

= San Marino national football team =

The San Marino national football team ( Italian : Nazionale di calcio di San Marino ) is the national football team of San Marino , controlled by the San Marino Football Federation ( FSGC ) . The team represents the second smallest population , of any UEFA member .

The first official game played by a San Marino team was a 4 ? 0 defeat in a European Championships qualifier by Switzerland in 1990 . Previously , a San Marino side had lost 1 ? 0 to a Canadian Olympic team in 1986 , but this was not an official match . Since making their competitive bow , San Marino have competed in qualifying for every European Championships and World Cup , but have never won a match in either competition . They have only ever won one game , beating Liechtenstein 1 ? 0 in a friendly match on 28 April 2004 .

Until November 2014 San Marino were tied in last place in the FIFA World Rankings , a run that lasted since the rankings were given a new calculation methodology . They were tied for last with Bhutan , ( 208th ) in the October 2014 rankings , a 0 ? 0 draw with Estonia during the Euro 2016 qualifying rounds ensured their departure from the foot of the rankings . The national side made their first away goal in fourteen years against another Baltic side , Lithuania during the same qualifying rounds .

= = History = =

Though the San Marino Football Federation formed in 1931 , the federation did not establish a national team until 1986 , when a team representing the Federation played Canada 's Olympic team in an unofficial international . San Marino gained affiliation to governing bodies FIFA and UEFA in 1988 , allowing the team to participate in major championships . Prior to this , Sammarinese players had been considered Italian in international football contexts .

San Marino 's first match in a FIFA sanctioned competition was against Switzerland on 14 November 1990 in a qualifier for the 1992 European Championships . San Marino lost 4 ? 0 , and went to lose all eight qualifiers . The team particularly struggled in away matches , losing every one by at least four goals . San Marino scored only one goal , a penalty in a 3 ? 1 defeat at home by Romania , and conceded 33 goals in total .

For their first World Cup qualifying campaign , San Marino were drawn in a group with England , the Netherlands , Norway , Poland and Turkey . The opening match resulted in a 10 ? 0 hammering at the hands of Norway . The return match was less one @-@ sided , finishing 2 ? 0 to the Norwegians . A 4 ? 1 defeat in Turkey saw San Marino score their first World Cup goal , and a 0 ? 0 draw against the same opposition on 10 March 1993 gave them their first ever point . In their final qualifier , against England , Davide Gualtieri scored the fastest goal in World Cup Qualifying history ? after 8 @.@ 3 seconds ? though the team went on to lose 7 ? 1 . San Marino finished the campaign with one point , and conceded 46 goals in 10 matches .

The team 's qualification campaign for Euro 1996 followed a similar pattern to that of the previous European championships , as they lost every game . A match away to Finland gave San Marino their first goal away from home in the European championships , but the team lost 4 ? 1 . Their only other goal came in a 3 ? 1 home defeat by the Faroe Islands ; the two wins over San Marino were the only points gained by the Faroe Islands in the group . In the return match , a 3 ? 0 scoreline in Toftir , is the Faroe Islands record competitive win .

Even by Sammarinese standards , qualification for the 1998 World Cup was disappointing . Losing every game by three goals or more , San Marino failed to score a single goal . This is the only World Cup qualifying tournament in which they have failed to score . Qualification for Euro 2000 again resulted in defeats in every game . The closest game was against Cyprus , a 1 ? 0 defeat on 18 November 1998 .

In April 2001 , San Marino gained their first ever away point , drawing 1 ? 1 with Latvia in Riga . The team ended the 2002 World Cup qualifying group with a new best of three goals , though one of these came in a 10 ? 1 defeat by Belgium . In Euro 2004 qualifying San Marino lost all eight matches , failing to score . The closest result was a 1 ? 0 home defeat by Latvia , with the winner

scored in the last minute .

In April 2004 , San Marino gained their first , and as of September 2012 only , win in their 65th attempt , a 1 ? 0 victory over Liechtenstein in a friendly on 28 April 2004 courtesy of a fifth @-@ minute goal by Andy Selva . The match was Martin Andermatt 's debut as Liechtenstein manager . Results during qualification for the 2006 World Cup followed a similar vein to previous qualifying groups . Matches were generally one @-@ sided defeats , with the exception of single goal defeats at home by Lithuania and Belgium .

San Marino 's opening Euro 2008 qualifying match resulted in a record 13 ? 0 defeat at home by Germany on 6 September 2006 . They scored only twice and conceded fifty @-@ seven goals in losing all twelve matches , although the home matches against Ireland , Cyprus and Wales were each lost by a single goal .

In the qualification tournament for the 2010 World Cup , they lost all ten matches played and failed to qualify . They conceded 47 goals in those fixtures , including 10 in a defeat by Poland , which became Poland 's highest scoring victory of all time , and scored just once , in a 3 ? 1 defeat by Slovakia . Qualifying for UEFA Euro 2012 started in a similar way , the first nine matches all being defeats with an aggregate of 49 goals conceded and none scored , their best result being a one @-@ goal loss to Finland at home , with the worst being a heavy 11 ? 0 loss to the Netherlands , which became the Netherlands ' highest scoring victory of all time and San Marino 's worst @-@ ever away defeat . This was then followed up by two lighter defeats , a 5 ? 0 home loss against Sweden , before completing the campaign with a 4 ? 0 away loss to Moldova .

On 10 September 2013 , Alessandro Della Valle scored San Marino 's first competitive goal for 5 years . With the score 0 ? 1 to Poland in the Serravalle stadium , he headed in a free @-@ kick in the 22nd minute , beating A.F.C. Bournemouth goalkeeper Artur Boruc at his front post . Poland then regained the lead a minute later , winning 5 ? 1 . It was the first international goal of any kind scored by San Marino since the national team lost 3 ? 2 at home to Malta , the sole time the national team has scored more than once in any given international at senior level .

On 15 November 2014 , San Marino drew 0 ? 0 at home against Estonia . It was the first time in 10 years that the team had not lost a game , ending a 61 ? match losing streak , and securing the country 's first ever point in a European Championship qualifier .

= = Stadium = =

San Marino play home matches at the Stadio Olimpico , a municipally owned stadium in Serravalle which also hosts the matches of club side San Marino Calcio . It has a capacity of 7 @,@ 000 . Crowds are low , and on occasion travelling supporters outnumber the Sammarinese support . For example , in the fixture against the Republic of Ireland in February 2007 , 2 @,@ 500 of the 3 @,@ 294 crowd were Irish supporters .

San Marino have played two " home " matches outside their borders . For World Cup qualifiers against England and the Netherlands in 1993 the Stadio Renato Dall 'Ara in Bologna was used .

= = Reputation = =

San Marino once had the smallest population of any UEFA country , until the May 2013 election of Gibraltar . The republic has never won a competitive fixture and its poor record has led the country to gain a very low reputation in world football . A 2004 1 ? 0 friendly win against Liechtenstein remains their sole victory to date .

The national side is mainly composed of amateur players . Only a small number of players are professionals , with many holding second jobs outside of the sport . Their 13 ? 0 defeat at home by Germany is a European Championship record , and they have conceded ten goals on four other separate occasions . In media terms they are constantly referred to as the ' whipping boys ' , a remark regarding their emphatic number of goals conceded in each tournament entered .

In the FIFA World Rankings , San Marino traditionally have the lowest rank of any UEFA country . Since the creation of FIFA rankings in 1992 , San Marino 's average position has been 176th .

In 2001 , Latvia manager Gary Johnson resigned after failing to beat San Marino in a World Cup qualifier . The Republic of Ireland 's 2 ? 1 win in February 2007 ( due to a last @-@ second goal ) resulted in scathing press criticism .

San Marino set a European record when they went over 20 games without scoring between October 2008 and August 2012 . On 8 September 2015 , San Marino scored its first away goal in 14 years when Matteo Vitaioli scored against Lithuania in Euro 2016 qualification .

= = Results and fixtures = =

= = San Marino all @-@ time record against all nations = =

Matches official  
As of 4 June 2016  
Matches unofficial  
As of 15 October 2013

= = List of matches the San Marino team did not lose = =

= = World Cup record = =

= = European Championship record = =

1960 to 1988 ? Did not enter  
1992 to 2016 ? Did not qualify

= = Managers = =

From 1986 to present days :

= = Players = =

= = = Current squad = = =

Players called up for the friendly match against Croatia on 4 June 2016.Caps and goals as of 4 June 2016 after the game against Croatia .

= = = Recent call @-@ ups = = =

The following players have been called up in the last twelve months .

= = Coaching staff = =

= = Kit manufacturers = =

= = Records = =

In January 2006 , the Sammarinese Football Association named Massimo Bonini as their greatest

ever player . Three @-@ times Italian Serie A champion , he is the only Sammarinese player to have won an official international competition including the European Champions ' Cup and the Intercontinental Cup . Bonini represented Italy at under @-@ 21 level in the early 1980s , and he played for Juventus from 1981 to 1988 , but was prevented from gaining full honours due to a rule change . By the time San Marino became a full UEFA member , Bonini was in his thirties , but gained 19 caps between 1990 and 1995 .

After retiring from playing , Bonini became San Marino 's manager , succeeding Giorgio Leoni . He held the position until 1998 , when he was replaced by Giampaolo Mazza . As of 2012 , Mazza is the longest @-@ serving manager of any European national team . Though he gave up his position after their 2014 FIFA World Cup Qualification campaign , giving way to former u @-@ 21s boss Pierangelo Manzaroli .

The appearance record for San Marino is held by Andy Selva , whose 68 caps and he also is the record goalscorer with 8 goals .

San Marino 's player Davide Gualtieri scored the fastest goal ever in a Fifa match against England . In the match , which took place in Bologna , Italy , San Marino had the kick @-@ off and the ball was quickly played through the inside @-@ right channel . England defender Stuart Pearce attempted a back @-@ pass to goalkeeper David Seaman . Pearce 's pass was under @-@ hit and Gualtieri ran on to touch the ball past Seaman . The goal was timed at 8 @.@ 3 seconds , which remains the fastest World Cup goal scored in either qualifying or the finals . England took 20 minutes to equalise and eventually finished winning the match 7 ? 1 .

= = = Most appearances = = =

= = = All goalscorers = = =