



Arsenal vs Fulham Preview: Gunners Eye Six-Point Lead At The Emirates

Description

Arsenal vs Fulham at the Emirates on Saturday 2 May 2026 is a fixture Mikel Arteta cannot afford to take lightly. The Gunners welcome Marco Silva's stubborn Cottagers in a 17:30 BST kick-off (00:30 SGT Sunday) hoping to push their Premier League title-race lead back to six points, three days after a draining Champions League semi-final first leg in Madrid.

What Arsenal vs Fulham means for the title race

Arsenal sit top of the Premier League heading into matchweek 36, having held a slender advantage over Manchester City for several weeks. With City not in action until Monday at Goodison Park, the Gunners have an opportunity to apply the pressure first – a six-point gap, even temporarily, would be the kind of psychological cushion that title runs are built on.

That carrot is sharpened by a remarkable home record. Arsenal have conceded just 11 goals at the Emirates across the entire 2025-26 Premier League campaign, and they have not lost a top-flight home game against Fulham in their last 32 attempts – the longest such streak any English club has ever recorded against a single opponent. The history says one thing very clearly: Fulham do not win at the Emirates.

Arteta's selection headache after Madrid

Wednesday's 1-1 Champions League semi-final first leg at the Metropolitano was a tactical and physical examination, and Arteta will rotate. Bukayo Saka and Eberechi Eze were both restricted to cameo roles in Madrid and are likely to start against Fulham, with the manager wary of overloading legs ahead of the second leg. Riccardo Calafiori, an unused substitute on Wednesday after recovering from a knock, could come into the back line.



Source: Arsenal FC official website (arsenal.com) â?? Hincapie was outstanding in Wednesdayâ??s 1-1 draw at Atletico Madrid.

Kai Havertz remains sidelined with a muscular issue picked up against Newcastle, while Jurrien Timber (groin) and Mikel Merino (foot) are still some way short. The combination of fatigue and absences gives William Saliba and Gabriel a busier afternoon than the Opta forecasters might suggest, especially in the first half-hour while Arsenalâ??s gears engage.

Fulhamâ??s away problem â?? and where they can hurt Arsenal

Marco Silva travels to north London on the back of a battling 1-0 home win over Aston Villa, but Fulham's record on the road in 2025-26 has been the issue all season. Ryan Sessegnon, the in-form winger, is out and is also unlikely to feature in the following match, Silva confirmed on Friday. Alex Iwobi and Kevin Mbabu remain unavailable, while Kenny Tete is a doubt pending a final training session.

Where the Cottagers can give Arsenal a problem is on the counter. Raul Jimenez has had a fine season as the Premier League's most underrated lone striker, and Andreas Pereira can punish loose ball-circulation in the build-up. If Arteta tries to recover legs by slowing the tempo, Silva will pounce on transitions in a way few visitors do at the Emirates.



Source: Arsenal FC official website (arsenal.com) - Arsenal training at London Colney before Saturday's London derby.

How Arsenal vs Fulham could play out

The Opta supercomputer has Arsenal as 72.1% favourites, and the model is rarely wrong on home banker fixtures of this profile. Saka, in particular, has scored or assisted in five of his last six Premier League outings against Fulham. With Eze restored and Declan Rice expected to anchor a refreshed midfield, Arsenal's structure should overwhelm a Fulham midfield missing Sessegnon's pace on the flank.

The angle worth watching is in the first 20 minutes. Arsenal often need to settle after midweek European nights - if Fulham can stay 0-0 to the half-hour, doubts creep in. If the Gunners score early, the contest can quickly resemble the 32-game streak Arsenal want to extend.

For Singapore viewers, kick-off lands at 00:30 SGT on Sunday morning, with the match available live on mola.tv. Build-up and team news arrive from around 00:00 SGT.

Why Arsenal vs Fulham matters beyond three points

Win and Arsenal travel to north London for the Atletico Madrid second leg with a six-point lead in the Premier League and a midweek base in good order. Slip up - even a draw - and the title race tightens fractionally with City and United behind. The biggest danger for Arteta isn't Fulham; it is the cumulative load of a side trying to win the league and reach a Champions League final in the same fortnight.

Catch up on the wider context in our [Champions League semi-final preview](#) and our [EPL weekend recap](#). For more, head to our [Sports section](#).

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