



The following article presents a summary of the **2008–09 football (soccer) season in Croatia**, which was the 18th season of competitive football in the country.

The home team is on the left column; the away team is on the right column.

## Friendly matches

<b>Season</b>	2008–09
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Dinamo Zagreb (11th title)

## Istra 1961

### Grafičar Vodovod (East)

### RNK Split (South)

## Rudeš (West)

## Dinamo Zagreb (10th title)

Dinamo Zagreb, Hajduk Split,  
Rijeka, Slaven Belupo

## 2010 World Cup qualification

Ljudski vrt Maribor

Attendance: 8,000

Referee: Claudio Circhetta  
(Switzerland)

20 August 2008

## Slovenia

**2 – 3**

 Croatia

Šuler ⚽ 4' Report (<http://www.w.sportnet.hr/Vijest.aspx?ID=364>) Rakitić ⚽ 37', ⚽ 64'  
 Šišić ⚽ 55' (pen) Srna ⚽ 59' (pen)  
 (in Croatian)

11 February  
2009

Romania 

1 - 2

 Croatia

Marica ⚽ 22' Report (<http://www.sportnet.hr/Vijest.aspx?ID=372407>)  
(in Croatian)

Steaua Stadium, Bucharest

Attendance: 6,000

Referee: Cristian Balaj  
(Romania)

## World Cup qualifiers

Croatia is currently in Group 6 of the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualification process.<sup>[1]</sup>

6 September  
2008

Croatia 

**3 - 0**

 **Kazakhstan**

Stadion Maksimir, Zagreb  
Attendance: 17,424

N. Kovač 🟡 13' Report (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080914193116/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/preliminaries/europe/matches/round=250471/match=300040545/report.html>)

Referee: Stefan Johannesson (Sweden)

10 September  
2008

**Croatia** 🇧🇪 **1 – 4** **England** 🏴  
Mandžukić 🟡 78' Report (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080915184722/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/preliminaries/europe/matches/round=250471/match=300040542/report.html>)  
Walcott 🟡 26' 🟡 59' 🟡 82'  
Rooney 🟡 63'

Stadion Maksimir, Zagreb  
Attendance: 35,218  
Referee: Lubos Michel (Slovakia)

11 October 2008

**Ukraine** 🇺🇦 **0 – 0** **Croatia** 🇧🇪  
Report (<https://web.archive.org/web/20081014075323/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/preliminaries/europe/matches/round=250471/match=300040539/report.html>)

Metalist Stadium, Kharkiv  
Attendance: 38,500  
Referee: Eric Braamhaar (Netherlands)

15 October 2008

**Croatia** 🇧🇪 **4 – 0** **Andorra** 🇦🇩  
Rakitić 🟡 16' 🟡 87' (pen.) Report (<https://web.archive.org/web/20081019071254/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/preliminaries/europe/matches/round=250471/match=300040537/report.html>)  
Olić 🟡 32'  
Modrić 🟡 75'

Stadion Maksimir, Zagreb  
Attendance: 14,441  
Referee: István Vad (Hungary)

1 April 2009

**Andorra** 🇦🇩 **0 – 2** **Croatia** 🇧🇪  
Report (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090406034334/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/preliminaries/europe/matches/round=250471/match=300041079/report.html>)  
Klasnić 🟡 15'  
Eduardo 🟡 35'

Comunal, Andorra la Vella  
Attendance: 1,100  
Referee: Leontios Trattou (Cyprus)

6 June 2009

**Croatia** 🇧🇪 **2 – 2** **Ukraine** 🇺🇦  
Petrić 🟡 2' Report (<https://web.archive.org/web/20121104135706/http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/>)  
Modrić 🟡 68' Shevchenko 🟡 13'  
Gai 🟡 54'

Stadion Maksimir, Zagreb  
Attendance: 32,073  
Referee: Terje Hauge (Norway)

# League tables

## Prva HNL

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification or relegation
1	<a href="#">Dinamo Zagreb</a> <b>(C)</b>	33	23	5	5	71	26	+45	<b>74</b>	Qualification to Champions League second qualifying round
2	<a href="#">Hajduk Split</a>	33	21	5	7	59	25	+34	<b>68</b>	Qualification to Europa League third qualifying round
3	<a href="#">Rijeka</a>	33	17	5	11	50	44	+6	<b>56</b>	Qualification to Europa League second qualifying round
4	<a href="#">Slaven Belupo</a>	33	16	7	10	46	39	+7	<b>55</b>	Qualification to Europa League first qualifying round <sup>[a]</sup>
5	<a href="#">NK Zagreb</a>	33	13	8	12	38	39	−1	<b>47</b>	
6	<a href="#">Šibenik</a>	33	13	7	13	44	35	+9	<b>46</b>	
7	<a href="#">Osijek</a>	33	10	11	12	40	41	−1	<b>41</b>	
8	<a href="#">Cibalia</a>	33	10	8	15	33	53	−20	<b>38</b>	
9	<a href="#">Inter Zaprešić</a>	33	9	9	15	41	50	−9	<b>36</b>	
10	<a href="#">Varteks</a>	33	10	5	18	41	55	−14	<b>35</b>	
11	<a href="#">Zadar</a>	33	7	8	18	28	49	−21	<b>29</b>	
12	<a href="#">Croatia Sesvete</a> <sup>[b]</sup> <b>(O)</b>	33	6	8	19	31	66	−35	<b>25</b>	Qualification to relegation play-off

Source: Sportnet.hr (<https://sportnet.hr/statistika/73/ljestvice/>)  
Rules for classification: 1) points; 2) goal difference; 3) number of goals scored.  
**(C)** Champions; **(O)** Play-off winners  
Notes:

- a. Because both cup finalists, Dinamo and Hajduk, qualified for Europe through their league positions, all three UEFA Europa League spots were given to teams according to their league positions, what means that fourth-placed Slaven Belupo also earned a spot in Europa League.

b. Croatia Sesvete were docked 1 point due to unpaid debts to Imotski over player Darko Vučić.<sup>[2]</sup>

Druga HNL

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Promotion or relegation
1	<u>Istra 1961</u> <b>(C, P)</b>	30	18	6	6	46	20	+26	<b>60</b>	Promotion to Croatian First Football League
2	<u>Karlovac</u> <b>(P)</b>	30	18	5	7	50	24	+26	<b>59</b>	
3	<u>Lokomotiva</u> <b>(P)</b>	30	18	5	7	50	30	+20	<b>59</b>	
4	<u>Slavonac CO</u> <sup>[a]</sup> <b>(R)</b>	30	15	12	3	39	18	+21	<b>57</b>	Relegation to county leagues
5	<u>Međimurje</u> <b>(P)</b>	30	16	2	12	61	34	+27	<b>50</b>	Promotion to Croatian First Football League
6	<u>Hrvatski Dragovoljac</u>	30	13	10	7	38	36	+2	<b>49</b>	Qualification to promotion play-offs
7	<u>Solin</u>	30	14	5	11	37	31	+6	<b>47</b>	
8	<u>Vinogradar</u>	30	11	7	12	40	50	−10	<b>40</b>	
9	<u>Imotski</u>	30	10	4	16	31	45	−14	<b>34</b>	
10	<u>Suhopolje</u>	30	8	9	13	33	37	−4	<b>33</b>	
11	<u>Segesta</u>	30	8	9	13	33	47	−14	<b>33</b>	
12	<u>Junak</u>	30	9	6	15	35	51	−16	<b>33</b>	
13	<u>Pomorac</u>	30	9	5	16	29	45	−16	<b>32</b>	
14	<u>Mosor</u>	30	8	6	16	25	44	−19	<b>30</b>	
15	<u>Moslavina</u>	30	7	7	16	33	51	−18	<b>28</b>	
16	<u>Trogir</u> <b>(R)</b>	30	3	12	15	32	49	−17	<b>21</b>	Relegation to Croatian Third Football League

Source: Sportnet.hr (<http://www.sportnet.hr/Tablica.aspx?ID=237>) (in Croatian)  
Rules for classification: 1) points; 2) goal difference; 3) number of goals scored.  
**(C)** Champions; **(P)** Promoted; **(R)** Relegated  
Notes:

a. Slavonski CO had to step back from promotion after they were not able to find a satisfiable ground, and were demoted to the 1st county league; therefore Međimurje were promoted directly and Hrvatski Dragovoljac entered the playoff, while Moslavina were not relegated.

## Treća HNL

### Division East

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Grafičar Vodovod (C)	33	19	9	5	66	28	+38	66
2	Graničar	33	20	6	7	69	47	+22	66
3	Križevci	33	18	7	8	54	32	+22	61
4	Vukovar '91 (P)	33	17	7	9	52	39	+13	58
5	NK Đakovo	33	17	6	10	46	33	+13	57
6	Slavija Pleternica	33	16	5	12	57	42	+15	53
7	Virovitica	33	15	8	10	51	39	+12	53
8	Bjelovar	33	15	7	11	54	49	+5	52
9	Nedelišće	33	13	5	15	48	61	-13	44
10	Višnjevac	33	14	1	18	47	57	-10	43
11	Mladost Cernik	33	12	5	16	41	45	-4	41
12	Mladost Prelog	33	11	8	14	54	61	-7	41
13	Olimpija Osijek	33	11	8	14	53	60	-7	41
14	NAŠK	33	10	7	16	47	52	-5	37
15	Croatia Đakovo (R)	33	10	3	20	37	61	-24	33
16	Koprivnica (R)	33	8	8	17	48	58	-10	32
17	Belišće (R)	33	10	2	21	48	66	-18	32
18	Marsonia (R)	17	1	2	14	12	54	-42	5

Source:  
(C) Champions; (P) Promoted; (R) Relegated

Division South

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	RNK Split (C)	34	23	8	3	79	20	+59	77
2	Raštane	34	20	8	6	70	35	+35	68
3	Zmaj	34	19	7	8	44	28	+16	64
4	Velebit	34	17	8	9	54	35	+19	59
5	Primorac (BnM)	34	17	5	12	59	42	+17	56
6	GOŠK (D)	34	15	7	12	38	42	−4	52
7	Zagora	34	14	8	12	47	44	+3	50
8	Konavljanin	34	15	3	16	47	55	−8	48
9	Hrvace	34	13	8	13	56	46	+10	47
10	Primorac 1929	34	15	2	17	52	62	−10	47
11	Jadran (KS)	34	10	10	14	50	54	−4	40
12	Jadran LP	34	12	4	18	31	49	−18	40
13	Dugopolje	34	12	3	19	44	45	−1	39
14	Neretva	34	9	11	14	39	54	−15	38
15	Neretvanac (R)	34	10	7	17	38	57	−19	37
16	Omiš (R)	34	9	8	17	28	41	−13	35
17	Val (R)	34	11	1	22	35	66	−31	34
18	GOŠK (KG) (R)	34	8	6	20	30	66	−36	30

Source:  
(C) Champions; (R) Relegated

Division West

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	<u>Rudeš</u> (C)	34	22	10	2	63	24	+39	76
2	<u>Lučko</u> (P)	34	19	7	8	75	45	+30	64
3	<u>Vrapče</u>	34	16	8	10	58	45	+13	56
4	<u>Jadran Poreč</u>	34	17	5	12	46	34	+12	56
5	<u>Polet Buševac</u>	34	14	6	14	59	51	+8	48
6	<u>HAŠK</u>	34	15	3	16	56	53	+3	48
7	<u>Novalja</u>	34	13	9	12	40	39	+1	48
8	<u>Rovinj</u>	34	10	14	10	59	48	+11	44
9	<u>Rudar Labin</u>	34	12	8	14	48	51	−3	44
10	<u>Nehaj</u>	34	12	8	14	37	41	−4	44
11	<u>Vrbovec</u>	34	12	8	14	39	45	−6	44
12	<u>Grobničan</u>	34	13	4	17	40	58	−18	43
13	<u>Orijent</u>	34	12	8	14	45	41	+4	42 <sup>[a]</sup>
14	<u>Medulin 1921</u>	34	11	9	14	43	49	−6	42
15	<u>Radnik</u> (R)	34	11	7	16	38	46	−8	40
16	<u>Maksimir</u> (R)	34	10	10	14	34	52	−18	40
17	<u>Istra Pula</u> (R)	34	10	7	17	36	67	−31	35 <sup>[b]</sup>
18	<u>Samobor</u> (R)	34	6	11	17	35	62	−27	29

Source:  
(C) Champions; (P) Promoted; (R) Relegated  
Notes:

- a. 2 points deducted?
- b. 2 points deducted?

Honours

Competition	Winner	Details
<u>Croatian Cup</u>	<u>Dinamo Zagreb</u>	2008–09 Croatian Cup Beat <u>Hajduk Split</u> 4–3 on penalties (3–3 on aggregate)
<u>1.HNL</u>	<u>Dinamo Zagreb</u>	<u>2008–09 Prva HNL</u>
<u>2.HNL</u>	<u>Istra 1961</u>	<u>2008–09 Druga HNL</u>
<u>3.HNL East Division</u>	<u>Grafičar Vodovod</u>	
<u>3.HNL South Division</u>	<u>RNK Split</u>	
<u>3.HNL West Division</u>	<u>Rudeš</u>	

Croatian clubs in Europe

Summary

Club	Competition	Final round
<u>Dinamo Zagreb</u>	<u>UEFA Champions League</u> <u>UEFA Cup</u>	<u>Third qualifying round</u> <u>Group stage</u>
<u>Slaven Belupo</u>	<u>UEFA Cup</u>	<u>First round</u>
<u>Hajduk Split</u>	<u>UEFA Cup</u>	<u>Second qualifying round</u>
<u>Rijeka</u>	<u>UEFA Intertoto Cup</u>	<u>First round</u>

Dinamo Zagreb





Date	Venue	Opponents	Score <sup>[3]</sup>	Dinamo scorer(s)	Report
Champions League - First qualifying round					
16 July	<u>Windsor Park, Belfast (A)</u>	 <u>Linfield</u>	2–0	<u>Mario Mandžukić</u> , <u>Dino Drpić</u>	<u>uefa.com</u> ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15273/match=303468/index.html">http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15273/match=303468/index.html</a> )
23 July	<u>Maksimir, Zagreb (H)</u>	 <u>Linfield</u>	1–1	<u>Mario Mandžukić</u>	<u>uefa.com</u> ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15273/match=303482/index.html">http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15273/match=303482/index.html</a> )
Champions League - Second qualifying round					
30 July	<u>Sports Park, Domžale (A)</u>	 <u>Domžale</u>	3–0	<u>Ivica Vrdoljak</u> , <u>Sammir</u> , <u>Josip Tadić</u>	<u>uefa.com</u> ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15274/match=303501/index.html">http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15274/match=303501/index.html</a> )
6 August	<u>Maksimir, Zagreb (H)</u>	 <u>Domžale</u>	3–2	<u>Igor Bišćan</u> , <u>Mirko Hrgović</u> , <u>Dino Drpić</u>	<u>uefa.com</u> ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15274/match=303515/index.html">http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15274/match=303515/index.html</a> )
Champions League - Third qualifying round					
13 August	<u>RSC Olimpiyskiy, Donetsk (A)</u>	 <u>Shakhtar Donetsk</u>	0–2		<u>uefa.com</u> ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15275/match=303814/index.html">http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15275/match=303814/index.html</a> )
27 August	<u>Maksimir, Zagreb (H)</u>	 <u>Shakhtar Donetsk</u>	1–3	<u>Boško Balaban</u>	<u>uefa.com</u> ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15275/match=303814/index.html">http://www.uefa.com/competitions/ucl/history/season=2009/round=15275/match=303814/index.html</a> )




**UEFA Cup - First round**

18 September	Maksimir, Zagreb (H)	 <u>Sparta Prague</u>	0–0		<a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15284/match=303924/index.html">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15284/match=303924/index.html)</a>
2 October	AXA Arena, Prague (A)	 <u>Sparta Prague</u>	3–3	<u>Pedro Morales</u> , <u>Dejan Lovren</u> , <u>Milan Badelj</u>	<a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15284/match=303964/index.html">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15284/match=303964/index.html)</a>

**UEFA Cup - Group stage**



23 October	Maksimir, Zagreb (H)	 <u>NEC</u>	3–2	<u>Mario Mandžukić</u> , <u>Boško Balaban</u> , <u>Ivica Vrdoljak</u>	<a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15285/match=304175/index.html">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15285/match=304175/index.html)</a>
6 November	White Hart Lane, London (A)	 <u>Tottenham Hotspur</u>	0–4		<a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15285/match=304190/index.html">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15285/match=304190/index.html)</a>
27 November	Maksimir, Zagreb (H)	 <u>Spartak Moscow</u>	0–1		<a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15285/match=304207/index.html">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15285/match=304207/index.html)</a>
3 December	Stadio Friuli, Udine (A)	 <u>Udinese</u>	1–2	<u>Igor Bišćan</u>	<a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15285/match=304223/index.html">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15285/match=304223/index.html)</a>

**Slaven Belupo**

Date	Venue	Opponents	Score <sup>[3]</sup>	Slaven scorer(s)	Report
<b>UEFA Cup - First qualifying round</b>					
17 July	Ta' Qali Stadium, Ta' Qali (A)	 <u>Marsaxlokk</u>	4–0	<u>Matija Kristić</u> , <u>Dalibor Poldrugač</u> , <u>Franjo Tepurić</u> , <u>Bojan Vručina</u>	<a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round)</a>

					<a href="#">=15282/match=303534/index.html)</a>
31 July	Gradski stadion, Koprivnica (H)	 <a href="#">Marsaxlokk</a>	4–0	Mario Bilen, Kristijan Čaval, Bojan Vručina (2)	<a href="#">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15282/match=303571/index.html)</a>

#### UEFA Cup - Second qualifying round

14 August	<a href="#">Kleanthis Vikelidis</a> , (A)	 <a href="#">Aris</a>	0–1		<a href="#">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15283/match=303848/index.html)</a>
28 August	Gradski stadion, Koprivnica (H)	 <a href="#">Aris</a>	2–0	Bojan Vručina (2)	<a href="#">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15283/match=303880/index.html)</a>

#### UEFA Cup - First round

18 September	Gradski stadion, Koprivnica (H)	 <a href="#">CSKA Moscow</a>	1–2	<a href="#">Mario Jurić</a>	<a href="#">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15284/match=303939/index.html)</a>
30 September	<a href="#">Luzhniki, Moscow</a> (A)	 <a href="#">CSKA Moscow</a>	0–1		<a href="#">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15284/match=303979/index.html)</a>

## Hajduk Split

Date	Venue	Opponents	Score <sup>[3]</sup>	Hajduk scorer(s)	Report
<b>UEFA Cup - First qualifying round</b>					
17 July	<a href="#">Poljud, Split</a> (H)	 <a href="#">Birkirkara</a>	4–0	<a href="#">Senijad Ibričić</a> , <a href="#">Nikola Kalinić</a> , <a href="#">Tomislav Bušić</a> , <a href="#">Mario Tičinović</a>	<a href="#">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15282/match=303532/index.html)</a>
31 July	<a href="#">Ta' Qali Stadium, Ta' Qali</a> (A)	 <a href="#">Birkirkara</a>	3–0	<a href="#">Ivan Strinić</a> , <a href="#">Mladen Bartolović</a> , <a href="#">Senijad Ibričić</a>	<a href="#">uefa.com (http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefacup/history/season=2009/round=15282/match=303569/index.html)</a>
<b>UEFA Cup - Second qualifying round</b>					

14 August	Riazor, <u>La Coruña</u> (A)	<span><span></span></span> <u>Deportivo La Coruña</u>	0–0		uefa.com ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefa-cup/history/season=2009/round=15283/match=303850/index.html">http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefa-cup/history/season=2009/round=15283/match=303850/index.html</a> )
28 August	Poljud, <u>Split</u> (H)	<span><span></span></span> <u>Deportivo La Coruña</u>	0–2		uefa.com ( <a href="http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefa-cup/history/season=2009/round=15283/match=303882/index.html">http://www.uefa.com/competitions/uefa-cup/history/season=2009/round=15283/match=303882/index.html</a> )

## Rijeka

Date	Venue	Opponents	Score <sup>[3]</sup>	Rijeka scorer(s)	Report
<b>Intertoto Cup - First round</b>					
21 June	<u>Kantrida</u> , <u>Rijeka</u> (H)	<span><span></span></span> <u>Renova</u>	0–0		
28 June	<u>Gradski stadion</u> , <u>Skopje</u> (A)	<span><span></span></span> <u>Renova</u>	0–2		

# References

- ↑ Groups and standings (<http://fifa.com/worldcup/preliminaries/europe/standings/index.html>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090216210335/http://fifa.com/worldcup/preliminaries/europe/standings/index.html>) 2009-02-16 at the  Wayback Machine *FIFA* Retrieved 2008-05-31
- ↑ Sesvećanima ipak oduzet bod (<http://www.sportnet.hr/Vijest.aspx?ID=375540>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20120807032257/http://www.sportnet.hr/Vijest.aspx?ID=375540>) 2012-08-07 at the  Wayback Machine (in Croatian)
- ↑ The score of the Croatian team is shown first.

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