



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND V ANDORRA

IRELAND

UEFA EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS
TALLAGHT STADIUM, DUBLIN
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
KO 7.30PM

OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME





JIM CRAWFORD

MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Good evening everyone and welcome to Tallaght Stadium.

It's great to be back in Ireland for what is our first Under-21s international on home soil for almost a year – it felt lovely in truth!

It's exciting to bring a new young and hungry Under-21s team to the Irish public and I've no doubts everyone will get behind these boys as they have done with other teams in previous campaigns.

Firstly, I'd like to wish our former assistant coach Stephen Rice all the best in his new role with Brentford. Stephen was a welcome addition to the coaching team, worked incredibly hard for us, and we thank him for his role in helping prepare the boys for this new campaign.

Before I turn my attention to a new group of Under-21s, I want to thank last year's players for all their efforts and endeavours during the two years we were together. Some of those have gone on to earn caps with the senior team and I'm thrilled and immensely proud for them all.

We went so close to gaining a play-off place for the EUROs. Goal difference was what separated us from achieving that feat and when you see we lost just once in qualification and earned more points than several teams making the play-offs, it's a difficult one to take. But it shows the fine margins in football and that group captured the imagination of the Irish public and set a new standard that will act as an inspiration for the new group of Under-21s before you this evening.

Some of those involved last term will be here tonight. James Abankwah (who captained us against Moldova) and Rocco Vata (who is on the cusp to equalling Robbie Brady's and Kevin Doyle's Under-21s goalscoring record of seven) have both been involved in the senior team – a fantastic feat for them. Add that to experience of last year with Sean Grehan, Alex Murphy, Adam Murphy and Mark O'Mahony and they'll know what's required

to reach our North Star of qualification to a European Championship.

Despite that experience, I do believe this current squad is the youngest Under-21s squad I've named and I'd argue possibly the youngest in the history of the Under-21s. We have 10 teenagers in the team, and three of them ended the game on Thursday. Huge credit must go to those boys for stepping up to the mark and helping deliver the win against Moldova.

People hear the phrase 'there are no easy games in international football' and think it is cliché. I can assure you it's absolutely the case, teams who traditionally would have struggled at international level are getting stronger by the year, they're more technical and have access to improved facilities and it's why three points away in this group is a pleasing result.

I'm sure you'll join me in welcoming Andorra to Dublin tonight. We hope they enjoy their stay in our country. Tonight we know the difficulties and challenges Andorra possess, but we will go all out to ensure two wins from our opening two qualifiers, which is a massive step for this group.

I'd like to sign-off my message to you all by mentioning two people sadly no longer with us. I wish to send my condolences to the Ferguson family after the passing of Fergus. Fergus, a father to Barry Ferguson and grandfather to Evan, was frequently at our Under-21s game supporting Evan and we'll be thinking of all the family. Also, Ollie Horgan. I think the tributes paid to one of the great men of Irish football is telling about the impact he had on football in this country. He and his family will be close to my thoughts this evening as we take part in the game he loved so much.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Jim Crawford
Ireland Under-21s Head Coach



IRELAND U21 SQUAD

IRELAND



GOALKEEPERS:

Noah Jauny (Stade Brestois)
Aaron Maguire (Tottenham Hotspur)
Andrew Wogan (Stockport County)

DEFENDERS:

James Abankwah (Watford)
Jacob Devaney (Manchester United)
Sean Grehan (Doncaster Rovers)
Alex Murphy (Newcastle United)
David Okagbue (Peterborough United)
Jacob Slater (Harrogate Town, on loan from Brighton & Hove Albion)
Freddie Turley (Derby County)

MIDFIELDERS:

Romeo Akachukwu (Southampton)
Jad Hakiki (Sligo Rovers)
Darius Lipsiuc (Solihull Moors, on loan from Stoke City)
Cathal McCarthy (Hull City)
Jamie Mullins (Wycombe Wanderers)
Adam Murphy (Swindon Town, on loan from Bristol City)
Harry Vaughan (Hull City)

FORWARDS:

Cian Dillon (Queens Park Rangers)
Trent Kone-Doherty (Liverpool)
Mason Melia (St. Patrick's Athletic)
Michael Noonan (Shamrock Rovers)
Mark O'Mahony (Reading, on loan from Brighton & Hove Albion)
Rocco Vata (Watford)

U21 RECORDS

MOST GOALS

Name	Club (Loan club in brackets)	Last campaign	U21 Caps	Goals
Kevin Doyle	Cork City, Reading	2006	12	7
Robbie Brady	Manchester United (Hull City)	2013	11	7
Graham Barrett	Arsenal (Brighton & Hove Albion, Coventry City)	2004	24	6
Stephen Elliott	Manchester City	2006	10	6
Sinclair Armstrong	QPR, Bristol City	2024	10	6
Rocco Vata	Celtic, Watford	Present	8	6
Adam Idah	Norwich City	2021	12	5
Reece Grego-Cox	QPR, Woking	2019	12	5
Aiden O'Brien	Millwall (Crawley Town, Aldershot, Torquay United)	2015	9	5
Andy Keogh	Scunthorpe United, Wolves	2009	8	5
Mark Kennedy	Millwall, Liverpool	1998	7	5

MOST CAPS

Name	Club (Loan club in brackets)	Last campaign	Total
Conor Coventry	West Ham United (Lincoln City, Peterborough United, MK Dons)	2022	28
Lee O'Connor	Manchester United, Celtic, Tranmere Rovers	2022	26
Graham Barrett	Arsenal (Brighton & Hove Albion, Coventry City)	2004	24
Shane Duffy	Everton (Scunthorpe United, Yeovil Town)	2015	20
Josh Cullen	West Ham United (Bolton Wanderers)	2019	19
Glenn Whelan	Sheffield Wednesday	2007	19

YOUNGEST SCORERS

Name	Club	Fixture	Age
Mason Mella	St. Patrick Athletic	Vs Hungary 24.03.2025	17 years, 6 months, 2 days
Troy Parrott	Tottenham Hotspur	Vs Armenia 06.09.2019	17 years, 7 months, 2 days
Evan Ferguson	Brighton & Hove Albion	Vs Israel 23.09.2022	17 years, 11 months, 4 days
Adam Idah	Norwich City	Vs Luxembourg 24.03.2019	18 years, 1 month, 13 days
Jack Grealish	Aston Villa	Vs Faroe Island 15.11.2013	18 years, 2 months, 5 days

PLAYER	CLUB
Marc de Castro	Tres Cantos
Adrià Cornella	Binéfar
Marc Rodriguez	Inter d'Escaldes
Guillem Acosta	Sarrià
Daniel Lima	FC Andorra
Daniel de Sa	FC Andorra
Biel Borra	Vilassar de Mar
Àlex Cornella	Rubi
Yedid Santaella	FC Andorra
Pere Simonet	FC Andorra
Pau Silva	Ribert
Ot Remolins	Yeclano
Nil Linares	Canyelles
Marc Torné	Lilç d'amunt
Albert Solanes	FC Andorra
Jan Gumà	Cerdanyola
Haroun Dchar	FC Santa Coloma
Gerard Solà	Huesca B
Aron Rodrigo	Huesca B
Ian Olivera	Numancia

U21 UEFA CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS



REP OF IRELAND v SLOVAKIA

FRI 10 OCT | 7.30PM

TURNER'S CROSS

TICKETS ON SALE NOW



**UEFA
UNDER21
CHAMPIONSHIP**