 1999	27	3	Greece Panathinaikos	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Jon Gorenc Stanković	14 January 1996	20	1	Austria Sturm Graz	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Nino Žugelj	23 May 2000	0	0	Norway Bodø/Glimt	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
MF	Domen Črnigoj	18 November 1995	26	3	Italy Reggiana	v. Denmark, 19 June 2023
MF	Tomi Horvat	24 March 1999	4	0	Austria Sturm Graz	v. Denmark, 19 June 2023
FW	Andraž Šporar	27 February 1994	49	10	Greece Panathinaikos	v. Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
FW	Benjamin Šeško	31 May 2003	26	10	RB Leipzig	v.  Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
FW	Luka Zahović	15 November 1995	15	0	Pogoń Szczecin	v.  Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
FW	Jan Mlakar	23 October 1998	14	2	Pisa	v.  Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
FW	Žan Celar	14 March 1999	8	0	Lugano	v.  Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
FW	Žan Vipotnik	18 March 2002	8	2	Bordeaux	v.  Kazakhstan, 20 November 2023
FW	Aljoša Matko	29 March 2000	0	0	Celje	v.  San Marino, 10 September 2023

#### Notes

- INJ = Withdrew due to injury
- WD = Player withdrew from the squad due to non-injury issue.

## Records

### Individual records

As of 20 January 2024, 236 players have made at least one appearance for the Slovenia national team.<sup>[134][135]</sup> With 101 caps, Boštjan Cesar has the most appearances for Slovenia.<sup>[136]</sup> Cesar also started the most matches as captain (39)<sup>[137]</sup> and had the longest career as a Slovenian international footballer: 15 years, 1 month and 15 days.<sup>[138]</sup> Zlatko Zahović is the highest-scoring Slovenia player with 35 goals.<sup>[139]</sup> Sašo Udovič scored the most goals in a single match, scoring five against Iceland in 1996.<sup>[140]</sup>

As of 20 January 2024<sup>[136]</sup>

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

Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	Boštjan Cesar	101	10	2003–2018
2	Bojan Jokić	100	1	2006–2019
3	Valter Birsa	90	7	2006–2018
4	<b>Jasmin Kurtić</b>	89	2	2012–present
5	Samir Handanović	81	0	2004–2015
6	Milivoje Novaković	80	32	2006–2017
	Zlatko Zahović	80	35	1992–2004
8	Josip Iličić	79	16	2010–2021
9	Mišo Brečko	77	0	2004–2015
10	Milenko Ačimović	74	13	1998–2007
	Aleš Čeh	74	1	1992–2002

Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	Zlatko Zahovič	35	80	0.44	1992–2004
2	Milivoje Novaković	32	80	0.4	2006–2017
3	Sašo Udovič	16	42	0.38	1993–2000
	Josip Iličić	16	79	0.2	2010–2021
5	Ermin Šiljak	14	48	0.29	1994–2005
6	Milenko Ačimović	13	74	0.18	1998–2007
7	Tim Matavž	11	39	0.28	2010–2020
8	Benjamin Šeško	10	26	0.38	2021–present
	Primož Gliha	10	28	0.36	1992–1998
	Andraž Šporar	10	49	0.2	2016–present
	Boštjan Cesar	10	101	0.1	2003–2018



Boštjan Cesar is Slovenia's all-time most capped player.

## Team records

- Biggest victory: 7–0 vs. Oman, 8 February 1999<sup>[141]</sup>
- Heaviest defeat: 0–5 vs. France, 12 October 2002<sup>[141]</sup>
- Most consecutive victories: 4
  - From 5 June 1999 against Latvia to 4 September 1999 against Georgia<sup>[141][142]</sup>
  - From 18 November 2009 against Russia to 13 June 2010 against Algeria<sup>[141][142]</sup>
  - From 6 September 2020 against Moldova to 14 October 2020 against Moldova<sup>[142]</sup>
  - From 17 November 2022 against Romania to 26 March 2023 against San Marino<sup>[142]</sup>
  - From 7 September 2023 against Northern Ireland to 17 October 2023 against Northern Ireland<sup>[142]</sup>
- Most consecutive matches without defeat: 9, from 3 September 2020 against Greece to 24 March 2021 against Croatia<sup>[142]</sup>
- Most consecutive defeats: 4 (achieved on five occasions, most recently in 2014)<sup>[141][142]</sup>
- Most consecutive matches without victory: 9, from 6 September 2018 against Bulgaria to 7 June 2019 against Austria<sup>[142]</sup>
- Most consecutive matches without scoring: 4
  - From 13 October 2004 against Norway to 26 March 2005 against Germany<sup>[141][142]</sup>
  - From 5 March 2014 against Algeria to 8 September 2014 against Estonia<sup>[141][142]</sup>
- Most consecutive matches without conceding a goal: 6, from 3 September 2020 against Greece to 11 November 2020 against Azerbaijan<sup>[142]</sup>

- Most consecutive matches scoring: 11, from 12 August 2009 against San Marino to 18 June 2010 against the United States<sup>[142]</sup>

## **Competitive record**

FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record										Qualification record								
Year	Round	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA			
1930 to 1990	<i>Part of  Yugoslavia</i>										<i>Part of  Yugoslavia</i>							
 1994	<i>Did not enter</i>										<i>Did not enter</i>							
 1998	<i>Did not qualify</i>																	
 2002	Group stage	3	0	0	3	2	7	<u>Squad</u>	5th	8	0	1	7	5	20			
 2006	<i>Did not qualify</i>																	
 2010	Group stage	3	1	1	1	3	3	<u>Squad</u>	2nd (PO)	12	6	6	0	20	11			
 2014																		
 2018	<i>Did not qualify</i>																	
 2022																		
 2026																		
 2030	<i>To be determined</i>										<i>To be determined</i>							
 2034																		
Total	Group stage	6	1	1	4	5	10	—	2/22	72	29	17	26	94	80			

## **UEFA European Championship**

UEFA European Championship record								Qualification record							
Year	Round	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pos.	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA

1960 to 1992	Part of  Yugoslavia							Part of  Yugoslavia							
 1996	Did not qualify														
 2000	Group stage	3	0	2	1	4	5	Squad	5th	10	3	2	5	13	13
 2004															
 2008															
 2012	Did not qualify														
 2016															
 2020															
 2024	Qualified														
 2028															
 2032	To be determined							To be determined							
Total	Group stage	3	0	2	1	4	5	—	2/17	86	36	17	33	119	100

## UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record													
Season	Division	Group	Round	Pos	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK	
2018–19	C	3	Group stage	4th	6	0	3	3	5	8	=	38th	
2020–21	C	3	Group stage	1st	6	4	2	0	8	1	▲	33rd	
2022–23	B	4	Group stage	3rd	6	1	3	2	6	10	=	25th	
2024–25	B	To be determined											
Total					18	5	8	5	19	19	—		

## Head-to-head record

The following table shows Slovenia's all-time international record, correct as of 20 January 2024 after the match against the United States.<sup>[143][144]</sup>

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Albania	7	4	2	1	6	2	+4
Algeria	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1
Argentina	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2
Australia	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2
Austria	4	1	0	3	2	5	-3
Azerbaijan	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Belarus	5	1	2	2	5	8	-3
Belgium	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	0	0	4	4	10	-6
Bulgaria	4	0	1	3	2	8	-6
Canada	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1
China	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Colombia	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1
Croatia	11	1	4	6	10	19	-9
Cyprus	12	6	3	3	19	11	+8
Czech Republic	5	1	1	3	2	7	-5
Denmark	6	0	1	5	3	14	-11
England	6	0	1	5	4	10	-6
Estonia	9	6	1	2	13	5	+8
Faroe Islands	4	3	1	0	12	3	+9
Finland	4	1	1	2	4	5	-1
France	3	0	0	3	2	10	-8
Georgia	4	2	1	1	5	4	+1
Germany	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1
Ghana	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2
Gibraltar	1	1	0	0	6	0	+6
Greece	7	0	4	3	3	11	-8
Honduras	1	0	0	1	1	5	-4
Hungary	4	3	0	1	5	3	+2
Iceland	4	3	0	1	15	7	+8
Israel	5	2	3	0	8	5	+3
Italy	7	2	1	4	3	5	-2
Ivory Coast	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Kazakhstan	2	2	0	0	4	2	+2
Kosovo	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2
Latvia	5	4	0	1	9	2	+7
Lithuania	6	2	2	2	11	7	+4
Luxembourg	4	4	0	0	9	1	+8
Malta	8	7	1	0	15	1	+14
Mexico	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1
Moldova	4	4	0	0	10	1	+9
Montenegro	3	2	1	0	4	1	+3
Netherlands	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2
North Macedonia	7	1	2	4	7	13	-6
Northern Ireland	7	3	1	3	7	5	+2
Norway	11	2	3	6	10	17	-7
Oman	2	2	0	0	11	0	+11
Paraguay	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2
Poland	8	2	3	3	9	9	0
Qatar	3	1	1	1	4	2	+2
Romania	9	3	3	3	12	14	-2
Russia	7	2	1	4	8	11	-3
San Marino	7	7	0	0	26	0	+26
Saudi Arabia	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2
Scotland	5	0	3	2	3	7	-4
Serbia <sup>[a]</sup>	8	1	6	1	11	13	-2
Slovakia	8	3	4	1	9	6	+3
South Africa	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1
Spain	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3
Sweden	4	0	2	2	1	4	-3
Switzerland	9	2	1	6	8	17	-9
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2
Tunisia	2	1	1	0	3	2	+1
Turkey	2	1	0	1	2	1	+1
Ukraine	6	2	3	1	7	7	0

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
United Arab Emirates	2	0	2	0	3	3	0
United States	3	1	1	1	5	5	0
Uruguay	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4
Wales	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>+25</b>

a. Includes matches against FR Yugoslavia and Serbia and Montenegro.

## Honours

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### Minor tournaments

- **Rothmans International Tournament**<sup>[145][146]</sup>

- **Winners:** 1994
- **Runners-up:** 1996

- **Cyprus International Tournament**<sup>[147]</sup>

- **Runners-up:** 1998, 2006

- **Oman International Tournament**<sup>[148][149]</sup>

- **Runners-up:** 1999, 2000

- **Carlsberg Cup**<sup>[150]</sup>

- **Third place:** 2002

### Other awards

- **Best Mover of the Year:** 1999

## See also

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- Slovenia national football B team
- Slovenia national under-21 football team
- Slovenia national under-19 football team
- Slovenia national under-17 football team
- Sport in Slovenia



**Slovenia portal**

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## External links

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- Football Association of Slovenia (<https://www.nzs.si/>) official website (in Slovene)
  - FIFA team profile (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/SVN>)
  - UEFA team profile (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/SVN/>)
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# Turkey national football team

The **Turkey national football team** (Turkish: *Türkiye Millî Futbol Takımı*; officially recognized as **Türkiye** by **FIFA**<sup>[5][6]</sup>) represents Turkey in men's international football matches. The team is controlled by the **Turkish Football Federation** (Turkish: *Türkiye Futbol Federasyonu*), the governing body for football in Turkey, which was founded in 1923 and has been a member of **FIFA** since 1923 and **UEFA** since 1962.<sup>[7]</sup>

The team played their first official international game in 1923 and has represented the nation in major competitions since their debut appearance at the **1924 Summer Olympics**. They have participated in Summer Olympics a total of six times (**1924**, **1928**, **1936**, **1948**, **1952** and **1960**), and reached the quarter-finals twice, in 1948 and 1952.

The team enjoyed their highest achievements in the 2000s, most notably finishing in third place at the **2002 FIFA World Cup** and the **2003 FIFA Confederations Cup**, and reaching the semi-finals at **UEFA Euro 2008**. They qualified for **FIFA World Cup** three times (**1950**,<sup>[8]</sup> **1954** and **2002**) and reached the semi-finals in 2002, winning bronze medals. The team qualified for **UEFA European Championships** five times. Making their debut at **Euro 96**, they reached the quarter-finals in **Euro 2000** and semi-finals in **Euro 2008**. In recent years, Turkey qualified to the **Euro 2016**, **Euro 2020** and **Euro 2024** championships. Turkey also qualified as a co-host for the **Euro 2032** championship.

Since its introduction in 1992, the **FIFA World Rankings** has ranked the team between 5th and 57th place. Following their success at the **2002 World Cup**, Turkey managed to stay in the top 10 in rankings between 2002 and 2004, ranking 5th in June 2004.<sup>[10]</sup> The team climbed once again up to 10th place in December 2008, following their success at **Euro 2008**.<sup>[11]</sup> Turkey achieved their highest victory margin with 7–0 wins over **Syria** in 1949, **South Korea** in 1954 and **San Marino** in 1996,<sup>[12]</sup> while their biggest losses were 8–0 defeats to **Poland** in 1968 and **England** in 1984 and 1987.<sup>[13]</sup>

As of 2020, the most capped player to play on the national team is **Rüştü Reçber** with 120 senior international caps between 1994 and 2012, and the most scoring player is **Hakan Şükür** with 51 goals scored between 1992 and 2007.<sup>[14]</sup> The longest-serving captain is **Turgay Şeren** with the captaincy of 35 international encounters from 1950 to 1966.<sup>[15]</sup>

## History

### Early years

### Turkey



<b>Nickname(s)</b>	Ay-Yıldızlılar (The Crescent-Stars) <sup>[1]</sup> <i>Bizim Çocuklar</i> (Our Guys)
<b>Association</b>	<b>Turkish Football Federation (TFF)</b>
<b>Confederation</b>	<b>UEFA (Europe)</b>
<b>Head coach</b>	Vincenzo Montella
<b>Captain</b>	Hakan Çalhanoğlu
<b>Most caps</b>	Rüştü Reçber (120)
<b>Top scorer</b>	Hakan Şükür (51)
<b>Home stadium</b>	Various
<b>FIFA code</b>	TUR <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>First colours</b>	
<b>Second colours</b>	
<b>FIFA ranking</b>	35  2 (15 February 2024) <sup>[3]</sup>
<b>Current</b>	35  2 (15 February 2024) <sup>[3]</sup>
<b>Highest</b>	5 (June 2004)
<b>Lowest</b>	67 (October 1993)
<b>First international</b>	

The Turkish National Team's first game was against Romania, played on 26 October 1923 at Taksim Stadium in Istanbul, a 2–2 draw.<sup>[16]</sup> Zeki Riza Sporel is considered as the first big star of Turkish football as he scored the first two goals against Romania. Turkey played their first ever official match at the 1924 Summer Olympics losing to Czechoslovakia, 5–2. The first two goals in an official game were scored by Bekir Refet.

## 1950 FIFA World Cup

Although Turkey qualified for the 1950 World Cup, beating Syria 7–0, they were forced to withdraw from the tournament due to financial problems.

## 1954 FIFA World Cup

Turkey then qualified for the 1954 World Cup after a play-off with Spain. The Turkish team first lost 4–1 to Spain, but a 1–0 win a few days later initiated a replay. On that occasion, they tied 2–2 after, booking their place after a coin toss. Turkey was put in a group along with Hungary and West Germany. The Turks, however, never played Hungary due to the tournament format, and a 4–1 defeat by the Germans was followed by Turkey carrying out a 7–0 win over South Korea. Turkey lost the play-off to West Germany 7–2. In 1956, however, Turkey did play Hungary in a friendly match in Istanbul, defeating what was one of the strongest teams of the era, 3–1.<sup>[17]</sup> Lefter Küçükandonyadis, arguably one of the best Turkish strikers of all time, scored two goals during the tournament.

## Near misses

Despite the introduction of a national league, and showings by Turkish clubs in European competition, the 1960s would be a barren time for the national team. Most players from the 1954 World Cup squad were retired, and the new generation of players failed to qualify for a major tournament. The 1970s saw Turkey holding back in the World Cup and UEFA European Championship qualifiers, but the team was a point too short to qualify for both UEFA Euro 1972 and Euro 1976. In the 1980s the Turkish team also suffered their worst defeats with 8–0 scorelines against Poland and twice against England. Yet the 1990 World Cup qualifiers would mark a turning point for Turkish football, with Turkey only missing out on qualification in the final match. Prominent players in this period included Rıdvan Dilmen, Oğuz Çetin, Rıza Çalimbay, Feyyaz Uçar, and European Golden Boot winner Tanju Çolak.

## 1990–1997

In 1990, coach Sepp Piontek was put in charge of the national team. Under his guidance, a group of new players debuted for the national team. Many of these players (which included Bülent Korkmaz, Alpay Özalan, Sergen Yalçın, Rüştü Reçber, and Hakan Şükür) would become the backbone of the national team for many years. Piontek's mission came to an end in 1993, when he was replaced by Fatih Terim, who in turn managed to qualify

 Turkey 2–2 Romania   
(Istanbul, Turkey; 26 October 1923)<sup>[a]</sup>

### Biggest win

-  Turkey 7–0 Syria   
(Ankara, Turkey; 20 November 1949)
-  Turkey 7–0 South Korea   
(Geneva, Switzerland; 20 June 1954)
-  Turkey 7–0 San Marino   
(Istanbul, Turkey; 10 November 1996)

### Biggest defeat

-  Poland 8–0 Turkey   
(Chorzów, Poland; 24 April 1968)
-  Turkey 0–8 England   
(Istanbul, Turkey; 14 November 1984)
-  England 8–0 Turkey   
(London, England; 14 October 1987)

### World Cup

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Appearances</b> | 2 (first in 1954)  |
| <b>Best result</b> | Third place (2002) |

### European Championship

- |                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Appearances</b> | 6 (first in 1996)              |
| <b>Best result</b> | Semi-finals/Third place (2008) |

### Olympic Games

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Appearances</b> | 6 (first in 1924)           |
| <b>Best result</b> | Quarter-finals (1948, 1952) |

### FIFA Confederations Cup

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Appearances</b> | 1 (first in 2003)  |
| <b>Best result</b> | Third place (2003) |

### Medal record [show]

#### FIFA World Cup

- |  |      |
|--|------|
|  2002 South Korea-Japan | Team |
|--|------|

#### UEFA European Championship

- |   |      |
|---|------|
|  2008 Austria & Switzerland (s.f.) | Team |
|---|------|

#### FIFA Confederations Cup

- |   |      |
|---|------|
|  2003 France | Team |
|---|------|

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Website</b> | <a href="http://tff.org">tff.org</a> ( <a href="https://www.tff.org/">https://www.tff.org/</a> ) |
|----------------|--|

for Euro 1996. Turkey qualified for its first major tournament since 1954, marking another turning point for Turkish football. The appointment of Piontek was a recommended move by another coach, Jupp Derwall, who had coached Galatasaray for three seasons. Derwall is regarded as the revolutionizer of Turkish football since his introduction of training techniques and tactical ideas to the Turkish game also heavily influenced the national team.



One of the early formations in 1922.

## Euro 1996

Turkey qualified for Euro 1996, defeating both Switzerland and Sweden 2–1 during qualification. Despite a solid performance during the qualifiers, Turkey lost all their matches without scoring a single goal. They did, however, go home with an award: the fair play award, given to Alpay Özalan.



Turkey against Romania in 1923.

## Euro 2000

Although Turkey failed to qualify for the 1998 World Cup, they qualified for Euro 2000 after winning a play-off against the Republic of Ireland. Turkey lost their first match 2–1 to Italy, they drew their second match against Sweden 0–0, and beat host nation Belgium 2–0, making it the first time in the history of the UEFA European Championship a host nation had been eliminated in the first round. This victory brought Turkey into the last eight of the tournament, where they were beaten 2–0 by Portugal, with Arif Erdem missing a critical penalty.



Turkey in 1950.

## 2002 FIFA World Cup

For the 2002 World Cup, Turkey finished second in their qualifying group, despite starting well and being the favorites to top the group. They lost 2–1 to Sweden in the crucial match that would decide the top spot. The Turks were forced to play the play-offs against Austria. They defeated the Austrians 6–0 on aggregate and booked their place in the finals. The Turkish team started the 2002 World Cup with a 2–1 defeat against eventual winners Brazil.<sup>[18]</sup> Turkey qualified from the group stage with a 3–0 win against China PR after drawing 1–1 with Costa Rica.<sup>[19][20]</sup>



Turkey against Netherlands in 1958.

Turkey then faced home team Japan in the second round, winning 1–0.<sup>[21]</sup> The Turkish team continued their run, as they beat Senegal 1–0 on a golden goal to book their place in the semi-finals, where a 1–0 defeat against eventual tournament winners Brazil forced them to play the third-place match, and a bronze medal was won after a 3–2 victory over co-hosts South Korea.<sup>[22][23][24]</sup> Hakan Şükür scored Turkey's first goal in 10.8 seconds, even when the South Koreans kicked off first. It was the fastest goal in World Cup history.<sup>[25][26]</sup> Tens of thousands of flag-waving Turkish fans greeted the World Cup squad on their return to Istanbul, where



Turkish national football team on an Azerbaijan stamp for the 2002 FIFA World Cup.

they joined a massive street party at Taksim Square.<sup>[27]</sup> Rüştü Reçber, Alpay Özalan and Hasan Şaş were all included in the All-Star Team, with Reçber also being voted as the best goalkeeper in the UEFA Team of the Year 2002, while Şenol Güneş was being voted as the best manager.



Turkish national football team on an Azerbaijan stamp for Euro 1996.

stages, Turkey defeated the United States 2–1 before losing to Cameroon 0–1. In their final group match, Turkey drew 2–2 against Brazil, eliminating them from the tournament. Turkey lost to eventual tournament winners France 3–2 in the semi-final match. Turkey then defeated Colombia 2–1 to win the bronze medal. Tuncay scored three goals and made an assist, which won him the Silver Shoe Award and the Silver Ball Award for the second-best player of the tournament.

## Euro 2004

The Turkish team did not qualify for Euro 2004 after Latvia won the qualification play-offs. This also marked a turning point for the national team as new players were introduced to the national team to create a new generation.

## 2006 FIFA World Cup

The Turkish team once again narrowly missed out on the World Cup finals after failing to win a play-off, this time on away goals against Switzerland, again after finishing second in their group. There were scenes of violence after the game on and off the pitch where the Turkish team brawled with Swiss players down the tunnel.

## Euro 2008

Turkey qualified for their first international tournament in six years by finishing second behind Greece in Euro 2008 qualifying Group C to reach the Euro 2008 final stages. They were placed alongside Switzerland, Portugal, and the Czech Republic in Group A. In their first match, they played Portugal and were beaten 2–0, but wins over Switzerland (2–1) and the Czech Republic (3–2) – both secured by late goals – brought qualification for the knockout stages.<sup>[28][29][30]</sup> Again, Turkey knocked out a host nation – Switzerland – in the group stages for the second time.<sup>[31]</sup>

The quarter-final against Croatia was goalless after 90 minutes, and Croatia led 1–0 in the final minute of extra time, but another late Turkish goal by forward Semih Şentürk brought the game to penalties. The goal raised some controversy with Croatia fans and Croatia head coach Slaven Bilić, who claimed that the goal had been scored after extra time had elapsed. This complaint, however, was overruled, and the game went into penalties. Turkey defeated Croatia in penalties, 3–1.<sup>[32]</sup>

Turkey went into the semi-final against Germany with just 14 outfield players available as a result of injuries and suspensions but scored first and were drawing 2–2. But they finished third by default after losing 3–2 with a last-minute goal by Philipp Lahm.<sup>[33]</sup> Both Russia and Turkey were given bronze medals in the dressing rooms

after the semi-finals.

## 2010 FIFA World Cup

Turkey was drawn in UEFA Group 5 together with Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia and Spain. Turkey had a mixed qualifying campaign, finishing with 15 points and missing out on a play-off place to Bosnia and Herzegovina with 19 points. Spain topped the group to qualify, winning every game in the process. Coach Fatih Terim announced he would be resigning his post following their failure to qualify.<sup>[34]</sup>



Turkey against France on 5 June 2009.

## Euro 2012

Turkey was drawn in Group A in qualification for Euro 2012, together with Kazakhstan, Austria, Belgium, Germany and Azerbaijan. The Turkish team reached the play-offs after beating Azerbaijan 1–0 but got eliminated 3–0 on aggregate by Croatia. On 14 November 2012, Turkey celebrated their 500th match in a friendly game played against Denmark at the Türk Telekom Arena, Istanbul, which ended in a 1–1 draw. Before the match, footballers and coaches, who contributed to the national team's success in the past, were honored. Turkish pop singer Hadise, who wore a national team jersey with the number 500, performed a small concert.<sup>[35][36]</sup>



The Turkish team during the UEFA Euro 2012 qualification.

## 2014 FIFA World Cup

Turkey was drawn in Group D in qualification for the 2014 World Cup, together with Andorra, Estonia, Hungary, the Netherlands and Romania, finishing fourth. Turkey began to lose critical points during qualification and Abdullah Avcı was sacked soon after. Fatih Terim was put in charge for the third time to lead the national team, but a 2–0 defeat against the Netherlands ended hopes of qualification.

## Euro 2016

Turkey was drawn in Group A in the qualification campaign for the Euro 2016, together with Iceland, Latvia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic. The Turkish team qualified for their first major tournament in eight years as the best third-placed team after beating Iceland 1–0, with Selçuk İnan netting a free kick in the 89th minute and combined with Kazakhstan beating Latvia 1–0.<sup>[37][38][39][40][41]</sup> After over 18 months unbeaten, a loss to England as a pre-tournament friendly ended the team's winning streak, subsequently leading to back-to-back losses against Croatia and Spain in the tournament. Turkey won their last game against the Czech Republic, 2–0. They were close to reaching the last 16 until a late winner for Ireland against Italy meant that the



Turkey against Austria on 29 March 2016.

latter instead qualified as one of the best third-placed teams. Despite elimination, youngster Emre Mor's skillful display and assist during the game revealed a hopeful future for Turkish football.<sup>[42]</sup>

## 2018 FIFA World Cup

Turkey was drawn in UEFA Group I for the 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign, together with Croatia, Finland, Iceland, Kosovo and Ukraine. During the qualifiers, head coach Fatih Terim stood down after an off-field incident,<sup>[43]</sup> and 72-year-old former Romania manager Mircea Lucescu took over. After eight games, Turkey stood a strong chance of qualifying for the tournament, but a 0–3 defeat against Iceland at home ended automatic qualification hopes. After a 2–2 draw against Finland, the team finished fourth in Group I.

## 2018–19 UEFA Nations League and Euro 2020

Turkey was drawn with Russia and Sweden in the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League B and Turkey had a poor performance which led the country to finish bottom. At the first game held at home against 2018 World Cup host and quarter-finalist Russia, Turkey lost 1–2 despite an equalizer by Serdar Aziz. Turkey then put up its best performance in the League, winning 3–2 against Sweden right on Swedish soil. However, Turkey could not capitalize on this opportunity and lost 0–2 to Russia in Sochi before suffering a humiliating 0–1 home loss to Sweden, thus initially sending Turkey to League C. However, UEFA rule changes meant Turkey was allowed to remain in League B.

Turkey was drawn in Group H in the qualifying stage along with the 2018 FIFA World Cup champions France, as well as Iceland, Albania, Moldova, and Andorra. Veteran coach Şenol Güneş revolutionized the team, with many young talents, combining them with experienced players like Burak Yılmaz and Emre Belözoglu. The team restructuring proved to be genius, as Turkey had one of the best campaigns in recent history.

Turkey managed to achieve a 2–0 victory against the group favorites France in Konya and later a 1–1 draw at Stade de France. Turkey struggled against the group underdogs Andorra in their first match against them, winning by an 89th-minute goal at the Vodafone Arena in Istanbul. Turkey's only defeat in the group came against Iceland in Reykjavík, losing 2–1. The defeat came after the ill-treatment of the Turkish group at the Iceland customs, keeping them at the airport for 3 hours. This was followed by an Icelandic supporter holding a toilet brush to team captain Emre Belozoglu as a pretend microphone during an interview. The events were heavily criticized by the Turkish and European media. In an interview, Turkish Coach Şenol Güneş, said that had come here 40 years ago, nothing had changed about the stadium and the country, except that some Icelandic people had lost the hospitality they had 40 years ago. Turkey entered matchday 9 against Iceland as group leaders with 19 points. Turkey and Iceland were drawn 0–0 at Turk Telekom Arena in Istanbul. Though unable to defeat Iceland and losing the first place to France, a draw was enough to secure Turkey a spot in Euro 2020 finals, ahead of their away match against Andorra.<sup>[44]</sup>

Turkey had the honor of opening the Euro 2020 Finals but it soon turned out to be a night to forget for the Turkish. Turkey kicked off the European Championship with a 3–0 loss against Italy in Group A at the Olympic Stadium with Ciro Immobile and Lorenzo Insigne on target. Roberto Mancini's side had been frustrated by Turkey's defensive approach in the first half but broke through in the 53rd minute when a hard-hit cross from Domenico Berardi flew in off Turkey defender Merih Demiral for an own goal. They went on to lose the next two games from both Switzerland and Wales, losing all three games in a row alongside debutants North Macedonia.

## 2020–21 UEFA Nations League and 2022 World Cup

After qualifying for Euro 2020, Turkey entered with momentum, even though they had to face old foe Russia, alongside Hungary, and Serbia in the 2020–21 UEFA Nations League B.

However, despite all these improvements, Turkey performed poorly in their two opening games in September 2020. The first game against Hungary at home saw Turkey suffer a 0–1 loss by a free kick from Dominik Szoboszlai. Going to Belgrade against Serbia, after repeated Serbian pressure, Turkey had a one-man advantage following Aleksandar Kolarov's red card, however, the Turks failed to capitalize and were held goalless. This damaged their chances of qualifying for League A, as their next opponents in October will be Russia (who had had a strong start) and Hungary. The early poor performance could also represent a detrimental effect for Turkey, as this season's Nations League was used for the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification process.

Turkey continued to find its first win in the Nations League. Against Russia in Moscow, a team which Turkey has failed to win on Russian soil since its last win in 1966 and still finding its first win over the Russians since 1975 in general, Turkey once again failed to register a win, though they got an encouraging 1–1 draw thanked for Kenan Karaman's equalizer. Yet, the Turkish side was disappointed with only a 2–2 draw over Serbia at home soil.<sup>[45]</sup>

November 2020 proved to be very important as Turkey must gain important wins to stay or even better get the possible promotion. Their first game in this month's Nations League was against Russia, but Denis Cheryshev scored an early lead making the Turkish side look hapless. Yet, a red card to Andrei Semyonov proved to be a game changer, and with a one-man advantage, the Turks turned the deficit to finally break down its winless run against Russia with a 3–2 home win.<sup>[46][47][48]</sup> The Turks then traveled to Hungary with the hope that a win against the Hungarians could mean possible promotion, at least if Russia lost to Serbia. However, while Russia suffered a humiliating 0–5 defeat away in Belgrade, Turkey failed to gain the advantage and instead lost 2–0 to the Hungarians, despite late pressure to find an equalizer in the second half. That meant Turkey and Serbia were tied on points, but they were relegated after they lost the head-to-head away goals tiebreaker, 2–0 to 2022–23 UEFA Nations League C.<sup>[49][50][51]</sup> Such an outcome also meant Turkey would have to fight to get a direct 2022 FIFA World Cup ticket as play-off qualification appeared to be slim with their relegation, in which the 2022 World Cup qualifiers that started in March 2021.

In the 2022 World Cup qualifiers, Turkey was drawn into Group G with the Netherlands, Norway, Montenegro, Latvia, and Gibraltar. After they finished second in their group behind the Netherlands,<sup>[52][53][54]</sup> they entered 2022 FIFA World Cup UEFA playoffs against Portugal<sup>[55][56]</sup> but they lost 3–1 in a game that Burak Yilmaz missed a crucial penalty to equalise and thus failed to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.<sup>[57]</sup> Afterwards, he announced his international retirement.<sup>[58][59]</sup>

## 2022–23 UEFA Nations League and Euro 2024

In the 2022–23 UEFA Nations League C, they were drawn in Group 1 with Luxembourg, the Faroe Islanders, Lithuania. They were promoted to 2024–25 UEFA Nations League B after having 13 points in 6 games. Their Nations League success not only rewarded them a playoff place should they fail to qualify directly,<sup>[60]</sup> but also rewarded with an easier draw in Group D with Croatia, Wales, Armenia, and Latvia. They subsequently qualified directly on 16 October 2023 and finished top on 19 November 2023.<sup>[61][62][63]</sup>

## Euro 2032

On 10 October 2023, Turkey was selected to co-host the UEFA Euro 2032 alongside Italy. They earned an automatic qualification as co-host.<sup>[64][65]</sup>

## Kit suppliers

Turkey's kit colors were home red kits and white away kits; they were manufactured by Adidas from 1982 to 2002, and they later announced their manufacturer as Nike in 2003. Starting in 2020, they switched their kit colors so that white is home and red is away.

Kit provider	Period
 Adidas	1982–2002
 Nike	2003–present

## Rivalries

Turkey has developed several notable rivalries, the most well-known being with Croatia,<sup>[66]</sup> and Greece.

Turkey and Croatia have played each other nine times,<sup>[67]</sup> with their first encounter at Euro 1996; where both countries made their debuts in the opening match, which Croatia won 1–0.<sup>[68]</sup> A well-remembered match between them was at Euro 2008, which Turkey won on penalties after a 1–1 deadlock even after extra-time. With the win, Turkey reached the semi-finals in only their third appearance overall at the Euro finals.<sup>[69]</sup> The two teams faced each other in the 2012 Euro qualifying play-offs, with Croatia winning 3–0 in the first-leg in Istanbul, and advancing to the tournament finals following a 0–0 draw in the second-leg.<sup>[70][71]</sup> The two teams faced each other once again in a European competition at Euro 2016, playing in the opening match of Group D; with Croatia winning 1–0.<sup>[72][73]</sup> Only three months after the match at the Euros, the two teams played in their opening match in Group I of 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying, which finished 1–1.<sup>[74]</sup> Exactly one year after this, Turkey won the reverse fixture 1–0 at home, which played a key part in both countries' qualifying campaign, although Turkey would not qualify for World Cup while Croatia would go on to qualify and finish second in that edition.<sup>[75][76]</sup>

Turkey also has a historical rivalry with Greece. They played a total of 14 times. Among these competitions, Turkey won against Greece 8 times, drew 3 times, and lost only 3 times.<sup>[77]</sup> Both countries have been described as "punching above their weight"; with Greece winning Euro 2004 despite being classified as underdogs before the competition, and Turkey followed-up their World Cup bronze medal in 2002 by advancing to the semi-finals of Euro 2008, where they were knocked out by Germany. Due to tension between the two countries and the dispute over Cyprus, coupled with several incidents occurring during matches between Turkish and Greek clubs, it has been described as one of the biggest international football rivalries.<sup>[78]</sup>

## Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 8 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.

Win  Draw  Loss  Fixture

### 2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying 25 March 2023 21:00 AMT (UTC+04:00)	<b>Armenia</b>  <b>1–2</b>  <b>Turkey</b> Kabak  10' (o.g.) Report (ht Kökcü  35' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/match/h/203629">https://www.uefa.com/m/europe/an-qualifiers/match/h/203629</a> 6/)	Yerevan, Armenia Stadium: Vazgen Sargsyan Republican Stadium Attendance: 14,125 <sup>[79]</sup> Referee: José María Sánchez Martínez (Spain)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying 28 March 2023 21:45 TRT (UTC+03:00)	<b>Turkey</b>  <b>0–2</b>  <b>Croatia</b> Report (ht Kovačić  20', 45+4' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/m/europe">https://www.uefa.com/m/europe</a>	Bursa, Turkey Stadium: Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Stadium Attendance: 37,750 <sup>[80]</sup>	[show]

an-qualifi  
ers/matc  
h/203631  
9/)

Referee: Andreas Ekberg  
(Sweden)

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 June 2023 21:45 EEST (UTC+03:00)	<b>Latvia</b>  <b>2–3</b>  <b>Turkey</b> Emsis  51' Report (ht Bardakci  23' Tobers  90+4' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203634/">https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203634/</a> 3/)	Riga, Latvia Stadium: Skonto Stadium Attendance: 6,287 <sup>[81]</sup> Referee: Tamás Bognár (Hungary)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	19 June 2023 21:45 TRT (UTC+03:00)	<b>Turkey</b>  <b>2–0</b>  <b>Wales</b> Nayir  72' Report (ht Güler  80' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203636/">https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203636/</a> 6/)	Samsun, Turkey Stadium: Samsun 19 Mayıs Stadium Attendance: 28,766 <sup>[82]</sup> Referee: Fabio Maresca (Italy)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	8 September 2023 21:45 TRT (UTC+03:00)	<b>Turkey</b>  <b>1–1</b>  <b>Armenia</b> Yıldırım  88' Report (ht Dashyan  49' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203638/">https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203638/</a> 9/)	Eskişehir, Turkey Stadium: New Eskişehir Stadium Attendance: 31,740 <sup>[83]</sup> Referee: Daniele Orsato (Italy)	[show]
Friendly	12 September 2023 14:20 CEST (UTC+02:00)	<b>Japan</b>  <b>4–2</b>  <b>Turkey</b> A. Ito  15' Report (ht Kabak  44' Nakamura  28', 36' <a href="https://int.soccerway.com/matches/2023/09/12/world友/japan/turkey/4102103/">https://int.soccerway.com/matches/2023/09/12/world友/japan/turkey/4102103/</a> 4/)	Genk, Belgium Stadium: Cegeka Arena Attendance: 7,202 <sup>[84]</sup> Referee: Allard Lindhout (Netherlands)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	12 October 2023 20:45 CEST (UTC+02:00)	<b>Croatia</b>  <b>0–1</b>  <b>Turkey</b> Report (ht Yılmaz  30' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203643/">https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203643/</a> 4/)	Osijek, Croatia Stadium: Opus Arena Attendance: 12,812 <sup>[85]</sup> Referee: Anthony Taylor (England)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	15 October 2023 21:45 TRT (UTC+03:00)	<b>Turkey</b>  <b>4–0</b>  <b>Latvia</b> Akgün  58' Report (ht Tosun  83', 90+2' <a href="https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203645/">https://www.uefa.com/euro2024/qualifiers/matches/h/203645/</a> 7/)	Konya, Turkey Stadium: Konya Metropolitan Municipality Stadium Attendance: 35,925 <sup>[86]</sup> Referee: Enea Jorgji (Albania)	[show]

Friendly	18 November 2023 20:45 CET (UTC+01:00)	<b>Germany</b> 🇩🇪 <b>2–3</b> <b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷	Havertz 5' Report (ht Kadıoğlu 38' Füllkrug 48' tps://ww w.dfb.de/ die-mann schaft/spi ele-termin e/?spiele db_path =%2Fmat ches%2F 2366665)	Berlin, Germany Stadium: Olympiastadion Attendance: 72,592 <sup>[87]</sup> Referee: Bartosz Frankowski (Poland)	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	21 November 2023 19:45 GMT (UTC+00:00)	<b>Wales</b> 🏴 <b>1–1</b> <b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷	N. Williams 7' Report (ht Yazıcı 70' (pen.) tps://ww w.uefa.co m/europe an-qualifi ers/matc h/203650 4/)	Cardiff, Wales Stadium: Cardiff City Stadium Attendance: 32,291 <sup>[88]</sup> Referee: Matej Jug (Slovenia)	[show]
<b>2024</b>					
Friendly	21 March —:— CET (UTC+01:00)	<b>Hungary</b> 🇭🇺 v <b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷		Budapest, Hungary Stadium: Puskas Arena	[show]
Friendly	26 March 21:45 CET (UTC+01:00)	<b>Austria</b> 🇦🇹 v <b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷		Vienna, Austria Stadium: Ernst Happel Stadium	[show]
Friendly	4 June 20:45 CEST (UTC+02:00)	<b>Italy</b> 🇮🇹 v <b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷		Bologna, Italy Stadium: Stadio Renato Dall'Ara	[show]
Friendly	8 June	<b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷 v <b>Malta</b> 🇲🇹		Turkey Stadium: TBD	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group F	18 June 18:00 CEST (UTC+02:00)	<b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷 v <b>TBD</b>	Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036171/)	Dortmund, Germany Stadium: Westfalenstadion	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group F	22 June 18:00 CEST (UTC+02:00)	<b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷 v <b>Portugal</b> 🇵🇹	Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036183/)	Dortmund, Germany Stadium: Westfalenstadion	[show]
UEFA Euro 2024 Group F	26 June 21:00 CEST (UTC+02:00)	<b>Czech Republic</b> 🇨🇿 v <b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷	Report (ht tps://ww w.uefa.co m/uefaeur o/match/2 036195/)	Hamburg, Germany Stadium: Volksparkstadion	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	6 September 18:45 UTC±0	<b>Wales</b> 🏴 v <b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷		Wales	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	9 September 21:45 UTC+3	<b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷 v <b>Iceland</b> 🇮🇸		Turkey	[show]
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	11 October	<b>Turkey</b> 🇹🇷 v <b>Montenegro</b> 🇲🇪		Turkey	[show]

21:45 UTC+3

2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	14 October	Iceland  v  Turkey	Iceland	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	18:45 UTC±0			
2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	16 November	Turkey  v  Wales	Turkey	<a href="#">[show]</a>

20:00 UTC+3

2024–25 UEFA Nations League B	19 November	Montenegro  v  Turkey	Montenegro	<a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45 UTC+1			

## Coaching staff

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As of 21 September 2023<sup>[89]</sup>

Position	Name
Head coach	 <a href="#">Vincenzo Montella</a>
Assistant coaches <sup>[90]</sup>	 <a href="#">Daniele Russo</a>
	 <a href="#">Selçuk Şahin</a>
Goalkeeping coaches	 <a href="#">Ozan Özerkan</a>
	 <a href="#">Emrah Karakovan</a>
Fitness coach	 <a href="#">Pierpaolo Polino</a>
	 <a href="#">Ömür Serdal Altunsöz</a>
	 <a href="#">Vural Durmuş</a>
Match analyst	 <a href="#">Massimo Crivellaro</a>
	 <a href="#">Okan Aydiner</a>
Team manager <sup>[c]</sup>	 <a href="#">Hamit Altıntop</a>

## Players

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### Current squad

The following players were called up for the friendly match against Germany on 18 November 2023 and UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying match Wales on 21 November 2023.<sup>[92]</sup>

Caps and goals are correct as of 21 November 2023, after the match against  Wales.

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	GK	Mert Günok	1 March 1989	27	0	<a href="#">Beşiktaş</a>
12	GK	Altay Bayındır	14 April 1998	8	0	<a href="#">Manchester United</a>
23	GK	Uğurcan Çakır	5 April 1996	26	0	<a href="#">Trabzonspor</a>
	GK	Ertaç Özbir	25 October 1989	0	0	<a href="#">Adana Demirspor</a>
2	DF	Zeki Çelik	17 February 1997	42	2	<a href="#">Roma</a>
3	DF	Samet Akaydin	13 March 1994	4	0	<a href="#">Panathinaikos</a>
4	DF	Çağlar Söyüncü	23 May 1996	55	2	<a href="#">Fenerbahçe</a>
13	DF	Eren Elmali	7 July 2000	10	0	<a href="#">Trabzonspor</a>
14	DF	Abdülkerim Bardakçı	7 September 1994	6	1	<a href="#">Galatasaray</a>
15	DF	Ozan Kabak	25 March 2000	24	2	<a href="#">1899 Hoffenheim</a>
20	DF	Ferdi Kadıoğlu	7 October 1999	15	1	<a href="#">Fenerbahçe</a>
21	DF	Cenk Özkar	6 October 2000	7	0	<a href="#">Valencia</a>
22	DF	Kaan Ayhan	10 November 1994	55	5	<a href="#">Galatasaray</a>
	DF	Rıdvan Yılmaz	21 May 2001	6	0	<a href="#">Rangers</a>
5	MF	Salih Özcan	11 January 1998	16	0	<a href="#">Borussia Dortmund</a>
6	MF	Berat Özdemir	23 May 1998	3	0	<a href="#">Trabzonspor</a>
10	MF	Abdulkadir Ömür	25 June 1999	12	0	<a href="#">Trabzonspor</a>
16	MF	İsmail Yüksek	26 January 1999	12	1	<a href="#">Fenerbahçe</a>
18	MF	Berkan Kutlu	25 January 1998	8	0	<a href="#">Galatasaray</a>
	MF	Emre Akbaba	4 October 1992	6	3	<a href="#">Adana Demirspor</a>

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
7	FW	<u>Kerem Aktürkoğlu</u>	21 October 1998	26	5	 Galatasaray
8	FW	<u>İrfan Kahveci</u>	15 July 1995	30	2	 Fenerbahçe
9	FW	<u>Başak Alper Yılmaz</u>	23 May 2000	11	1	 Galatasaray
11	FW	<u>Yusuf Yazıcı</u>	29 January 1997	41	3	 Lille
17	FW	<u>Yusuf Sarı</u>	20 November 1998	4	1	 Adana Demirspor
19	FW	<u>Kenan Yıldız</u>	4 May 2005	3	1	 Juventus
	FW	<u>Bertuğ Yıldırım</u>	12 January 2002	3	2	 Rennes

## Recent call-ups

The following players have been called up for the team within the last twelve months.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
GK	Doğan Alemdar	29 October 2002	2	0	Troyes	v.  Latvia, 15 October 2023
GK	Muhammed Şengezer	5 January 1997	0	0	İstanbul Başakşehir	v.  Wales, 19 June 2023
DF	Merih Demiral	5 March 1998	41	2	Al-Ahli	v.  Latvia, 15 October 2023
DF	Rayyan Baniya	18 February 1999	0	0	Trabzonspor	v.  Latvia, 15 October 2023
DF	Mert Müldür	3 April 1999	19	1	Fenerbahçe	v.  Japan, 12 September 2023
DF	Onur Bulut	16 April 1994	3	0	Beşiktaş	v.  Japan, 12 September 2023
DF	Kazımcan Karataş	16 January 2003	0	0	Galatasaray	v.  Japan, 12 September 2023
DF	Tayyip Talha Sanuç	17 December 1999	1	0	Beşiktaş	v.  Croatia, 28 March 2023
MF	Hakan Çalhanoglu <sup>INJ</sup> (captain)	8 February 1994	82	17	Inter Milan	v.  Germany, 18 November 2023
MF	Orkun Kökçü	29 December 2000	24	2	Benfica	v.  Latvia, 15 October 2023
MF	Salih Uçan	6 January 1994	2	0	Beşiktaş	v.  Japan, 12 September 2023
MF	Arda Güler	25 February 2005	4	1	Real Madrid	v.  Wales, 19 June 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
MF	Mehmet-Can Aydın	9 February 2002	0	0	Trabzonspor	v.  Croatia, 28 March 2023
FW	Cengiz Ünder <sup>INJ</sup>	14 July 1997	51	16	Fenerbahçe	v.  Germany, 18 November 2023
FW	Cenk Tosun	7 June 1991	50	20	Beşiktaş	v.  Latvia, 15 October 2023
FW	Yunus Akgün	7 July 2000	7	2	Leicester City	v.  Latvia, 15 October 2023
FW	Halil Dervişoğlu	8 December 1999	16	6	Galatasaray	v.  Japan, 12 September 2023
FW	Umut Nayir	28 June 1993	4	1	Fenerbahçe	v.  Armenia, 8 September 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>
FW	Kenan Karaman	5 March 1994	31	6	Schalke 04	v.  Wales, 19 June 2023
FW	Umut Bozok	19 September 1996	1	0	Trabzonspor	v.  Latvia, 16 June 2023
FW	Enes Ünal	10 May 1997	32	3	Getafe	v.  Croatia, 28 March 2023 <sup>INJ</sup>

Notes

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
■	PRE	= Preliminary squad/standby.				
■	INJ	= Not part of the current squad due to injury.				
■	SUS	= Player is suspended.				
■	RET	= Retired from international football.				

## Player records

As of 15 October 2023<sup>[93]</sup>

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

### Most appearances

Rank	Name	Caps	Goals	Career
1	Rüştü Reçber	120	0	1994–2012
2	Hakan Şükür	112	51	1992–2007
3	Bülent Korkmaz	102	2	1990–2005
4	Emre Belözoğlu	101	9	2000–2019
5	Arda Turan	100	17	2006–2017
6	Tugay Kerimoğlu	94	2	1990–2007
7	Alpay Özalan	90	4	1995–2005
8	Hamit Altıntop	82	7	2004–2014
	<b>Hakan Çalhanoglu</b>	82	17	2013–present
10	Mehmet Topal	81	2	2008–2018



### Top goalscorers

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	Hakan Şükür	51	112	0.46	1992–2007
2	Burak Yılmaz	31	77	0.4	2006–2022
3	Tuncay Şanlı	22	80	0.28	2002–2010
4	Lefter Küçükandonyadis	21	46	0.46	1948–1963
5	<b>Cenk Tosun</b>	20	50	0.4	2013–present
	Metin Oktay	19	36	0.53	1956–1968
6	Cemil Turan	19	44	0.43	1969–1979
	Nihat Kahveci	19	68	0.28	2000–2011
9	<b>Hakan Çalhanoglu</b>	17	82	0.21	2013–present
	Arda Turan	17	100	0.17	2006–2017

Rüştü Reçber is Turkey's most capped player with 120 caps and Turkey's record holder in clean sheets.

### Most clean sheets

As of 21 November 2023<sup>[94]</sup>

Players in **bold** are still available to play in Turkey national team.

Rank	Player	Clean sheets	Caps	Ratio	Career
1	Rüştü Reçber	<b>58</b>	120	0.48	1994–2012
2	Volkan Demirel	<b>22</b>	63	0.35	2004–2014
3	Turgay Şeren	<b>16</b>	46	0.35	1950–1966
4	<b>Volkan Babacan</b>	<b>15</b>	35	0.43	2014–present
5	<b>Mert Günok</b>	<b>13</b>	27	0.48	2011–present
6	Ömer Çatkıç	<b>10</b>	19	0.53	2000–2005
	Engin İpekoğlu	<b>10</b>	32	0.31	1989–1999
8	<b>Uğurcan Çakır</b>	<b>9</b>	26	0.35	2019–present
9	Sabri Dino	<b>7</b>	12	0.58	1969–1975
	<b>Sinan Bolat</b>	<b>7</b>	12	0.58	2009–present



Hakan Şükür is Turkey's all-time record goalscorer with 51 goals.

## Centuriate goals

As of 29 September 2020:<sup>[95][96]</sup>



Selçuk İnan scored Turkey's 700th overall goal in November 2015

Rank	Date	Scorer	Opponent	Score
1st	26 October 1923	Zeki Rıza Sporel	Romania	2–2
100th	23 June 1954	Mustafa Ertan	West Germany	2–7
200th	14 February 1973	Osman Arpacıoğlu	Algeria	4–0
300th	27 February 1991	Uğur Tütüneker	Yugoslavia	1–1
400th	27 March 1999	Sergen Yalçın	Moldova	2–0
500th	9 October 2004	Fatih Tekke	Kazakhstan	4–0
600th	5 September 2009	Arda Turan	Estonia	4–2
700th	3 September 2015	Selçuk İnan	Latvia	1–1
800th	13 November 2021	Kerem Aktürkoğlu	Gibraltar	6–0

## Competitive record

### FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record										Qualification record						
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1930	Did not enter										Did not enter					
1934	Withdrew										Withdrew					
1938	Did not enter										Did not enter					
1950	Qualified but withdrew										1	1	0	0	7	0
1954	Group stage	9th	3	1	0	2	10	11	Squad	3	1	1	1	4	6	
1958	Withdrew										Withdrew					
1962											4	2	0	2	4	4
1966											6	1	0	5	4	19
1970											4	0	0	4	2	13
1974											6	2	2	2	5	3
1978											6	2	1	3	9	5
1982	Did not qualify										8	0	0	8	1	22
1986											8	0	1	7	2	24
1990											8	3	1	4	12	10
1994											10	3	1	6	11	19
1998											8	4	2	2	21	9
2002	Third place	3rd	7	4	1	2	10	6	Squad	12	8	3	1	24	8	
2006											14	7	5	2	27	13
2010											10	4	3	3	13	10
2014	Did not qualify										10	5	1	4	16	9
2018											10	4	3	3	14	13
2022											11	6	3	2	28	19

			2026
			2030
			2034

*To be determined*

*To be determined*

Total	Third place	2/25	10	5	1	4	20	17	—	139	53	27	59	204	206
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Turkey's FIFA World Cup history						[show]
Year	Round	Score	Result	Date	Venue	
1954	Group 2	🇹🇷 Turkey 1–4 🇩🇪 West Germany	Loss	17 June 1954	Bern, Switzerland	
		🇹🇷 Turkey 7–0 🇰🇷 South Korea	Win	20 June 1954	Geneva, Switzerland	
		🇹🇷 Turkey 2–7 🇩🇪 West Germany	Loss	23 June 1954	Zürich, Switzerland	
2002	Group C	🇹🇷 Turkey 1–2 🇧🇷 Brazil	Loss	3 June 2002	Ulsan, South Korea	
		🇹🇷 Turkey 1–1 🇺🇷 Costa Rica	Draw	9 June 2002	Incheon, South Korea	
		🇹🇷 Turkey 3–0 🇨🇳 China	Win	13 June 2002	Seoul, South Korea	
	Round of 16	🇹🇷 Turkey 1–0 🇯🇵 Japan	Win	18 June 2002	Rifu, Japan	
	Quarter-final	🇹🇷 Turkey 1–0 🇸🇳 Senegal	Win	22 June 2002	Osaka, Japan	
	Semi-final	🇹🇷 Turkey 0–1 🇧🇷 Brazil	Loss	26 June 2002	Saitama, Japan	
	Third place play-off	🇹🇷 Turkey 3–2 🇰🇷 South Korea	Win	29 June 2002	Daegu, South Korea	

## **UEFA European Championship**

UEFA European Championship record										Qualification record						
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Squad	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1960										2	1	0	1	2	3	
1964										2	0	0	2	0	7	
1968										6	1	2	3	3	8	
1972										6	2	1	3	5	13	
1976										6	2	2	2	5	10	
1980										6	3	1	2	5	5	
1984										8	3	1	4	8	16	
1988										6	0	2	4	2	16	
1992										6	0	0	6	1	14	
1996	Group stage	16th		3	0	0	3	0	5	Squad	8	4	3	1	16	8
2000	Quarter-finals	6th		4	1	1	2	3	4	Squad	10	5	4	1	16	7
2004											10	6	2	2	19	8
2008	Semi-finals	3rd		5	2	1	2	8	9	Squad	12	7	3	2	25	11
2012											12	5	3	4	13	14
2016											10	5	3	2	14	9
2020											10	7	2	1	18	3
2024											8	5	2	1	14	7
2028															To be determined	
2032															To be determined	
2036															To be determined	

Total	Third place	6/20	18	4	2	12	14	30		128	56	31	41	166	159
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# Turkey's UEFA European Championship history

[show]

Year	Round	Score	Result	Date	Venue
1996	Group D	Turkey 0–1 Croatia	Loss	11 June 1996	Nottingham, England
		Turkey 0–1 Portugal	Loss	14 June 1996	Nottingham, England
		Turkey 0–3 Denmark	Loss	19 June 1996	Sheffield, England
2000	Group B	Turkey 1–2 Italy	Loss	11 June 2000	Arnhem, Netherlands
		Turkey 0–0 Sweden	Draw	15 June 2000	Eindhoven, Netherlands
		Turkey 2–0 Belgium	Win	19 June 2000	Brussels, Belgium
	Quarter-final	Turkey 0–2 Portugal	Loss	24 June 2000	Amsterdam, Netherlands
2008	Group A	Turkey 0–2 Portugal	Loss	7 June 2008	Geneva, Switzerland
		Turkey 2–1 Switzerland	Win	11 June 2008	Basel, Switzerland
		Turkey 3–2 Czech Republic	Win	15 June 2008	Geneva, Switzerland
	Quarter-final	Turkey 1–1 (pen. 3–1) Croatia	Draw	20 June 2008	Wien, Austria
	Semi-final	Turkey 2–3 Germany	Loss	25 June 2008	Basel, Switzerland
2016	Group D	Turkey 0–1 Croatia	Loss	12 June 2016	Paris, France
		Turkey 0–3 Spain	Loss	17 June 2016	Nice, France
		Turkey 2–0 Czech Republic	Win	21 June 2016	Lens, France
2020	Group A	Turkey 0–3 Italy	Loss	11 June 2021	Rome, Italy
		Turkey 0–2 Wales	Loss	16 June 2021	Baku, Azerbaijan
		Turkey 1–3 Switzerland	Loss	20 June 2021	Baku, Azerbaijan

# UEFA Nations League

## UEFA Nations League record

<b>Season</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Pld</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D*</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>P/R</b>	<b>RK</b>
2018–19	B	2	4	1	0	3	4	7	=	22nd
2020–21	B	3	6	1	3	2	6	8	▼	29th
2022–23	C	1	6	4	1	1	18	5	▲	35th
2024–25	B	<i>To be determined</i>								
<b>Total</b>			<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	22nd	

## FIFA Confederations Cup

## FIFA Confederations Cup record

Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad
 1992									<i>Did not qualify</i>

 1995									
 1997									
 1999									
 ● 2001									
  2003	Third place	3rd	5	2	1	2	8	8	Squad
 2005									
 2009									<i>Did not qualify</i>
 2013									
 2017									
Total	Third place	1/10	5	2	1	2	8	8	—

## Olympic Games

1968–1988 see [Turkey national amateur football team](#). Football at the Summer Olympics has been an under-23 tournament since 1992.



Turkey at the [1924 Summer Olympics](#) in Paris.



Turkey at the [1928 Summer Olympics](#) in Amsterdam.

### Olympic Games record

Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Squad
1924	Round 1	13th	1	0	0	1	2	5	Squad
1928		14th	1	0	0	1	1	7	Squad
1936		15th	1	0	0	1	0	1	Squad
1948	Quarter-finals	6th	2	1	0	1	5	3	Squad
1952		8th	2	1	0	1	3	8	Squad
1956	<i>Withdrew</i>								
1960	Round 1	14th	3	0	1	2	3	10	Squad
1964									
1968									
1972	<i>Did not qualify</i>								
1976									
1980									
1984	<i>Withdrew</i>								
1988	<i>Did not qualify</i>								
Since 1992	See <a href="#">Turkey national under-23 football team</a>								
Total	Quarter-finals	6/14	10	2	1	7	14	34	—

## Mediterranean Games

### Mediterranean Games record

Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1951	<i>Did not participate</i>							
1955								
1959		Runners-up	2nd	2	1	1	0	7
1963	Runners-up	2nd	5	3	1	1	12	7
1967	Fourth place	4th	5	2	1	2	5	7
1971	Third place	3rd	4	3	1	0	4	1
1975	Group stage	7th	4	0	2	2	1	5
1979	Group stage	5th	3	1	1	1	2	2
1983	Runners-up	2nd	4	2	0	2	4	5
1987	Third place	3rd	5	3	0	2	6	2
1991–present	See <a href="#">Turkey national under-20 football team</a>							
Total	Runners-up	8/10	32	15	7	10	41	33

## Mediterranean Cup

### Mediterranean Cup record

Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
1949	Runners-up	2nd	3	2	0	1	7	6
1950–53	Fourth place	4th	3	6	1	1	4	4
1953–58	Fourth place	4th	8	2	3	3	7	7
Total	Runners-up	3/3	14	10	4	5	18	17

## Balkan Cup

Balkan Cup record									
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1929–31	Did not participate								
1931	Runners-up	2nd	2	1	0	1	3	5	
1932									
1933									
1934–35									
1935	Did not participate								
1936									
1946									
1947									
1948									
1973–76	Semi-finals	4th	2	1	0	1	6	7	
1977–80	Group stage	3rd	4	1	1	2	4	8	
Total	Runners-up	3/12	8	3	1	4	13	20	

## ECO Cup

ECO Cup record									
Year	Result	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1965	Runners-up	2nd	2	1	1	0	3	1	
1967	Champions	1st	4	2	2	0	8	4	
1969	Champions	1st	4	2	2	0	8	2	
1970	Runners-up	2nd	3	2	1	0	4	2	
1974	Champions	1st	3	2	1	0	3	2	
1993	Did not participate								
Total	3 titles	5/6	16	9	7	0	26	11	

## Head-to-head record

The following table shows Turkey's all-time international record, as of 21 November 2023.

Positive Record  Neutral Record  Negative Record

Opponents	[show]	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
Albania		12	6	2	4	13	14
Algeria		3	1	0	2	4	2
Andorra		4	4	0	0	10	0
Angola		1	1	0	0	3	2
Armenia		4	3	1	0	7	2
Australia		2	2	0	0	4	1
Austria		16	7	1	8	22	18
Azerbaijan		8	6	1	1	11	3
Belarus		4	2	1	1	8	7
Belgium		11	3	5	3	17	18
Bosnia and Herzegovina		6	2	2	2	6	7
Brazil		6	0	2	4	3	10
Bulgaria		23	7	6	10	36	43
Cameroon		1	0	0	1	0	1
Canada		2	2	0	0	6	1
Chile		3	2	1	0	3	0
China		2	2	0	0	7	0
Colombia		1	1	0	0	2	1
Costa Rica		1	0	1	0	1	1
Croatia		12	2	6	4	11	15
Czech Republic <sup>[note 1]</sup>		20	6	3	12	18	44
Denmark		10	2	5	3	9	12
East Germany		5	3	1	1	10	5
Ecuador		1	0	0	1	0	1
Egypt		6	4	0	2	13	10
England		11	0	2	9	1	33
Estonia		8	5	3	0	17	4
Ethiopia		2	1	1	0	3	0
Faroe Islands		3	1	1	1	6	3
Finland		15	5	4	6	24	22
France		6	1	1	4	5	13
Georgia		5	3	1	1	12	5
Germany <sup>[note 2]</sup>		22	4	4	14	16	52
Ghana		2	0	2	0	3	3
Gibraltar		2	2	0	0	9	0
Greece		14	9	2	3	22	11
Guinea		1	0	1	0	0	0

<b>Opponents</b>	<b>Pld</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>
Honduras	3	3	0	0	5	0
Hungary	14	4	2	8	17	31
Iceland	13	2	3	8	11	23
Iran	7	5	2	0	14	2
Iraq	3	2	1	0	8	1
Israel	6	4	0	2	9	12
Italy	15	0	4	11	10	29
Ivory Coast	1	0	1	0	1	1
Japan	2	1	0	2	3	5
Kazakhstan	6	6	0	0	19	2
Kosovo	2	2	0	0	6	1
Latvia	10	4	5	1	22	15
Libya	2	0	1	1	2	3
Liechtenstein	2	2	0	0	9	0
Lithuania	2	2	0	0	8	0
Luxembourg	9	7	1	1	18	9
Malaysia	1	1	0	0	3	0
Malta	6	5	1	0	15	4
Moldova	13	11	2	0	35	3
Montenegro	4	2	2	0	7	5
Netherlands	14	4	4	6	14	21
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	2	1
North Macedonia	8	5	2	1	14	9
Northern Ireland	12	5	2	5	12	12
Norway	11	5	3	3	15	16
Pakistan	5	4	1	0	20	10
Paraguay	1	0	1	0	0	0
Poland	17	3	3	11	12	39
Portugal	9	2	0	7	9	19
Qatar	1	1	0	0	2	1
Republic of Ireland	14	3	6	5	16	27
Romania	26	5	7	14	24	49
Russia <sup>[note 3]</sup>	23	4	3	16	14	40
San Marino	4	3	1	0	16	1
Saudi Arabia	3	3	0	0	6	1
Scotland	2	2	0	0	4	2
Senegal	1	1	0	0	1	0

<b>Opponents</b>	<b>Pld</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>
Slovakia	6	4	1	1	8	3
Slovenia	2	1	0	1	1	2
South Africa	1	0	0	1	0	2
South Korea	7	4	2	1	13	4
Spain	11	1	4	6	5	17
Serbia <sup>[note 4]</sup>	12	1	5	6	16	28
Sweden	12	5	4	3	15	14
Switzerland	16	8	3	5	22	23
Syria	1	1	0	0	7	0
Tunisia	5	1	4	0	6	3
Ukraine	9	4	3	2	11	9
United States	4	1	1	2	5	6
Uruguay	1	0	0	1	2	3
Uzbekistan	1	1	0	0	2	0
Wales	10	4	2	4	11	12
<b>Total (91)</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>882</b>

1. Includes the results of Czechoslovakia.

2. Includes the results of West Germany.

3. Includes the results of Soviet Union.

4. Includes the results of Yugoslavia.

## Honours

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- **FIFA World Cup**

- ③ Third place (1): 2002

- **FIFA Confederations Cup**

- ③ Third place (1): 2003

- **UEFA European Championship**

- ③ Semi-finals/Third place (1): 2008

## Decoration

In 2002, the national team was honored with the Turkish "State Medal of Distinguished Service" for their third place achievement at the 2002 FIFA World Cup. All the team members, coaches and officials were given medals.<sup>[97]</sup>

## See also

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- Turkey national under-21 football team
- Turkey national under-20 football team

- Turkey national under-19 football team
- Turkey national under-17 football team
- Turkey national youth football team

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### Notes

- a. Since the Republic was not formally declared by the time of the event, the game was played between Romania and TFF. The city also was not consistently known as Istanbul in the English-speaking world until 1930
- b. Turkey withdrew due to financial reasons.<sup>[8][9]</sup>
- c. The official title held by Altintop is "Executive Board Member, about National Team, "Hope" U-21 National Teams and Junior National Teams Manager."<sup>[91]</sup>

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- [Official website](http://www.tff.org/) (<http://www.tff.org/>) (in Turkish and English)
- [Turkey](https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/TUR) (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/TUR>) at [FIFA](#)
- [Turkey](https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/TUR/) (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/TUR/>) at [UEFA](#)

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