



AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2020

TECHNICAL REPORT & STATISTICS



AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2020

GROUP A



**AL WAHDA
FSC**
(UAE)



AL SHORTA
(IRQ)



ESTEGHLAL FC
(IRN)



**AL AHLI
SAUDI FC**
(KSA)

GROUP B



**AL HILAL
SFC**
(KSA)



**SHABAB AL
AHLI DUBAI**
(UAE)



PAKHTAKOR
(UZB)



**SHAHR
KHODRO FC**
(IRN)

GROUP C



AL DUHAIL SC
(QAT)



AL TAAWOUN FC
(KSA)



SHARJAH FC
(UAE)



PERSEPOLIS FC
(IRN)

GROUP D



SEPAHAN FC
(IRN)



AL SADD SC
(QAT)



AL NASSR
(KSA)



AL AIN FC
(UAE)

GROUP E



BEIJING FC
(CHN)



**CHIANGRAI
UNITED**
(THA)



**MELBOURNE
VICTORY**
(AUS)



FC SEOUL
(KOR)

GROUP F



**ULSAN
HYUNDAI**
(KOR)



**SHANGHAI
SHENHUA FC**
(CHN)



PERTH GLORY
(AUS)



FC TOKYO
(JPN)

GROUP G



VISSEL KOBE
(JPN)



**SUWON
SAMSUNG
BLUEWINGS**
(KOR)



**GUANGZHOU
EVERGRANDE FC**
(CHN)



**JOHOR DARUL
TA'ZIM**
(MAS)

GROUP H



SYDNEY FC
(AUS)



**YOKOHAMA F.
MARINOS**
(JPN)



**JEONBUK
HYUNDAI
MOTORS FC**
(KOR)



**SHANGHAI
SIPG FC**
(CHN)



**AFC
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE**

**AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2020
TECHNICAL REPORT AND STATISTICS**

CONTENTS

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

08

TECHNICAL TOPICS

18

GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

26

TALKING POINTS

30

WINNING COACH

36

TEAM PROFILES

40

STAR SELECTION

74

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

82

REFEREES

88

EXTRA TIME

94

PREVIOUS WINNERS

98

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

105







Foreword by the **AFC PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends

I am delighted to be able to invite you to read the 2020 AFC Champions League Technical Report at the conclusion of an event in a year like no other, which was mainly held in Doha, Qatar.

This Technical Report, put together by the AFC's Technical Study Group led by the AFC's Technical Director Andy Roxburgh, reflects on the highs and lows of the most challenging of years not only for football but for the entire world.

But despite facing the most unprecedented and uncertain times in Asia, while we have not been immune from the COVID-19 pandemic, we have displayed the spirit and determination for which we are renowned.

We showed that we will not hesitate to take tough decisions when the need arises – the AFC was the first Confederation to postpone our competitions to protect the health and welfare of not only the players but all our stakeholders.

But we also demonstrated that we could rise to the challenge - when the time was right - by delivering a competition of the stature of the AFC Champions League, which has seen 52 teams from 23 Member Associations, in the most testing circumstances, compete for Asia's ultimate club prize.

Congratulations to Ulsan Hyundai FC of Korea Republic, who came from behind in the Final on December 19, 2020, to beat Persepolis from the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a thrilling match at the end of a competition dedicated to the true heroes of 2020 – the frontline health workers – under the banner #FootballforHeroes.

But the AFC could not have achieved this without the solidarity and unity of its Member Associations and without the outstanding support of the Qatar Football Association and the Qatari Authorities, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their efforts to ensure that a crowd could safely attend the Final.

During this highly successful and, most importantly, safe competition, Qatar provided a taste of the hospitality as well as the efficiency and health protection that the world can expect at the end of 2022 when it stages the FIFA World Cup.

The four world class stadiums – three of which will be FIFA World Cup venues – provided the perfect platform for the best of Asia's football talents to shine, and that high-class action is captured and debated within the pages of this excellent Technical Report.



The AFC Technical Study Group captures the key elements of another remarkable year in the history of this competition and highlights the developing trends in Asian football as well as identifying some of the most influential players.

In this overarching and thorough report, there is also a review of the match officials from a technical perspective and we are grateful to them for their excellence during the season which engaged with more fans than ever before.

Finally, I would like to thank our commercial and broadcast partners for their continued support, and the media who helped publicise the matches. A special thanks to the hundreds of millions of fans for their loyalty when they could not attend the majority of matches and so viewed on TV or joined our digital community in record numbers.

I am sure you will all enjoy this outstanding and insightful Technical Report.

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
AFC President



AFC
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE
FINAL 2020
DOHA

#FootballForHeroes





COMPETITION OVERVIEW

PRELIMINARY AND PLAY-OFF STAGES



It was an AFC Champions League Group Stage like no other.

In mid-January, when the 2020 Preliminary Stage began, there was little warning that this year's edition of Asia's premier competition would be the exceptional one it became, and less still that it would take nearly 11 months to complete the Group Stage.

What began in Amman, Ahmedabad, Manila and Singapore would finish in a centralised, bio-secure hub in Doha. That it could be finished at all was a testament to the commitment of players, clubs and administrators throughout the Continent.

The competition's first major surprise came when 2018 champions Kashima Antlers were eliminated by Australia's Melbourne Victory in the play-off round. It would not be the last.

Another Japanese side, Yokohama F. Marinos, came storming out of the gates, winning 2-1 away at Korean champions Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors, then outclassing Australia's best team, Sydney FC, by a margin of 4-0 a week later.

The early pacesetters in the West were Uzbekistan Super League champions

Pakhtakor, who won back-to-back home matches against Shabab Al Ahli and Shahr Khodrou to put themselves within sight of their first knockout stage appearance in a decade before Tashkent's winter snow had stopped falling.

Like Pakhtakor, the competition was gathering momentum. Then, like much of the world, it stopped.

It would take nearly seven months to resurface. It did so in the state-of-the-art stadiums of Qatar, starting with the remaining West Zone fixtures, which resumed on September 14.

The fireworks truly began the following evening.

Al Ain and Al Sadd played out a classic 3-3 draw, two goals from Moroccan Abderrazak Hamdallah steered Al Nassr to a crucial 2-0 win over Sepahan, Al Duhail prevailed 2-1 over a talent-laden Sharjah, and Persepolis breathed life into a spluttering campaign with a late winner against Al Taawoun; all within a few hours and all within 15 kilometres. Asian football was back.

Fast starters Pakhtakor won Group B ahead of Shabab Al Ahli to end their knockout stage drought, with Al Ahli

Saudi FC and Esteghlal joining them from Group A, while Persepolis and Al Taawoun advanced from Group C.

Hamdallah's Al Nassr topped Group D, while the goals of another North African striker, Algeria's Baghdad Bounedjah, powered Qatari champions Al Sadd to the Round of 16 as group runners-up.

In November, it was the East Zone's turn to pick up where they had left off, with two sides – Korea Republic's Ulsan Hyundai and Beijing FC of China PR – standing out above all others.

They both accumulated club record 16-point hauls in their six Group Stage matches, with FC Tokyo and Melbourne Victory joining them as their respective runners-up.

Yokohama F. Marinos finished what they started, topping Group H ahead of Shanghai SIPG, while Vissel Kobe reached the final 16 at their first attempt, winning Group C by one point from Suwon Samsung Bluewings.

Those results meant regular title contenders Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors and Guangzhou Evergrande both suffered rare Group Stage exits in what was, to the very end, a Group Stage full of surprises.

WEST ZONE: KNOCK OUT STAGE



It was a knockout stage where the value of strong Group Stage success became clearer than ever, but where scoring first was no guarantee of success.

Seven of the eight Round of 16 matches were won by the group winners, five of whom prevailed without conceding a goal, but while the business end of the competition followed the script in terms of early results, there would be plenty of twists and turns as it went on.

The West Zone's knockout stage began with two matches on September 26. In both, the team which scored the opening goal would be eliminated by the end of the night.

Al Ahli Saudi recovered from an early Azizjon Ganiev strike to eliminate Shabab Al Ahli on penalties after a 1-1 draw, while Pakhtakor's dream campaign continued as goals from Dragan Ceran and Eren Derdiyok fuelled a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Esteghlal.

That win took Pakhtakor to the last eight for the first time since 2009, but that's where it would end for the Uzbekistan Super League champions, with Persepolis striker scoring either



side of half-time to take the Tehran giants to the Semi-finals.

They would be joined by Al Nassr, who had beaten their domestic rivals Al Ahli Saudi 2-0 in the quarter-finals, and it would prove to be a gripping battle between two of the biggest clubs never to have held the Asian title.

Al Nassr struck first, with the talismanic Abderrazak Hamdallah netting his seventh goal of the tournament from

the penalty spot. Persepolis, however, levelled the tie through Mehdi Abdi's goal just before half-time, then held their nerve from the penalty spot to reach their second AFC Champions League Final in three seasons.

That match, in early October 2020, completed Persepolis' West Zone obligations, and while the East Zone's knockout stage would begin just over two months later, some of the same themes continued to emerge.

QUARTER-FINALS - WEST



AL NASSR
(KSA)

2 VS 0



AL AHLI SAUDI
FC (KSA)



PERSEPOLIS
FC (IRN)

2 VS 0



PAKHTAKOR
(UZB)

SEMI-FINAL - WEST



AL NASSR
(KSA)

1

VS

(a.e.t.) (3-5 p)



PERSEPOLIS
FC (IRN)

1

EAST ZONE: KNOCK OUT STAGE



Group winners Ulsan Hyundai, Beijing FC and Vissel Kobe all progressed to the last eight, experiencing few concerns in their respective wins over Melbourne Victory, FC Tokyo and Shanghai SIPG, but the eighth and final Round of 16 match produced the biggest upset of all.

Group H winners and 2019 J1 League champions Yokohama F. Marinos scored first, and looked the better team against Suwon Samsung Bluewings, but the Korea Republic side scored three times in a frantic 30-minute period to seal an exceptional 3-2 win.

Ulsan continued along their merry way as Júnior Negrão scored both goals in a 2-0 quarter-final win over the previously unbeaten Beijing FC, and it looked like it might be an all-Korea Republic Semi-final when Suwon went ahead against Vissel Kobe, only for the Japanese club to level the tie through a clever Kyogo Furuhashi free-kick, then prevail in a tense penalty shootout.

The tournament debutants had reached the Semi-finals, and, despite the absence of their biggest star, injured FIFA World Cup winner Andres

Iniesta, Hotaru Yamaguchi had them a goal ahead in the Semi-final against Ulsan Hyundai.

Vissel's lead was still intact with less than 10 minutes remaining, but

Bjorn Johnsen prodded home a late equaliser before Júnior netted an even later winner, converting a 119th-minute penalty to break hearts in Kobe, and keep Ulsan on track for a second Asian title.



QUARTER-FINALS - EAST



ULSAN HYUNDAI
FC (KOR)

2 VS 0



BEIJING
FC (CHN)



VISSEL KOBE
(JPN)

1 VS 1

1-1 (a.e.t.) (7-6 p)



SUWON SAMSUNG
BLUEWINGS (KOR)

SEMI-FINAL - EAST



ULSAN HYUNDAI
FC (KOR)

VS



VISSEL KOBE
(JPN)

2

1



FINAL



**ULSAN
HYUNDAI FC (KOR)**

2

v



'S

1



PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)

An Asian club football season of unprecedented challenges ended in triumph for Ulsan Hyundai FC of Korea Republic, who came from behind to beat IR Iran's Persepolis in the AFC Champions League 2020 Final.

The Horangi's 2-1 victory was warmly celebrated both on the pitch at Doha's Al Janoub Stadium and by thousands of fans back in Ulsan, but there was a wider sense of accomplishment among the Asian football community – that this most complicated of AFC Champions League editions had been completed with such success that some 8,500 socially distanced fans were there, in the stands, to witness it.

Those spectators saw a Final full of commitment, quality and no shortage of momentum shifts, as evidenced when Persepolis put themselves in pole position on the stroke of half-time, with Mehdi Abdi punishing a sloppy Ulsan defensive error to put the Iranian side a goal ahead.

But that lead quickly evaporated when the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) correctly awarded a penalty to Ulsan, with Brazilian striker Júnior Negrão poking home the equaliser in first-half stoppage time, but only after his initial spot kick had been saved by Persepolis goalkeeper Hamed Lak.

Lightning struck once more after half-time, with Ulsan awarded another penalty after another foul spotted by VAR – this time a handball offence by Mehdi Shiri – with Júnior this time thundering the ball into the top corner of the net to put Ulsan ahead in the 55th minute.

Now in search of an equaliser, Persepolis launched wave after wave of attacks, but Ulsan held firm to secure their ninth consecutive win in the competition, and a second Asian title following their maiden success in 2012.

The drama didn't end there. Ulsan head coach Kim Do-hoon confirmed his departure from the club just moments after the final whistle, content that, like the competition itself, he had signed off in triumph.



ANAL 2022

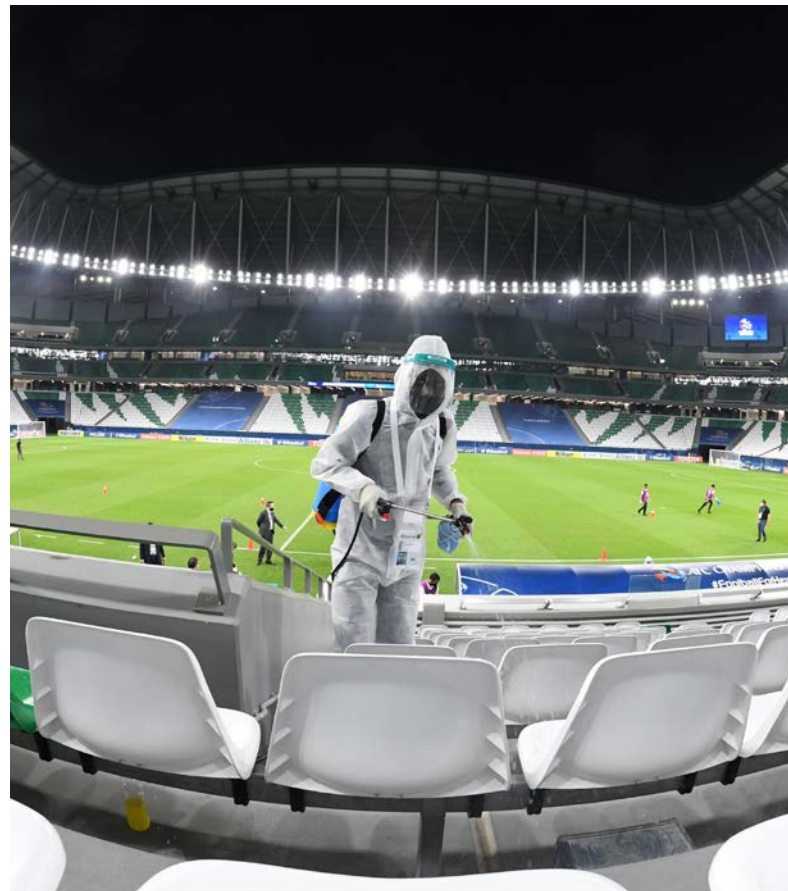




TECHNICAL TOPICS

TECHNICAL TOPICS

It could be argued that there was only one fixture in 2020: Football v COVID-19. Football refused to be beaten, but COVID-19 pressed hard and made it difficult to play out of trouble. It prevented Al Hilal, the impressive champions in 2019, from defending their title. And, with the lion's share of a depleted 93-game fixture list played in Qatar, it provoked enough singularity to make it difficult to pinpoint trends on the field of play. But, in spite of everything, the AFC Champions League 2020 was a fascinating contest which provided intriguing indicators about where club football in Asia is heading.



Pressing ahead

The main question to have emerged from the 2019 season of Asia's pinnacle event was whether Al Hilal's sustained high-pressing game would initiate a trend in the AFC Champions League. This became a major talking point during the AFC Elite Club Coaches Forum staged – online, of course – in September 2020.

"I was impressed by the way they [Al Hilal] pressed," commented Shanghai SIPG head coach Vítor Pereira. "I thought it was a step up in the level of football in that Zone. But when we look at the Champions League Final in Europe, we see how Bayern Munich try to press the ball all the time. Most of the big teams do this. Press the ball, press the ball ... and very fast transitions. In Asia, I think we are now seeing teams ready to press high, to have an aggressive reaction to losing the ball and then to use it positively."

José Morais, still head coach at Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors at the time, added: "At European teams, it is maybe regarded as normal. But in Asia you have to work hard to apply this concept, and in some countries, this is easier than in others because of the difference in football culture."

Heimir Helgrímsson, head coach at Al Arabi in Qatar, remarked: "I was impressed by Al Hilal's game and this is one way of developing the football here. The tempo in the West is generally quite low and I'm sure that raising the tempo is the way to make the West more competitive."

Moving to the East, Yokohama Marinos boss Ange Postecoglou maintained: "I think that it's not just here but worldwide, it's becoming predominant for teams to press well and maintain a high tempo. A high-pressing game can be really challenging for the players. But, as always in football, some teams will undoubtedly be prepared to take this on and make it successful. And, while we're identifying this as a trend, there will be coaches out there who will already be trying to work out how to beat the high press – and that's the beauty of the game." His team, in the 2020 AFC Champions League, demonstrated its belief in the high press and, in the words of one observer, "was attack-minded in and out of possession".

J-League colleagues FC Tokyo also adopted a high-intensity, high-pressing style with fast, vertical responses to ball-winning, while the third Japanese side, Vissel Kobe, mixed sporadic high pressure with midfield pressing from a rapidly-assembled defensive block.

With such a high percentage of games staged in Qatar, it could be argued that climatic conditions were not overly conducive to a sustained high-pressing style. But there was evidence to suggest that this vocation was becoming more prevalent.

The 2020 champions may not have mirrored the Al Hilal ethic, but Ulsan undoubtedly had the collective high press as a weapon in their armoury – as some clips from the Final against Persepolis might demonstrate. For instance, a moment in

the game when Kim Do-Hoon's team was assembled in a midfield block with only Júnior Negrão in an advanced position. But, when the Persepolis build-up led to a backward pass from the right, six players (two high with four in support) accelerated into high-press mode, forcing a back pass to the keeper, whose long clearance signified loss of possession. Or the Persepolis square throw-in which triggered another six-man collective press which ultimately forced a long ball and loss of possession. Or the moment when an Ulsan attack on the right broke down, prompting a fast transition into a 1-4-4-1-1 block – including a reverse press by front-man Júnior. Persepolis adeptly retained possession but a back pass to the keeper triggered the six-man forward surge which, with short-passing options barred, culminated in a long ball calmly gathered by the unchallenged Ulsan keeper Jo So-huk.

"The unusual circumstances made it difficult to gauge whether Al Hilal had triggered a trend," AFC Technical Director Andy Roxburgh reflected, "and we would really need to look at the top teams in Europe's Champions League and ask ourselves if the pressing in our competition is as intense, as frequent or as efficient." Statistics from Europe reveal that Liverpool, for example, can engage in around 150 pressing activities per

Vertical angles

Interwoven with the topic of high pressing is the issue of what teams do with the ball once they have won it. Hansi Flick, head coach of European champions FC Bayern Munich, insisted, "when we're in possession of the ball, we want to be determined to deliver an end product".

For the record, the UEFA Champions League produced 1,148 high turnovers, of which just under one in five led immediately to an attempt on goal. The likes of FC Bayern and Liverpool were by no means alone in implementing a fast-forward philosophy – newcomers RB Leipzig among them. "Once the ball is lost they press extremely high to try to regain possession as quickly as possible. And when they win the ball high, they try to finish the move in two or three passes," commented Gérard Houllier, who attended the Elite Club Coaches Forum on his 73rd birthday and, to the immense sadness of his many friends at AFC and in the world of football, passed away a few weeks later.

Fast vertical attacking, the counterweight to the 'tiki taka' style of play made popular by Spain and FC Barcelona, was visible in the AFC Champions League, where ball-possession was a valued asset but not an end in itself.

game, one-third of them in the opposition's defensive third. As Jürgen Klopp maintained, "no playmaker in the world can be as good as a good counter-pressing situation".

With coaches such as Ange Postecoglou at Yokohama advocating a similarly aggressive approach to the pressing game, the 2020 AFC Champions League suggested that the Al Hilal approach is certainly having repercussions – notably among teams from the East.

"There is certainly a worldwide trend towards this sort of intensive collective high pressing," said Andy Roxburgh, "and it's fair to say that this is starting to blossom in Asian football."



Among the top eight teams in the knockout rounds, Beijing FC were alone in dominating possession in each of their games – albeit only two. Silver-medallists Persepolis enjoyed a dominant share of the ball in all their group games and all but one of their KO ties – the match against Xavi Hernández's Al Sadd. During the defeat in the Final, Yahya Golmohammadi's team had 57% of the ball against Vissel Kobe and 37% against Beijing. Of the 12 knockout matches that produced victories (as opposed to draws), six were won by the team with more of the ball and half a dozen by the team with less of it. "We did see teams who were fast, aggressive and vertical in their attacking play," Andy Roxburgh commented. "Ulsan, Yokohama and FC Tokyo were good examples of that go-forward mentality – and there are clear signs that this approach is gaining ground."

A combination lock?

The goalscoring section of this report points out that, yet again, combination play accounted for a slim percentage of the season’s open-play goals (8.88% to be exact, compared with 17% in Europe’s Champions League), whereas the more vertical option – the through pass – paid the richest dividends. Many teams set out playing a short-passing game and statistics related to long passes are not always reliable witnesses, in that they can include, for example, crossfield switches or centre-backs opening play to the wings. The chart is therefore no more than an indicator.

TEAM	LONG
Suwon Bluewings	19.8%
Al Nassr	15.4%
Ulsan Hyundai	15.1%
Al Ahli Saudi	14.3%
Vissel Kobe	12.9%
Pakhtakor	12.4%
Persepolis	10.8%
Beijing FC	9.2%



The scoring statistics can also be misleading. There was no shortage of creative, fluid one-touch combination football which was not rewarded with goals – a prime example coming in the Final. The Ulsan goalkeeper initiated build-up, continuing with an eight-pass interchange along the back line. A pass to the left then triggered an abrupt change of tempo, a crisp inside pass, an imaginative backheel and a shot by Yun Bit-garam which struck the Persepolis post.

The AFC technical observer remarked on Al Nassr’s one or two-touch combinations in wide areas, along with the skilful building through the thirds operated by Al Ahli Saudi and Persepolis. Vítor Pereira remarked at the Forum that, “Japanese teams embrace neat combination play as their footballing culture. They have great levels of technique and can play beautifully”. His view was borne out by Yokohama, who built patiently when aware that opponents had assembled their defensive block. And, above all, Vissel Kobe were prepared to try creative combinations in the final third, with plenty of movement when Andrés Iniesta was on the ball, catalysing the team’s attacking play. The talking points to emerge were about the percentage of string-pulling players who were foreign recruits; and, although approach work was by no means short of skill and pace, the reluctance to seek successful combinations in the final third.

The season’s statistics for pass completion rates in the final third (i.e. passes successfully delivered to a team-mate) reveal that teams from the East – this is a generalisation – showed greater accuracy and slimmer discrepancies between their attacking-third passing and their average over the whole pitch. The exception was provided by Suwon, whose efficiency in the final third was 12-13% lower than their entire-pitch average. Among teams from the West, Al Ahli Saudi’s accuracy up front was 58% against Shabab Al Ahli while, in their Round of 16 matches, Taawoun recorded 58% and Esteghlal 51%. Again, the statistics provide orientation rather than definitive conclusions, as it can be argued that lower figures might correspond to teams who were prepared to be more imaginative than safety-first in their final-third passing.

Goal kicks: the long and the short

In terms of visible impact, the rule-change related to goal kicks had a mixed reception in the AFC Champions League. Yokohama boss Ange Postecoglou gave it a warm welcome. “We were trying to build from deep anyway, but it gave us a bit more breathing room. Teams were waiting for us – and we had to wait until the ball cleared the penalty area to get moving. Suddenly, we could keep our centre-backs inside the penalty box and get going straight away.”

On the one hand, inviting opponents to press high stretches the pitch and opens spaces elsewhere. As Arsène Wenger,

FIFA’s Chief of Global Football Development, commented at the Forum, “the new rule makes it easier to play out from the back and, with teams generally pushing higher up, this created more space behind their defence”. On the other hand, it implies a degree of risk and, in the Final, with neither team prepared to take that on board, keepers generally opted to launch the ball deep, with the consequent lottery in terms of possession. Overall, exploiting the option of playing short and building from the back was not as widespread as in Europe’s equivalent competition, where six goals could be traced all the way back to a short goal kick by the keeper.

Role reversal

“Teams like Yokohama,” Andy Roxburgh commented, “illustrated that the goalkeeper is, these days, not just the last line of defence but also the first line of attack, while the striker, in today’s high-pressing game, is also the first line of defence.”

As Arsène Wenger says: “a major feature is the role of the goalkeeper who has basically become a ‘feet player’ who needs to be an accurate passer of the ball.” In the AFC Champions League, keepers are increasingly prepared for out-of-the-box covering behind high defensive lines, while training-ground work on playing with the feet is now visible in terms of keepers able to pick out and deliver accurate passes to the ‘second line’ to pre-empt opponents’ high press.

In the Final, for example, Ulsan keeper Jo Su-huk bypassed the high press with a long pass; the ball was played back and across into space on the right wing; and the cross was headed over by Júnior.

The message to goalkeeper coaches can be culled from the Technical Report on last season’s UEFA Champions League. Goalkeepers, it states, need to be equipped to read the game like outfield players.



Old shapes; new styles

The season once again showcased flexibility in team shapes, even though circumstances eliminated differences between home-and-away structures or modifications motivated by first-leg results in two-match ties. The default setting among five of the top eight was a 1-4-2-3-1 with two screening midfielders. Al Nassr operated more of a traditional 1-4-4-2 and Yahya Golmohammadi might also have used his preferred structure had it not been for the suspension of his target striker. Suwon were alone in favouring a 1-3-4-3 set-up, while the champions’ starting formation was more akin to a 1-4-3-3 with a single screening midfielder. But the numbers do not add up to the full story. While there was nothing new about the shapes, there were novel interpretations among the top teams, depending on factors such as high-pressing strategies, forms of counterattacking or the positional subtleties of the team’s wide players.

Even though five substitutions were permitted (Ulsan and Al Nassr made six apiece in matches which went to extra-time) they entailed few structural modifications. Of the top eight, only Ulsan and Pakhtakor made full use of their quotas, while Persepolis made only two changes in the Final. In terms of impact by substitutes, Kim Do-hoon’s decisions produced dividends, with Bjørn Johnsen coming off the bench to score against Vissel Kobe in addition to a brace in the match against Melbourne Victory when the late strike by Won Du-jaer meant that all three goals had been scored by subs. The only other success was the added-time goal by Ado Onaiwu which brought Yokohama Marinos back to 2-3 against Suwon Bluewings.

Exploring space; exploiting errors

Swift counterpunches before opponents can re-group into defensive blocks remain a significant weapon, even though the goals derived from counterattacking fell from 19% in 2019 to 15% in 2020. Of the 25 goals scored in this fashion, nine were classic back-to-front counters; the same number was the result of regains in advanced positions; six were collective counters with a group of players swarming forwards after ball-winning; and only one was down to an individual counterattacking action.

Among the top eight in Europe, Olympique Lyonnais and, to a lesser extent, Atlético Madrid, were alone in relying systematically on counterattacking, whereas this policy was more prevalent in the AFC competition - FC Tokyo, for example, excelled in this aspect of the game, with Kensuke Nagai using his pace to get behind the opponent's back line in swift, vertical counters. Teams who played high were evidently more exposed to the swift counter and were required to counter the counter with either efficient advanced pressing or rapid attack-to-defence transitions. Ulsan were impressively competent in both solutions, dropping swiftly into a 1-4-1-4-1 or 1-4-4-1-1 shape but ready to spring out to press aggressively.

The season also illustrated that, at the top level, lapses are costly – to the extent that own goals and other defensive errors provided more goals than combination play. A risky square pass or a momentary loss of concentration carry a heavy price tag – as illustrated in the Final when a careless touch by Ulsan left-back Park Ju-ho allowed Persepolis' Mehdi Abdi Qara to run clear and score the opening goal.

The flying full-backs

“The box-to-box player was traditionally a midfielder,” Andy Roxburgh reflected. “But now the box-to-box performers are the full-backs or the wing-backs. It has become one of the topics of our age.” During the 2020 season, technical observers highlighted the attacking contributions of, among others, FC Tokyo left-back Ryoya Ogawa, Al Nassr right-back Sultan Al Ghanam, Al Ahli Saudi left-back Lucas Lima, Persepolis left-back Saeid Aghaei, Yokohama Marinos left-back Theerathon Bunmathan or Ulsan right-back Kim Tae-hwan, whose average position in the Final was actually further upfield than right-side midfielder Lee Chung-yong ... all of them signalled as key players. “It's not much of an exaggeration”, Andy Roxburgh commented, “to say that it is becoming the norm to regard them as schemers in the wide areas. They are expected to defend; to run non-stop in defensive and attacking duties for 90 minutes; to participate, from their high attacking positions, in advanced pressing; and to deliver assists in the form of crosses or cut-backs.”

The challenge for coaches is to develop full-backs with the right balance between defensive and attacking attributes – a dilemma which recalls the old footballing adage about the short blanket which leaves either the head or the feet



uncovered. In attacking terms, the quality of crosses is a topic in the goalscoring section of this report. At the AFC Forum, Arsène Wenger maintained: “teams defend much better on crosses these days. The cross from deep is not dangerous any more because defensive covering is better and centre-backs are very competent. So the emphasis is shifting towards players who can make infield runs from the wide areas.”



The band-leaders

The absence of Andrés Iniesta from the season's All-Star Squad listed later in this report may raise a few eyebrows. He would certainly have been included had injury not sidelined him and, ultimately, required surgery. His performance as leader of the Vissel Kobe band prompted further reflections on the changing roles within the game. The list of players pinpointed by the technical observers as 'key performers' is rich in fast, skilful front men or midfielders who were, to quote a much-used phrase, "mobile, dynamic and reliable in attacking and defensive work" – a description which could be applied to Ulsan's Sin Jin-ho, named as Man of the Match at the Final. His contribution was outstanding for its energy, endeavour and intensity. But he could not be labelled a 'band-leader'. As Gérard Houllier remarked, "many midfielders today tend to be more hardworking and hard-running than creative". Is the midfield orchestrator fading out of a game where players are increasingly expected to be part of the band, rather than leading it?







GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

Odd season, Odd numbers

The reduction from 126 games to 93 converted the AFC Champions League 2020 into a statistical oddity, distorting comparisons with previous seasons. Yet one irrefutable fact emerged clearly: a sharp downturn in goalscoring. The season's 236 goals hit the net at an average of 2.54 per game – a drop of 10% in relation to the previous campaign and the lowest average since 2016.

The statistics are hard facts. But they might be softened by the odd question-mark. During the Group Stage, matches in the West Zone yielded an average of 2.47. In the East, the mean was 2.69. The most significant variation, however, was registered after the switch to a single-match, sudden-death format in the knockout rounds. Reluctance to throw caution to the winds was perhaps a factor underlying a miserly average of

2.2 goals per game during a closely-fought phase of the competition when four matches – including both Semi-finals – went into extra-time, and three of them required a penalty shoot-out to decide the winner. Given the oddness of the format, it would be rash to make too much of the downward trend. Time will tell ...

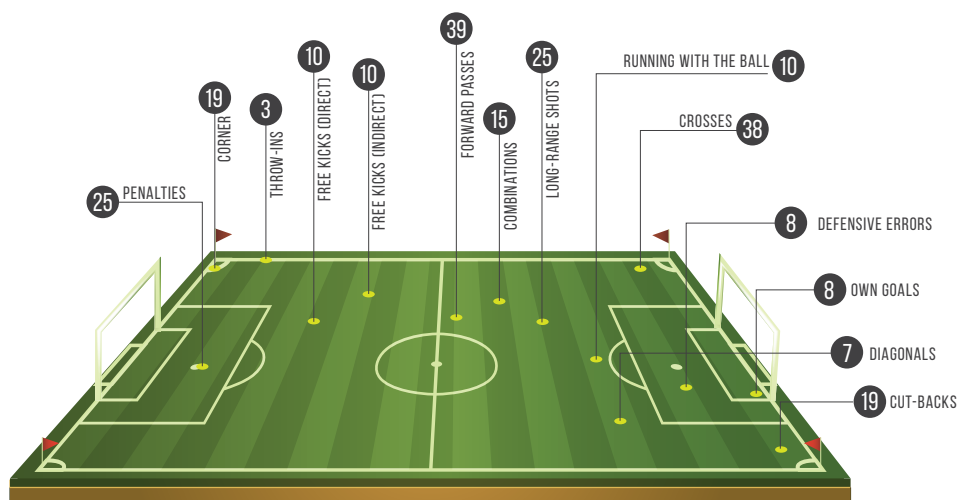
Talking of trends, one was reversed. The Technical Report on 2019 pointed out that teams from the West scored 27% more goals than those from the East. In the 2020 edition, the East responded by outscoring the West by 13%. Putting the statistics into context, the overall average of 2.54 was marginally below the 2.55 at the AFC Asian Cup in 2019 but well below the figure of 3.24 posted in the European version of the Champions League.

Once again, efficiency in front of goal emerged as a talking point. Echoing the 2019 statistics, just over one-third

(34.3% to be precise) of the season's 2,142 goal attempts were on target. Neat approach play was frequently undermined by wayward finishing – a facet vividly illustrated during the Semi-final between Al Nassr and Persepolis when, in two hours of football, four of 33 goal attempts were accurately directed. During the knockout rounds, silver medallists Persepolis totalled eight on-target finishes from 45 attempts.

Overall, the price of goals crept steadily higher. On average, it required 9.08 attempts to score a goal, compared with 8.96 in 2019 and 8.75 in 2018. One statistic, however, remained unchanged: one in three (3.1 to be pedantic) of the on-target attempts ended up in the net.

So much for the statistical overview. The chart breaks down the manner in which the season's 236 goals were scored.



GOALS FROM SET PLAY

ACTION	GUIDELINES	GOALS
Corners	Direct from / following a corner	19
Free kicks (direct)	Direct from a free kick	10
Free kicks (indirect)	Following a free kick	10
Penalties	Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty)	25
Throw-ins	Following a throw-in	3

GOALS FROM OPEN PLAY

ACTION	GUIDELINES	GOALS
Combinations	Wall pass / combination move	15
Crosses	Cross from the wing	38
Cut-backs	Pass back from the byline	19
Diagonals	Diagonal pass into the penalty box	7
Running with the ball	Dribble and close-range shot / dribble and pass	10
Long-range shots	Direct shot / shot and rebound	25
Forward passes	Through pass or pass over the defence	39
Defensive Errors	Bad back-pass / mistake by the goalkeeper	8
Own Goals	Goal by the opponent	8

TOTAL GOALS SCORED : 236

Set Plays

In 2020, the percentage of goals stemming from dead-ball situations remained stable. The tally of 67 represented 28% of the total compared with 26% in 2019, 27% in 2018 and 28% in 2017. This stability offers a contrast

with Europe's equivalent competition, where set-play successes have faded in recent seasons, dropping to 22% in 2019/20 and as low as 18% in the previous campaign.

It is worth highlighting, nevertheless, that 37% of the set-play goals were penalties. Even though the number of

matches decreased by 26%, the spot-kick successes tallied with the previous season's total of 25, including the two which allowed Ulsan to come from a goal down in the Final to lift the trophy.

The highlighter pen could also be applied to the number of direct free kicks which hit the net.

The question about the use of training-ground time to rehearse set plays is raised as a Talking Point elsewhere in this report. But the quality of free kicks hinted strongly that there is no shortage of talented specialists in the AFC competition – to the extent that two free kicks taken by two different players helped Perth Glory towards a 3-3 draw with Shanghai Shenhua during the Group Stage. Both earned places among the top ten set plays listed in the Best Goals section of this report. Bruno Fornaroli's free kick at the end of the first half clinched fifth place while the strike by Carlo Armiento 13 minutes after the break took second place behind the exceptional delivery by Ulsan's Yun Bit-garam in the champions' 2-1 victory over FC Tokyo. No fewer than six direct free kicks were outstanding enough to feature among the top ten.

With a further 10 goals stemming from indirect free kicks, the bottom line was that 45 goals – almost one-fifth of the season's total – resulted from infractions committed by opposing teams in their defensive third.

Statistics relating to corner kicks were sufficiently striking to provoke discussion in the Talking Points section of this report. In 2020, they accounted for 28% of the season's set-play goals – an eyebrow-raising discount on the 40% posted during the previous season. Once again, the exceptional circumstances could be cited as a conditioning factor, as the staging of almost all matches in a single venue arguably made it easier for teams to reconnoitre their opponents' dead-ball strategies.

Open Play

By the slimmest of margins – 0.6% to be precise – through passes took over from crosses as the most-trodden pathway to the net. The forward pass accounted for 23% of open-play goals – a steep upward gradient compared with the tally of 16% in 2019. The 2020 season nonetheless underlined the difficulty of scoring goals via penetration through central areas. In open play, deliveries from wide areas – crosses, cut-backs and diagonal passes from the flanks – continued to serve the largest slice of the goalscoring cake. Even so, the tally of 38% represented a sizeable drop in relation to the 44% registered in 2019.

The traditional cross + finish formula remained a fertile source of goals even

though the percentage dropped from 29% in 2019 to 22.5% in 2020 while, on the other hand, cut-backs led to 11% of the open-play goals as opposed to 7% in 2019 – hinting that more and more teams are using the low cut-back as a valid alternative to the traditional lofted cross when opportunities are created in wide areas.

Statistics on crossing, however, suggest that there is room for training-ground work. During the knockout rounds, the top eight teams jointly delivered 405 crosses. Just over one in four (26%) reached a team-mate. The two finalists tied on a success rate of 29% – compared with two teams from the West, who connected with team-mates via, roughly, one cross in seven. In their two KO round fixtures, Beijing FC, by contrast, found friendly feet or heads with one in three of their crosses and the outstanding cross + finish goal by Renato Augusto during the 3-1 Group Stage win over FC Seoul earned sixth place in the season's top ten open-play goals.



That chart, however, was dominated by seven spectacular strikes from long range, with pride of place going to the left-footed screamer by Al Nassr's Abdulrahman Al-Obaid that brought his team back to 2-2 in the group game against Al Sadd.

Statistics highlighted the importance of the long-range shot. The average among the top eight teams during the knockout rounds was for 40% of their goal attempts to originate outside the box. Pakhtakor delivered 10 of their 15 attempts from outside the penalty area; 56% of Beijing's efforts were from long range; Al Ahli Saudi and Suwon Bluewings tied on 50%. Was it no more than a statistical oddity that the top four teams relied on lower percentages? Al Nassr averaged 43%;

Vissel Kobe 34%; Persepolis 33%; and champions Ulsan 25%.

Whatever the answer, the statistics insinuate that compact, narrow defensive blocks encourage opponents to try their luck from long range – an argument which might, in turn, encourage training-ground work on accuracy from long distance, allied with goalkeepers' abilities to react.

The tendency towards firing from long range was validated by other statistics. Goals from combination play were, once again, conspicuous by their rarity, and, in line with the three previous seasons, accounted for only 9% of the open-play total – a trend which emerged when the tally of 18% in 2016 was abruptly halved a year later. Interestingly, the trend towards more direct attacking (rather than the FC Barcelona trademark combination play which had set earlier fashions) also pulled down the percentage in Europe. Yet combination moves still accounted for 17% of the 2019/20 season's open-play goals – almost doubling the AFC figure.

Similarly, the density of defensive blocks could arguably justify the continuing scarcity of successful solo runs with the ball – an aspect of the game which had supplied only 4.6% of the open-play goals in the 2019 AFC Champions League, and, in 2020, accounted for 5.9%. Even the champions, Ulsan (the season's top goalscorers with 23), failed to record a success from an individual action, copying Al Hilal's balance sheet when they took the 2019 title, even though the team's attacking repertoire featured some high-quality one-touch combination play and changes of tempo in the final third. Of their open-play goals, four stemmed from through passes; three were from long range; two came from crosses and one from a cut-back; and one resulted from a combination move. Nine of their goals were from dead-ball situations (five penalties, two indirect free kicks, one direct free kick and one corner), while the other three were put down to one own goal and the exploitation of two defensive errors.

The goalscoring analysis in the Technical Report on the 2019 season concluded "the diversity and collective nature of Al Hilal's attacking options set benchmarks for the rest" – and the same words could be applied to Ulsan's recipe for victory in 2020.



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TALKING POINTS

TALKING POINTS

Dead ball = dead loss?

The data presented in the Goalscoring section of this report offer an invitation for coaches to reflect on the amount of training-ground time which can fruitfully be dedicated to the rehearsal of attacking and defensive mechanisms at set plays.

The fact that more than one in four of the season's goals (28% to be precise) stemmed from dead-ball situations suggests that teams can reap rich dividends on training-ground investments. On the other hand, 37% of the season's set-play goals were from the penalty spot. This might encourage coaches to pay attention to the art of penalty-taking – especially as the revised format of the 2020 knockout rounds led to three critically-important shoot-outs.

Much the same applies to free kicks. One of the startling statistics to emerge from 2020 was that, in the 119 matches played in Europe's version of the Champions League, only one free kick went directly into the net. Four goals were scored from follow-ups but, even so, the harvest was frugal. In the AFC Champions League, as mentioned in the goalscoring analysis, direct free kicks produced spectacular and valuable goals – which may prompt coaches at senior and development levels to encourage players to practise this speciality.

But what about corners? In the 2019 AFC Champions League, corners provided 40% of set-play goals. But in the previous season the ratio had been one goal per 41 corners, in line with the 1:40 balance at the 2019 AFC Asian Cup. The statistics from the AFC Champions League 2020 reveal a haul of 19 successful outcomes to 847 corners, at a ratio of 1:45. Europe's equivalent competition threw up a similar success rate of 1:44. The debating point is about how much training-ground time can be justifiably invested in the rehearsal of corner-kick routines? Bearing in mind the coaching fraternity's aversion to conceding goals from corners, is there a temptation to focus on defensive mechanisms rather than looking for creative attacking manoeuvres which, in this day and age, are easy prey for opponents' scouting staffs?



On the other hand, dead-ball situations played a crucial role in the knockout rounds – as the champions will testify. In the Round of 16, crosses derived from set plays accounted for two of Ulsan's three goals against Melbourne Victory. In the Quarter-final, a penalty by Júnior Negrão clinched the 2-0 win against Beijing. In the Semi-final, a 119th-minute penalty earned the 2-1 victory over Vissel Kobe. And two penalties in the Final earned them the title. Is work on set plays a waste of time? Or is it a key ingredient in recipes for success?

Seen from a VAR

Online searching immediately confronts us with talking points. 'Should VAR be used in football?'; 'Why VAR is positive for the game'; 'Why VAR is bad for football'...

everybody seems to have an opinion, though it has to be said that much of the debating focuses on interpretations of the offside rule or ball-to-hand contact in the penalty area.

Amid all the discussion, VAR undoubtedly made an impact on the AFC Champions League 2020. Indeed, Ulsan won the title thanks to a brace of penalties spotted from afar by the VAR official after micro-second incidents that the onfield referee could be forgiven for not spotting: firstly, a foul by a Persepolis defender and, secondly, a handball which, at first glance, appeared to be a deflection off a head. Earlier in the knockout rounds, a penalty + yellow card decision was converted into free kick + red, leaving Suwon Bluewings a player short for 80 minutes of their tie against Vissel Kobe.



As it happened, Kyogo Furuhashi converted the ensuing free kick to pull Kobe level at the 1-1 scoreline that remained unchanged until the penalty shoot-out. In all three situations, the original decision was revised after the referee had consulted images on the pitchside screen.

In other words, VAR had a major impact – and justice was done. The question for coaches is whether the eagle eye of Big Brother demands greater attention to players' behaviour in the defensive third and, more specifically, in the penalty area. If so, how can this be achieved?

Neutral parties

One of the perennial talking points is whether it's better to stage the Final as a single match or a home-and-away fixture. So, a silver lining to the clouds of 2020 was the chance to sample an alternative approach, not only to the Final but also to the entirety of the knockout rounds. Apart from the exceptional circumstances of long-term isolation, one of the challenges coaches were required to deal with was the abrupt switch from the league format of the Group Stage to the sudden-death scenario of knockout ties played as single matches at a neutral venue. The latter phase of the season was therefore converted into a 'cup' competition in which the element of chance was more enhanced than in the usual home-and-away format.

A further consequence was that the away goals rule was removed from the equation. The debating point was whether it was missed. What's more, discussions about

risk management priorities during the first leg of home-and-away ties, might now be coloured by the 2020 knockout rounds where the low goalscoring tally of 2.2 per match hints at even greater degrees of caution. Did you prefer the improvised 'cup' system? Or is it better and fairer to return to the home-and-away format?

Home alone?

The Final, watched by a law-abiding crowd mixed with artificial figures, was a brilliantly produced spectacle. The unusual 2020 campaign, however, may be remembered more for the lack of fans in seats and the less captivating atmospheres. The improvised format wiped away the concept of 'home advantage' and raised questions about the impact of empty stadiums on the mentality of players. How many coaches, especially when their team was losing, missed the raucous encouragement of their fans? How many results would they have modified? What difference will they make when we welcome them back?



TEAM SHAPES

AL AHLI SAUDI FC



AL NASSR FC



BEIJING FC



VISSEL KOBE



PAKHTAKOR



PERSEPOLIS FC



SUWON SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS



ULSAN HYUNDAI FC





Coca-Cola



Indofood smartfren BANK INA Achilles

FIAT

DO UNIK
bellina

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

6





WINNING COACH

WINNING COACH

Attitude and mentality

Kim Do-hoon's pathway to AFC Champions League success could be pasted into coach education courses to illustrate the diversity of scenarios that the modern coach may be required to deal with. The bottom line is that he left at the top. "My contract ends today", he said after his side's victory over Persepolis in Doha, "so these are my last moments with the club. I need to get some rest back in Korea Republic."

From a coaching perspective, the route to that bottom line made interesting reading.

Ending the K-League as runners-up to Jeonbuk and, a week before departure to Doha, losing the Cup final to the same rival, served as a reminder that dealing with expectations is part of the coach's job. In some quarters, a brace of silver medals would signify success. At Ulsan, a sense of disappointment translated into confirmation that Kim Do-hoon and the club would part company. The question was when.

"I was actually not supposed to be here," he remarked in Doha, "because the results we achieved in Korea Republic were not so good. But somehow, I came here and eventually had the honour of lifting the trophy. I am really happy that I made the decision to come to Qatar."

The amount of self-questioning underlying that decision is something known only to the man himself. And maybe to his family. He was quick to pay homage to the support given by his wife, his mother and, spiritually, by his father who had passed away earlier in the season. "I believe he was rooting for Ulsan from the sky." But, once in Doha, he set about facing the challenges of a competition which switched between league and cup modes during a prolonged spell of cohabitation and isolation usually reserved for national team coaches who take squads to major events like Asian or World Cups. It is a rare scenario in a club coach's repertoire – as were absences of key players due to COVID-induced spells of self-isolation.

In Doha, fate obliged Kim Do-hoon to cross swords, in the East Zone Semi-final, with Vissel Kobe, the club where he made an impact as a prolific striker. Kentaro Hayashi, his team-mate at the Japanese club, told the AFC website, "he had leadership qualities and, as striker, he would lead from the front. I felt he had the qualities to be a coach. He was known for using his physicality to score goals, but you could also see that he was somebody who thought a lot about the game. I am not surprised to see him as a successful coach. His spirit and mental strength are some of the qualities I see in his Ulsan side."



They were qualities that paid dividends in Doha. "Even though we were limited to hotel and training only, the players focused on enjoying their time and enjoying the competition. They proved that football is about having fun and being happy. I think we took that out to the pitch. They showed how much they wanted to win. I always felt confident that we would see it through."

"Tactically, I asked the players to stay compact and always observe the distances between defence and midfield, and between midfield and attack. We spoke about cutting out mistakes and staying focused. In football, mentality, tactics and atmosphere are all important and we achieved a great balance. Concentration is also important, and that especially helped us to win the Final. Although we conceded the first goal, everyone had the confidence to chase the game and that was important. The attitude and mentality of the players was the key."

So was the attitude and mentality of the coach in a very special set of circumstances.



“ In football, mentality, tactics and atmosphere are all important and we achieved a great balance. Concentration is also important, and that especially helped us to win the Final. ”

-Kim Do-hoon





TEAM PROFILES



Group A

Al Wahda FSCC (UAE)



CLUB PROFILE

Al Wahda FSCC finished third in last season's UAE Pro League, earning their tenth AFC Champions League Group Stage appearance. After making it through to the Quarter-finals in 2004, the club's best AFC Champions League performance to date came in 2007 when they reached the last four, before narrowly losing 2-1 on aggregate to Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the 2019 competition, they topped their group, only to be eliminated by Riyadh's Al Nassr FC in the Round of 16.

The AFC's COVID-19 Sub Committee for AFC Champions League (West) decided that Al Wahda shall be considered to have withdrawn from the competition having failed to arrive in Doha, Qatar, ahead of their remaining Group A matches in September.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	MOHAMED HASAN ALSHAMSI	04 Jan 1997	UAE
50	Goalkeeper	RASHED ALI ALSUWAIDI	02 Dec 1989	UAE
66	Goalkeeper	HAZAA AMMAR TAISEER	26 Sep 1999	UAE
69	Goalkeeper	SULTAN BILAL TEEZANI	16 Feb 2000	UAE
2	Defender	MOHAMED SALEH ALMENHALI	27 Oct 1990	UAE
3	Defender	LUCAS PIMENTA PERES LOPES	17 Jul 2000	BRA
21	Defender	ABDULLA FAISAL ALKARBI	26 Aug 1998	UAE
22	Defender	MANEI MOHAMED BINSHAHEIN	19 Jun 1989	UAE
24	Defender	RASHED ABDULLA SUROOR	27 May 2001	UAE
32	Defender	RASHED MUHAYER	20 Feb 1994	UAE
35	Defender	MOHAMED ADEL ALNOFELI	20 Jul 1999	UAE
37	Defender	AHMED RASHID ALMEHRZI	19 Jan 1997	UAE
38	Defender	NAHYAN ADEL ALSUWAIDI	15 Jan 2000	UAE
39	Defender	MA AYED AL RUWAI	16 Oct 2000	UAE
44	Defender	FARES JUMA AL SAADI	30 Dec 1988	UAE
62	Defender	MOHAMED MESARRI ALDHAHERI	01 Jan 2001	UAE
13	Midfielder	KHAMIS ESMAEEL ZAYED	16 Aug 1989	UAE
15	Midfielder	MANSOR IBRAHIM ALHARBI	14 Jul 1999	UAE
27	Midfielder	TAHNOON HAMDAN ALZAABI	10 Apr 1999	UAE
29	Midfielder	LEE MYUNG JOO	24 Apr 1990	KOR
43	Midfielder	ISMAIL OMAR ALZAABI	14 Jul 2001	UAE
57	Midfielder	AHMED AMER ALRASHDI	09 Jul 2001	UAE
61	Midfielder	ABDULLA HAMAD ALMENHALI	18 Sep 2001	UAE
77	Midfielder	KHALIL IBRAHIM ALHAMMADI	04 May 1993	UAE
9	Forward	TIM MATAVZ	13 Jan 1989	SVN
10	Forward	ISMAEIL MATAR ALJNEIBI	07 Apr 1983	UAE
20	Forward	YAHYA ALI ALGHASSANI	18 Apr 1998	UAE
45	Forward	ABDULLA ANWAR ALAMERI	02 Jun 1999	UAE
90	Forward	LUVANNOR HENRIQUE	19 May 1990	BRA

HEAD COACH



Manuel Jiménez Jiménez (SPA)

Manuel Jiménez Jiménez had deep connections with Sevilla FC both as a player and as a head coach, an affiliation that would span more than two decades after he joined the club as a youngster in 1981.

The Spaniard moved to Greek club AEK Athens in 2010 and had two more spells at Athens in 2017-18 and 2019, having also been at Real Zaragoza, Qatar's Al Rayyan SC and Las Palmas.

Jimenez switched his attention to the UAE Pro League when he joined Al Wahda FC in February 2019.

Team Profiles



Group A

Al Shorta (IRQ)



CLUB PROFILE

Making their fourth appearance in the AFC Champions League and the first since the 2014 Playoffs, Al Shorta won the 2018-19 Iraqi Premier League and the Iraqi Super Cup in 2019.

They are the only existing Iraqi team to have ever won the Arab Champions League trophy (in 1982), and they also finished runners up in the pinnacle stage of Asian club football in 1971.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	AHMED BASIL FADHIL	19 Aug 1996	IRQ
20	Goalkeeper	MOHAMMED HAMEED	24 Jan 1993	IRQ
30	Goalkeeper	ALAA KHALEEL AL-FLEHAWEE	25 Apr 1992	IRQ
2	Defender	KARRAR MOHAMMED MOHAISEEN AL-ZUHAIR	06 Mar 1989	IRQ
4	Defender	SUAD NATIQ NAJI	19 Mar 1994	IRQ
6	Defender	ALI FAEZ ATIYAH	09 Sep 1994	IRQ
16	Defender	MOHAMMED MEZHER ELAYAWI	24 Mar 1998	IRQ
17	Defender	ALAA ALI MHAWI	03 Jun 1996	IRQ
21	Defender	SADEQ ZAMIL ALSEWARI	15 Jul 1999	IRQ
22	Defender	HUSAM KADHIM AL-SHUWAILI	17 Oct 1987	IRQ
14	Midfielder	MAZIN FAYYADH AJEEL	02 Apr 1997	IRQ
25	Midfielder	SAAD ABDULAMEER AL-DOBJAHAWE	19 Jan 1992	IRQ
3	Forward	KARRAR AMER AL-ABBASI	16 Oct 1994	IRQ
7	Forward	MURAD MOHAMMED SUBEH	01 Apr 1997	IRQ
9	Forward	MARWAN HUSSEIN AL-AJEELI	26 Jan 1992	IRQ
10	Forward	MOHAMMED JABBAR SHAWKAN	21 May 1993	IRQ
11	Forward	AHMED JALAL ALAWADI	17 Mar 1998	IRQ
15	Forward	KHUDHUR ALI AL-TAMEEMI	19 Jun 1998	IRQ
19	Forward	MOHAMMED QASIM MAJID	06 Dec 1996	IRQ
28	Forward	ALI YOUSIF HASHIM	19 Jan 1996	IRQ
29	Forward	HUSAM JADALLAH KHALAF	22 Feb 1993	IRQ
31	Forward	ALI JASIM ELAIBI	20 Jan 2004	IRQ
32	Forward	HASAN ASHOUR KADHIM AL-HRAISHAWI	19 Oct 1998	IRQ
33	Forward	JASIM MOHAMMED OGLAH	23 Jan 1998	IRQ
35	Forward	ALI MAHDI ALTAIEEN	26 Jun 1995	IRQ

HEAD COACH



Abdul Ghani Shahad (IRQ)

Iraqi defender turned coach Shahad had a 12-year spell at Al Najaf FC from 1987 before attaining his coaching badges in 1999, where he guided his hometown club for seven years. After helming several Iraqi clubs, Shahad won the domestic league title with Naft Al Wasat in the 2016-17 season. He then took charge of the U-23 side, helping Iraq to third place at the AFC U23 Championship 2016. He also received praise for his team's performance at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio and the 2018 AFC U23 Championship in China PR. Shahad now has dual obligations with the U23s and Al Shorta, who he joined in February 2020.

Team Profiles



Group A

Esteghlal FC (IRN)



CLUB PROFILE

Two-time Asian Club Championship winners Esteghlal FC finished third in the 2018-19 Iran Pro League to qualify for the play-off round of the AFC Champions League 2020. The club from IR Iran eased to a 5-0 win against Al Rayyan of Qatar, ensuring their 11th appearance at the event.

They enjoyed their best campaign to date in 2013 when they won four of their six Group Stage games, before going on to beat the UAE's Al Shabab in the last 16 and Buriram United from Thailand in the Quarter-final. Their impressive run was, however, ended in the Semi-finals by FC Seoul.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	SEYEDHOSSEIN HOSSEINI	30 Jun 1992	IRN
19	Goalkeeper	HOSSEIN POURHAMIDI	26 Mar 1998	IRN
78	Goalkeeper	ALIREZA ANSARI	06 Feb 2000	IRN
3	Defender	MILAD ZAKIPOUR	29 Apr 1995	IRN
4	Defender	ROOZBEH CHESHMI	24 Jul 1993	IRN
5	Defender	AREF GHOLAMI	19 Apr 1997	IRN
15	Defender	SINA KHADEMPOUR	09 Jan 1997	IRN
21	Defender	VORYA GHAFOURI	20 Sep 1987	IRN
22	Defender	SIAVASH YAZDANI	27 Feb 1992	IRN
30	Defender	ABDOLAZIM GOOG	25 Jan 1996	IRN
32	Defender	AMIRHOSSEIN KAREGAR	22 Nov 1998	IRN
33	Defender	HRVOJE MILIC	10 May 1989	CRO
41	Defender	ARASH DAJLIRI	19 Jan 1999	IRN
57	Defender	SHAHIN TAHERKHANI	07 Jan 1997	IRN
70	Defender	MOHAMMAD DANESHGAR	20 Jan 1994	IRN
74	Defender	ERFAN ROHANI	31 Dec 2000	IRN
6	Midfielder	ALI KARIMI	11 Feb 1994	IRN
8	Midfielder	FARSHID ESMAEILI	23 Feb 1994	IRN
14	Midfielder	FARSHID BAGHERI	05 Jun 1992	IRN
17	Midfielder	ZAKARIA MORADI	14 Aug 1998	IRN
23	Midfielder	DARIUSH SHOJAEIAN	07 Apr 1992	IRN
40	Midfielder	AMIRHOSSEIN KHODAMORADI	13 Sep 2000	IRN
42	Midfielder	FARDIN RABET	29 Oct 2001	IRN
66	Midfielder	MASOUD RIKI	22 Feb 1991	IRN
80	Midfielder	MOHAMMAD BOLBOLIRAMI	11 Jan 1998	IRN
88	Midfielder	ARASH REZAVAND	05 Oct 1993	IRN
7	Forward	CHEICK TIDIANE DIABATE	25 Apr 1988	FRA
9	Forward	ALI DASHTI	19 Jan 1994	IRN
10	Forward	MEHDI GHAYEDI	05 Dec 1998	IRN
43	Forward	SEYEDMOHAMMAD ABEDI	15 Jan 1999	IRN
72	Forward	AMIRARSALAN MOTAHHARI	10 Mar 1993	IRN

HEAD COACH



Farhad Majidi (IRN)

Following his illustrious playing career, Farhad Majidi took over at the helm at Esteghlal FC in January 2020 after having briefly held the reins on a caretaker basis. A talented forward in his playing days, Majidi starred in four separate stints with Esteghlal, winning league titles with the Tehran giants on three occasions in a career that included 56 international caps. Majidi's career also included stints in Austria and the United Arab Emirates, where he won the AFC Champions League title during a loan spell with Al Ain, playing a key role in their Semi-final triumph over Chinese outfit Dalian Shide in 2003.

Team Profiles



Group A

Al Ahli Saudi FC (KSA)



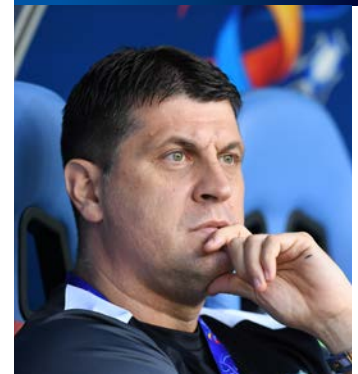
CLUB PROFILE

Having finished fourth in the 2018-19 Saudi Professional League, Al Ahli qualified for the AFC Champions League 2020 Playoffs, scraping past Tajikistan's Istiklol to cement their spot in the Group Stage of Asia's marquee club football competition for the 12th time.

Besides three Quarter-final appearances – the most recent being in 2017 – the club's best run came in 2012 when they reached the Final, only to lose 3-0 to Korea Republic's Ulsan Hyundai FC. In the 2019 edition, they were ousted by eventual champions Al Hilal in the Round of 16.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	YASSER ABDULLAH AL MOSAILEM	27 Feb 1984	KSA
26	Goalkeeper	ABDULRAHMAN ALSANBI	03 Feb 2001	KSA
33	Goalkeeper	MOHAMMED ALOWAIS	10 Oct 1991	KSA
44	Goalkeeper	MOHAMMED ALYAMI	14 Aug 1997	KSA
2	Defender	SAEED FAWAZ ALMUWALLAD	09 Mar 1991	KSA
3	Defender	MOHAMMED AL FATIL	04 Jan 1992	KSA
5	Defender	MOHAMMED ABDU KHUBRANI	14 Oct 1993	KSA
13	Defender	YZEID BAKR ALBAKR	11 Nov 1995	KSA
18	Defender	TALAL ALI ABSI	22 Feb 1993	KSA
23	Defender	ABDULLAH HASSUN TARMIN	19 Mar 1997	KSA
24	Defender	HUSSAIN OMAR SULAIMANI	21 Jan 1977	KSA
25	Defender	MOTAZ HAWSAWI	17 Feb 1992	KSA
28	Defender	AHMED ALNAKHLI	15 Mar 2002	KSA
31	Defender	HANI ISMAIL ALSIBYANI	21 Jul 1999	KSA
37	Defender	ABDULBASIT MOHAMMED HINDI	02 Feb 1997	KSA
60	Defender	LUCAS DE LIMA	10 Oct 1991	BRA
70	Defender	MOHAMMAD MAIZN ALBASSAS	31 Aug 1998	KSA
8	Midfielder	ELVIS SARIC	21 Jul 1990	CRO
11	Midfielder	HUSSAIN ALMOQAHWI	24 Mar 1988	KSA
15	Midfielder	MOHAMMED ABDULLAH ALMAJHAD	16 Jul 1998	KSA
16	Midfielder	NOUH IBRAHIM ALMOUSA	23 Feb 1991	KSA
17	Midfielder	MARKO MARIN	13 Mar 1989	GER
29	Midfielder	ABDULRAHMAN ABDULLAH GHAREEB	31 Mar 1997	KSA
35	Midfielder	YOUSUF SAAD ALHARBI	16 Mar 1997	KSA
40	Midfielder	ALI HASSAN ALASMARI	12 Jan 1997	KSA
7	Forward	SALMAN MOHAMMED MUWASHAR	05 Oct 1988	KSA
9	Forward	OMAR ALSOMA	23 Mar 1990	SYR
14	Forward	MUHANNAD AHMED ABU RADIYAH	14 Oct 1986	KSA
20	Forward	AHMAD MAZIN ALBASSAS	22 Mar 2001	KSA
32	Forward	HASSAN MOUSA ALQAYD	13 Apr 1998	KSA
34	Forward	MAZEN ABU SHARARAH	27 Feb 1991	KSA
39	Forward	FAHAD YAHYA MAGRSHI	06 Nov 2001	KSA
45	Forward	HAITHAM MOHAMMED ASIRI	25 Mar 2001	KSA
77	Forward	HASSAN HASHIM AL ALI	10 Feb 2002	KSA

HEAD COACH



Vladan Milojević (SRB)

As a player, Vladan Milojević made a name for himself in Europe after joining Serbian club Red Star Belgrade in 1995 before seeing out his playing career in Greece nine years later. The former defender had a brief stint with Red Star's youth team in 2010 before returning again to the Belgrade club in 2017 to lead them to the domestic title and the UEFA Europa League Knockout Stage. The subsequent year, Milojević became the first manager in the club's history to guide them to the UEFA Champions League Group Stage. The 50-year-old joined Al Ahli in February 2020.



Group B

Al Hilal SFC (KSA)



CLUB PROFILE

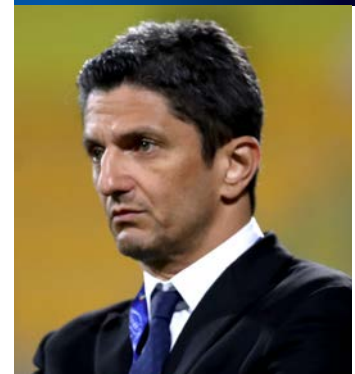
Al Hilal are one of Asia's most successful clubs, having already won the Asian Club Championship in 1991 and 2000 before their victory in 2019. This year, they qualified for the AFC Champions League for an impressive 12th consecutive season following 2019's runners-up finish in the Saudi Pro League.

The Riyadh-based club have been runners-up in two of the last six editions. Additionally, since 2006, they have made it to the knockout stage of the competition every year except 2018.

Al Hilal failed to name the required 13 players for their AFC Champions League (West) Group B match against Shabab Al Ahli Dubai in September 2020. Under Article 4.3 of the special rules applicable to AFC competitions during the COVID-19 pandemic, they were deemed to have withdrawn from the competition.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	ABDULLAH IBRAHIM ALMUIAIOUF	23 Jan 1987	KSA
31	Goalkeeper	ABDULLAH SHAMLAH ALJADANI	06 Oct 1991	KSA
50	Goalkeeper	ABDULLAH YAHYA ALBISHI	24 Jun 2001	KSA
60	Goalkeeper	AHMED AL JUBAYA	26 Oct 2001	KSA
2	Defender	MOHAMMED ALBURAYK	15 Sep 1992	KSA
5	Defender	ALI HADI AL BULAYHI	21 Nov 1989	KSA
12	Defender	YASIR GHARSAN ALSHAHRANI	25 May 1992	KSA
17	Defender	ABDULLAH FAREED ALHAFITH	25 Dec 1992	KSA
20	Defender	JANG HYUNSOO	28 Sep 1991	KOR
22	Defender	AMIR FAHAD KURDY	11 Sep 1991	KSA
23	Defender	MADALLAH ALI ALOLAYAN	25 Aug 1994	KSA
32	Defender	MUTEB ABDULLAH ALMUFARRIJ	18 Aug 1996	KSA
34	Defender	WALEED ABDULWAHAB ALAHMAD	03 May 1999	KSA
54	Defender	MOHAMMED ALKUNAYDIRI	11 Oct 2000	KSA
70	Defender	MOHAMMED YAHYA JAHFALI	24 Oct 1990	KSA
7	Midfielder	SALMAN ALFARAJ	01 Aug 1989	KSA
8	Midfielder	ABDULLAH OTAYF	03 Aug 1992	KSA
9	Midfielder	SEBASTIAN GIOVINCO	26 Jan 1987	ITA
10	Midfielder	MOHAMMED AL SHALHOUB	08 Dec 1980	KSA
16	Midfielder	NASSER ESSA ALDAWSARI	19 Dec 1998	KSA
19	Midfielder	ANDRÉ CARRILLO	14 Jun 1991	PER
24	Midfielder	NAWAF SHAKER ALABID	26 Jan 1990	KSA
27	Midfielder	HATAN SULTAN BAHBRI	16 Jul 1992	KSA
28	Midfielder	MOHAMMED IBRAHIM KANNO	22 Sep 1994	KSA
29	Midfielder	SALEM ALDAWSARI	19 Aug 1991	KSA
35	Midfielder	MANSOR FAIEZ ALBESHE	24 Apr 2000	KSA
55	Midfielder	HAMAD ALABDAN	26 May 2000	KSA
11	Forward	SALEH ALSHEHRI	01 Nov 1993	KSA
18	Forward	BAFETIBI GOMIS	06 Aug 1985	FRA
33	Forward	TURKI FAHAD ALMUTAIRI	31 May 2001	KSA

HEAD COACH



Răzvan Lucescu (ROM)

An accomplished goalkeeper during his playing days, Răzvan Lucescu started his career with Romanian outfit Sportul Studentesc in 1987. The former shot-stopper moved to Italy in 1992 for a brief stint with Crema Calcio in Serie D before spending his entire playing career in his home country. Lucescu's wait for league glory ended in the 2002-03 season with Rapid Bucuresti. He returned to the club as head coach the following year and steered Rapid to back-to-back Romanian Cup titles in 2005-06 and 2006-07. Lucescu earned silverware with a number of clubs, including SR Brasov of Romania, Qatar's El Jaish SC, PAOK FC of Greece and most recently Al Hilal, who he led to their first AFC Champions League title in 2019.

Team Profiles



Group B

Shabab Al Ahli Dubai (UAE)



CLUB PROFILE

After missing out on qualifying for the AFC Champions League 2019, Shabab Al Ahli Dubai FC secured their return to the Continental tournament in style by finishing as runners-up in the UAE Pro League and winning the UAE Presidents Cup.

The Dubai-based club have qualified for the AFC Champions League seven times previously, with their last appearance coming in 2017 and their best performance coming in 2015, when they lost 0-1 on aggregate to China PR's Guangzhou Evergrande FC in the Final.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	JAMAL ISMAIL ALHOSANI	22 Jun 1995	UAE
17	Goalkeeper	HASSAN HAMZA ALMAAZMI	10 Nov 1994	UAE
55	Goalkeeper	MAJED NASER MAQDAMI	01 Apr 1984	UAE
95	Goalkeeper	RASHID ALMUSHARRKH	31 Aug 2000	UAE
2	Defender	SALMIN KHAMIS SALMIN	09 Oct 1991	UAE
4	Defender	MOHAMMED MARZOOQ ALMATROUSHI	23 Jan 1989	UAE
5	Defender	WALID ABBAS ALBALOOSHI	11 Jun 1985	UAE
9	Defender	ABDULAZIZ HUSSAIN HAIKAL	10 Sep 1990	UAE
19	Defender	MARWAN FAHAD ALWATANI	16 Aug 1999	UAE
20	Defender	YOUSEF JABER ALHAMMADI	25 Feb 1985	UAE
21	Defender	MOHAMED JABER ALHAMMADI	28 Jan 1989	UAE
29	Defender	OMAR AHMAD SALEH	01 Jan 1999	UAE
33	Defender	KHALIFA MUBARAK ALHAMMADI	30 Oct 1993	UAE
37	Defender	AHMAD ABDULLA SUROOR	16 Jan 1999	UAE
62	Defender	ABDELAZIZ SANQOUR	07 May 1989	UAE
6	Midfielder	AZIZJON GANIEV	22 Feb 1998	UZB
7	Midfielder	ISMAIL SALEM ALHAMMADI	01 Jul 1988	UAE
8	Midfielder	WALED HUSAIN ABDULLA	15 May 1992	UAE
15	Midfielder	ABDALLA ALI ALNAQBI	28 Apr 1993	UAE
16	Midfielder	SAEED AHMAD ALBALOOSHI	17 Jan 1994	UAE
34	Midfielder	HARIB ABDALLA ALMAAZMI	26 Nov 2002	UAE
35	Midfielder	HAMDAN HUMAID ALBESHR	06 Nov 2002	UAE
42	Midfielder	LEONARDO DE SOUSA	18 Mar 1992	BRA
66	Midfielder	SAUD ABDELRAZAO	23 Jan 1998	UAE
78	Midfielder	EID KHAMIS ALNUAIMI	20 May 1999	UAE
88	Midfielder	MAJED HASSAN ALAHMADI	01 Aug 1992	UAE
3	Forward	CARLOS EDUARDO ALVES	17 Oct 1989	BRA
10	Forward	PEDRO PEREZ CONDE	26 Jul 1988	ESP
11	Forward	AHMED KHALIL ALJUNAIBI	08 Jun 1991	UAE
30	Forward	MOHAMMAD JUMA ALBLOOSHI	28 Jan 1997	UAE
77	Forward	AHMED MOHAMED AL HASHMI	28 Sep 1995	UAE

HEAD COACH



Rodolfo Arruabarrena (ARG)

Rodolfo Arruabarrena spent most of his playing career with Argentine outfit Boca Juniors, appearing for them from 1993 until 2000. Arruabarrena spent another seven years at Spanish club Villarreal before sampling football in Greece and later in Chile.

The former left-back clinched the Primera Division title and Copa Argentina as head coach of the Juniors in 2015. He earned further success with Qatar's Al Rayyan, winning the 2018 Sheikh Jassim Cup and then steered UAE's Shabab Al Ahli Dubai to the President's Cup and League Cup in 2019, as well as securing a second-place finish in the UAE Pro League.



Group B

Pakhtakor (UZB)



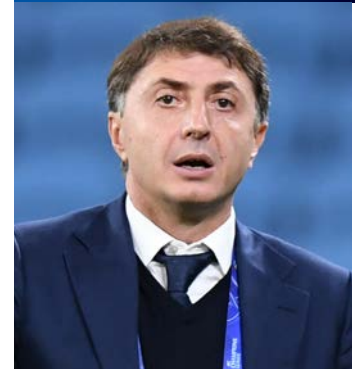
CLUB PROFILE

Pakhtakor earned a place in this year's AFC Champions League Group Stage after emerging victorious at both the Uzbekistan League and the Uzbekistan Cup.

This will be the Tashkent-based club's 16th AFC Champions League campaign. Their best showing at the marquee event came in 2002-03 and 2004, when they reached the Semi-finals. They also reached the Quarter-final in 2009. Since 2010, however, they have not successfully progressed beyond the Group Stages.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
25	Goalkeeper	ELDORBЕК SUYUNOV	12 Apr 1991	UZB
35	Goalkeeper	SANJAR KUVVATOV	08 Jan 1990	UZB
44	Goalkeeper	AZIZKHON ISAKOV	23 Dec 2000	UZB
50	Goalkeeper	UMIDJON KHAMROEV	13 May 1997	UZB
2	Defender	IBROKHIMKHALIL YULDOSHEV	14 Feb 2001	UZB
3	Defender	KHOJIAKBAR ALIJONOV	19 Apr 1997	UZB
4	Defender	AKRAMJON KOMILOV	14 Mar 1996	UZB
5	Defender	ANZUR ISMAILOV	21 Apr 1985	UZB
15	Defender	EGOR KRIMETS	27 Jan 1992	UZB
23	Defender	SHERZOD AZAMOV	14 Jan 1990	UZB
29	Defender	VLADIMIR KOZAK	12 Jun 1993	UZB
34	Defender	FARRUKH SAYFIEV	17 Jan 1991	UZB
92	Defender	UMARBЕК ESHMURODOV	30 Nov 1992	UZB
6	Midfielder	ALISHER SALIMOV	22 Jul 1999	UZB
7	Midfielder	SADRIDDIN ABDULLAEV	11 Jun 1986	UZB
8	Midfielder	ASADBЕК SOBIRJONOV	03 Aug 2000	UZB
9	Midfielder	JALOLIDDIN MASHARIPOV	01 Sep 1993	UZB
17	Midfielder	DOSTONBЕК KHAMDAMOV	24 Jul 1996	UZB
20	Midfielder	ODILJON XAMROBEKOV	13 Feb 1996	UZB
21	Midfielder	ABRORBЕК ISMOILOV	08 Jan 1998	UZB
24	Midfielder	DOSTON IBRAGIMOV	23 Jan 1997	UZB
26	Midfielder	ULUGBЕК KHOSHIMOV	03 Jan 2001	UZB
27	Midfielder	SARDOR SABIRKHODJAEV	06 Nov 1994	UZB
28	Midfielder	DIYOR KHOLMATOV	22 Jul 2002	UZB
37	Midfielder	ALISHER ODILOV	15 Jul 2001	UZB
99	Midfielder	JAVOKHIR SIDIKOV	08 Dec 1996	UZB
10	Forward	DRAGAN CERAN	06 Oct 1987	SRB
11	Forward	IGOR SERGEEV	30 Apr 1993	UZB
13	Forward	RUSLAN ROZIEV	10 Nov 2002	UZB
18	Forward	HOJIMAT ERKINOV	29 May 2001	UZB
19	Forward	SHOKHRUKH MAHMUDXOJIYEV	19 Jul 1998	UZB
77	Forward	EREN DERDIYOK	12 Jun 1988	SUI

HEAD COACH



Shota Arveladze (GEO)

The 47-year-old Shota Arveladze is a footballing icon in Georgia and is the country's all-time top scorer, with 291 goals in 410 league games during his club career that spanned 18 years from 1990.

Trabzonspor, Ajax Amsterdam, Rangers and AZ Alkmaar are just some of the clubs that Shota Arveladze has left his mark on. Arveladze returned to the Eredivisie in 2008 with AZ in an assistant coach role until 2010. The former striker spent six years as head coach with several Turkish clubs before sealing a move to Israeli club Maccabi Tel Aviv in 2016. Arveladze shifted his attention to the Uzbekistan Super League, becoming the head coach of Pakhtakor Tashkent in 2017.

Team Profiles



Group B

Shahr Khodro FC (IRN)



CLUB PROFILE

Shahr Khodro, which was established in 2013 and plays at the Imam Reza Stadium in Mashhad, IR Iran, finished fourth in the 2018-19 Iran Pro League to seal qualification for the Preliminary Round of AFC Champions League 2020.

There they beat Al Riffa of Bahrain, before enduring a goalless battle with Qatar's Al Sailiya at Ahmed Bin Ali Stadium in Doha in the Playoffs. They eventually edged past the hosts on penalties to seal qualification for their first-ever campaign at Asia's marquee club football competition.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	SEYED MAHDI RAHMATI	03 Feb 1983	IRN
22	Goalkeeper	MOHAMMADJAVAD KIA	29 Aug 2001	IRN
33	Goalkeeper	MATIN SAFAEIAN	17 Aug 1997	IRN
2	Defender	MOHAMMAD AGHAJANPOUR	20 Feb 1997	IRN
3	Defender	ALI NEMATI	08 Feb 1996	IRN
4	Defender	MOHAMMADHOSSEIN MORADMAND	22 Jun 1993	IRN
5	Defender	FARSHAD FARAJI	07 Apr 1994	IRN
14	Defender	OMID MANSOURI	22 Apr 1998	IRN
17	Defender	HASSAN JAFARI	21 Jul 1990	IRN
27	Defender	MOHAMMAD FARAMARZI	01 Jan 1994	IRN
8	Midfielder	AKBAR SADEGHI	11 Mar 1985	IRN
9	Midfielder	AMIN GHASEMINEZHAD	22 Nov 1986	IRN
18	Midfielder	ALI TAHERAN	07 Aug 1997	IRN
20	Midfielder	MOHAMMAD REZA KHALATBARI	14 Sep 1983	IRN
21	Midfielder	SAEID SADEGHIHEVELAE	25 Apr 1994	IRN
66	Midfielder	MOHAMMAD MOHAMMADZAD	27 Mar 1998	IRN
78	Midfielder	AMIRHASSAN JAFARI	20 Aug 1999	IRN
88	Midfielder	ALI NABIZADEH	05 Mar 1996	IRN
7	Forward	MOHAMMAD GHAZI NAJAFABADI	30 Dec 1984	IRN
11	Forward	HOSSEIN MEHRABAN	12 May 1996	IRN
16	Forward	ALIREZA ASADABADI	23 Jul 2002	IRN
76	Forward	MORTEZA KHORASANI	26 May 1997	IRN
80	Forward	ROUHOLAH SEIFOLLAHI	12 Jan 1991	IRN

HEAD COACH



Mojtaba Sarasiaei (IRN)

Mojtaba Sarasiaei was a defender for Paykan in Tehran and later moved to Aboumoslem, featuring for the Iran Pro League outfit until 2014.

Sarasiaei made the transition to football management the following year, spending five years as Shahr Khodro's technical manager before taking over the reins at the Mashhad-based club in January 2020.



Group C

Al Duhail SC (QAT)



CLUB PROFILE

Al Duhail SC won the 2019 Emir's Cup and finished as runners-up in the 2019 Qatar Stars League to qualify for the AFC Champions League 2020. Formerly known as Lekhwiya, the Doha-based club reached the AFC Champions League Quarter-final in both 2013 and 2015, before losing to Guangzhou Evergrande FC from China PR and Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal SFC, respectively.

In 2019, they bowed out in the Round of 16 after what was a closely fought two-legged tie against city rivals Al Sadd.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	MOHAMMED AHMED ALBAKRI	28 Mar 1997	QAT
16	Goalkeeper	KHALIFA ABABACAR	07 Jul 1989	QAT
33	Goalkeeper	ALI MOHAMMED GHULAIS	17 May 2003	QAT
44	Goalkeeper	AHMED SOFYAN ABONORA	09 Aug 1990	QAT
2	Defender	MOHAMED MUSA ALI	01 Jan 1986	QAT
4	Defender	MEDHI BENATIA	17 Apr 1987	FRA
5	Defender	BASSAM HUSHAM ALRAWI	16 Dec 1997	QAT
6	Defender	AHMED YASSER ABDELRHMAN	17 May 1994	QAT
18	Defender	SULTAN HUSSAIN AL-BRAKE	07 Apr 1996	QAT
23	Defender	ASSIM OMER MADIBO	22 Oct 1996	QAT
88	Defender	RAMIN REZAEIANSEMESKANDI	21 Mar 1990	IRN
8	Midfielder	LUIZ MAIRTON JUNIOR	13 Jan 1989	QAT
12	Midfielder	KARIM BOUDIAF	16 Sep 1990	QAT
14	Midfielder	ABDULLAH ABDULSALAM ALAHRAK	10 May 1997	QAT
22	Midfielder	KHALED MOHAMMED	07 Jun 2000	QAT
25	Midfielder	ABDULRAHMAN AL BASTI	04 Feb 2002	QAT
26	Midfielder	MUBARK SHANAN HAMZA	20 Feb 2004	QAT
30	Midfielder	KHALED WALID MANSOUR	25 Dec 1999	QAT
7	Forward	ISMAIL MOHAMAD	05 Apr 1990	QAT
10	Forward	EDMILSON JUNIOR SILVA	19 Aug 1994	BEL
15	Forward	MOHAMED EMAD AIASH	27 Feb 2001	QAT
19	Forward	ALMOEZ ALI ABDULLA	19 Aug 1996	QAT
20	Forward	ALI HASSAN AFIF	20 Jan 1988	QAT
27	Forward	DIYAB HAROON TAHA	15 May 2001	QAT
29	Forward	MOHAMMED MUNTARI	20 Dec 1993	QAT
31	Forward	ABDULRAHMAN AL-JASSEM	31 Jul 2002	QAT
32	Forward	JASSIM MOHAMMED AL-MEHAIRI	30 Aug 2002	QAT
67	Forward	SALMIN ATIQ ALRUMAIHI	11 Jan 1997	QAT
77	Forward	DUDU EDUARDO RODRIGUES	07 Jan 1992	BRA
97	Forward	ABDELRAHMAN FAHMI MOUSTAFA	05 Apr 1997	QAT

HEAD COACH



Walid Regragui (FRA)

Former Moroccan international Walid Regragui began his managerial career with the national team as assistant coach in 2012. Regragui worked alongside Eric Gerets and steered Morocco to the 2012 Nations Cup title.

In 2014, he ventured into club football with FUS Rabat, winning the Moroccan Throne Cup in his first season; he went on to spend six years in the Botola Pro 1.

In January 2020, Regragui replaced Rui Faria as head coach of Qatar Stars League side Al Duhail.



Group C

Al Taawoun FC (KSA)



CLUB PROFILE

The 2019 winners of the Saudi Kings Cup, Al Taawoun, based in central Saudi city of Buraidah, made their second appearance in the AFC Champions League this year.

In 2017, they finished third in the group that saw UAE's Al Ahli and IR Iran's Esteghlal qualify for the knockout rounds, and looked to better that performance in the 2020 edition of the Continent's marquee club competition.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	CASSIO DOS ANJOS	12 Aug 1980	POR
21	Goalkeeper	MUATAZ ABDULRAHMAN ALBAGAWI	04 Jan 1998	KSA
23	Goalkeeper	HUSSAIN SHAIAN	23 May 1989	KSA
26	Goalkeeper	MOHAMMED ABDULLAH ALDHULAYFI	12 May 2000	KSA
2	Defender	YASEEN OMAR BARNAWI	01 Oct 1993	KSA
4	Defender	IAGO AZEVEDO SANTOS	22 May 1992	BRA
13	Defender	IBRAHIM SALEM ALZUBAIDI	04 Oct 1989	KSA
14	Defender	HASSAN KADISH MAHBUB	26 Sep 1992	KSA
16	Defender	FAHAD RESHID ALHAMAD	16 Mar 1998	KSA
31	Defender	SAAD YASLAM BALOBAID	27 Jan 2000	KSA
33	Defender	AHMED HASSAN ASIRI	14 Nov 1991	KSA
88	Defender	HAMDAN ASHWI ALRUWAILI	14 Mar 1995	KSA
6	Midfielder	RAYAN SIDDIQ ALMOUSA	24 Jul 1994	KSA
11	Midfielder	NASSER SAAD ALOTAIBI	14 Jan 1997	KSA
15	Midfielder	FAHAD AYIDH ALRASHIDI	16 May 1997	KSA
17	Midfielder	CEDRIC AMISSI	02 Jul 1990	BDI
19	Midfielder	IBRAHIM ALOTAIBI	15 Jan 1997	KSA
25	Midfielder	FAISAL DARWISH FARAJ	23 Apr 1990	KSA
27	Midfielder	SULTAN AHMED MANDASH	17 Oct 1994	KSA
28	Midfielder	SUMAYHAN DHAIDAN ALNABIT	27 Mar 1996	KSA
29	Midfielder	ABDULLAH AHMED ALJOUI	02 Mar 1995	KSA
41	Midfielder	THAAR HUSSAIN ALOTAIBI	14 Aug 1999	KSA
44	Midfielder	SALEH MOHAMMED ALSAEED	18 Sep 1999	KSA
50	Midfielder	MOTAIR ALZAHrani	22 Oct 1994	KSA
66	Midfielder	MOHAMMED ABDULLAH ABUSABAAN	20 Jan 1990	KSA
80	Midfielder	ABDULMAJEED ALSUWAT	21 Apr 1995	KSA
7	Forward	RABYI SUFYANI	25 Jan 1987	KSA
9	Forward	MANSOUR SAEED ALMUWALLAD	24 Jan 1997	KSA
12	Forward	MITCHELL DUKE	18 Jan 1991	AUSTRALIA
24	Forward	MOHAMMED AL SAHLAWI	10 Jan 1987	KSA
30	Forward	NAWAF SUFYAN ALRESHOODI	18 Aug 2000	KSA
99	Forward	MALAK ALABADALMANAM	08 Mar 1998	KSA

HEAD COACH



Vitor Campelos (POR)

Vitor Campelos began his coaching career in Hungary with MOL Fehervar FC II in 2013 before a brief spell at Portuguese side Trofense.

From 2015, the 45-year-old spent three years coaching Portuguese club Vitória Guimarães SC reserves and was the interim head coach for the senior side. Campelos had a short spell at Moreirense FC in 2019, before departing his home country for Saudi Arabia to take over at Al Taawoun FC in January 2020.



Group C

Sharjah FC (UAE)



CLUB PROFILE

Sharjah FC enjoyed a stellar 2019, winning the UAE Pro League and the UAE Super Cup, thus qualifying for the AFC Champions League for the first time since 2009.

Based out of the emirate of Sharjah, the team has a rich football heritage – they were the first official UAE League champion when it was initiated in 1974 and have subsequently won six Pro League titles, eight Presidents Cups and two Super Cups. Making their third appearance in the history of the competition, the side looked to emulate their best-ever finish when, in 2004, they reached the Quarter-final.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
26	Goalkeeper	DARWISH MOHAMMAD HABIB	07 Jun 1995	UAE
40	Goalkeeper	ADEL ALHOSANI	23 Aug 1989	UAE
49	Goalkeeper	MAYED MUHSIN FAIROUZ	19 Aug 1996	UAE
96	Goalkeeper	HUMOOD MOHAMMAD MUBARAK	06 Sep 1998	UAE
3	Defender	ALHASAN SALEH ALHENAWI	25 Jun 1991	UAE
4	Defender	SHAHEEN ABDULLA ALMAAZMI	16 Nov 1992	UAE
5	Defender	HAMAD JASIM ALJASMI	22 Jun 1996	UAE
13	Defender	SALEM SULTAN ALSHARJI	09 May 1993	UAE
16	Defender	ABDELAZIZ SALIM ALKAABI	12 Aug 1998	UAE
17	Defender	ALI MOHAMED ALDHANHANI	01 Jun 1991	UAE
18	Defender	ABDALLA GHANIM ALALAWI	21 May 1995	UAE
19	Defender	KHALED EBRAHEIM ALDHANHANI	17 Jan 1997	UAE
79	Defender	ABDELRAHMAN JUMA RABEEH	02 Dec 2000	UAE
6	Midfielder	MAJID IBRAHIM SUROUR	14 Oct 1997	UAE
8	Midfielder	MOHAMMAD ABDULBASIT	19 Oct 1995	UAE
10	Midfielder	IGOR CAIQUE CORONADO	18 Aug 1992	ITA
22	Midfielder	KHALID ABDULRAHEEM BAWAZIR	08 May 1995	UAE
24	Midfielder	SAIF RASHID ALSHEMEILI	25 Nov 1994	UAE
29	Midfielder	OTABEK SHUKUROV	22 Jun 1996	UZB
30	Midfielder	TAREQ AHMED ALANTALI	19 May 1990	UAE
38	Midfielder	MOHAMED KHALFAN ALMESMARI	29 Dec 1992	UAE
88	Midfielder	AHMED IBRAHIM SUROUR	07 Jul 1999	UAE
7	Forward	CAIO LUCAS FERNANDES	19 Apr 1994	BRA
9	Forward	WELLITON MORAIS	22 Oct 1986	BRA
23	Forward	SALEM SALEH AL REJAIBI	14 May 1991	UAE

HEAD COACH



Abdulaziz Al Anbari (UAE)

A member of the last Sharjah side to land the league crown in 1996, Al Anbari enjoyed a 16-year spell with the Emirati side before retiring in 2010.

Al Anbari returned to Sharjah as head coach in 2017. Two years later, the 42-year-old, who also represented the United Arab Emirates as a player, became the first Emirati to guide Sharjah to the UAE Pro League title and the UAE Super League. He was later named as the league's coach of the year.

Team Profiles



Group C

Persepolis FC (IRN)



CLUB PROFILE

Persepolis qualified for the AFC Champions League 2020 by winning the 2018-19 Iran Pro League and the 2018-19 Hazfi Cup.

They enjoyed their best AFC Champions League campaign to date in 2018 when they reached the Final, narrowly losing 2-0 on aggregate to Japan's Kashima Antlers. In 2019, despite high hopes, the Tehran-based club failed to progress beyond the Group Stage for only the third time since their debut in the competition, finishing fourth behind Al Sadd, Al Ahli and Pakhtakor.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
34	Goalkeeper	AMIRMOHAMMAD YOUSEFI	24 Feb 2000	IRN
44	Goalkeeper	BOZIDAR RADOSEVIC	04 Apr 1989	CRO
63	Goalkeeper	AMIRHOSSEIN BAYAT	10 May 1998	IRN
81	Goalkeeper	HAMED LAK	24 Nov 1990	IRN
3	Defender	SHOJAE KHALILZADEH	14 May 1989	IRN
4	Defender	SEYED JALAL HOSSEINI	03 Feb 1982	IRN
6	Defender	M.HOSSEIN KANANI	23 Mar 1994	IRN
15	Defender	MOHAMMAD ANSARI	23 Sep 1991	IRN
17	Defender	MEHDI SHIRI	31 Jan 1991	IRN
28	Defender	MOHAMMAD NADERI	05 Oct 1996	IRN
77	Defender	SAEID AGHAEI	09 Feb 1995	IRN
2	Midfielder	OMID ALISHAH	10 Jan 1992	IRN
5	Midfielder	BASHAR RESAN BONYAN	22 Dec 1996	IRQ
8	Midfielder	AHMAD NOOROLLAHI	01 Feb 1993	IRN
9	Midfielder	MAHDI TORABI	10 Sep 1994	IRN
11	Midfielder	KAMALEDDIN KAMYABINIA	18 Jan 1989	IRN
14	Midfielder	EHSAN PAHLAVAN	25 Jul 1993	IRN
18	Midfielder	MOHSEN RABIKHAH	24 Dec 1987	IRN
23	Midfielder	ALI SHOJAEI	27 Jan 1997	IRN
26	Midfielder	SAEED HOSSEINPOUR	12 Oct 1998	IRN
38	Midfielder	SEYED MOHAMMAD E HOSSEINI	03 Oct 1998	IRN
66	Midfielder	MILAD SARLAK	26 Mar 1995	IRN
88	Midfielder	SIAMAK NEMATI	17 Apr 1994	IRN
16	Forward	MEHDI ABDI	30 Nov 1998	IRN
19	Forward	VAHID AMIRI	02 Apr 1988	IRN
20	Forward	AMIR ROUSTAEI	05 Aug 1997	IRN
25	Forward	ARIA BARZEGAR	10 Oct 2002	IRN
36	Forward	ARMAN RAMEZANI	22 Jun 1992	IRN
72	Forward	ISA ALKASIR	07 Feb 1990	IRN

HEAD COACH



Yahya Golmohammadi (IRN)

Yahya Golmohammadi spent most of his club career at Persepolis, winning three Iran Pro League titles and the Hafizi Cup before finding further success with Saba, who clinched the 2005 Iranian Super Cup.

As a head coach, Golmohammadi managed several top clubs including Persepolis, Naft Tehran, Tractor Sazi and Shahr Khodro, finding the most success with Zobahan, where he won the Hafizi Cup in 2015 and 2016 as well as the Iranian Super Cup in the same year. Golmohammadi returned to Persepolis as head coach in January 2020, replacing Argentine Gabriel Calderon.



Group D

Sepahan FC (IRN)



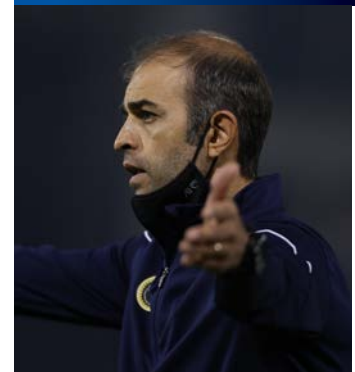
CLUB PROFILE

The 2018–19 Iran Pro League runners-up, Sepahan from the Islamic Republic of Iran, made their 12th appearance at the AFC Champions League in 2020.

The first non-Tehran-based team to win the Iranian League in 2002-03, they were also the first from the country to reach the AFC Champions League Final (2007). Domestically, their achievements have been strong over the years, winning the domestic league five times as well as the Hazfi Cup four times since the turn of the millennium.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	PAYAM NIAZMAND	06 Apr 1995	IRN
36	Goalkeeper	ALI KEIKHOSRAVI	13 Jan 1999	IRN
50	Goalkeeper	SHAHAB ADELI	19 Jan 1997	IRN
5	Defender	EZZAT POURGHAZ	21 Mar 1987	IRN
22	Defender	MOHAMMAD TAYEBI	11 Sep 1986	IRN
26	Defender	DAVOUD RAJABI	22 May 1997	IRN
30	Defender	GIORGI GVELESIANI	05 May 1991	GEO
37	Defender	MORTEZA MANSOURI	23 Jun 1990	IRN
44	Defender	MOHAMMAD NEJAD MEHDI	20 Oct 1992	IRN
52	Defender	MOHAMMADREZA ASGARI	05 May 2002	IRN
66	Defender	MOHAMMAD REZA MEHDIZADEH	19 Feb 1994	IRN
69	Defender	ALI MOSLEH TAKLIMI	25 Jun 1993	IRN
78	Defender	MAHDI RAHIMI	02 May 1999	IRN
6	Midfielder	MEHDI KIANI	10 Jan 1987	IRN
8	Midfielder	RASOUL NAVIDKIA	21 Sep 1983	IRN
10	Midfielder	SEYED MOHAMMADREZA HOSSEINI	15 Sep 1989	IRN
11	Midfielder	MOHSEN MOSALMAN	27 Jan 1991	IRN
12	Midfielder	REZA DEGHANI	07 Jan 1998	IRN
17	Midfielder	REZA MIRZAEI	14 Apr 1996	IRN
19	Midfielder	OMID NOR AFKAN	09 Apr 1997	IRN
20	Midfielder	MOHAMMAD MOHEBBI	20 Dec 1998	IRN
21	Midfielder	MOHAMMAD KARIMI	20 Jun 1996	IRN
24	Midfielder	ALIREZA NAGHIZAD	04 Mar 1993	IRN
38	Midfielder	YASIN SALMANI	27 Feb 2002	IRN
67	Midfielder	MAHDI TORKAMAN	08 Mar 1989	IRN
70	Midfielder	HAMED BAHIRAEI	12 Jul 1995	IRN
9	Forward	SAJAD SHAHBAZZADEH	23 Jan 1990	IRN
14	Forward	ABOLFAZL AKASHEH	09 Mar 1999	IRN
16	Forward	MUHSEN SALEH AL GHASSANI	27 Mar 1997	OMA
73	Forward	SOROUSH RAFIEI	24 Mar 1990	IRN
88	Forward	KIROS STANLLEY FERRAZ	21 Aug 1988	BRA
99	Forward	DANIAL ESMAEILIFAR	18 Mar 1993	IRN

HEAD COACH



Amir Ghalenoei (IRN)

Amir Ghalenoei is well known for his success managing clubs in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The former IR Iran international has coached several clubs, including Esteghlal, Mes Kerman, Sepahan and Tractor SC. As head coach, he has won five championships and two Hafzi Cup titles.

Ghalenoei also coached the national team, leading IR Iran to the 2007 AFC Asian Cup Quarter-final.

Team Profiles



Group D

Al Sadd SC (QAT)



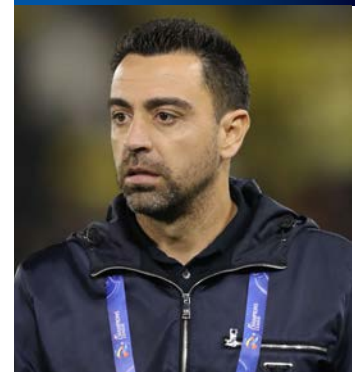
CLUB PROFILE

Al Sadd qualified for the AFC Champions League 2020 following a championship-winning season in the 2019 Qatar Stars League.

Having won the 2011 edition of Asia's marquee club competition, beating Korea Republic's Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC in the Final, they came into the tournament with an enviable history; most recently, the club managed by the legendary Xavi showcased two inspiring campaigns in 2018 and 2019, reaching the Semi-finals both years. In 2019, the Doha-based team lost to eventual champions Al Hilal 6-5 over an exhilarating two legs.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	SAAD AL SHEEB	19 Feb 1990	QAT
22	Goalkeeper	MESHAAL AISSA BARSHAM	14 Feb 1998	QAT
30	Goalkeeper	JEHAD MOHAMMAD HUDIB	14 Oct 2000	QAT
83	Goalkeeper	YOUSEF ABDULLAH BALIDEH	30 Oct 2002	QAT
2	Defender	PEDRO CORREIA	06 Aug 1990	QAT
3	Defender	ABDELKARIM HASSAN FADLALLA	28 Aug 1993	QAT
6	Defender	TAREK SALMAN	05 Dec 1997	QAT
15	Defender	BAHAA MAMDOUH ELLETHY	18 Apr 1999	QAT
37	Defender	AHMED SUHAIL ALHAMAWENDE	08 Feb 1999	QAT
56	Defender	TALAL IBRAHIM FARAJ	10 Apr 2001	QAT
57	Defender	ABDULLA ISMAIL AL-ALI	20 Nov 2001	QAT
70	Defender	MUSAAB KHIDIR MOHAMED	01 Jan 1993	QAT
74	Defender	TALAL ABDULLA BAHZAD	06 Sep 1999	QAT
96	Defender	HUSAM KAMAL HASSANIN	25 Jan 1996	QAT
4	Midfielder	AHMED BADER SAYYAR	06 Oct 1993	QAT
7	Midfielder	MOHAMMED WAAD ALBAYATI	18 Sep 1999	QAT
8	Midfielder	ALI ASADALLA THAIMN	19 Jan 1993	QAT
16	Midfielder	BOUALEM KHOUKHI	09 Jul 1990	QAT
20	Midfielder	SALEM AL HAJRI	10 Apr 1996	QAT
85	Midfielder	FAISAL MOHAMMAD AZADI	13 Jan 2001	QAT
10	Forward	HASAN AL HAYDOS	11 Dec 1990	QAT
11	Forward	BAGHDAD BOUNEDJAH	24 Nov 1991	ALG
13	Forward	GUILHERME DOS SANTOS	05 Apr 1991	BRA
17	Forward	RODRIGO BARBOSA TABATA	19 Nov 1980	QAT
18	Forward	SANTIAGO GONZALEZ	13 Dec 1984	ESP
19	Forward	NAM TAEHEE	03 Jul 1991	KOR
23	Forward	HASHIM ALI	17 Aug 2000	QAT
27	Forward	YUSUF ABDURISAG YUSUF	06 Aug 1999	QAT
45	Forward	AKRAM HASSAN AFIF	18 Nov 1996	QAT
77	Forward	HASSAN AHMAD PALANG	02 Apr 1998	QAT
87	Forward	SAOUD IBRAHIM AL-NASR	01 Feb 1998	QAT

HEAD COACH



Xavi (SPA)

Considered by many as one of the greatest Spanish players, Xavi had an illustrious journey with Catalan giants Barcelona where he made 505 appearances and scored 58 goals in a 17-year career, winning eight La Liga titles and four UEFA Champions League trophies. Xavi also excelled for La Roja, winning the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa and the UEFA European Championship in 2008 and 2012. Xavi moved to Al Saad in 2015 to play in the Qatar Stars League. He took over as head coach four years later and helped the club reach the Semi-finals of the AFC Champions League, where they were eliminated by Al Hilal FC 6-5 on aggregate. The 40-year-old then guided the team to the 2019 Qatari Super Cup and the Qatar Cup in 2020.



Group D

Al Nassr (KSA)



CLUB PROFILE

Al Nassr qualified for the AFC Champions League for the fifth time after winning last season's Saudi Pro League.

A club with an illustrious pedigree, the Riyadh-based side won both the Asian Cup Winners' Cup and Asian Super Cup in 1998. In 2019, they stitched together their best performance to date in the AFC Champions League, reaching the Quarter-final where they were narrowly edged by Qatar's Al Sadd FC.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	BRAD JONES	19 Mar 1982	AUS
25	Goalkeeper	AMIN MOHAMMEDSALEH ALBUKHARI	02 May 1997	KSA
26	Goalkeeper	ABDULLAH ALOWAYSHIR	13 May 1991	KSA
31	Goalkeeper	ZAID MAJED ALBAWARDI	26 Jan 1997	KSA
33	Goalkeeper	WALEED ALI	19 Apr 1986	KSA
44	Goalkeeper	NAWAF DHAHI ALAQIDI	10 May 2000	KSA
2	Defender	SULTAN ABDULLAH ALGHANNAM	06 May 1994	KSA
3	Defender	ABDULLAH MOHAMMED MADU	15 Jul 1993	KSA
4	Defender	OMAR IBRAHIM OTHMAN	27 Sep 1985	KSA
5	Defender	ABDULELAH ALAMRI	15 Jan 1997	KSA
12	Defender	ABDULAZIZ ALALAWI	27 Feb 1997	KSA
13	Defender	ABDULRAHMAN AHMED ALOBAID	30 Apr 1993	KSA
18	Defender	MAICON PEREIRA ROQUE	14 Sep 1988	BRA
20	Defender	HAMAD FARIS ALMANSOUR	19 May 1993	KSA
23	Defender	AIMAN YAHYA AHMED	14 May 2001	KSA
36	Defender	OSAMA YOUSEF ALKHALAF	26 Dec 1996	KSA
37	Defender	NAIF MOUSA ALMAS	18 Jan 2000	KSA
78	Defender	ALI MOHAMMED ALJAMI	24 Apr 1996	KSA
14	Midfielder	SAMI ALNAJI	07 Feb 1997	KSA
15	Midfielder	ABDULAZIZ ALDAWSARI	11 Oct 1988	KSA
17	Midfielder	ABDULLAH MOHAMMED ALKHAIBARI	16 Aug 1996	KSA
19	Midfielder	ABDULMAJEED ALSULAYHIM	15 May 1994	KSA
21	Midfielder	MUKHTAR ALI SHAIKH	30 Oct 1997	KSA
27	Midfielder	AWADH ALFARAJ	15 Jul 1988	KSA
30	Midfielder	SULTAN ALANAZI	26 Apr 2001	KSA
39	Midfielder	ABDULRAHMAN MUTLAQ ALDOSARI	25 Sep 1997	KSA
45	Midfielder	ABDULFATTAH TAWFIQ ASIRI	26 Feb 1994	KSA
51	Midfielder	KHALIL IBRAHIM ALABSI	28 May 2001	KSA
66	Midfielder	BASIL YOUSEF ALSAYYALI	22 Jun 2001	KSA
9	Forward	ABDERRAZAQ HAMED-ALLAH	17 Dec 1990	MAR
22	Forward	GONZALO MARTINEZ	13 Jun 1993	ARG
24	Forward	KHALID ESSA ALGHANNAM	08 Nov 2000	KSA
29	Forward	ABDEFATAH ADAM MOHAMED	01 Jan 1995	KSA
42	Forward	FERAS TARIQ ALBRIKAN	14 May 2000	KSA

HEAD COACH



Rui Vitoria (POR)

Portuguese midfielder-turned-coach Rui Vitoria retired from playing the game at the age of 32 before venturing into football management in 2002. After managing several Portuguese clubs, his hard work finally paid off in 2015 when he went on to win seven titles with Benfica, including three Primeira Liga titles.

After four years in Lisbon, the 50-year-old moved to Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr and helped the club clinch the Saudi Professional League title for the 2018-19 season as well as the 2019 Saudi Super Cup.

Team Profiles



Group D

Al Ain FC (UAE)



CLUB PROFILE

Winners of the inaugural AFC Champions League tournament in 2003, Al Ain have reached the Final twice more, most recently in 2016, where they went down 3-2 on aggregate to Korea Republic's Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors.

They qualified for the Playoff round of AFC Champions League 2020 Qualifiers by virtue of finishing fourth in the UAE Pro League, where they beat Bunyodkor from Uzbekistan to seal a spot in the Group Stage.

The 2020 edition marks their 15th appearance at the Continent's most celebrated club tournament.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	MOHAMMED SAEED ALFALAH	20 Jun 1995	UAE
12	Goalkeeper	HAMAD ABDULLA ALMANSOORI	28 Mar 1996	UAE
17	Goalkeeper	KHALID EISA ALMESMARI	15 Sep 1989	UAE
70	Goalkeeper	IBRAHIM ABDULLA ALKAABI	03 Mar 1993	UAE
3	Defender	SALEM ABDULLA ALJABERI	17 Sep 1998	UAE
4	Defender	MOHAMMED ALI ALMAHRI	27 Apr 1997	UAE
5	Defender	ISMAIL AHMED MOHAMED	07 Jul 1983	UAE
23	Defender	MOHAMED ALI GHARIB	16 Apr 1989	UAE
25	Defender	ALI SAEED ALBALOOSHI	27 Nov 2000	UAE
38	Defender	SAEED MUSABBEH ALMENHALI	04 Feb 1994	UAE
44	Defender	SAEED JUMA ALSAADI	08 Jul 1998	UAE
45	Defender	SAOUD ABDULRAHMAN ALMAHRI	18 Jul 2000	UAE
6	Midfielder	YAHIA NADER ELSHARIF	11 Sep 1998	UAE
8	Midfielder	BAUYRZHAN ISLAMKHAN	23 Feb 1993	KAZ
11	Midfielder	BANDAR MOHAMMED AL AHBABI	09 Jul 1990	UAE
13	Midfielder	AHMED BARMAN ALHMOUDI	05 Feb 1994	UAE
14	Midfielder	RAYAN YASLAM AL JABERI	23 Nov 1994	UAE
16	Midfielder	MOHAMED ABDULRAHMAN ALRAQI	04 Feb 1989	UAE
18	Midfielder	KHALED MOHAMMED ALBLOOSHI	22 Mar 1999	UAE
20	Midfielder	WILSON BRUNO EDUARDO	08 Jul 1990	POR
21	Midfielder	MOHAMED HILAL ALNUAIMI	10 Aug 1995	UAE
27	Midfielder	MUHCEN BA ABDULLA	13 Apr 1995	UAE
30	Midfielder	MOHAMMED KHALFAN AL HARASI	28 Aug 1998	UAE
33	Midfielder	TSUKASA SHIOTANI	05 Dec 1988	JPN
50	Midfielder	MOHAMED JAMAL BADHFARI	11 May 1994	UAE
75	Midfielder	SAIF GHAZI AL HARTHI	03 Aug 1999	UAE
88	Midfielder	FAHAD HADID KHAMISI	07 Jul 1993	UAE
7	Forward	CAIO CANEDO CORREA	09 Aug 1990	UAE
9	Forward	KODJO FO-DOH LABA	27 Jan 1992	TOG
99	Forward	JAMAL IBRAHIM ALBLOOSHI	23 Nov 1991	UAE

HEAD COACH



Pedro Emanuel (ANG)

Pedro Emanuel had a successful playing career in the Portuguese Primeira Liga with Boavista and particularly with Porto FC, with whom he won five league titles, the 2003 UEFA Cup, 2004 UEFA Champions League as well as the Intercontinental Cup the same year.

Pedro began his coaching career with Porto in 2010 as an assistant coach before moving on to several European clubs. A short spell at Saudi Arabia club Al-Taawoun in the 2018-2019 season led to King's Cup triumph in 2019. His tenure at Spanish club Almeria was brief and he took over as head coach of UAE Pro League side Al Ain in January 2020.



Group E
Beijing FC (CHN)



CLUB PROFILE

Beijing FC's runners-up finish in the 2019 Chinese Super League ensured they qualified for the AFC Champions League 2020.

It was their ninth appearance in the competition, having previously reached the knockout stage on three occasions, each time getting eliminated in the Round of 16 (2010, 2013 and 2015). In the 2019 edition, they finished third behind Jeonbuk Hyundai and Urawa Red Diamonds to end their campaign at the Group Stage.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	HOU SEN	30 Jun 1989	CHN
14	Goalkeeper	ZOU DEHAI	27 Feb 1993	CHN
25	Goalkeeper	GUO QUANBO	31 Aug 1997	CHN
33	Goalkeeper	MA KUNYUE	27 Apr 2001	CHN
2	Defender	KIM MINJAE	15 Nov 1996	KOR
3	Defender	YU YANG	06 Aug 1989	CHN
4	Defender	LI LEI	30 May 1992	CHN
16	Defender	JIN PENGXIANG	25 Jan 1990	CHN
24	Defender	YANG FAN	28 Mar 1996	CHN
27	Defender	WANG GANG	17 Feb 1989	CHN
28	Defender	JIANG TAO	28 Jun 1989	CHN
31	Defender	LIANG SHAOWEN	12 Jun 2002	CHN
5	Midfielder	RENATO AUGUSTO	08 Feb 1988	BRA
6	Midfielder	CHI ZHONGGUO	26 Oct 1989	CHN
8	Midfielder	PIAO CHENG	21 Aug 1989	CHN
9	Midfielder	ZHANG YUNING	05 Jan 1997	CHN
10	Midfielder	ZHANG XIZHE	23 Jan 1991	CHN
11	Midfielder	FERNANDO	03 Mar 1992	BRA
18	Midfielder	JIN TAIYAN	21 Aug 1989	CHN
21	Midfielder	JONATAN VIERA RAMOS	21 Oct 1989	ESP
22	Midfielder	YU DABAO	18 Apr 1988	CHN
23	Midfielder	LI KE	24 May 1993	CHN
26	Midfielder	LYU PENG	28 Oct 1989	CHN
29	Midfielder	BA DUN	16 Sep 1995	CHN
32	Midfielder	LIU GUOBO	27 Nov 1999	CHN
19	Forward	A. LAN	10 Jul 1989	CHN
20	Forward	WANG ZIMING	05 Aug 1996	CHN
39	Forward	WEN DA	25 Oct 1999	CHN

HEAD COACH



Bruno Génésio (FRA)

French midfielder-turned-coach Bruno Génésio began as a coach for the L'Abresle's youth team in 1997 and got his first head coach stint two years later with Villefranche.

After four years as an assistant coach with Besançon, he took the helm as head coach. The 53-year-old then had the opportunity to be part of the coaching staff for his hometown club, Lyon, in 2007, who he led for over four years. Génésio travelled to Asia in 2019 to join China PR's Beijing Guoan.



Group E

Chiangrai United (THA)



CLUB PROFILE

The 2019 Thai League 1 champions Chiangrai will finally feature in the Group Stage of the AFC Champions League after bowing out in the Playoffs of the previous two editions.

Established in 2009, the team play their home games at Singha Stadium and have been prolific domestically, winning the treble of the Thai League Cup, the Thai FA Cup and the Thai Champions Cup in 2018, before winning the league for the first time in 2019.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	SARANON ANUIN	24 Mar 1994	THA
22	Goalkeeper	APIRAK WORAWONG	07 Jan 1996	THA
39	Goalkeeper	FARUS PATEE	06 Nov 1996	THA
3	Defender	TANASAK SRISAI	25 Sep 1989	THA
4	Defender	PIYAPHON PHANITCHAKUN	08 Nov 1987	THA
5	Defender	BRINNER HENRIQUE SOUZA	16 Jul 1987	BRA
13	Defender	CHOTIPAT POOMKAEW	29 May 1998	THA
30	Defender	SURIYA SINGMUI	07 Apr 1995	THA
33	Defender	SARAWUT INPAEN	03 Mar 1992	THA
36	Defender	SHINNAPHAT LEEAOH	02 Feb 1997	THA
45	Defender	SARAWUT YODYINGHATHAIKUL	06 Mar 1999	THA
66	Defender	CHUTIPAN NOPNOB	09 Aug 1994	THA
6	Midfielder	PHITIWAT SOOKJITTHAMMAKUL	01 Feb 1995	THA
8	Midfielder	LEE YONGRAE	17 Apr 1986	KOR
14	Midfielder	SANUKRAN THINJOM	12 Sep 1993	THA
17	Midfielder	SOMKID CHAMNARNILP	07 Jan 1993	THA
21	Midfielder	THAKDANAI JAIHAN	12 Jan 2002	THA
27	Midfielder	GIONATA VERZURA	27 May 1992	THA
37	Midfielder	EKANIT PANYA	21 Oct 1999	THA
9	Forward	ROSIMAR AMANCIO	02 Jul 1984	BRA
10	Forward	SIVAKORN TIATRAKUL	07 Jul 1994	THA
16	Forward	AKARAWIN SAWASDEE	26 Sep 1990	THA
18	Forward	THIRAYU BANHAN	19 Feb 1994	THA
19	Forward	SUCHANON MALISON	05 Jul 1996	THA
26	Forward	CHAIYAWAT BURAN	26 Oct 1995	THA
50	Forward	AVELINO COELHO JAKSON	28 Feb 1986	BRA

HEAD COACH



Masami Taki (JPN)

A coach at Japan's Cerezo Osaka Academy, Masami Taki got his first taste managing professional football in Thailand when he managed Thai Honda in 2009. He left after a year of service with the Thai League 1 side, but was called on to lead the Bangkok-based club in 2014 for another year.

The 47-year-old coach then returned to Japan to manage Fujieda MYFC in 2018. In December 2019, he replaced Ailton Silva as head coach of reigning league champions Chiangrai United.



Group E

Melbourne Victory (AUS)



CLUB PROFILE

Melbourne Victory made their eighth appearance in the AFC Champions League and their third in succession after upsetting former winners Kashima Antlers in the Playoff Round. They finished third in the regular season of the A League to make it to the Continental tournament Playoffs.

They have advanced to the Knockout Stage of the AFC Champions League just once in their previous seven appearances in the competition, doing so in 2016.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	MATTHEW ACTON	03 Jun 1992	AUS
20	Goalkeeper	MAXIME CROCOMBE	12 Aug 1993	AUS
30	Goalkeeper	MARKO BULIC	24 May 2002	AUS
2	Defender	STORM ROUX	13 Jan 1993	AUS
4	Defender	NICHOLAS ANSELL	02 Feb 1994	AUS
19	Defender	DYLAN RYAN	10 Jun 2000	AUS
21	Defender	ADAMA TRAORE	03 Feb 1990	AUS
25	Defender	BRANDON LAUTON	03 Mar 2000	AUS
31	Defender	AARON ANDERSON	25 Sep 2000	AUS
32	Defender	SO NISHIKAWA	18 Jun 2001	JPN
6	Midfielder	LEIGH BROXHAM	13 Jan 1988	AUS
8	Midfielder	JACOB BUTTERFIELD	10 Jun 1990	ENG
13	Midfielder	BIRKAN KIRDAR	07 Feb 2002	AUS
22	Midfielder	JAKE BRIMMER	03 Apr 1998	AUS
26	Midfielder	JAY BARNETT	14 Feb 2001	AUS
35	Midfielder	JOSHUA VARGA	07 Feb 2002	AUS
7	Forward	CALLUM McMANAMAN	25 Apr 1991	ENG
10	Forward	ROBBIE KRUSE	05 Oct 1988	AUS
11	Forward	BEN FOLAMI	08 Jun 1999	AUS
17	Forward	ELVIS KAMSOBA	27 Jun 1996	AUS
23	Forward	MARCO ROJAS	05 Nov 1991	NZL
33	Forward	LUIS LAWRIE-LATTANZIO	20 Feb 2002	AUS
34	Forward	LLEYTON BROOKS	20 Mar 2001	AUS
36	Forward	GIANLUCA IANNUCCI	18 Jun 2001	AUS

HEAD COACH



Steve Kean (SCO)

Former winger Steve Kean's impressive coaching resumé started at the Blackburn Rovers, before moving to Continental football with Brunei Darussalam club DPMM FC and the Brunei national team. Kean became assistant coach for Australia's Melbourne Victory in 2020, before taking the reins for the side's run to the Round of 16 in the 2020 edition of the AFC Champions League.



Former Head Coach

Carlos Pérez Salvachúa (ESP)

Carlos Pérez Salvachúa boasts an extensive resumé of coaching in Spain, with the likes of Real Madrid CF Academy, UB Conquense, CD Guadalajara and Villarreal CF. The 47-year-old made his first move overseas in 2018, assisting Kevin Muscat at Australia's Melbourne Victory. After Muscat and Marco Kurz's departures, Salvachúa stepped up as caretaker head coach in 2020 and oversaw the side's first two matches of the AFC Champions League 2020.

Team Profiles



Group E

FC Seoul (KOR)



CLUB PROFILE

FC Seoul beat Malaysia's Kedah FC 4-1 in the Playoff to qualify for the Group Stage of the AFC Champions League 2020. Twice runners-up previously, this was their eighth appearance in the competition.

Domestically, FC Seoul have won six League titles, two FA Cups, two League Cups and one Super Cup, and they are one of the most successful and popular clubs in the K League.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	YU SANGHUN	25 May 1989	KOR
21	Goalkeeper	YANG HANBEEN	30 Aug 1991	KOR
30	Goalkeeper	JEONG JINWOOK	28 May 1997	KOR
31	Goalkeeper	BAEK JONGBUM	21 Jan 2001	KOR
2	Defender	HWANG HYUNSOO	22 Jul 1995	KOR
6	Defender	KIM JUSUNG	12 Dec 2000	KOR
17	Defender	KIM JINYA	30 Jun 1998	KOR
22	Defender	YUN YOUNGSUN	04 Oct 1988	KOR
28	Defender	KANG SANGHEE	07 Mar 1998	KOR
34	Defender	CHO SEOK-YEONG	09 Apr 1997	KOR
40	Defender	KIM WONGUN	01 May 1992	KOR
5	Midfielder	OSMAR BARBA IBANEZ	05 Jun 1988	ESP
9	Midfielder	IKROMJON ALIBAEV	09 Jan 1994	UZB
13	Midfielder	GO YOCHAN	10 Mar 1988	KOR
15	Midfielder	KIM WON SIK	05 Nov 1991	KOR
16	Midfielder	JU SE JONG	30 Oct 1990	KOR
20	Midfielder	CHA OHYEON	15 Apr 1998	KOR
23	Midfielder	YOON JONGGYU	20 Mar 1998	KOR
24	Midfielder	JUNG HYUNCHEOL	26 Apr 1993	KOR
25	Midfielder	HAN CHANHEE	17 Mar 1997	KOR
26	Midfielder	KIM JINSUNG	09 Dec 1999	KOR
27	Midfielder	KO KWANG MIN	21 Sep 1988	KOR
29	Midfielder	KIM MINSU	29 Oct 1997	KOR
35	Midfielder	YANG YUMIN	11 Oct 1999	KOR
66	Midfielder	HAN SEUNGGYU	28 Sep 1996	KOR
71	Midfielder	KI SUNGYUENG	24 Jan 1989	KOR
10	Forward	PARK CHUYOUNG	10 Jul 1985	KOR
11	Forward	CHO YOUNG WOOK	05 Feb 1999	KOR
18	Forward	LEE SEUNGJAE	06 Feb 1998	KOR
19	Forward	YUN JUTAE	22 Jun 1990	KOR
33	Forward	LEE INGYU	16 Jan 2000	KOR
36	Forward	KWON SUNGYUN	30 Mar 2001	KOR
37	Forward	JUNG HANMIN	08 Jan 2001	KOR
38	Forward	OH MINKYU	16 Feb 2001	KOR
39	Forward	SONG JINYUNG	13 Aug 1987	KOR

HEAD COACH



Lee Won-jun (KOR)

Korea Republic's Lee Won-jun made 25 appearances for FC Seoul, part of the team that lifted the side's inaugural Korean FA Cup trophy in 1998. The 48-year-old former midfielder commenced his management career in 2006, holding various roles with FC Seoul before becoming manager of the national men's side in 2020, overseeing most of their AFC Champions League 2020 campaign.



Former Head Coach

Choi Yong-soo (KOR)

As a player, Choi Yong-soo racked up trophies in Korea Republic, then did the same with FC Seoul as their head coach, leading the side to K League 1 title and a runners-up finish in the 2013 AFC Champions League. The 2013 AFC Coach of the Year moved to the Chinese Super League in 2016 to coach Jiangsu Suning, before returning to FC Seoul in 2018, overseeing the side's first match of the AFC Champions League 2020.



Group F

Ulsan Hyundai FC (KOR)



CLUB PROFILE

Ulsan Hyundai finished as runners up in the K League to seal qualification for what was their eighth appearance in the AFC Champions League.

The 2012 winners of the tournament, who play their home games at the FIFA 2002 World Cup Venue, the Ulsan Munsu Stadium, began brightly in the 2019 edition of the Continental competition, topping their group in the League stages, before being edged out in the Round of 16 by Urawa Red Diamonds.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	JO SUHUK	18 Mar 1987	KOR
21	Goalkeeper	JO HYEONWOO	25 Sep 1991	KOR
25	Goalkeeper	SEO JUHWAN	24 Jun 1999	KOR
88	Goalkeeper	MIN DONG HWAN	12 Jan 2001	KOR
2	Defender	JEONG DONGHO	07 Mar 1990	KOR
3	Defender	JASON DAVIDSON	29 Jun 1991	AUS
4	Defender	DAVY BULTHUIS	28 Jun 1990	NED
5	Defender	KIM MINDUK	08 Jul 1996	KOR
15	Defender	JUNG SEUNGHYUN	03 Apr 1994	KOR
44	Defender	KIM KEEHEE	13 Jul 1989	KOR
45	Defender	LEE GIUN	15 Feb 1997	KOR
66	Defender	SEOL YOUNGWOO	05 Dec 1998	KOR
77	Defender	HONG CHUL	17 Sep 1990	KOR
6	Midfielder	PARK JOO HO	16 Jan 1987	KOR
7	Midfielder	KIM INSUNG	09 Sep 1989	KOR
8	Midfielder	SIN JIN HO	07 Sep 1988	KOR
10	Midfielder	YOON BITGARAM	07 May 1990	KOR
13	Midfielder	KIM MINJUN	12 Feb 2000	KOR
14	Midfielder	LEE DONGGYEONG	20 Sep 1997	KOR
16	Midfielder	WON DUJAE	18 Nov 1997	KOR
17	Midfielder	KIM SUNG JOON	08 Apr 1988	KOR
22	Midfielder	KOH MYONGJIN	09 Jan 1988	KOR
23	Midfielder	KIM TAE HWAN	24 Jul 1989	KOR
24	Midfielder	LEE HYEONSEUNG	15 Jun 2000	KOR
26	Midfielder	CHO HYUN TAEK	02 Aug 2001	KOR
29	Midfielder	LEE HYEONGKYEONG	11 May 1998	KOR
33	Midfielder	PARK HABEAN	23 Apr 1997	KOR
9	Forward	JÚNIOR NEGRÃO	30 Dec 1986	BRA
11	Forward	LEE KEUNHO	11 Apr 1985	KOR
19	Forward	BJORN MAARS JOHNSEN	06 Nov 1991	NOR
27	Forward	JANG JAEWON	21 Apr 1998	KOR
30	Forward	JUNG HOONSUNG	22 Feb 1994	KOR
72	Forward	LEE CHUNGYONG	02 Jul 1988	KOR
98	Forward	LEE SANGHEON	26 Feb 1998	KOR
99	Forward	PARK JEONGIN	07 Oct 2000	KOR

HEAD COACH



Kim Do-hoon (KOR)

After a decade playing professional football, striker Kim Do-hoon progressed into the coaching profession, taking his first position as head coach in 2015 with Incheon United. The 49-year-old former Korea Republic international moved to Ulsan Hyundai two years later, claiming the Korean FA Cup the same year.



Group F

Shanghai Shenhua FC (CHN)



CLUB PROFILE

Shanghai Shenhua qualified for the AFC Champions League 2020 by winning the 2019 Chinese FA Cup.

Initially established in 1951 as Shanghai FC, they have won several domestic league and cup titles over the years. On 10 December 1993, the club was restructured to make it eligible for the 1994 Chinese Jia-A League season, thus making them one of the founding members of the first fully professional top tier league in China PR. They went on to win the 1995 league title along with the 1998, 2017 and 2019 FA Cup titles.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	MA ZHEN	01 Jun 1998	CHN
19	Goalkeeper	ZENG CHENG	08 Jan 1987	CHN
27	Goalkeeper	LI SHUAI	18 Aug 1982	CHN
3	Defender	BI JINHAO	05 Jan 1991	CHN
4	Defender	JIANG SHENG LONG	24 Dec 2000	CHN
13	Defender	ZHAO MINGJIAN	22 Nov 1987	CHN
14	Defender	SUN KAI	26 Mar 1991	CHN
23	Defender	BAI JIAJUN	20 Mar 1991	CHN
24	Defender	ZHU YUE	04 May 2001	CHN
30	Defender	STEPHANE MBIA	20 May 1986	CMR
32	Defender	FULANGXISI AIDI	17 Dec 1990	CHN
35	Defender	FENG XIAOTING	22 Oct 1985	CHN
38	Defender	WEN JIABAO	02 Jan 1999	CHN
8	Midfielder	ZHANG LU	23 Aug 1987	CHN
11	Midfielder	YU HANCHAO	25 Feb 1987	CHN
21	Midfielder	ZHU BAOJIE	11 Aug 1989	CHN
25	Midfielder	PENG XINLI	22 Jul 1991	CHN
26	Midfielder	QIN SHENG	02 Nov 1986	CHN
28	Midfielder	CAO YUNDING	22 Nov 1989	CHN
29	Midfielder	ZHOU JUNCHEN	23 Mar 2000	CHN
31	Midfielder	WANG WEI	22 Jun 1989	CHN
33	Midfielder	WANG HAIJIAN	02 Aug 2000	CHN
36	Midfielder	LIU RUOFAN	28 Jan 1999	CHN
37	Midfielder	SUN SHILIN	24 Oct 1988	CHN
43	Midfielder	QIANJIEGEI	04 Jan 1992	CHN
10	Forward	GIOVANNI MORENO	01 Jul 1986	COL
15	Forward	ZHU JIANRONG	12 Jul 1991	CHN
18	Forward	GAO DI	06 Jan 1990	CHN
20	Forward	KIM SHINWOOK	14 Apr 1988	KOR
34	Forward	YANG XU	12 Feb 1988	CHN

HEAD COACH



Choi Kang-hee (KOR)

Former Korea Republic international Choi Kang-hee began his coaching career with Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors in 2005. The 61-year-old served as the head coach of the national team for over two years, and then returned to coach Jeonbuk in 2013. During his stint with Jeonbuk, they amassed six K League titles and two AFC Champions League trophies.

Choi then took the opportunity to move to the Chinese Super League, where he has coached Tianjin Quanjian, Dalian Yifang and now Shanghai Shenhua, who won the Chinese FA Cup in 2019.



Group F

Perth Glory (AUS)



CLUB PROFILE

Established in 1995, Perth Glory entered Australia's A-League as one of the eight original teams of the inaugural 2005–06 season. The club have won one premiership and appeared in two grand finals in this competition.

They have also appeared in two FFA Cup Finals and two A-League Pre-Season Challenge Cup Finals, before qualifying for the AFC Champions League 2020 by virtue of winning the A League Premiership in 2019.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	TANDO VELAPHI	17 Apr 1987	AUS
33	Goalkeeper	LIAM RHYS REDDY	08 Aug 1981	AUS
50	Goalkeeper	CAMERON COOK	16 Aug 2001	AUS
2	Defender	ALEXANDER GRANT	23 Jan 1994	AUS
3	Defender	JONATHAN ASPROPOTAMITIS	07 Jun 1996	AUS
4	Defender	DARRYL LACHMAN	11 Nov 1989	NED
5	Defender	NICHOLAS WALSH	15 Oct 2002	AUS
7	Defender	LUKE BODNAR	19 May 2000	AUS
22	Defender	JOSHUA RAWLINS	23 Apr 2004	AUS
28	Defender	MASON TATAFU	17 Apr 2002	AUS
10	Midfielder	DANIEL STYNES	29 Aug 1998	AUS
11	Midfielder	DECLAN HUGHES	27 May 2000	AUS
13	Midfielder	OSAMA MALIK	30 Sep 1990	AUS
14	Midfielder	GIORDANO COLLI	12 Mar 2000	AUS
15	Midfielder	BRANDON WILSON	28 Jan 1997	AUS
16	Midfielder	NICHOLAS SULLIVAN	25 Feb 1998	AUS
17	Midfielder	DIEGO CASTRO	02 Jul 1982	ESP
25	Midfielder	CARLO ARMIENTO	04 Jun 1999	AUS
88	Midfielder	NEIL KILKENNY	19 Dec 1985	AUS
9	Forward	BRUNO FORNAROLI MEZZA	07 Sep 1987	URU
18	Forward	NICHOLAS D'AGOSTINO	25 Feb 1998	AUS
23	Forward	DANE INGHAM	08 Jun 1999	AUS
27	Forward	BRYCE BAFFORD	05 Jun 2001	AUS

HEAD COACH



Cristian Ola (AUS)

57-year-old Cristian Ola honed his football management skills over many years in Romania, establishing himself in the Australian system in 2001. With almost 15 years of coaching and development experience, including eight years as Technical Director of Football West, Ola was appointed Assistant Coach of Perth Glory FC in 2020, overseeing the majority of the side's campaign in the AFC Champions League 2020.



Former Head Coach

Tony Popovic (AUS)

Tony Popovic's playing resumé expands from Australia to England, Japan and Qatar. The former national became head coach of Western Sydney Wanderers, won leading them to the A League title in 2013 and the AFC Champions League trophy in 2014. After a stint with Turkey's Kardemir Karabükspor, he returned to Australia to coach Perth Glory in 2018, leading the side in its first AFC Champions League match of 2020.

Team Profiles



Group F FC Tokyo (JPN)



CLUB PROFILE

FC Tokyo qualified for the AFC Champions League Playoffs in 2020 by virtue of finishing second in the 2019 J League. There, they beat Ceres Negros 2-0 to seal their spot in the Group Stage of the AFC Champions League for the third time in their history.

Their first appearance in the AFC Champions League was in 2012, a remarkable achievement as the club was at that time a second division team. They were also the first J2 Emperor's Cup champion to qualify for the Continental competition and play amongst Asia's elite.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	TSUYOSHI KODAMA	28 Dec 1987	JPN
13	Goalkeeper	GO HATANO	25 May 1998	JPN
33	Goalkeeper	AKIHIRO HAYASHI	07 May 1987	JPN
41	Goalkeeper	TAISHI BRANDON NOZAWA	25 Dec 2002	JPN
3	Defender	MASATO MORISHIGE	21 May 1987	JPN
4	Defender	TSUYOSHI WATANABE	05 Feb 1997	JPN
5	Defender	DAIKI NIWA	16 Jan 1986	JPN
6	Defender	RYOYA OGAWA	24 Nov 1996	JPN
22	Defender	TAKUMI NAKAMURA	16 Mar 2001	JPN
29	Defender	MAKOTO OKAZAKI	10 Oct 1998	JPN
32	Defender	JOAN OUMARI	19 Aug 1988	LBN
37	Defender	HOTAKA NAKAMURA	12 Aug 1997	JPN
47	Defender	SEJI KIMURA	24 Aug 2001	JPN
49	Defender	KASHIF BANGNAGANDE	24 Sep 2001	JPN
7	Midfielder	HIROTAKA MITA	14 Sep 1990	JPN
8	Midfielder	TAKAHAGI YOJIRO	02 Aug 1986	JPN
10	Midfielder	KEIGO HIGASHI	20 Jul 1990	JPN
15	Midfielder	ADAILTON DA SILVA	06 Dec 1990	BRA
19	Midfielder	KIWARA MIYAZAKI	17 Feb 1998	JPN
20	Midfielder	LEANDRO	12 May 1993	BRA
28	Midfielder	TAKUYA UCHIDA	02 Jun 1998	JPN
31	Midfielder	SHUTO ABE	05 Dec 1997	JPN
38	Midfielder	KAZUYA KONNO	11 Jul 1997	JPN
40	Midfielder	REI HIRAKAWA	20 Apr 2000	JPN
44	Midfielder	MANATO SHINADA	19 Sep 1999	JPN
9	Forward	DIEGO OLIVEIRA	22 Jun 1990	BRA
11	Forward	KENSUKE NAGAI	05 Mar 1989	JPN
23	Forward	KIICHI YAJIMA	06 Apr 1995	JPN
24	Forward	TAICHI HARA	05 May 1999	JPN
27	Forward	KYOSUKE TAGAWA	11 Feb 1999	JPN

HEAD COACH



Kenta Hasegawa (JPN)

Football player, pundit and now coach, Kenta Hasegawa took up coaching after his retirement, managing university teams before returning to his hometown club Shimizu S-Pulse as head coach from 2005 to 2010.

After a short break from the scene, he was appointed head coach of Gamba Osaka in the J2 League, where he led the team to promotion to the top-division league the same year, before going on to secure a domestic treble, claiming the J1, Emperor's Cup and J.League Cup in 2014. The 54-year-old took charge of FC Tokyo in 2018.



Group G

Vissel Kobe (JPN)



CLUB PROFILE

Vissel Kobe qualified for the AFC Champions League 2020 by winning the 2019 Emperor's Cup. The 99th edition of the annual Japanese national club tournament saw the Hyogo-based team beat Kashima Antlers at what was the first competitive event at the New National Stadium in Tokyo.

Bolstered by the presence of Andres Iniesta, Lukas Podolski and David Villa in their squad, the team put aside a disappointing league season to lift their first major trophy on January 1 2020, thus also qualifying for Asia's marquee club competition for the first time.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	DAIYA MAEKAWA	08 Sep 1994	JPN
18	Goalkeeper	HIROKI IIKURA	01 Jun 1986	JPN
28	Goalkeeper	KENSHIN YOSHIMARU	27 Mar 1996	JPN
30	Goalkeeper	GENTA ITO	02 Jul 2000	JPN
3	Defender	HIROFUMI WATANABE	07 Jul 1987	JPN
4	Defender	THOMAS VERMAELEN	14 Nov 1985	BEL
17	Defender	RYUHO KIKUCHI	09 Dec 1996	JPN
19	Defender	RYO HATSUSE	10 Jul 1997	JPN
22	Defender	DAIGO NISHI	28 Aug 1987	JPN
23	Defender	TETSUSHI YAMAKAWA	01 Oct 1997	JPN
24	Defender	GOTOKU SAKAI	14 Mar 1991	JPN
25	Defender	LEO OSAKI	07 Aug 1991	JPN
44	Defender	SO FUJITANI	28 Oct 1997	JPN
5	Midfielder	HOTARU YAMAGUCHI	06 Oct 1990	JPN
8	Midfielder	ANDRES INIESTA	11 May 1984	ESP
14	Midfielder	TAKUYA YASUI	21 Nov 1998	JPN
27	Midfielder	YUTA GOKE	10 Jun 1999	JPN
31	Midfielder	YUYA NAKASAKA	05 Aug 1997	JPN
9	Forward	NORIAKI FUJIMOTO	19 Aug 1989	JPN
11	Forward	KYOGO FURUHASHI	20 Jan 1995	JPN
13	Forward	KEIJIRO OGAWA	14 Jul 1992	JPN
21	Forward	JUNYA TANAKA	15 Jul 1987	JPN
38	Forward	DAIJU SASAKI	17 Sep 1999	JPN
41	Forward	YUTARO ODA	12 Aug 2001	JPN
49	Forward	DYANFRES DOUGLAS	30 Dec 1987	BRA



Atsuhiro Miura (JPN)

Atsuhiro Miura enjoyed an illustrious playing career in Japan, winning the Emperor's Cup with Yokohama Flügels in 1994, and achieving Continental glory at the AFC Asian Cup in 2000 and 2004. He spent three years as a player at Vissel Kobe, a club he returned to in 2018 as Sports Director. He was named as the team's manager in 2020 and led the side all the way to the AFC Champions League 2020 Semi-final.



Former Head Coach

Thorsten Fink (GER)

After finishing his playing career in 2006, Thorsten Fink dived straight into coaching, beginning with Red Bull Salzburg's junior team. The 52-year-old went on to have stints in Austria, Cyprus and Switzerland. He made a move to the Continent in 2019 with Japan's Vissel Kobe, leading them to both the Emperor's Cup and Super Cup in 2020, the first titles in the club's history. Fink oversaw the side's preparations for the AFC Champions League 2020 before resigning in September 2020.

Team Profiles



Group G

Suwon Samsung Bluewings (KOR)



CLUB PROFILE

Two-time winners of the Asian Club Championship (2001 and 2002), Suwon Samsung Bluewings appeared in the 2020 edition of the AFC Champions League by virtue of winning the 2019 Korean FA Cup.

Established in 1996, they have been prolific domestically, winning the K League 1 four times. They have also won the FA Cup five times, lifted the League Cup six times, and been victorious at the Super Cup three times. At the Continental level, this was their 10th appearance in Asia's premier football competition.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	KIM DA SOL	04 Jan 1989	KOR
21	Goalkeeper	YANG HYUNG-MO	16 Jul 1991	KOR
99	Goalkeeper	AN CHANGI	06 Apr 1998	KOR
2	Defender	PARK DAEWON	25 Feb 1998	KOR
3	Defender	YANG SANGMIN	24 Feb 1984	KOR
5	Defender	JO SUNGJIN	14 Dec 1990	KOR
12	Defender	KIM TAEHWAN	25 Mar 2000	KOR
15	Defender	LEE YONGHYEOK	03 Aug 1996	KOR
23	Defender	MYUNG JUNJAE	02 Jul 1994	KOR
27	Defender	LEE PUNGYEON	04 May 2000	KOR
32	Defender	LEE KIJE	09 Jul 1991	KOR
35	Defender	JANG HOIK	04 Dec 1993	KOR
39	Defender	MIN SANGGI	27 Aug 1991	KOR
90	Defender	KOO DAEYOUNG	09 May 1992	KOR
8	Midfielder	TERRY ANTONIS	26 Nov 1993	AUS
10	Midfielder	KIM MINWOO	25 Feb 1990	KOR
16	Midfielder	LEE JONG SUNG	05 Aug 1992	KOR
17	Midfielder	KIM JONGWOO	01 Oct 1993	KOR
22	Midfielder	KIM JOONHYUNG	05 Apr 1996	KOR
24	Midfielder	LEE SANGMIN	02 May 1995	KOR
25	Midfielder	CHOI SUNGGUEN	28 Jul 1991	KOR
26	Midfielder	YEOM KIHUN	30 Mar 1983	KOR
30	Midfielder	SHIN SANGWHI	14 Jul 2000	KOR
36	Midfielder	KANG HYUNMUK	28 Mar 2001	KOR
42	Midfielder	LEE KANGHEE	24 Aug 2001	KOR
66	Midfielder	HAN SUK JONG	19 Jul 1992	KOR
77	Midfielder	KO SEUNG-BEOM	24 Apr 1994	KOR
9	Forward	HAN EUIGWON	30 Jun 1994	KOR
11	Forward	LIM SANGHYUB	08 Jul 1988	KOR
13	Forward	HAN SEOKHEE	16 May 1996	KOR
14	Forward	KIM GUNHEE	22 Feb 1995	KOR
18	Forward	ADAM TAGGART	02 Jun 1993	AUS
88	Forward	SON HOJUN	03 Jul 2002	KOR
97	Forward	JEONG SANGBIN	01 Apr 2002	KOR
98	Forward	PARK SANGHYEOK	20 Apr 1998	KOR

HEAD COACH



Park Kun-ha (KOR)

Park Kun-ha was a founding member of the Suwon Samsung Bluewings, spending his entire 11-year K League career with the side. Named Rookie of the Year in 1996, he helped them to three K League championships, one FA Cup title and one AFC Champions League trophy. After retiring in 2006, he moved into coaching and joined Suwon as an assistant coach, working with various teams before being appointed head coach in 2020.



Former Head Coach

Lee Lim-saeng (KOR)

Lee Lim-saeng first achieved success as head coach with Singapore's Home United, attaining podium finishes in the Singapore League and Cup. The 48-year-old continued his career with clubs in China PR from 2015 to 2017, before returning to Korea Republic as Technical Director of the Korea Football Association. Lim put on his coaching boots once again in 2019, when he took charge of Suwon Samsung Bluewings, before resigning from the role in July 2020.

Team Profiles



Group G

Guangzhou Evergrande FC (CHN)



CLUB PROFILE

Guangzhou Evergrande qualified for the AFC Champions League 2020 after winning the 2019 Chinese Super League for the eighth time in a decade.

In their ninth appearance in the tournament, the club, based at Tianhe Stadium (the venue for the first-ever FIFA Women's World Cup Final (1991), sought to improve on their 2019 Semi-final appearance, where they went down 0-3 to eventual runners up Urawa Red Diamonds.

They are the only Chinese club to win the AFC Champions League twice (2013 and 2015). They are also the only club from the country to participate in the FIFA Club World Cup, making their first appearance in 2013.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	LIU SHIBO	20 May 1997	CHN
13	Goalkeeper	LIU WEIGUO	03 May 1992	CHN
32	Goalkeeper	LIU DIANZUO	26 Jun 1990	CHN
44	Goalkeeper	ZHANG JIANZHI	28 Jan 2000	CHN
2	Defender	JIANG GUANGTAI	27 May 1994	CHN
3	Defender	MEI FANG	14 Nov 1989	CHN
5	Defender	ZHANG LINPENG	09 May 1989	CHN
21	Defender	GAO ZHUNYI	21 Aug 1995	CHN
23	Defender	PARK JISU	13 Jun 1994	KOR
24	Defender	WANG SHILONG	07 Mar 2001	CHN
25	Defender	DENG HANWEN	08 Jan 1995	CHN
27	Defender	WU SHAOCONG	20 Mar 2000	CHN
31	Defender	LUO HANBOWEN	26 Aug 2000	CHN
35	Defender	LI XUEPENG	18 Sep 1988	CHN
38	Defender	LIU YIMING	28 Feb 1995	CHN
45	Defender	ZHANG ZHIHAO	02 Jan 2001	CHN
55	Defender	YANG DEJIANG	31 Aug 2004	CHN
6	Midfielder	LIAO LISHENG	29 Apr 1993	CHN
10	Midfielder	ZHENG ZHI	20 Aug 1980	CHN
11	Midfielder	ZHANG XIUWEI	13 Mar 1996	CHN
12	Midfielder	XU XIN	19 Apr 1994	CHN
14	Midfielder	TAN KAIYUAN	19 Aug 2001	CHN
15	Midfielder	YAN DINGHAO	06 Apr 1998	CHN
16	Midfielder	HUANG BOWEN	13 Jul 1987	CHN
28	Midfielder	GAO LATE	05 Jun 1991	BRA
36	Midfielder	HE CHAO	19 Apr 1995	CHN
60	Midfielder	BUGELAHAN-SIKANDANER	11 Aug 2000	CHN
7	Forward	WEI SHIHAO	08 Apr 1995	CHN
9	Forward	AI KESEN	13 Jul 1989	CHN
17	Forward	YANG LIYU	13 Feb 1997	CHN
19	Forward	FEI NANDUO	16 Mar 1993	CHN
20	Forward	LUO GUOFU	19 Jun 1988	CHN
22	Forward	PAERMANJIANG-KEYOUMU	01 Feb 2001	CHN
33	Forward	ZHONG YIHAO	23 Mar 1996	CHN
94	Forward	ANDERSON TALISCA	01 Feb 1994	BRA

HEAD COACH



Fabio Cannavaro (ITA)

Highly regarded during his footballing days with clubs like Juventus, Real Madrid and Al Ahli, Fabio Cannavaro has proved to be equally gifted as a coach. After his stint as an assistant coach for Al Ahli, the Italian moved to the East to coach Guangzhou Evergrande in 2014. He first tasted success with Tianjin Quanjian, winning the Chinese League One title in 2016.

Now with Guangzhou Evergrande yet again, he has led the team to Chinese Super Cup and FA Cup titles.

Team Profiles



Group G

Johor Darul Ta'zim (MAS)



CLUB PROFILE

Malaysian club football's marquee team in recent seasons, Johor Darul Ta'zim made their second appearance in the Group Stage of the AFC Champions League in 2020 after winning the 2019 Malaysian Super League.

They are the first team from the country to win six consecutive league titles (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019), and, in 2015, also became the first Malaysian side to win a Continental club title when they lifted the AFC Cup, defeating FC Istiklol from Tajikistan in the Final.

Applying Articles 6.1 and 6.2.1 of the AFC Champions League 2020 Competition Regulations, all matches of Johor Darul Ta'zim were cancelled and considered null and void in November when the side was unable to travel to Qatar for their remaining Group G matches.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	MOHD FARIZAL MARLIAS	29 Jun 1986	MAS
24	Goalkeeper	MOHD IZHAM TARMIZI	24 Apr 1991	MAS
40	Goalkeeper	MOHAMAD ROZAIMI RAHAMAT	14 May 1996	MAS
49	Goalkeeper	MUHAMMAD HAFIZ AZIZI	05 Aug 2001	MAS
2	Defender	MATTHEW DAVIES	07 Feb 1995	MAS
3	Defender	ADAM NOR AZLIN	05 Jan 1996	MAS
6	Defender	MUHAMMAD SYAZWAN ANDIK	04 Aug 1996	MAS
7	Defender	MOHAMAD AIDIL ZAFUAN	03 Aug 1987	MAS
12	Defender	KUNANLAN SUBRAMANIAM	15 Sep 1986	MAS
22	Defender	CORBIN ONG LAWRENCE	22 Apr 1991	MAS
23	Defender	HASBULLAH ABU BAKAR	26 Oct 1994	MAS
25	Defender	FRANCISCO INSA BOHIGUES	25 Jan 1988	MAS
27	Defender	MOHAMAD FADHLI SHAS	21 Jan 1991	MAS
33	Defender	MAURICIO NASCIMENTO	20 Sep 1988	BRA
44	Defender	MUHAMMAD ADIB ZAINUDIN	15 Feb 1995	MAS
48	Defender	MUHAMMAD IZAFFIQ RUZI	02 Apr 1997	MAS
4	Midfielder	MOHD AFIQ FAZAIL	29 Sep 1994	MAS
5	Midfielder	MOHAMED SYAMER KUTTY	01 Oct 1997	MAS
10	Midfielder	NICOLAS ALBERTO	17 Nov 1986	ARG
13	Midfielder	GARY STEVEN ROBBAT	03 Sep 1992	MAS
15	Midfielder	MUHAMAD ALIF MUTALIB	16 Jan 2002	MAS
16	Midfielder	MUHAMAD UMAR HAKEEM	26 Aug 2002	MAS
19	Midfielder	MUHAMMAD AKHYAR RASHID	01 May 1999	MAS
21	Midfielder	MUHAMMAD NAZMI FAIZ	16 Aug 1994	MAS
28	Midfielder	MUHAMMAD SYAFIQ AHMAD	28 Jun 1995	MAS
30	Midfielder	IGNACIO INSA BOHIGUES	09 Jun 1986	MAS
45	Midfielder	KEI HIROSE	20 Nov 1995	JPN
47	Midfielder	MOHD IRFAN FAZAIL	12 Apr 1991	MAS
50	Midfielder	MUHAMMAD DANIAL HAQIM	29 Aug 1998	MAS
88	Midfielder	LIRIDON KRASNIOI	01 Jan 1992	MAS
9	Forward	AHMAD HAZWAN BAKRI	19 Jun 1991	MAS
18	Forward	AWANG MUHAMMAD FAIZ	06 Mar 1999	MAS
43	Forward	MUHAMMAD AMIRUL HUSAINI	04 Oct 2000	MAS
46	Forward	FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ	11 May 1987	ESP
51	Forward	ROZAIMI ABD RAHMAN	06 Oct 1992	MAS

HEAD COACH



Luciano Figueroa (ARG)

Player-turned-coach Luciano Figueroa is a personality with many trophies to show off. The long list of clubs that he has played for ranges from Europe to Asia, and he finished his playing career with Malaysia's Johor Darul Ta'zim. As a forward, he assisted JDT to three Malaysia Super League trophies as well as the AFC Cup title in 2015.

After his retirement, the 39-year-old moved into a managerial role, and led JDT to another League title in 2019.

Team Profiles



Group H

Sydney FC (AUS)



CLUB PROFILE

The 2019 A League Grand Final winners and regular season runners up, Sydney FC made their sixth appearance in the AFC Champions League.

The Australian club sought to advance to the knockout stage of the competition for only the second time in their history, having previously appeared in the Round of 16 in 2016. They were eliminated in the Group Stage in all other attempts, including in 2019 when they finished bottom of their Group, behind Ulsan Hyundai, Shanghai SIPG and Kawasaki Frontale.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	ANDREW REDMAYNE	13 Jan 1989	AUS
20	Goalkeeper	THOMAS HEWARD-BELLE	11 Mar 1997	AUS
30	Goalkeeper	ADAM PAVLESIC	30 Jul 2002	AUS
40	Goalkeeper	LEVI KAYE	10 Mar 2001	AUS
2	Defender	PATRICK FLOTTMANN	19 Apr 1997	AUS
3	Defender	BENJAMIN WARLAND	04 Sep 1996	AUS
4	Defender	ALEX WILKINSON	13 Aug 1984	AUS
6	Defender	RYAN MCGOWAN	15 Aug 1989	AUS
7	Defender	MICHAEL ZULLO	11 Sep 1988	AUS
16	Defender	JOEL KING	30 Oct 2000	AUS
21	Defender	HARRY VAN DER SAAG	29 Oct 1999	AUS
23	Defender	RHYAN GRANT	26 Feb 1991	AUS
29	Defender	ANTON MLINARIC	11 Mar 2002	AUS
32	Defender	CALLUM TALBOT	26 Feb 2001	AUS
5	Midfielder	ALEXANDER BAUMJOHANN	23 Jan 1987	GER
8	Midfielder	PAULO RETRE	04 Mar 1993	AUS
10	Midfielder	MILOS NINKOVIC	25 Dec 1984	SRB
17	Midfielder	ANTHONY CACERES	29 Sep 1992	AUS
19	Midfielder	CHRISTOPHER ZUVELA	21 Jan 1997	AUS
26	Midfielder	NATHAN BRATTAN	08 Mar 1990	AUS
28	Midfielder	CALEM NIEUWENHOF	17 Feb 2001	AUS
11	Forward	KOSTA BARBAROUSES	19 Feb 1990	NZL
12	Forward	TRENT BUHAGIAR	27 Feb 1998	AUS
18	Forward	LUKE IVANOVIC	06 Jun 2000	AUS
27	Forward	JORDAN SWIBEL	13 Apr 1999	AUS
33	Forward	PATRICK WOOD	16 Sep 2002	AUS

HEAD COACH



Steve Corica (AUS)

Former professional football player Steve Corica represented Australia at each youth level before playing for the senior national team. He saw out his playing career at Sydney FC, where he then served as assistant for over eight years. Corica took over as Sydney FC head coach in 2018 after having held the reins on a caretaker basis, and the effortless transition saw Sydney FC battle to a second-place finish in the 2018-19 A League season.



Group H

Yokohama F. Marinos (JPN)



CLUB PROFILE

Yokohama F. Marinos qualified for the AFC Champions League for the fourth time in their history by clinching the 2019 J League title. Along with Kashima Antlers, they are the only team to have competed in Japan's top flight of football every year since its inception in 1982. They have won the national league four times and the Emperors Cup twice in that time.

With the Marinos' qualification to the 2020 edition, the premier club competition in Asia returned to the Nissan Stadium in Yokohama, which so far is the first and only venue in Asia to have hosted a FIFA World Cup Final.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
21	Goalkeeper	YUJI KAJIKAWA	26 Jul 1991	JPN
31	Goalkeeper	OBI OBINNA	18 Dec 1997	JPN
32	Goalkeeper	YOHEI TAKAOKA	16 Mar 1996	JPN
34	Goalkeeper	HIROTSUGU NAKABAYASHI	28 Apr 1986	JPN
50	Goalkeeper	RIKU TERAKADO	23 Nov 2002	JPN
5	Defender	THEERATHON BUNMATHAN	06 Feb 1990	THA
13	Defender	THIAGO MARTINS	17 Mar 1995	BRA
15	Defender	MAKITO ITO	18 Oct 1992	JPN
16	Defender	RYO TAKANO	13 Nov 1994	JPN
19	Defender	YUKI SANETO	19 Jan 1989	JPN
25	Defender	RYUTA KOIKE	29 Aug 1995	JPN
27	Defender	KEN MATSUBARA	16 Feb 1993	JPN
33	Defender	TAKUYA WADA	28 Jul 1990	JPN
44	Defender	SHINNOSUKE HATANAKA	25 Aug 1995	JPN
6	Midfielder	TAKAHIRO OHGIHARA	05 Oct 1991	JPN
8	Midfielder	TAKUYA KIDA	23 Aug 1994	JPN
18	Midfielder	KOTA MIZUNUMA	22 Feb 1990	JPN
26	Midfielder	KOUTA WATANABE	18 Oct 1998	JPN
39	Midfielder	JUN AMANO	19 Jul 1991	JPN
51	Midfielder	KEITA UEDA	03 Sep 2002	JPN
7	Forward	YUKI OTSU	24 Mar 1990	JPN
9	Forward	MARCOS JUNIOR	19 Jan 1993	BRA
17	Forward	ERIK	18 Jul 1994	BRA
23	Forward	TERUHITO NAKAGAWA	27 Jul 1992	JPN
38	Forward	DAIZEN MAEDA	20 Oct 1997	JPN
43	Forward	EITARO MATSUDA	20 May 2001	JPN
45	Forward	ADO ONAIWU	08 Nov 1995	JPN

HEAD COACH



Ange Postecoglou (AUS)

Ange Postecoglou is one of the most renowned coaches in Australia and Asia. A former professional football player, Postecoglou began coaching in 1996 with South Melbourne, and was then appointed as head coach of the Australia U-17 and U-20 sides in 2000. The 54-year-old returned to the club scene for a short stint with Greece's Panachaiki, then with Brisbane Roar and Melbourne Victory, and subsequently coached the Socceroos to their first-ever AFC Asian Cup title in 2015. The 2015 AFC Coach of the Year moved to Japan in 2018 and achieved success with Yokohama F. Marinos a year later, securing the J1 League trophy.



Group H

Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC (KOR)



CLUB PROFILE

Jeonbuk Hyundai retained their K League 1 title to qualify for the AFC Champions League 2020. This was the sixth time they won the national title, with the first win coming in 2009. They have also won the Korean FA Cup three times; in 2000, 2003 and 2005.

The Korea Republic side has a proven track record at the Continental level, having won the AFC Champions League twice before; in 2006 and again in 2016. They have also finished as runners up once, in 2011.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	LEE BUM YOUNG	02 Apr 1989	KOR
21	Goalkeeper	HONG JUNGNAM	21 May 1988	KOR
31	Goalkeeper	SONG BUMKEUN	15 Oct 1997	KOR
51	Goalkeeper	KIM JEONGHOON	20 Apr 2001	KOR
2	Defender	LEE YONG	24 Dec 1986	KOR
6	Defender	CHOI BOKYUNG	12 Apr 1988	KOR
15	Defender	KU JARYONG	06 Apr 1992	KOR
19	Defender	PARK WONJAE	28 May 1984	KOR
23	Defender	YUN JIHYEOK	07 Feb 1998	KOR
25	Defender	CHOI CHUL SOON	08 Feb 1987	KOR
26	Defender	HONG JEONGHO	12 Aug 1989	KOR
32	Defender	LEE JU YONG	26 Sep 1992	KOR
92	Defender	KIM MINHYEOK	27 Feb 1992	KOR
7	Midfielder	HAN KYO WON	15 Jun 1990	KOR
10	Midfielder	MURILO HENRIQUE	20 Nov 1994	BRA
13	Midfielder	KIM BOKYUNG	06 Oct 1989	KOR
14	Midfielder	LEE SEUNGGI	02 Jun 1988	KOR
17	Midfielder	TAKAHIRO KUNIMOTO	08 Oct 1997	JPN
18	Midfielder	NA SUNGEUN	06 Apr 1996	KOR
27	Midfielder	MYUNG SEJIN	24 May 2001	KOR
28	Midfielder	SON JUNHO	12 May 1992	KOR
37	Midfielder	MODOU BARROW	13 Oct 1992	GAM
44	Midfielder	SHIN HYUNGMIN	18 Jul 1986	KOR
57	Midfielder	LEE SOOBIN	07 May 2000	KOR
77	Midfielder	LEE SIHEON	04 May 1998	KOR
11	Forward	CHO GUESUNG	25 Jan 1998	KOR
20	Forward	LEE DONG GOOK	29 Apr 1979	KOR
29	Forward	LEE SUNGYOON	31 Oct 2000	KOR
99	Forward	GUSTAVO	29 Mar 1994	BRA

HEAD COACH



José Morais (POR)

After the end of José Morais' career as a professional footballer, the 54-year-old from Portugal began his managerial adventure in 1999 with Benfica B in his home country, before moving on to coach in Sweden, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Greece, England and Ukraine.

The former midfielder took the reins at Korea Republic's Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors in 2019.



Group H

Shanghai SIPG FC (CHN)



CLUB PROFILE

Shanghai SIPG FC booked their place in the AFC Champions League 2020 Group Stage after defeating Buriram United of Thailand 3-0 in the Playoff round. They had earlier finished third in the Chinese Super League to clinch a spot in the AFC Champions League Playoffs.

Shanghai SIPG FC have advanced to the knockout stage in each of their four previous appearances in the AFC Champions League, and aimed to surpass their 2019 showing, when they were eliminated in the Quarter-finals by eventual runners-up Urawa Red Diamonds.

NO.	POSITION	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY
1	Goalkeeper	YAN JUNLING	28 Jan 1991	CHN
22	Goalkeeper	SUN LE	17 Sep 1989	CHN
34	Goalkeeper	CHEN WEI	14 Feb 1998	CHN
35	Goalkeeper	GUO TONG	19 Feb 2002	CHN
46	Goalkeeper	LIANG KUN	02 Nov 2003	CHN
2	Defender	ZHANG WEI	28 Mar 1993	CHN
3	Defender	YU RUI	11 Aug 1992	CHN
4	Defender	WANG SHENCHAO	08 Feb 1989	CHN
5	Defender	SHI KE	08 Jan 1993	CHN
13	Defender	WEI ZHEN	12 Feb 1997	CHN
21	Defender	YU HAI	04 Jun 1987	CHN
23	Defender	FU HUAN	12 Jul 1993	CHN
27	Defender	ZHANG ENGE	28 Jan 1997	CHN
28	Defender	HE GUAN	25 Jan 1993	CHN
36	Defender	YU HAO	05 Sep 1997	CHN
6	Midfielder	CAI HUIKANG	10 Oct 1989	CHN
8	Midfielder	OSCAR	09 Sep 1991	BRA
15	Midfielder	LIN CHUANGYI	28 Jan 1993	CHN
16	Midfielder	MUREHEMAITJIANG MOZHAPA	14 Jan 1991	CHN
18	Midfielder	ZHANG YI	17 Aug 1993	CHN
20	Midfielder	YANG SHIYUAN	11 Mar 1994	CHN
26	Midfielder	AARON MOOY	15 Sep 1990	AUS
41	Midfielder	HUANG WENZHUO	07 Jan 1999	CHN
45	Midfielder	PENG HAO	25 Dec 2001	CHN
9	Forward	RICARDO LOPES	28 Oct 1990	BRA
10	Forward	HULK	25 Jul 1986	BRA
11	Forward	LYU WENJUN	11 Mar 1989	CHN
14	Forward	LI SHENGLONG	30 Jul 1992	CHN
24	Forward	LEI WENJIE	10 Jan 1997	CHN
30	Forward	JIA BOYAN	30 Nov 2003	CHN
37	Forward	CHEN BINBIN	10 Jun 1998	CHN
39	Forward	LIU ZHURUN	06 Oct 2001	CHN
40	Forward	CHEN CHUNXIN	25 Dec 1997	CHN
42	Forward	SHI JIAN	16 Jul 1999	CHN
44	Forward	REN LIHAO	05 Apr 2001	CHN

HEAD COACH



Vitor Pereira (POR)

Having managed the likes of Porto, Al Ahli and Olympiacos in the past, Vitor Pereira took charge of Shanghai SIPG FC in late December 2017. Within the next year, his leadership and experience helped the club to their first-ever Chinese Super League title.

In 2019, the former professional player led the team to earning a place in the AFC Champions League after winning the Chinese FA Super Cup.



PERSEPOLIS
FC (IRN)



AFC
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE
KICK OFF

19 DEC 2020
AL JANOUB STADIUM
QATAR

USC...

AFC
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

FINAL 20...

DOHA



STAR SELECTION

THE ALL STAR SQUAD

Goalkeepers

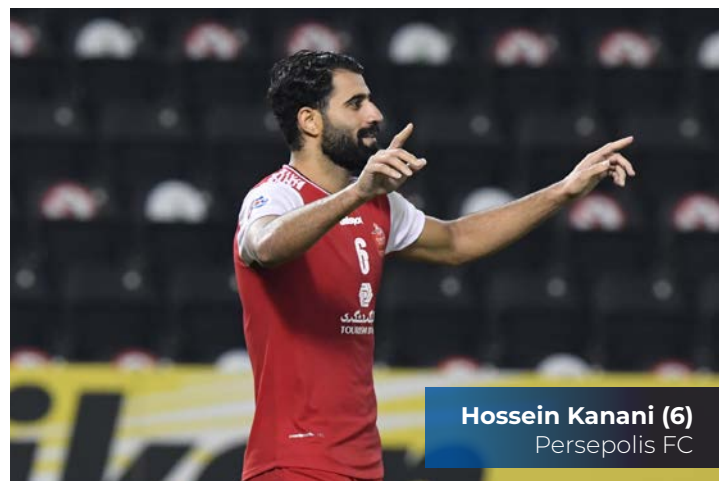


Jo So-Huk (1)
Ulsan Hyundai FC



Hamed Lak (81)
Persepolis FC

Defenders



Midfielders



Yoon Bit-garam (10)
Ulsan Hyundai FC



Siamak Nemati (88)
Persepolis FC



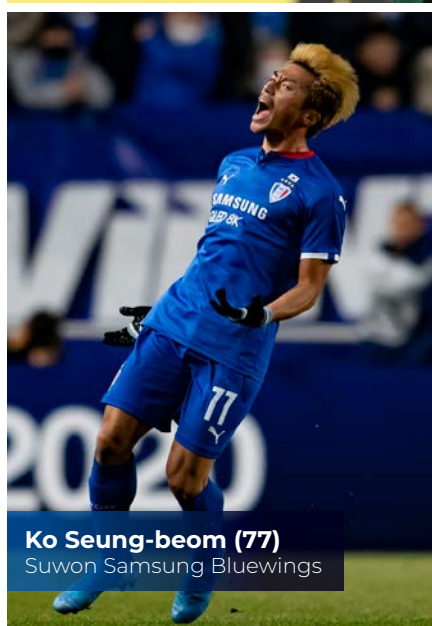
Ahmad Noorollahi (8)
Persepolis FC



Renato Augusto (5)
Beijing FC



Kim In-sung (7)
Ulsan Hyundai FC



Ko Seung-beom (77)
Suwon Samsung Bluewings



Sin Jin-ho (8)
Ulsan Hyundai FC

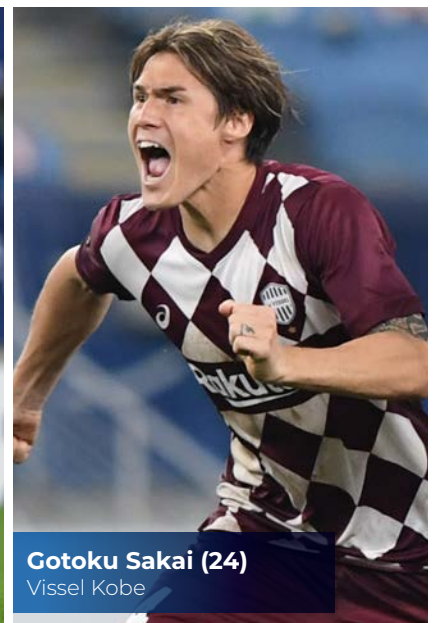


Beshar Resan (5)
Persepolis FC



Hotaru Yamaguchi (5)
Vissel Kobe

Attackers



BEST GOALS

OPEN PLAYS

1	Abdulrahman Al-Obaid	Al Nassr v Al Sadd	53	Long range
2	Yun Bit-garam	Ulsan Hyundai v Shanghai Shenhua	41	Combination
3	Leandro	FC Tokyo v Perth Glory	82	Long range
4	Kim Tae-hwan	Yokohama Marinos v Suwon Samsung Bluewings	57	Long range
5	Han Seok-jong	Yokohama Marinos v Suwon Samsung Bluewings	87	Long range
6	Renato Augusto	Beijing FC v FC Seoul	43	Cross + finish
7	Hassan Al Haydos	Al Sadd SC v Sepahan FC	78	Cut-back
8	Theerathon Bunmathan	Yokohama Marinos v Jeonbuk Motors	17	Long range
9	Júnior Negrão	Ulsan Hyundai v Beijing FC	42	Long range
10	Abdullah Al-Ahrak	Sharjah v Al Duhail SC	12	Long range

Video highlights

<https://youtu.be/Y-snSzWaQJQ>

SET PLAYS

1	Yun Bit-Garam	FC Tokyo v Ulsan Hyundai	44	Direct free kick
2	Carlo Armiento	Shanghai Shenhua v Perth Glory	58	Direct free kick
3	Ai Kesen	Vissel Kobe v Guangzhou Evergrande	36	Direct free kick
4	Ryan Mendes	Sharjah v Persepolis FC	45+1	Throw-in
5	Bruno Fornaroli	Shanghai Shenhua v Perth Glory	45+2	Direct free kick
6	Ramin Rezaeian	Al Duhail v Sharjah	51	Direct free kick
7	Hotaru Yamaguchi	Ulsan Hyundai v Vissel Kobe	52	Corner
8	Mukhtar Ali	Al Ain v Al Nassr	57	Indirect free kick
9	Yuki Saneto	Sydney FC v Yokohama Marinos	52	Corner
10	Kyogo Furuhashi	Vissel Kobe v Suwon Samsung Bluewings	40	Direct free kick

Video highlights

<https://youtu.be/z2L7G4hp84>



Star Selection



HO CHI MINH CITY FC



total





TOURNAMENT RESULTS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

PRELIMINARY STAGE 1 - WEST

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
14 Jan 2020	CHENNAI CITY FC (IND)	0-1 (0-1)	RIFFA (BHR)
14 Jan 2020	AL FAISALY (JOR)	1-2 a.e.t. (1-1,1-1)	KUWAIT SC (KUW)

PRELIMINARY STAGE 2 - WEST

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
21 Jan 2020	PFC LOKOMOTIV (UZB)	0-1 (0-0)	FC ISTIKLOL (TJK)
22 Jan 2020	FC BUNYODKOR (UZB)	4-1 (1-0)	AL ZAWRAA CLUB (IRQ)
25 Jan 2020	SHAHR KHODRO FC (IRN)	2-1 (1-1)	RIFFA (BHR)
25 Jan 2020	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)	3-0 (1-0)	KUWAIT SC (KUW)

PRELIMINARY STAGE 1 - EAST

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
14 Jan 2020	CERES NEGROS FC (PHI)	3-2 (2-0)	SHAN UNITED FC (MYA)
14 Jan 2020	TAMPINES ROVERS FC (SIN)	3-5 a.e.t. (3-3,1-2)	BALI UNITED FC (IDN)

PRELIMINARY STAGE 2 - EAST

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
21 Jan 2020	BURIRAM UNITED (THA)	2-1 (0-0)	HO CHI MINH CITY FC (VIE)
21 Jan 2020	PORT FC (THA)	0-1 (0-0)	CERES NEGROS FC (PHI)
21 Jan 2020	MELBOURNE VICTORY (AUS)	5-0 (2-0)	BALI UNITED FC (IDN)
21 Jan 2020	KEDAH (MAS)	5-1 (2-0)	WOFOO TAI PO (HKG)

GROUP STAGES

GROUP A

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
10 Feb 2020	AL SHORTA (IRQ)	1-1 (0-1)	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)
10 Feb 2020	AL WAHDA FSCC (UAE)	Void	AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)
17 Feb 2020	AL SHORTA (IRQ)	Void	AL WAHDA FSCC (UAE)
17 Feb 2020	AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)	2-1 (2-1)	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)
14 Sep 2020	AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)	1-0 (0-0)	AL SHORTA (IRQ)
14 Sep 2020	AL WAHDA FSCC (UAE)	Void	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)
17 Sep 2020	AL SHORTA (IRQ)	2-1 (1-0)	AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)
17 Sep 2020	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)	Void	AL WAHDA FSCC (UAE)
20 Sep 2020	AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)	Void	AL WAHDA FSCC (UAE)
20 Sep 2020	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)	1-1 (0-1)	AL SHORTA (IRQ)
23 Sep 2020	AL WAHDA FSCC (UAE)	Void	AL SHORTA (IRQ)
23 Sep 2020	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)	3-0 (2-0)	AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)

Tournament Results

GROUP B

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
10 Feb 2020	PAKHTAKOR (UZB)	2-1 (1-0)	SHABAB AL AHLI DUBAI (UAE)
10 Feb 2020	AL HILAL SFC (KSA)	Void	SHAHR KHODRO FC (IRN)
17 Feb 2020	PAKHTAKOR (UZB)	3-0 (0-0)	SHAHR KHODRO FC (IRN)
17 Feb 2020	SHABAB AL AHLI DUBAI (UAE)	Void	AL HILAL SFC (KSA)
14 Sep 2020	SHABAB AL AHLI DUBAI (UAE)	1-0 (0-0)	SHAHR KHODRO FC (IRN)
14 Sep 2020	AL HILAL SFC (KSA)	Void	PAKHTAKOR (UZB)
17 Sep 2020	SHAHR KHODRO FC (IRN)	0-1 (0-0)	SHABAB AL AHLI DUBAI (UAE)
17 Sep 2020	PAKHTAKOR (UZB)	Void	AL HILAL SFC (KSA)
20 Sep 2020	SHAHR KHODRO FC (IRN)	Void	AL HILAL SFC (KSA)
20 Sep 2020	SHABAB AL AHLI DUBAI (UAE)	0-0 (0-0)	PAKHTAKOR (UZB)
23 Sep 2020	AL HILAL SFC (KSA)	Void	SHABAB AL AHLI DUBAI (UAE)
23 Sep 2020	SHAHR KHODRO FC (IRN)	0-1 (0-0)	PAKHTAKOR (UZB)

GROUP C

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
11 Feb 2020	AL DUHAIL SC (QAT)	2-0 (2-0)	PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)
11 Feb 2020	SHARJAH (UAE)	0-1 (0-1)	AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)
18 Feb 2020	AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)	2-0 (1-0)	AL DUHAIL SC (QAT)
18 Feb 2020	SHARJAH (UAE)	2-2 (2-2)	PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)
15 Sep 2020	AL DUHAIL SC (QAT)	2-1 (1-0)	SHARJAH (UAE)
15 Sep 2020	PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)	1-0 (0-0)	AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)
18 Sep 2020	SHARJAH (UAE)	4-2 (1-1)	AL DUHAIL SC (QAT)
18 Sep 2020	AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)	0-1 (0-0)	PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)
21 Sep 2020	PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)	0-1 (0-0)	AL DUHAIL SC (QAT)
21 Sep 2020	AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)	0-6 (0-1)	SHARJAH (UAE)
24 Sep 2020	AL DUHAIL SC (QAT)	0-1 (0-0)	AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)
24 Sep 2020	PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)	4-0 (3-0)	SHARJAH (UAE)

GROUP D

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
11 Feb 2020	AL NASSR (KSA)	2-2 (1-1)	AL SADD SC (QAT)
11 Feb 2020	AL AIN FC (UAE)	0-4 (0-1)	SEPAHAN FC (IRN)
18 Feb 2020	AL SADD SC (QAT)	3-0 (0-0)	SEPAHAN FC (IRN)
18 Feb 2020	AL AIN FC (UAE)	1-2 (1-0)	AL NASSR (KSA)
15 Sep 2020	AL AIN FC (UAE)	3-3 (2-1)	AL SADD SC (QAT)
15 Sep 2020	SEPAHAN FC (IRN)	0-2 (0-1)	AL NASSR (KSA)
18 Sep 2020	AL SADD SC (QAT)	4-0 (1-0)	AL AIN FC (UAE)
18 Sep 2020	AL NASSR (KSA)	2-0 (2-0)	SEPAHAN FC (IRN)
21 Sep 2020	AL SADD SC (QAT)	1-1 (0-1)	AL NASSR (KSA)
21 Sep 2020	SEPAHAN FC (IRN)	0-0 (0-0)	AL AIN FC (UAE)
24 Sep 2020	SEPAHAN FC (IRN)	2-1 (1-0)	AL SADD SC (QAT)
24 Sep 2020	AL NASSR (KSA)	0-1 (0-1)	AL AIN FC (UAE)

GROUP STAGES

GROUP E

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
11 Feb 2020	MELBOURNE VICTORY (AUS)	1-0 (1-0)	CHIANGRAI UNITED (THA)
18 Feb 2020	CHIANGRAI UNITED (THA)	0-1 (0-1)	BEIJING FC (CHN)
18 Feb 2020	FC SEOUL (KOR)	1-0 (1-0)	MELBOURNE VICTORY (AUS)
21 Nov 2020	FC SEOUL (KOR)	1-2 (0-1)	BEIJING FC (CHN)
24 Nov 2020	BEIJING FC (CHN)	3-1 (2-0)	MELBOURNE VICTORY (AUS)
24 Nov 2020	FC SEOUL (KOR)	5-0 (1-0)	CHIANGRAI UNITED (THA)
27 Nov 2020	MELBOURNE VICTORY (AUS)	0-2 (0-2)	BEIJING FC (CHN)
27 Nov 2020	CHIANGRAI UNITED (THA)	2-1 (1-0)	FC SEOUL (KOR)
30 Nov 2020	BEIJING FC (CHN)	3-1 (2-0)	FC SEOUL (KOR)
30 Nov 2020	CHIANGRAI UNITED (THA)	2-2 (0-2)	MELBOURNE VICTORY (AUS)
03 Dec 2020	BEIJING FC (CHN)	1-1 (0-0)	CHIANGRAI UNITED (THA)
03 Dec 2020	MELBOURNE VICTORY (AUS)	2-1 (2-0)	FC SEOUL (KOR)

GROUP F

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
11 Feb 2020	ULSAN HYUNDAI FC (KOR)	1-1 (0-0)	FC TOKYO (JPN)
18 Feb 2020	FC TOKYO (JPN)	1-0 (0-0)	PERTH GLORY (AUS)
18 Nov 2020	PERTH GLORY (AUS)	1-2 (0-2)	SHANGHAI SHENHUA FC (CHN)
21 Nov 2020	ULSAN HYUNDAI FC (KOR)	3-1 (2-0)	SHANGHAI SHENHUA FC (CHN)
24 Nov 2020	FC TOKYO (JPN)	0-1 (0-0)	SHANGHAI SHENHUA FC (CHN)
24 Nov 2020	PERTH GLORY (AUS)	1-2 (0-0)	ULSAN HYUNDAI FC (KOR)
27 Nov 2020	ULSAN HYUNDAI FC (KOR)	2-0 (0-0)	PERTH GLORY (AUS)
27 Nov 2020	SHANGHAI SHENHUA FC (CHN)	1-2 (0-0)	FC TOKYO (JPN)
30 Nov 2020	FC TOKYO (JPN)	1-2 (1-1)	ULSAN HYUNDAI FC (KOR)
30 Nov 2020	SHANGHAI SHENHUA FC (CHN)	3-3 (0-1)	PERTH GLORY (AUS)
03 Dec 2020	SHANGHAI SHENHUA FC (CHN)	1-4 (0-2)	ULSAN HYUNDAI FC (KOR)
03 Dec 2020	PERTH GLORY (AUS)	0-1 (0-1)	FC TOKYO (JPN)

GROUP G

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
12 Feb 2020	VISSEL KOBE (JPN)	Void	JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (MAS)
19 Feb 2020	SUWON SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS (KOR)	0-1 (0-0)	VISSEL KOBE (JPN)
03 Mar 2020	JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (MAS)	Void	SUWON SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS (KOR)
19 Nov 2020	JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (MAS)	Void	GUANGZHOU EVERGRANDE FC (CHN)
22 Nov 2020	SUWON SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS (KOR)	0-0 (0-0)	GUANGZHOU EVERGRANDE FC (CHN)
25 Nov 2020	GUANGZHOU EVERGRANDE FC (CHN)	1-3 (0-1)	VISSEL KOBE (JPN)
25 Nov 2020	SUWON SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS (KOR)	Void	JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (MAS)
28 Nov 2020	VISSEL KOBE (JPN)	0-2 (0-2)	GUANGZHOU EVERGRANDE FC (CHN)
01 Dec 2020	GUANGZHOU EVERGRANDE FC (CHN)	1-1 (0-0)	SUWON SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS (KOR)
01 Dec 2020	JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (MAS)	Void	VISSEL KOBE (JPN)
04 Dec 2020	VISSEL KOBE (JPN)	0-2 (0-0)	SUWON SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS (KOR)
04 Dec 2020	GUANGZHOU EVERGRANDE FC (CHN)	Void	JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (MAS)

Tournament Results

GROUP H

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
12 Feb 2020	JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR)	1-2 (0-2)	YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN)
19 Feb 2020	YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN)	4-0 (3-0)	SYDNEY FC (AUS)
04 Mar 2020	SYDNEY FC (AUS)	2-2 (0-0)	JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR)
19 Nov 2020	SYDNEY FC (AUS)	1-2 (1-0)	SHANGHAI SIPG FC (CHN)
22 Nov 2020	JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR)	1-2 (1-1)	SHANGHAI SIPG FC (CHN)
25 Nov 2020	JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR)	1-0 (1-0)	SYDNEY FC (AUS)
25 Nov 2020	SHANGHAI SIPG FC (CHN)	0-1 (0-0)	YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN)
28 Nov 2020	YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN)	1-2 (1-1)	SHANGHAI SIPG FC (CHN)
01 Dec 2020	YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN)	4-1 (1-0)	JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR)
01 Dec 2020	SHANGHAI SIPG FC (CHN)	0-4 (0-2)	SYDNEY FC (AUS)
04 Dec 2020	SYDNEY FC (AUS)	1-1 (1-1)	YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN)
04 Dec 2020	SHANGHAI SIPG FC (CHN)	0-2 (0-2)	JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR)

ROUND OF 16

WEST

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
26 Sep 2020	AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,0-1)4-3 PSO	SHABAB AL AHLI DUBAI (UAE)
26 Sep 2020	PAKHTAKOR (UZB)	2-1 (1-1)	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)
27 Sep 2020	PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)	1-0 (0-0)	AL SADD SC (QAT)
27 Sep 2020	AL NASSR (KSA)	1-0 (0-0)	AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)

EAST

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
06 Dec 2020	BEIJING FC (CHN)	1-0 (0-0)	FC TOKYO (JPN)
06 Dec 2020	ULSAN HYUNDAI FC (KOR)	3-0 (0-0)	MELBOURNE VICTORY (AUS)
07 Dec 2020	VISSEL KOBE (JPN)	2-0 (1-0)	SHANGHAI SIPG FC (CHN)
07 Dec 2020	YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN)	2-3 (1-0)	SUWON SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS (KOR)

QUARTER-FINALS

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
30 Sep 2020	AL NASSR (KSA)	2-0 (1-0)	AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)
30 Sep 2020	PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)	2-0 (0-0)	PAKHTAKOR (UZB)
10 Dec 2020	ULSAN HYUNDAI FC (KOR)	2-0 (2-0)	BEIJING FC (CHN)
10 Dec 2020	VISSEL KOBE (JPN)	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-1)7-6 PSO	SUWON SAMSUNG BLUEWINGS (KOR)

SEMI-FINALS

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
03 Oct 2020	AL NASSR (KSA)	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-1)3-5 PSO	PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)
13 Dec 2020	ULSAN HYUNDAI FC (KOR)	2-1 a.e.t. (1-1,0-0)	VISSEL KOBE (JPN)

FINAL

DATE	TEAM A	SCORE	TEAM B
19 Dec 2020	PERSEPOLIS FC (IRN)	1-2 (1-1)	ULSAN HYUNDAI FC (KOR)





REFEREES

REFEREES

AFC Champions League 2020 Referees

REFEREES	MA
Christopher James Beath	AUS
Ali Hasan Ebrahim Abdulnabi Alsamaheji	BHR
Nawaf Abdulla Ghayyath Shukralla	BHR
Liu Kwok Man	HKG
Alireza Faghani	IRN
Mooud Bonyadifard	IRN
Ali Sabah Adday Al-Qaysi	IRQ
Mohanad Qasim Eesee Sarray	IRQ
Adham Mohammad Tumah Makhadmeh	JOR
Ahmad Yacoub Ibrahim Ibrahim	JOR
Ahmed Faisal Mohammad Alali	JOR
Araki Yusuke	JPN
Kimura Hiroyuki	JPN
Sato Ryuji	JPN
Tojo Minoru	JPN
Yamamoto Yudai	JPN
Kim Daeyong	KOR
Kim Heegon	KOR
Ko Hyungjin	KOR
Mohammed Khled S Al Hoish	KSA
Turki Mohammed A Alkhudhayr	KSA
Ali M H M T Shaban	KUW
Hussein Abo Yehia	LBN
Mohd Amirul Izwan Bin Yaacob	MAS
Muhammad Nazmi Bin Nasaruddin	MAS
Abdul Baqi Yaqoob Said Abdullah	OMA
Ahmed Abu Bakar Said Al Kaf	OMA
Omar Mubarak Mazaroua Al Yaqoubi	OMA
Abdulrahman Ibrahim Y J Al-Jassim	QAT
Khamis Mohammed S A Al-Marri	QAT
Saoud Ali H J Al-Adba	QAT
Muhammad Taqi Aljaafari Bin Jahari	SIN
Gamini Nivon Robesh	SRI
Hettikankanamge Crishantha Dilan Perera	SRI
Hanna Hattab	SYR
Masoud Tufaylieh	SYR
Sivakorn Pu-Udom	THA
Yu Ming-Hsun	TPE
Ammar Ali Abdulla Jumaa Aljneibi	UAE
Mohammed Abdulla Hassan Mohamed	UAE
Asimov Aziz	UZB
Kasimov Sherzod	UZB
Tantashev Ilgiz	UZB

ASSISTANT REFEREES	MA
Anton Shchetinin	AUS
Ashley Warwick Beecham	AUS
George Lakrindis	AUS
Abdulla Saleh Abdulla Mohsen Alrowaimi	BHR
Faisal Alawi Sayed Shubber Baqer Alawi	BHR
Mohamed Jaafar Mohamed Salman	BHR
Yaser Khalil Ebrahim Abdulla Tulefat	BHR
Chow Chun Kit	HKG
Law Ming Leong	HKG
Abolfazli Mohammadreza	IRN
Ali Mirzabeigi	IRN
Alinezhadian Saeid	IRN
Mohammad Reza Mansouri	IRN
Hayder Abdulhasan Ali Ubaydee	IRQ
Maytham Khammat Abdulzahra Algburi	IRQ
Watheq Mdallal Obaid Al-Swaiedi	IRQ
Abed Al-Rohman Naji Mohamd Aqel	JOR
Ahmad Moannes Nadi Alroalle	JOR
Mahmoud Thaher Mohammad Abu-Thaher	JOR
Mohammad Mustafa Hassan Alkalaf	JOR
Karakami Satoshi	JPN
Mihara Jun	JPN
Nishihashi Isao	JPN
Nomura Osamu	JPN
Ochi Shinji	JPN
Takagi Takumi	JPN
Yamauchi Hiroshi	JPN
Jang Jongpil	KOR
Kang Dongho	KOR
Park Kyunyong	KOR
Park Sangjun	KOR
Song Bongkeun	KOR
Yoon Kwangyeol	KOR
Alabakry, Mohammed Maki A	KSA
Alshammari Khalaf Zaid M	KSA
Alshumrani Badr Ali A	KSA
Yasir Abdullah S Alsultan	KSA
Rabih Omeirat	LBN
Samer Badr	LBN
Mohamad Mu Azi Bin Zainal Abidin	MAS
Mohamad Zairul Bin Khalil Tan	MAS
Mohd Yusri Bin Muhamad	MAS

ASSISTANT REFEREES	MA
Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al Jardani	OMA
Abdullah Mubarak Mohamed Al Shammakhi	OMA
Al-Amri Abu Bakar Salim Mahad	OMA
Al Ghafri Hamed Talib Saif	OMA
Nasser Salim Abdullah Ambusaidi	OMA
Rashid Hamed Ali Al Ghaithi	OMA
Ramzan Saeed M A Al-Naemi	QAT
Saoud Ahmed S A Almaqaleh	QAT
Taleb Salem H A Al-Marri	QAT
Yousef Aref M A Al-Shamari	QAT
Zahy Snaid S A Alshammari	QAT
Abdul Hannan Bin Abdul Hasim	SIN
Ronnie Koh Min Kiat	SIN
Deniye Gedara Palitha Parakkrama Hemathunga	SRI
Loku Kasthotage Iran Udayakantha	SRI
Wellabada Hewage Don Sanjeewa Premalal	SRI
Ali Ahmad	SYR
Mazen Zazfoun	SYR
Nakarit Rawut	THA
Tanate Chuchuen	THA
Chen, Jia-Hao	TPE
Kuo, Chan-Yu	TPE
Hasan Mohamed Hasan Abdulla Almahri	UAE
Mohamed Ahmed Yousef Abdulla Alhammadi	UAE
Rasulov Abdukhamidullo	UZB
Serazitdinov Ruslan	UZB
Shayusupov Sanjar	UZB
Shodmonov Khusniddin	UZB
Timur Gaynullin	UZB
Tsapenko Andrey	UZB
Usmanov Alisher	UZB



The Referee Assessors, through their match reports and close monitoring, rated the Match Officials' performance as good (between 8.0 and 8.4) or above in 95% of cases. The Referees benefitted from post-match briefings and remote online coaching with AFC's top assessors and instructors, where they discussed strengths and areas for improvement based on the review of specific match incidents.

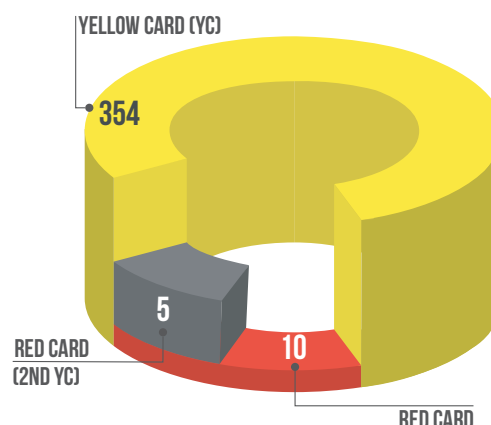
General Management

A total of 369 disciplinary sanctions were issued at the AFC Champions League 2020 from the Group Stage – of which 354 were cautions (yellow cards). Five sending-offs took place after a second caution and ten direct red cards were shown. There was a match average of 3.5 yellow cards and 0.15 red cards.

The administration of disciplinary sanctions was considerably less than previous editions on number of yellow cards (2019: 437; 2018: 441). However, due to one-legged fixtures being played from the Round of 16 onwards as well as some void matches in the 2020 edition, the total number of matches was reduced from 126 to 102. Despite the reduced number of matches, the number of red cards issued was increased slightly from both the 2019 and 2018 editions (13 each). This number is still significantly less than the 26 red cards shown in the 2017 competition.



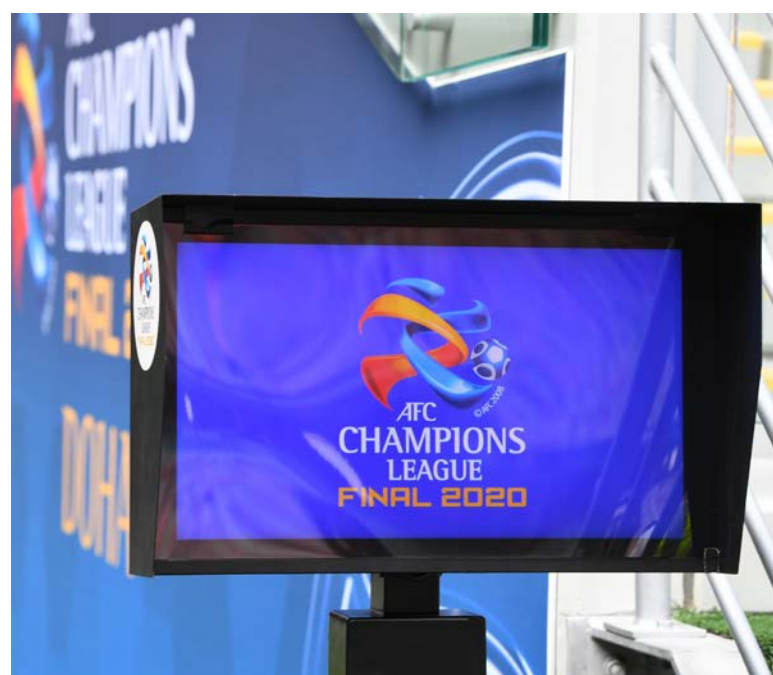
AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2020



VAR

The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) was implemented for the first time in an AFC club competition, with the technology used from the Quarter-final stage of the AFC Champions League 2020.

All Match Officials appointed to the knockout stage matches were trained in accordance with the stringent standards and requirements overseen by FIFA. In preparation for the implementation, an online VAR Course was conducted by the AFC in August 2020, giving the Match Officials an opportunity to refresh their knowledge of the system and gain further training and guidance supported by AFC's Referee Instructors.





VAR Implementation Statistics

There was a total of 74 checks in seven matches, an average of 10.57 checks per match:

- 24% consisted of goal/offences leading up to a goal
- 45% consisted of penalty area incidents
- 31% consisted of challenges/tackles

VAR CHECKS	
Total penalty area incidents checked	33
Total goals checked	18
Total challenges/tackles checked	23
Total mistaken identity situations checked	0
TOTAL CHECKS	74
Average checks per match	10.57

Out of the seven matches involving VAR, there was a total of eight reviews, an average of 1.14 reviews per match:

- 7 on-field reviews (OFR): 6 decisions changed, 1 confirmed
- 1 only-VAR review (OVAR): 1 decision changed

VAR REVIEWS	TOTAL	DECISIONS CHANGED	DECISIONS CONFIRMED
TOTAL REVIEWS	8	7	1
On Field Reviews	7	6	1
Only VAR Reviews	1	1	0
Penalty area incidents reviewed	5	4	1
Goals reviewed	2	2	0
Encroachment by GK in PK reviewed	0	0	0
Potential red card incidents reviewed	1	1	0
Mistaken identity situations reviewed	0	0	0
1 review every # matches	0.9		
Matches played	7		





EXTRA TIME

EXTRA TIME

Social Media Statistics



4,658,829

TOTAL VIEWS OF #ACLFINAL INSTAGRAM LIVE

- Highest-ever recorded views in Asia
- Highest-ever recorded views for sports content in the world



1,364,108

SUBSCRIBERS ON YOUTUBE

10.1 MILLION

TOTAL HOURS OF WATCH TIME ON YOUTUBE



533,606,153

REACH ACROSS FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS



2.27 BILLION

REACH ACROSS PLATFORMS



246 MILLION

VIDEO VIEWS ACROSS PLATFORMS

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NAME	POSITION	
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AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL 2020

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL 2020 DOHA

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USD Million CHAMPIONS

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16

21

8

8

6

8

6



PREVIOUS WINNERS

2019 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Al Hilal SFC (KSA)

FINAL			
First Leg			
9/11/19	Al Hilal SFC (KSA) (Andre Carrillo 60')	1-0 (0-0)	Urawa Red Diamonds (JPN)
King Saud University Stadium, Riyadh			
Second Leg			
24/11/19	Urawa Red Diamonds (JPN)	0-2 (0-0)	Al Hilal SFC (KSA) (Salem Al Dawsari 74', Bafétimbi Gomis 90+3')
Saitama Stadium 2002, Saitama			

2018 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Kashima Antlers (JPN)

FINAL			
First Leg			
3/11/18	Kashima Antlers (JPN) (Léo Silva 58, Serginho 70)	2-0	Persepolis (IRN)
Kashima Soccer Stadium, Kashima			
Second Leg			
10/11/18	Persepolis (IRN)	0-0	Kashima Antlers (JPN)
Azadi Stadium, Tehran			

Kashima Antlers won 2-0 on aggregate.

2017 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Urawa Red Diamonds (JPN)

FINAL			
First Leg			
18/11/17	Al Hilal (KSA) (Khribin 37)	1-1	Urawa Red Diamonds (JPN) (Rafael Silva 7)
King Fahd International Stadium, Riyadh			
Second Leg			
25/11/17	Urawa Red Diamonds (JPN) (Rafael Silva 88)	1-0	Al Hilal (KSA)
Saitama Stadium 2002, Saitama			

Urawa Red Diamonds win 2-1 on aggregate

2016 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Guangzhou Evergrande (CHN)

FINAL			
First Leg			
19/11/16	Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors (KOR) (Leonardo 70, 77)	2-1	Al Ain (UAE) (Asprilla 63)
Jeonju World Cup Stadium, Jeonju			
Second Leg			
26/11/16	Al Ain (UAE) (Lee Myung-joo 34)	1-1	Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors (KOR) (Han Kyo-won 30)
Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium, Al Ain			

Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors win 3-2 on aggregate

2015 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Guangzhou Evergrande (CHN)

FINAL			
First Leg			
07/11/15	Al Ahli (UAE)	0-0	Guangzhou Evergrande (CHN)
Al Rashid Stadium, Dubai			
Second Leg			
21/11/15	Guangzhou Evergrande (CHN) (Elkeson 64)	1-0	Al Ahli (UAE)
Tianhe Stadium, Guangzhou			

Guangzhou Evergrande win 1-0 on aggregate

2014 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Western Sydney Wanderers (AUS)

FINAL			
First Leg			
25/10/14	Western Sydney Wanderers (AUS) (Tomi Juric 64)	1-0	Al Hilal (KSA)
Parramatta Stadium, Sydney			
Second Leg			
01/11/14	Al Hilal (KSA)	0-0	Western Sydney Wanderers (AUS)
King Fahad International Stadium, Riyadh			

Western Sydney Wanderers win 1-0 on aggregate

2013 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Guangzhou Evergrande (CHN)

FINAL			
First Leg			
26/10/13	FC Seoul (KOR) (Sergio Escudero 11, Dejan Damjanovic 83)	2-2	Guangzhou Evergrande (CHN) (Elkeson 30, Gao Lin 58)
Seoul World Cup Stadium, Seoul			
Second Leg			
09/11/13	Guangzhou Evergrande (CHN) (Elkeson 58)	1-1	FC Seoul (KOR) (Dejan Damjanovic 63)
Guangzhou Tianhe Stadium, Guangzhou			

Aggregate score 3-3. Guangzhou Evergrande win on away goals

2012 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Ulsan Hyundai (KOR)

FINAL			
10/11/12	Ulsan Hyundai (KOR) (Kwak Tae-hwi 13, Rafinha 68, Kim Seung-yong 75)	3-0	Al Ahli (KSA)
Ulsan Munsu Football Stadium, Ulsan			

2011 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Al Sadd (QAT)

FINAL			
04/11/11	Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors (KOR) (Eninho 19, Lee Sung-hyun 90+2)	2-2	Al Sadd (QAT) (Sim Woo-yeon 30-og, Abdul Kader Keita 61)
Jeonju World Cup Stadium, Jeonju			

After extra-time. Al Sadd win 4-2 on penalties

2010 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma (KOR)

FINAL			
13/11/10	Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma (KOR) (Sasa Ognenovski 29, Cho Byung-kuk 53, Kim Cheol-ho 83)	3-1	Zobahan (IRN) (Mohammadreza Khalatbari 67)
National Stadium, Tokyo			

2009 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Pohang Steelers (KOR)

FINAL			
07/11/09	Al Ittihad (KSA) (Mohammed Noor 74)	1-2	Pohang Steelers (KOR) (No Byung-jun 57, Kim Hyung-il 66)
National Stadium, Tokyo			

Al Ain win 2-1 on aggregate

2008 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Gamba Osaka (JPN)

FINAL			
First Leg			
05/11/08	Gamba Osaka (JPN) (Lucas 37, Yasuhito Endo 43, Michihiro Yasuda 68)	3-0	Adelaide United (AUS)
Expo '70 Commemorative Stadium, Osaka			
Second Leg			
12/11/08	Adelaide United (AUS)	0-2	Gamba Osaka (JPN) (Lucas 4, 14)
Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide			

Gamba Osaka win 5-0 on aggregate

2007 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Urawa Reds (JPN)

FINAL			
First Leg			
07/11/07	Sepahan (IRN) (Mahmoud Karimi 47)	1-1	Urawa Reds (JPN) (Robson Ponte 45)
Foolad Shahr Stadium, Esfahan			
Second Leg			
14/11/07	Urawa Reds (JPN) (Yuichiro Nagai 22, Yuki Abe 71)	2-0	Sepahan (IRN)
Saitama World Cup Stadium, Saitama			

Urawa Reds win 3-1 on aggregate

2006 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors

FINAL			
First Leg			
01/11/06	Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors (KOR) (Yeom Ki-hun 59, Botti 90+1)	2-0	Al Karama (SYR)
Jeonju World Cup Stadium, Jeonju			
Second Leg			
08/11/06	Al Karama (SYR) (Iyad Mando 54, Mohanad Ibrahim 60)	2-1	Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors (KOR) (Ze Carlo 88)
Khaled bin Al Walid Stadium, Homs			

Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors win 3-2 on aggregate

2005 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Al Ittihad (KSA)

FINAL			
First Leg			
26/10/05	Al Ain (UAE) (Ali Msarri 50)	1-1	Al Ittihad (KSA) (Mohamed Kallon 85)
Tahnon Bin Mohammed Stadium, Al Ain			
Second Leg			
05/11/05	Al Ittihad (KSA) (Mohamed Kallon 2, Mohammed Noor 33, Joseph-Desire Job 57, Ahmed Dokhi 69)	4-2	Al Ain (UAE) (Shehab Ahmed 55-pen, Luis Tejada 90)
Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium, Jeddah			

Al Ittihad win 5-3 on aggregate

2004 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Al Ittihad (KSA)

FINAL			
First Leg			
24/11/04	Al Ittihad (KSA) (Redha Tukar 28)	1-3	Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma (KOR) (Denis Laktionov 27, Kim Do-hoon 81, Jang Hak-young 90)
Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium, Jeddah			
Second Leg			
01/12/04	Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma (KOR)	0-5	Al Ittihad (KSA) (Redha Tukar 27, Hamzah Idris 45, Mo- hammed Noor 55, 78, Manaf Abushgeer 90)
Seongnam Sports Complex, Seongnam			

Al Ittihad win 6-3 on aggregate

2003 AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Al Ain (UAE)

FINAL			
First Leg			
03/10/03	Al Ain (UAE) (Salam Jawhar 40, Mohammed Omar 75)	2-0	BEC Tero Sasana (THA)
Tahnon bin Mohammed Stadium, Al Ain			
Second Leg			
11/10/03	BEC Tero Sasana (THA) (Therdsak Chaiman 60-pen)	1-0	Al Ain (UAE)
Rajamangala Stadium, Bangkok			

Al Ain win 2-1 on aggregate



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