

Stefano Pioli’s AC Milan career

2019–21: Early seasons

The day after Marco Giampaolo's sacking, on 9 October 2019, Pioli was appointed as the new coach of AC Milan, on a deal to the end of the season. Pioli's Milan finished the season in sixth place in Serie A. The team scored 63 goals in the competition, their highest total since 2013. On 7 July 2020, Milan defeated Juventus 4–2. Milan scored four goals against Juventus in Serie A for the first time since March 1989, when the score was 4–0. It was Milan's first win against Juventus since 2016.

On 21 July, Pioli reached an agreement with Milan for a two-year deal extension of his contract as head coach to June 2022. On 17 October, Milan won 2–1 against Inter. It was Milan's first Serie A win against Inter since 2016. Milan also won their first four games in a Serie A season for the first time since 1995–96, when Fabio Capello was in charge. Milan scored in 24 consecutive Serie A games for the first time since 1973 (29). On 6 December Milan beat Sampdoria 2–1, setting a new club record for goals scored in successive Serie A matches (30).

Following a 2–2 draw with Genoa on 16 December, AC Milan were unbeaten in 24 league games: their longest run since 1993.[28] On 23 December, Milan beat Lazio 3–2, becoming the second side in the history of Europe's top five leagues to have scored two or more goals in more than 15 successive games in a single calendar year (after Barcelona, 18 in 1948). On 9 May 2021, Milan managed to win 3–0 against Juventus, their first away win against them since 2011. Three days later, Pioli's side beat Torino 7–0 in an away game, winning by a seven-goal margin for the first time since June 1959 against Udinese (7–0).

A 2–0 away win against Atalanta on 23 May confirmed that Milan would finish second in the league table, securing a return to the Champions League for the first time in seven seasons. Milan also set a new all-time record for away wins in a Serie A season with 16; no side has ever done better in Europe’s top five leagues in a single campaign (Real Madrid in 2011–12 and Manchester City in 2017–18 also achieved 16 away wins). In the UEFA Europa League, Milan reached the round of 16, where they were eliminated by Manchester United.

2021–22: Scudetto victory

As of August 2021, Pioli held the second highest win percentage in Serie A among Milan coaches, behind only Lajos Czeizler. On 3 October, Milan defeated Atalanta at Gewiss Stadium 3–2, recording successive wins away at Atalanta in Serie A for the first time since 2013. On 31 October, with a 2–1 win against Roma, Milan became the fourth team in Serie A history to win 10 of their first 11 games of the season, after Roma, Juventus (twice) and Napoli (twice). The win also ended José Mourinho's run of 43 home games unbeaten in Serie A.

In November, Pioli reached an agreement with the club to extend his contract until June 2023. In December, his Milan side became the second team in Serie A history to win at least 17 away league games in a single calendar year (after Napoli, 18 in 2017). In the Champions League, the team was knocked out at the group stage, finishing bottom of Group B behind Liverpool, Atlético Madrid and Porto.

On 6 January 2022, Milan beat Roma 3–1, managing to win three consecutive league games against Roma for the first time since 1996. On 5 February, Milan came back to beat archrivals Inter 2–1 in the Derby della Madonnina after trailing by 0–1; it was the first comeback win for Milan in the derby since 2004. On 13 February after defeating Sampdoria, Milan had picked up 55 points in the league: in the three points-per-win era, only in 2003–04 had they earned as many points after 25 games (64).

On 6 March, Milan beat Napoli 1–0 at Stadio Diego Maradona, moving to the top of the league table and winning two consecutive away games against Napoli in Serie A for the first time since 1981. Milan had also picked up at least 60 points from the first 28 matchdays of a Serie A season for the first time since 2011–12. On 12 March, Milan defeated Empoli 1–0, reaching 63 points on the top of league ta Seven days later, Milan beat Cagliari 1–0; with that win, Milan had scored at least one goal in 15 consecutive away matches in a single top-flight season for only the second time in their history, also doing so in 1967–68 in Serie A. Pioli's side

sealed the Scudetto on 22 May, the last day of the season, with a 3–0 win against Sassuolo. It was Milan's first league title since 2011, and Pioli's first ever trophy. The team amassed 86 points in total, their best tally since 2005–06.

Pioli's tenure at Milan has brought him the praise of several Italian football personalities and pundits, such as Alberto Zaccheroni, Fabio Capello, Claudio Ranieri, Arrigo Sacchi and Adriano Galliani.

2022–24: Later seasons and departure

On 13 August 2022, Milan defeated Udinese 4–2, securing three consecutive wins at the start of the competition for three seasons in a row, the first time since 1996. On 31 October Milan announced that Pioli extended his contract until 30 June 2025. On 8 March 2023, Milan beat Tottenham 1–0 on aggregate, reaching Champions League quarter finals for the first time since the 2011–12 season.

On 2 April, Milan squashed Napoli 4–0 at Stadio Diego Armando Maradona, inflicting the worst defeat for the latter team since 2007. With that win, Milan won three times successively in Naples for the first time since 1951. On 18 April, Milan beat Napoli 2–1 on aggregate following a 1–1 draw, reaching the Champions League semi-finals for the first time since the 2006–07 season. Milan eventually lost to city rivals Inter 3-0 on aggregate in the semi-finals. On 28 May, he led Milan to qualify for the Champions League for a third successive season following a 1-0 win at Juventus.

Milan started Pioli's final season with an away win against Bologna in 21 August. On 7th of October, after a difficult win against Genoa, Milan stood on the top of the league table. However, the team lost the lead in the league table after a 0-1 loss against Juventus on 22 October. Milan was knocked out of the UCL Group Stage on 13 December, finishing third in the group and qualifying to the UEFA Europa League instead. On 20 January 2024, after 3-2 win against Udinese, Pioli reached a milestone of 100 wins for Milan in the league, becoming the fifth manager to achieve the feat after Carlo Ancelotti, Fabio Capello, Nereo Rocco and Nils Liedholm.