

DRAGAN SKOČIĆ

UEFA PRO Coach | Master of Football Coaching | Master of Sports Management



PERSONAL INFORMATION

DRAGAN ŠKOČIĆ



Date of Birth: September 3, 1968

Nationality: Croatian

Passport No: 330577015

Residence: Viškovo, Rijeka

Languages: English (Professional),
Spanish (Professional),
Croatian (Native)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dragan Skočić is a football manager with over **20 years of experience** in European and Asian football, whose work is grounded in a blend of practical field experience and continuous academic advancement.

Throughout his career, he has established himself as a professional who brings **stability and measurable progress** to every environment, regardless of its starting position. His approach is characterized by deep respect for the football culture of the community in which he works, combined with the implementation of **modern tactical and methodological standards**.

From leading national teams to club success in the Champions League, his focus remains on developing player potential and achieving sustainable results through **discipline, organization, and professionalism**.





KEY STRATEGIC ASSETS

Dual-Competency Academic Leadership: One of the few managers globally to hold a **UEFA PRO License** alongside two specialized Master's degrees: **Master of Football Coaching** and **Master of Sports Management**. This foundation ensures a highly methodical, professional approach to team development and strategic club organization.

Elite Continental Track Record: Demonstrated success at the highest level of international football, having managed **three different clubs in the AFC Champions League** — including Saudi giant **Al-Nassr FC**, **Foolad FC**, and **Tractor FC**.

Advanced Tactical Development and Adaptation: A specialist in designing and implementing sophisticated tactical systems tailored to the specific profile of the squad. He focuses on enhancing the team's collective **tactical intelligence**, ensuring a versatile and disciplined approach.

Organizational Stability and Structural Discipline: Expert in establishing clear technical and tactical frameworks that provide the team with immediate stability. By introducing **disciplined professional standards**, he ensures a reliable foundation for long-term competitive growth.

Cross-Cultural Leadership and Integration: Having spent nearly two decades working across diverse football landscapes, he has mastered the art of adapting his leadership style to different national mentalities, enabling successful communication and trust-building with players and management.



FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022



National team managers at World Cup draw in Qatar



With national team managers Martinez (Belgium) and Dalić (Croatia) at World Cup draw in Qatar

PROFESSIONAL COACHING EXPERIENCE



2024 – 2026

Tractor FC (Iran) | Head Coach

- **League Champion (2024/25)**: Led the club to its first league title in 55 years.
- **Iranian Super Cup Winner (2025)**.
- Achieved the **highest points-per-game and win-rate statistics** in the history of the Persian Gulf Pro League.
- Led the club to **4th place** in the **Asian Club World Rankings** (Feb 2026).
- **Current Standing Upon Departure**:
 - **Persian Gulf Pro League**: Left the team in 1st place.
 - **AFC Champions League Elite**: Left the team in **3rd place** (positioned behind Al-Hilal and Al-Ahli).

2023

Croatia National U-21 Football Team | Head Coach

- Participant in the **UEFA European Under-21 Championship 2023**.

January 2020 – September 2022

Iran National Football Team | Head Coach

- **World Cup 2022 Qualification:** Secured qualification with a record **83% win rate**.
- Delivered the **fastest qualification in Asian history**, recording the highest points tally ever in a single qualifying cycle.
- Qualification **AFC Asian Cup 2023**.
- **FIFA World Rankings:** Iran rose from 33rd to 22nd during this period.

2019 – 2020

Sanat Naft (Iran) | Head Coach

- Delivered the club's **highest historical ranking** in the Pro League up until the moment of departure to take over the Iran National Team.

2018

Khooneh be Khooneh (Iran) | Head Coach

- Hazfi Cup Runner-up.





2014 – 2016

Foolad FC (Iran) | Head Coach

- Led the team in the AFC Champions League.

2013 – 2014

Malavan (Iran) | Head Coach

- Achieved the highest league position in the club's recent history.

2011

Al-Nassr FC (Saudi Arabia) | Head Coach

- AFC Champions League: Successfully led the club through the group stage and into the Round of 16 (Knockout Phase).

2009 – 2010

Al-Arabi (Kuwait) | Head Coach

- AFC Cup: Reached the Round of 16.
- Finalist in the Federation Cup and Kuwait Crown Prince Cup.

2007 – 2009

Interblock Ljubljana (Slovenia) | Head Coach

- **Mission Success:** Appointed in the final rounds of the season specifically to **save the team from relegation**, successfully securing top-flight status.
- **Slovenian Cup Winner (2007/08) & Slovenian Super Cup Winner (2008).**
- **UEFA Competitions:** Led the club to its first-ever appearance in European competitions.

2004 – 2006

HNK Rijeka (Croatia) | Head Coach & Assistant Coach

- **Assistant Coach (2004/05):** Contributed to winning the Croatian Cup.
- **Head Coach (2005/06):** Successfully defended the **Croatian Cup** title.
- **League Performance (2005/06):** Secured the **Croatian League Runner-up** (2nd place) finish.





Iran league Champion celebration at Yadegar-e- Emam Stadium, 2025



EDUCATION & ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

MASTER OF FOOTBALL COACHING

Faculty of Kinesiology,
University of Zagreb

UEFA PRO COACH CERTIFICATE

HNS Football Academy

MASTER OF SPORTS MANAGEMENT

University College of Sport
Management Aspira

PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER CERTIFICATE

Media Academy,
University of Zagreb



PERSONAL AWARDS & RECOGNITION

TOPA Award (2025): Voted **The best manager in the Iranian Pro League** by a professional jury of coaches, captains, experts, and journalists.

IFCA Coach of the Year (2025): Club level (**Tractor FC**).

IFCA Coach of the Year (2021): National team level (**Iran**).

IFFHS World's Best National Coach Nomination (2021): Shortlisted among elite managers ((**Deschamps, Scaloni, Mancini, Martinez**))

Special Achievement Award (AFC): For historical statistical records in Asian World Cup qualifications.

PLAYER CAREER

Official ITC No. 001: First international transfer certificate in the history of the **Croatian Football Federation** (HNK Rijeka -> U.D. Las Palmas, 1992)

Clubs: HNK Rijeka (Croatia), S.D. Compostela (Spain), U.D. Las Palmas (Spain), Ittihad Kalba (UAE)

