



**AFC WOMEN'S
ASIAN CUP™**
INDIA 2022

TECHNICAL REPORT



OUR GOAL FOR ALL





MESSAGE FROM THE AFC PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you one of the most important publications of the AFC's competitions calendar – the Technical Report for the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™.

As we all are aware, the AFC Women's Asian Cup™ is the pinnacle stage for the Continent's women's teams and players and the expanded 12-team edition in 2022 was by all accounts the greatest showcase of the rise of women's football in Asia.

My congratulations again to China PR on securing their record ninth title. In many ways, the values of resilience and perseverance displayed by the Steel Roses to stage one of the most remarkable comebacks ever witnessed in a Final exemplified the collective spirit of partnership observed by all our stakeholders to deliver the tournament under the most challenging of circumstances.

Credit must also go to Korea Republic and Japan who will join FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 co-host Australia and special praise must be reserved for the Philippines and Vietnam, whose historic maiden qualification for the global women's showpiece underlined the narrowing gap between our traditional powerhouses and emerging nations.

I would also like to reiterate the gratitude of the Asian football family to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for showing great resolve amidst the challenges and for providing safe and secure conditions for our players and teams, the match officials, the AFC Administration, members of the media as well as our broadcast and commercial partners.

The rising standards we witnessed further reinforce the need to examine new trends and I am sure you will agree that the AFC's Technical Study Group has

encapsulated the key technical highlights of the competition in this publication.

We must thank them for their in-depth analysis and I am confident this report will be a compelling resource and reference point for tacticians across the Continent particularly as the AFC prepares to usher in a new era of women's competitions with the impending launch of the AFC Women's Champions League in 2024.

In the pages that follow, the report also presents an overview of the AFC's match officials, led by our biggest-ever cast of female officials, who were exemplary in the implementation of the Video Assistant Referee system for the first time from the Quarter-final stage, culminating with the appointment of the first-ever all-female team in the Final.

At the same time, the record numbers in television viewership as well as those who engaged on our digital platforms is another clear sign that each edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup™ serves as the catalyst to herald new benchmarks of excellence and development.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the AFC Technical, Women's Football, Competitions and Referees Committees for their dedication to continuously raise the standards of Asia's flagship women's national team competition and for their unwavering support towards women's football development.

I trust that you will find this Technical Report informative and insightful.

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
AFC President



STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

GROUP STAGE

With the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ expanded to 12 teams, the Quarter-final Stage was introduced with China PR, Chinese Taipei, Australia, the Philippines, Japan, Korea Republic, Thailand and Vietnam advancing.

China PR finished top of Group A with two wins to advance along with Chinese Taipei, who finished three points behind in second.

The group was reduced to three teams following host India's unfortunate withdrawal due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the squad, with their Matchday One result against debutants Islamic Republic of Iran - a 0-0 draw - declared null and void.

Australia cruised to top spot in Group B with three wins, with the Philippines advancing as runners-up while two-time defending champions Japan were the Group C winners, with second-placed Korea Republic also going through.

Thailand and Vietnam, the two best third-placed teams, completed the Quarter-final lineup.



GROUP A



A perfect Group Stage campaign saw China PR emerge as Group A winners following two impressive displays during which they racked up 11 goals and conceded none.

China PR, seeking a record-extending ninth AFC Women's Asian Cup™ title, opened their campaign with an impressive 4-0 win over three-time champions Chinese Taipei.

The India-IR Iran match that followed ended in a 0-0 draw, with the result subsequently voided following India's COVID-19 forced withdrawal ahead of Matchday Two.

That meant China PR would seal a Quarter-final berth with a win over IR Iran in their second tie and head coach Shui Qingxia's players did so in style as they cruised to a 7-0 victory.

A place in the Quarter-finals was at stake when Chinese Taipei and IR Iran met on Matchday Three at the D.Y. Patil Stadium and the East Asian side produced their best in a 5-0 win against the tournament debutants.

Top spot meant a Quarter-final against Vietnam for China PR while Chinese Taipei advanced to a meeting with the Philippines.

For IR Iran, their debut campaign

was an experience which head coach Maryam Irandoost said would boost the development of her players and women's football in the country.



GROUP B



Featuring four ASEAN sides, 2010 champions Australia were the standout side as Tony Gustavsson's Matildas cruised to three wins - finding the back of the net 24 times and conceding only once.

Australia, seeking to win the AFC Women's Asian Cup™ title after losing the 2014 and 2018 finals to Japan, showed their intent on Matchday One as Sam Kerr scored five times in an 18-0 win over Indonesia.

Kerr's five goals took her international haul to 54 and made her Australia's all-time leading scorer - male or female - as the Matildas sent out a warning to their rivals.

The Philippines, meanwhile, boosted their Quarter-final hopes with an impressive 1-0 win over Thailand - their first victory over their ASEAN rivals in 13 meetings.

Led by former Australia head coach Alen Stajcic, Philippines faced an even tougher challenge on Matchday Two when they went up against the Matildas at the Mumbai Football Arena.

The tie eventually ended 4-0 in favour of the Australians but Philippines

walked off the pitch with their heads held high after having held their opponents to a goalless first half.

With their Quarter-final spot already booked following their two earlier wins, Australia fielded a changed lineup for their final tie against Thailand, but still registered a 2-1 win with Kerr scoring her seventh goal of the tournament.

Philippines continued their impressive run, defeating Indonesia 6-0 to confirm the second spot while there was also cheer for Thailand as they advanced as one of the two best third-placed teams.

Australia's Quarter-final opponents would be Korea Republic with the Philippines drawn to meet Chinese Taipei and Thailand to face off against defending champions Japan.



GROUP C



Featuring two-time defending champions Japan and a Korea Republic side aiming to win the title for the first time, Vietnam and Myanmar had it all to do in a tough Group C.

Japan, under new head coach Futoshi Ikeda, hit the ground running as they raced to an impressive 5-0 win over Myanmar on Matchday One.

Korea Republic also got off to a winning start, defeating a COVID-19 weakened Vietnam 3-0.

The opening wins meant both would seal their Quarter-final places with victories on Matchday Two, which they duly achieved as Japan defeated Vietnam 3-0 and Korea Republic beat Myanmar 2-0.

That meant their Matchday Three encounter would determine the Group C winners, with the runners-up to face Australia in the Quarter-finals, while there was still all to play for in the Vietnam-Myanmar game as a third-place finish could see them advance to the Knockout Stage.

Japan dominated against Korea Republic with Riko Ueki giving them the lead with only seconds on the clock, but a revitalised Korea Republic

upped their tempo in the second half and Seo Jiyoun's equaliser following a goal-mouth scramble five minutes from time earned Colin Bell's side a point.

Myanmar twice led only for Vietnam to claw their way back for a 2-2 draw, a result which ultimately saw Mai Duc Chung's side book a Quarter-final berth as one of the two best third-placed sides.

Vietnam's reward was a last eight showdown with China PR while Group C winners Japan would face Thailand with Korea Republic facing Australia.





QUARTER-FINALS

China PR, Korea Republic, Japan and Philippines booked their places in the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ Semi-finals and confirmed their spots in the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia/ New Zealand 2023 with stunning Quarter-final wins.

Australia's shock exit at the hands of Korea Republic meant Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Vietnam advanced to a round robin playoff to determine Asia's fifth representative at the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia/ New Zealand 2023.



CHINESE TAIPEI 1 - 1 PHILIPPINES

(Philippines won 4-3 on penalties)



The Philippines qualified for their first ever AFC Women's Asian Cup™ Semi-finals, defeating Chinese Taipei 4-3 on penalties after their Quarter-final tie ended 1-1 after extra time.

On a historic night which saw goalkeeper Olivia McDaniel make two saves and score one in the shootout, the Philippines not only booked an appearance in the AFC Women's Asian Cup™ Semi-finals but also a berth in the FIFA Women's World Cup for the first time.

After an even first half which saw both sides miss opportunities, the Philippines finally cracked the Chinese Taipei defence open in the 48th minute when Quinley Quezada redirected Katrina Guillou's header past 'keeper Cheng Ssu-Yu from close range.

Chinese Taipei remained persistent and their determination was rewarded in the 82nd minute when Zhuo Li-Ping stunningly found the top right corner of the net from some 25 yards out for the equaliser to force the match into another 30 minutes.

Both teams were visibly tired in extra time, with Chinese Taipei substitute Lin Hsin-Hui coming the closest in the 112th minute.

McDaniel's heroics eventually saw the Philippines prevail 4-3 on penalties to book a semi-final against Korea Republic and seal a berth in the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia/New Zealand 2023.



AUSTRALIA 0 - 1 KOREA REPUBLIC



Ji Soyun's late long-range stunner took Korea Republic into the Semi-finals with a 1-0 win over Australia.

The Chelsea midfielder thumped her effort home from 25 yards two minutes from time to give the Koreans victory after Cho So Hyun had missed a penalty in a match Australia largely dominated.

Sam Kerr had the pick of Australia's chances, with her first sight of goal coming as early as the seventh minute, but the Chelsea star rifled her effort over the bar.

Kerr then saw her header in the 20th minute denied by the woodwork while Korea Republic squandered a great opportunity to take the lead when Cho So Hyun sent her right foot spot-kick high over Lydia Williams' crossbar in the 40th minute.

Choe Yuri then forced Williams into a fine save six minutes after the restart while the goalkeeper was on hand again four minutes later to deny Cho So Hyun's header.

Kerr's struggles in front of goal continued with 15 minutes remaining when she dragged her effort wide of the goal after substitute Cortnee Vine's pace down the right flank had put her in position to provide her teammate with a gilt-edged opportunity.

Then, with two minutes remaining, Ji hit the winner. Picking up possession 30 yards from goal, she strode forward before unleashing a right foot drive into the top corner that Williams could only admire as Korea Republic advanced into a Semi-final meeting with the Philippines.



CHINA PR 3 - 1 VIETNAM



China PR came from behind to defeat Vietnam 3-1 to stay on course for a record-extending ninth AFC Women's Asian Cup™ title.

Wang Shuang, Wang Shanshan and Tang Jiali all starred for Shui Qingxia's side as they set up a Semi-final clash with defending champions Japan.

China PR came into the tie having won their group games without conceding a goal, while Vietnam were vying to chart history by progressing into the Semi-finals and sealing FIFA Women's World Cup qualification for the first time.

Despite China PR dictating the tempo, Vietnam took the lead in the 11th minute with Nguyen Thi Tuyet Dung intercepting Yang Lina's poor clearance from just above the box before striking the ball past goalkeeper Zhu Yu into the bottom left corner.

China PR quickly regrouped and were back on level terms in the 25th minute, with Wang Shuang scoring off a rebound after Wang Shanshan forced a fine save from Vietnam custodian Tran Thi Kim Thanh.

China PR were a different side in the second half with Wang Shanshan giving them the lead in the 52nd minute when the captain finished off Wang Shuang's cross by drilling her effort from inside the box.

Tang Jiali then caught the Vietnam defence napping a minute later when she found space inside the danger area before unleashing a low drive to etch her name on the scoresheet.

Vietnam were awarded a penalty in the 88th minute following Li Mengwen's handball, but Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy smashed her effort against the bar as China PR held firm to keep their title dreams alive.



JAPAN 7 - 0 THAILAND



Yuika Sugawara scored four goals as two-time defending champions Japan defeated Thailand 7-0 to book a Semi-final contest against China PR.

With Thailand missing several key players in their squad, Japan started as favourites and Futoshi Ikeda's side took an immediate grip on the match.

Mana Iwabuchi, after two attempts in the early stages, had a great chance to put Japan ahead in the 14th minute after Wilaiporn Boothduang fouled Rin Sumida in the penalty box. Goalkeeper Waraporn Boonsing, however, judged correctly to deny Iwabuchi's spot-kick with the rebound cleared.

There was, however, little the goalkeeper could do to deny Japan their opener in the 27th minute when Sugawara's right-footed shot from the centre of the box proved too powerful for the custodian to stop.

Thailand continued to bravely deny their opponents but were hit again in first half stoppage time, with Hinata Miyazawa scoring from close range following a goalmouth melee.

Any hope Thailand had of a possible comeback was dashed three minutes into the second half with Rin Sumida scoring Japan's third with a right footed shot from the centre of the box into the bottom right corner.

With Thailand visibly tiring, Japan maintained a high tempo and their constant pressure saw them earn another spot-kick in the 64th minute with Phonphirun Philawan penalised for bringing Sugawara down, and the striker converted from the spot with a well-placed shot into the bottom right corner.

With Thailand's resistance broken, it rained goals for Japan in the remaining minutes with Riko Ueki scoring their fifth in the 75th from the right side of the penalty box.

Sugawara completed her hat-trick five minutes later with an effort from just outside the box and added her fourth with a header in the 80th minute as Japan stayed on course for a hat-trick of AFC Women's Asian Cup™ titles.

STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

SEMI-FINALS

China PR and Korea Republic confirmed their places in the Final after contrasting performances which saw the Steel Roses sensationally overcome two-time defending champions Japan on penalties and Korea Republic register a comfortable 2-0 win over the Philippines.

China PR's nail-biting victory kept them on track for a record-extending ninth AFC Women's Asian Cup™ title while Korea Republic qualified for their first ever Final.



SEMI-FINALS



KOREA REPUBLIC 2 - 0 PHILIPPINES

Korea Republic's first ever appearance in the Final was sealed early, with Cho So Hyun and Son Hwa Yeon scoring in the first half.

Seeking to create history, Korea Republic wasted no time in applying heavy pressure from the get-go and opened the scoring as early as the fourth minute when Player of the Match Cho headed in Kim Hyeri's corner kick past Philippines goalkeeper Olivia McDaniel.

The Philippines were undeterred by the early setback and Sofia Harrison's attempt from distance six minutes later showed they meant business.

The Taeguk Ladies, however, continued to hold the lion's share of possession and came close through Son's efforts in the 15th and 19th minutes, but goalkeeper McDaniel's safe hands kept the Philippines in the game.

Despite having to play on the counter-attack, Philippines had their moments with Katrina Guillou giving the Koreans a scare in the 24th minute when her long-range strike missed by mere inches.

Korea Republic, however, looked dangerous every time they surged forward and doubled their lead in the 34th minute when an unmarked Son tapped in Choo Hyojoo's cross.

Chances were harder to come by for both sides in a tight second half as Korea Republic advanced to their first Final.

For the Philippines, there was also cheer despite the defeat with the Southeast Asians having confirmed an inaugural appearance in the FIFA Women's World Cup.

SEMI-FINALS



CHINA PR 2 - 2 JAPAN

(China PR won 4-3 on penalties)

China PR defeated Japan 4-3 on penalties in a stunning semi-final to advance.

In an epic match which ended 2-2 after extra time, goalkeeper Zhu Yu and captain Wang Shanshan played starring roles as China PR moved within one match of winning a record-extending ninth AFC Women's Asian Cup™ title.

It was a well deserved victory as China PR came from behind twice, with Wang Shanshan netting their second equaliser in the final minute of extra time. Zhu Yu then saved two of Japan's penalties with skipper Wang Shanshan scoring the fifth spot-kick to take her team into the Final.

Japan, seeking a third consecutive title, made their intentions clear in the first minute with Hinata Miyazawa testing Zhu Yu from distance, while Riko Ueki missed a golden opportunity to put the defending champions ahead three minutes later from inside the box.

Japan continued to press and China PR's defence was finally breached in the 26th minute when Miyazawa burst down the left flank and sent a perfect cross to Ueki, who scored with a glancing header.

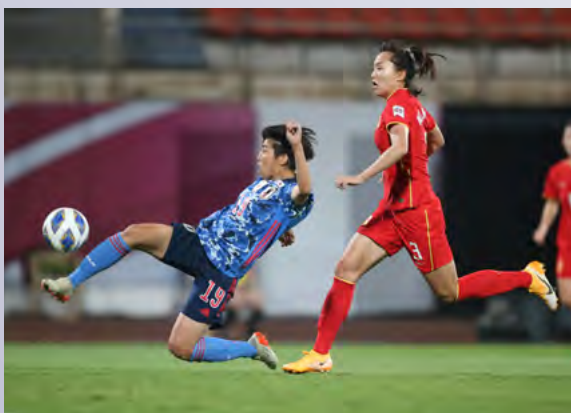
China PR drew level just a minute into the restart, with Xiao Yuyi muscling her way past a marker before sending a delightful ball to Wu Chengshu to finish.

Japan dominated for the remainder of the second half but missed opportunities meant extra-time, which again saw the defending champions struggling to put their chances away.

Japan's persistence finally paid off in the 103rd minute, with Ueki beating the China PR offside trap to finish off Yui Hasegawa's free-kick with a diving header.

It was, however, not the winning goal Japan had hoped for as resilient China PR forced the game into a penalty shootout with skipper Wang Shanshan scoring a dramatic 119th minute equaliser.

Goalkeeper Zhu Yu then saved the first and fifth penalties and Wang Shanshan, fittingly, scored the winner from the spot as China PR advanced to their first Final since 2008.





THE FINAL

CHINA PR 3 - 2 KOREA REPUBLIC

China PR were crowned AFC Women's Asian Cup™ champions for a record-extending ninth time thanks to an amazing 3-2 win over Korea Republic at the D.Y. Patil Stadium.

Head coach Shui Qingxia's side produced a brilliant fightback, scoring three times in the final quarter of the game after trailing 2-0 at half-time.

China PR's stunning success provided a fitting climax to a hugely successful tournament which had also provided a myriad of momentous moments to further underline the growth of women's football throughout Asia.

For most who had been following the AFC Women's Asian Cup™, China PR and Korea Republic contesting the Final was something they would not have expected.

STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

Both, however, deserved their places after having seen off the challenges of heavy favourites Japan and Australia en route to their showdown in the tournament decider.

China PR had shown tremendous grit and resilience to defeat Japan on penalties in the Semi-final - having come from behind twice to force penalties - while Korea Republic showed they are worthy of being ranked as one of the Continent's biggest teams following their 1-0 defeat of Australia in the Quarter-finals.

It was a Final too close to call as China PR were featuring in the decider for the first time since 2008 while Korea Republic's previous best had been the Semi-finals.

China PR, unbeaten in seven previous meetings with Korea Republic, started the game brightly and had the first look at goal within seconds when Wu Chengshu played the ball to Tang Jiali just above the area, but the midfielder's effort was easily dealt with by Korea Republic goalkeeper Kim Jung Mi.

China PR continued to press with Zhang Xin trying from 35 yards out while Wang Shuang saw her effort in the 10th minute saved by Kim.

Korea Republic began to see more of the ball as the half progressed and were rewarded with their first look at goal in the 27th minute, with Lee Geummin breaking into the box before sending a cross to Choe Yuri to score what was the 100th goal of the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™.

With Korea Republic in the ascendancy, China PR survived a scare at the half-hour mark, goalkeeper Zhu Yu pulling off a point-blank save to deny Lim Seonjoo's header off a free-kick.

China PR, however, suffered more woe in the closing stages of the first half when a VAR review saw Korea Republic awarded a penalty for Yao Lingwei's handball, with Ji Soyun converting from the spot.

China PR head coach Shui - a five-time AFC Women's Asian Cup™ winner as a player - sent on Xiao Yuyi and Zhang Rui at the start of the second half to force their way back into the



game but Korea Republic gave them little room to operate in the early stages.

China PR, however, received a lifeline in the 68th minute when they were awarded a penalty for Lee Youngju's handball, with Tang Jiali netting from the spot to spark what would end as a magnificent comeback.

Boosted by the goal, China PR began to dictate play and drew level four minutes later thanks to some poor defending by Korea Republic. Tang Jiali did well to beat two defenders before sending a delightful cross into the six-yard-box for an unmarked Zhang Linyan to nod home the equaliser.

Korea Republic could have then won it at the death but goalkeeper Zhu Yu pulled off a one-handed save before defender Wang Xiaoxue blocked Son Hwayeon's effort.

Having escaped, China PR broke Korea Republic's hearts in added time with substitute Xiao Yuyi stunningly finishing off Wang Shanshan's pass as a hugely unexpected but gratefully accepted record-extending ninth title was won.

More joy was to follow as skipper Wang Shanshan was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player while Zhu Yu picked up the Best Goalkeeper Award, with both having played integral roles in China PR's return to the top of Asian football.



WINNING COACH

SHUI MAKES STEEL ROSES SHINE

Seeing Shui Qingxia with the AFC Women's Asian Cup™ trophy was to travel back in time - to the era between 1986 and 1997 when she lifted the trophy five times as a midfielder in the China PR team that won seven successive finals without conceding a goal. Barely three months after returning to the national team as head coach, Shui demonstrated that she has not lost her golden touch. Although China PR are the most successful nation in the competition's history, victory in India ended a 16-year wait for the Steel Roses to blossom again.

For Shui, one of the keys to success was to blow dust off the national identity. "There are areas for the Chinese women's team to improve," she told the-AFC.com before the tournament kicked off, "and the most important, in my opinion, is that I hope we can play to our own characteristics in future matches."

She acknowledged that, as was the case with other contestants, the pandemic had disturbed preparations for the final tournament. "We did not have the opportunity to play warm-up games

against strong teams," she commented, "but I was able to observe players in the league which went ahead as scheduled and ensured regular training." Shui concedes that women's football in Asia might lag behind the top European teams in terms of fitness and athletic conditioning. But she focused on mental rather than physical strength. "When I was a player," she recalled, "we didn't bother too much about mental aspects. It was about improving ourselves physically. But young players nowadays are more sensitive and need more encouragement."

"My players restored the Steel Roses' spirit and never gave up on the pitch," she said after the Final. "We might lose games, but we will never lose in an easy way. That's my football philosophy."

Her team responded by refusing to lose, rewarding her with three comeback victories in the Knockout Stage. "Before the shoot-out against Japan in the Semi-final, "I told my players to relax and stay confident," she revealed. "And at half-time in the Final when we were 2-0 down to Korea Republic, I asked them if



they wanted to end the game doing nothing or fighting for everyone who was watching our match back home. They all said they would go all out and, in that moment, I knew we could turn the game around.”

The 3-2 victory confirmed Shui’s status as a serial winner, having won a string of league titles and a hat-trick of Best Coach awards in club football at Shanghai before heading for India as one of three female coaches at the final tournament – and winning it, just as Asako Takakura had done at the AFC Women’s Asian Cup™ in 2018; Jill Ellis had done with the USA at the FIFA Women’s World Cup in 2019; and Sarina Wiegman had done with the Netherlands at EURO 2017.

Shui shrugs her shoulders. “I don’t think coaching is about gender,” she said. “It’s about quality. We female coaches should have the confidence that we can do a good job. The AFC has done a lot for female coach education in recent years, but Member Associations should be encouraged to give more opportunities to female coaches.”

Shui, making a spectacular start in what she describes as a ‘glorious and challenging job’, regards being a role model as an important part of the coach’s job. “Winning the title means a lot to me and the whole China PR team,” she said after the Final. “The victory gives us direction for new goals. Everyone in the team will be motivated. There will be obstacles along the way, but we will do our best for the future development of women’s football in China PR.”





TEAM TALK

TEAM TALK

During the 12-team event in India, medical protocols were often barriers to communication. But, amid the exceptional circumstances generated by the pandemic, the coaches' voices could still be heard. These are a few of their observations on the tournament and the status of women's football in Asia.

"Women's football has developed fast in Asia and all over the World. I didn't realise that the tournament would be that hard. Despite winning the long-awaited championship, I urge all the players and fans to calm down. The trophy will definitely help players restore confidence and improve their abilities, but there's still a long way to go for the Chinese team to reboot and become the top tier team in the world again."

Shui Qingxia (China PR)

"I'm really happy that Korea Republic reached the final for the first time. The girls worked tremendously hard, the whole tournament and before it. Getting to the Final is such a big achievement for us all. I know what the players are capable of and I have said all along that we are capable of beating any team. But certain criteria still need to be fulfilled."

Colin Bell (Korea Republic)

"To win two games in the tournament for the first time and qualify for the World Cup gave us so many special moments that added to the belief and confidence among the players. To take this group, who are so dedicated, so determined, with so much discipline, so much heart, so much spirit, considering what they've had to overcome to this point, I don't think I've ever had to coach a group who's had so many hurdles to overcome just in our preparation let alone in a tournament. And to get to this level, and to fight, compete until the last kick of a Semi-final is a truly remarkable effort."

Alen Stajcic (Philippines)



“Communication was the key. Our staff worked very close together and were very interactive and the number one success factor was communication. Even though the result was not as we wanted, I have to say with all the challenges with the COVID protocols, I think it was one of the best camps that I have been around with, when it came to communication and energy between staff. The support staff were amazing, and I can't credit them enough. The strength in the team is the family feeling, comradery, and the connection between the players. And the pride; how proud they are to represent the country and the Matildas.”

Tony Gustavsson (Australia)



“Our team had high spirit and strong determination. We encouraged every player to try and perform to the best of her ability, without worrying about results. There was a passing thought of withdrawal from this tournament, but then we managed it well, with players travelling in different batches. COVID is a global issue. It had a serious impact on everything and was a big problem for us. Yet we were able to give our team the best conditions to train and also arrange an overseas training camp with good support from our Federation.”

Mai Duc Chung (Vietnam)

“To cope with the mental stress the pandemic has left on the players, we tried as much as possible to arrange things

together, such as a barbecue or breaks for the players to go shopping, but in a very controlled manner. We got suggestions from the players about what they wanted. We did as much as we could and we brought in someone to help them talk about the stress they were going through.”

Miyo Okamoto (Thailand)

“We faced many challenges and problems with the players' availability and gatherings because of COVID. Of course this was faced by all countries around the world, so we had to adapt and live with it. As a Federation, we tackled it together.”

Tin Myint Aung (Myanmar)

“Our participation in the Women's Asian Cup made a huge impact on the promotion and development of women's football in IR Iran because we changed attitudes and proved that women can play football at high-level matches. On the occasion of Mother's Day in IR Iran, our player with her six-month-old baby here in the tournament became very popular with all the country back home. It has given us much-needed awareness and support for the team.”

Maryam Irandoost (IR Iran)

“The team wants to come back to the Asian Cup 'Inshallah' to prove we came home better from this tournament. Like a baby, we are born again. The baby doesn't go to school, as we don't have competitions. But now we are trying to stand up, walk and run in the future, to try to catch Australia, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Japan.”

Rudy Eka Priyambada (Indonesia)

“All the players have the potential to improve, and I believe they can. I want us to qualify for the FIFA Women's World Cup. So, we have set standards with this team.”

Kazuo Echigo (Chinese Taipei)

“For Asian countries to improve, it is essential to develop leagues, strengthen the grassroots and experience international matches against European and United States teams. The Southeast Asian region of Vietnam, Myanmar,

Thailand, and the Philippines are improving well. The level is getting high. Every team has opportunities to score and there are key players in several teams. In general, all teams are improving.”

Futoshi Ikeda (Japan)

“For the last three to five years, every association has been taking women's football seriously and it has become more attractive for coaches, males or females. If we look at the way Japan play, the technical abilities the girls have, it is fantastic to watch. And what we need is to get out there for the whole world to see and judge. We need to push the women's game. The girls can play! They work hard and train hard. So let's enjoy what we see. If you have a clear plan, clear vision of what's happening in your own country, this will improve the level of football. Asia will look forward to the World Cup.”

Colin Bell (Korea Republic)





AFC WOMEN'S
ASIAN CUP™
INDONESIA 2022



TECHNICAL TRENDS

The tournament deserved two trophies. One for the champion; the other for the people who, in exceptional circumstances, managed to successfully deliver a 25-match event. In an ideal world, the word 'Covid' would have no place among technical topics. But, as a dozen teams lined up for the expanded tournament in India, the world was not ideal. The pandemic made an impact on team performances and on the competition itself – a factor which evidently influenced the detection of trends at the top end of the women's game.

The strict biosecurity bubbles and protocols, essential to prioritising health and wellbeing, affected day-to-day activities such as meetings, downtime pursuits, matchday walks or team bonding. The ritual of PCR testing generated anxiety while waiting for results and dealing with the consequences. Unfortunately for Team India, the worst-case scenario occurred on the morning of their second match against Chinese Taipei, when an outbreak left them with less than 13 players and, in line with tournament regulations, sadly led to the hosts' withdrawal. All other teams were affected but, fortunately, to a lesser extent. Thailand, for example, had nine players unavailable for their Quarter-final against Japan and for their first Playoff match. But not the same nine. Coaches admitted that uncertainty about team selection was a constant source of anxiety amongst players and staff, who also had to cope with long periods of isolation in hotel rooms. The toll on mental wellbeing added to the workloads of the sports psychologists who accompanied many of the teams. Several coaches, looking for positive angles, regarded the exceptional scenario as a 'test of resilience'. But, from a human perspective, it was hard to quantify the impact on performances of individuals or teams.

The AFC's head of women's football, Bai Lili, captained a team of technical observers at the final tournament and this report is based on observations made by Letecia

Callejas Bautista (Philippines), Maymol Nedugadan Rocky (India), Raeanne Maree Dower (Australia), Soleen Hamed Tawfiq Al-Zoubi (Jordan), Anjana Shivaji Turambekar (India) and Kalpana Dass (India).



LEVELS OF INTENSITY

The tournament revealed the strata currently visible within Asian women's football. The AFC technical observers in India put Australia, China PR, Japan and Korea Republic on a top tier in terms of their ability to produce and sustain high-intensity performances in line with top professional standards. The rung below might be described as university level – some members of the Philippine squad, for example, play their club football with college teams in the USA, where the parameters are semi-professional. And, in a majority of AFC MAs, women's football is essentially an amateur game.

At a major international tournament, physical fitness is obviously a core element. Even though preparation

programmes were often disrupted by the pandemic, the observers felt that teams such as Myanmar and the Philippines had worked hard on their athletic conditioning, with Alen Stajcic, head coach of the latter, rating this aspect as top priority at a 10-week preparation camp. Other teams, especially when having to cope with the heat at early afternoon kick-offs, ran into problems with fatigue.

Intensity, however, is not exclusively about physical fitness, but also about mindsets and sustained concentration. The observers picked out Ellie Carpenter as a prime example of 'the high-intensity player' with, as they put it, "outstanding physical capacity to make repeated efforts and to run with the ball at speed as a great example of the modern full-back who advances high up the pitch, overlapping and underlapping with high frequency". Significantly, after a spell in the USA league with Portland Thorns, Carpenter currently plays her club football for serial European champions Olympique Lyonnais, where standards are professional par excellence and the French league is highly competitive. As technical observer Letecia Bautista remarked, "you cannot understate the importance of big-game experience and awareness."

It was a reminder that competitive standards of national club competitions are crucial if players are to scale the highest echelons of international football. This was emphasised by the fact that the top teams at the final tournament had players in strong European leagues. China PR coach Shui Qingxia, when asked to comment on Tang Jiali's move to England's Women's Super League club Tottenham Hotspur, said, "I support players going abroad. On the one hand it helps them update their understanding of modern football. On the other hand, it gives opportunities for interaction with international players from other countries. Players gain better self-awareness. And high-quality matches build self-confidence."

UNDER PRESSURE?

The high-intensity game usually requires the capacity to react to losses of possession in advanced areas with collective high pressing. Japan, until running out of steam during the Semi-final against China PR which went to extra-time, systematically set out to press aggressively high up the pitch, as did Australia, while the two finalists tended to exercise this option when the game situation required it. No less than 22% of Australia's ball-winning was in the attacking third, with Japan hard on their heels with 21%. Towards the other end of the scale: Vietnam with 4% and Chinese Taipei with 6%. Korea Republic would indulge in a collective high press when opponents attempted to play out from their goalkeeper but would otherwise focus on assembling a lower defensive block. It could be argued that climatic conditions provided a deterrent but, as AFC's head of women's football Bai Lili commented, "the overall impression is that we rarely saw genuine high pressing."

In India, some teams made attempts to regain possession in advanced areas by pressing the ball – some more tenaciously than others. But, in many cases, the pressure was at lukewarm temperatures – more of a token gesture, without fierce intent to win the ball. The general tendency was to harry the ball-carrier as a ploy to buy enough time for transitions into mid-block defending or retreat into a deep-lying defensive unit often, as was the case with Myanmar, for example, very compact through the central channels with a view to encouraging opponents to play wide in their own half.

THE COUNTER ARGUMENT

The technical observers reflected that teams generally marked tight, defended the long ball extremely well, showed good anticipation and were well organised in their defensive roles. Centre-backs such as Japan's Saki



Kumagai, Korea Republic's Lim Seonjoo or Myanmar's Khin Than Wai were robust in 1v1 defending, dominant in the air, read the game well and showed leadership qualities. The same applied to China PR's Wang Shanshan – a special case in that she was equally comfortable leading the attack as leading the defence. Or Vietnam's Chuong Thi Kieu, the only genuine sweeper on show at the final tournament in her team's 1-5-4-1 formation.

Although ball-winning was so often in midfield or the defensive third, successful counterattacks were so few and far between that they supplied only six of the tournament's 104 goals. What's more, three of them stemmed from regains in advanced areas. Two were collective counters and only one was a classic counterattack from a deep position. Ironically, the best example was a classic counter by Vietnam which was declared offside by the VAR referee. But systematic counterattacking at pace was conspicuous by its absence in a tournament where defence-to-attack transitions did not stand out among the most salient features.

A WINNING COMBINATION?

The standard of combination play was, on the other hand, a stand-out feature with Japan's short-passing interchanges in all sectors of the pitch setting benchmarks, while Australia, China PR and Korea Republic also set out to pass their way through the thirds as a key concept in their playing philosophy. They were not alone, as Myanmar, Thailand (with Japanese coach Miyo Okamoto) and Vietnam also based their game on combination play, whereas Indonesia, IR Iran and Chinese Taipei preferred more direct styles based on deliveries to a central or wide target striker whose role was to hold up the ball until support from behind became available.

To illustrate the contrast, almost one-third (32% to be precise) of Chinese Taipei's passing during the Quarter-final against the Philippines was long. On the same day, Japan's percentage against Thailand was 7.6%.

Statistics on ball-possession provide guidance on the teams who set out to play combination football, with Japan and Australia clearly leading the field. The fact that a lion's share of the ball offers no guarantee of success was borne out by the latter's 65% share of possession when they were eliminated by Korea Republic, with Japan then suffering a similar outcome when they had 63% of



the ball in the Semi-final against China PR, only to lose in a shoot-out.

Team	Possession
Japan	69.62%
Australia	69.52%
China PR	61.39%
Korea Republic	55.12%
Thailand	47.64%
Vietnam	41.54%
Philippines	40.42%
Chinese Taipei	38.68%
Indonesia	36.34%
Myanmar	35.55%
IR Iran	32.33%

Japan executed more passes than any other team in the tournament and did so with greater accuracy than anyone else, as demonstrated by the table where the column marked PFT refers to passes in the final third, where the champions were the most effective in terms of delivering passes to teammates.

Team	Accuracy	PFT
Japan	83.1%	71.9%
China PR	81.8%	72.0%
Australia	81.4%	70.2%

Team	Accuracy	PFT
Korea Republic	77.4%	65.1%
Thailand	68.9%	54.2%
Vietnam	67.0%	49.2%
Myanmar	66.6%	48.6%
Philippines	62.8%	42.9%
Indonesia	58.6%	23.6%
IR Iran	58.3%	26.4%
Chinese Taipei	56.2%	39.9%

However, the thought-provoking bottom line to this section is the scarcity of an end product. In spite of the high-quality approach work, only five goals resulted directly from combination moves – one by China PR and two apiece by Australia and Japan. No other team scored in this way.

WING COMMANDERS

Statistics reveal that in the Semi-final against Japan 83% of the champions' attacking was via the wings. Of China PR's 19 goals, seven were conjured up by the cross + finish formula. The AFC technical observers commented that "full-backs and wingers were often seen interchanging positions during attacking play in the wide areas and, among the possession-based teams, there were high demands for full-backs to overlap and underlap."

They also highlighted outstanding contributions by players who fully embraced the role of the modern full-back, starting with the Australian pair of Ellie Carpenter on the right and Stephanie Catley on the left. There was

also special mention for Korea Republic full-backs Kim Hyeri and, on the left, Choo Hyojoo. In the final, 44% of the attacking moves by China PR were along the right flank, where Lou Jiahui incessantly pushed forward from her right-back position. Ditto Risa Shimizu, who played a prominent role in wing play by Japan, who scored five of their 18 goals from crosses. "All of them were highly involved in the final third," the observers reported, "running with the ball at high speed, participating actively in combination moves, delivering high-quality crosses and diagonals and, sometimes, getting into shooting positions and scoring goals. They were all highly influential key players for their teams."

But, again, there were question marks about the end product. Australia, during the defeat by Korea Republic, delivered 23 crosses of which only five reached a teammate. Japan wrote a similar script in their 2-2 draw with China PR in the Semi-final, when their wing play generated 26 crosses of which five were received by a teammate.

Staying with the topic of the end product, one of the eyebrow-raising features of the tournament was that not a single goal originated in a cut-back from areas close to the bye-line – a fertile source of goals in the men's game.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Long-range shooting paid substantial dividends, providing 21% of the open-play goals scored at the tournament – the second most productive source after crossing. Attempts from outside the box accounted for three of the Philippines' eight goals and two of Thailand's five. One of the two scored by Korea Republic made an impact on the tournament, given that the 87th-minute strike by Ji Soyun eliminated Australia.

This facet of the attacking game can be linked to the lack of goals resulting from combination play, as several teams encountered difficulties when attempting to play through central areas populated by compact defensive blocks. Japan, who did attempt to play through packed defences, scored only one of their 18 goals from outside the box.

However, the potential value of long-range shooting is not exclusively about the number of goals it creates. Against deep defensive blocks, striking at goal from outside the box can generate doubts among defenders about how deeply they can afford to drop or whether they should advance outside the penalty area with a view to blocking or discouraging the shot. In addition, long-range shots can take deflections and rebounds which can generate moments of chaos in otherwise well-organised defences. The debating point among coaches is to what extent players should be encouraged to try their luck from long range – and practise this speciality in training – when statistics indicate that most goals are scored from central areas inside the box.



KEEPING UP

Successes from long range can sometimes be interpreted as a slight on the standard of goalkeeping. But this was categorically not the case in India, where the AFC technical observers noted a marked improvement in the general standard. Keepers, they reported, were active in initiating build-up play and, in many cases, alert and fast when it came to covering spaces behind high back lines. Teams who preferred a more direct style of attacking relied heavily on the accuracy of their goalkeeper's distribution. The observers also highlighted that the keepers, in general, were vocal in organising their defensive line, directing teammates and playing a commanding role in the penalty area.

In this department, praise was by no means directed exclusively at the keepers in the top-tier teams. Despite shipping a dozen goals in two games, IR Iran's Zohreh Koudaei was signalled by technical observers as "a key player with strong wrists, great shot-stopping ability and aerial dominance. She also had communication and organisational skills, bravery and leadership qualities." Six of the goalkeepers had save ratios of 70% or more. And there were multiple candidates for a place between the posts in the tournament's all-star squad, alongside China PR's Zhu Yu, the recipient of the Best Goalkeeper award after the Final.

BOUNCING BACK TO WIN

The final tournament produced eight matches in which both teams scored and was won by the team that specialised in comebacks. In the Quarter-final, Shui Qingxia's side came from 1-0 down to beat Vietnam 3-1. In the Semi-final against Japan, they equalised in the



penultimate minute of extra-time and held their nerves in the penalty shoot-out. And, in the Final, they won the title by bouncing back from a 2-0 half-time deficit and scoring an added-time winner. China PR showed exceptional resilience, mental strength and an outstanding rebound mentality. The technical observers agreed that they were worthy winners of a tournament which was memorable for so many diverse reasons.



GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

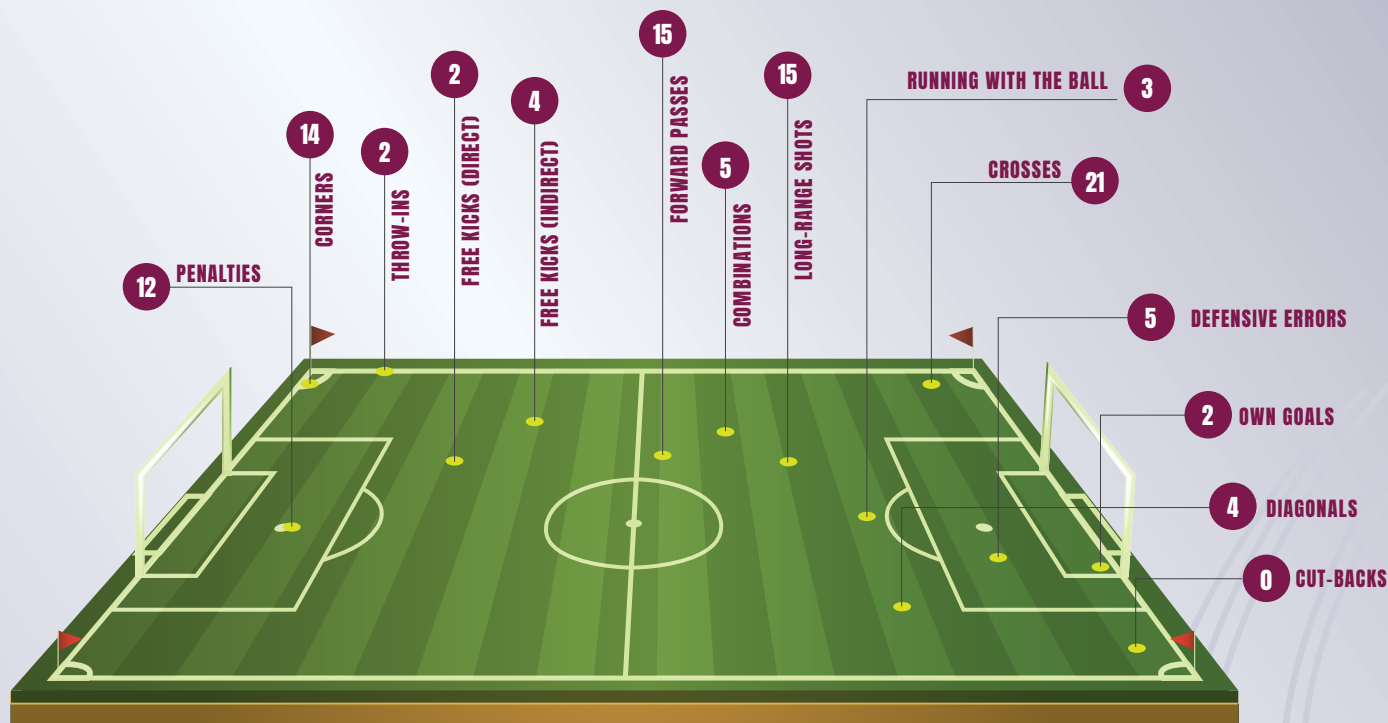
DECEPTIVE DATA?



The 25 games played during the expanded final tournament in India produced 104 goals at an average of 4.16 goals per match. The figure appears to compare favourably with the 3.88 registered at the eight-team event in Jordan in 2018. But does it? Let's face it, the 2022 statistics were seriously distorted by Australia's 18-0 victory over a young, inexperienced Indonesian team. If that fixture is subtracted, the average descends to 3.58. Healthy figures nonetheless, even though the 7-0 victories by China PR over IR Iran and Japan over Thailand, if they are added to Australia's exceptional score, mean that three matches accounted for almost one-third (31% to be precise) of the total. The bottom line is that, in this case, statistics can be misleading.

Goalscoring patterns were often contradictory. But some of them underlined the importance of efficiency in front of goal. For example, Australia were – unsurprisingly – the tournament's top scorers with 24 goals. But the Matildas went home earlier than they would have liked because their scoring touch deserted them at the most inopportune moment. During their 1-0 Quarter-final defeat against Korea Republic, only two of their 15 goal attempts were on target. Japan took aim 22 times in their Semi-final against China PR (whose total was seven), but only six attempts were on target. It was a similar story for the Philippines in the other Semi-final against Korea Republic, when only one of the team's nine strikes was accurately directed. The final balance of the tournament was that of 696 goal attempts, 15% hit the net – in other words, just over one in seven was successful. This actually compares favourably with the average of one goal per 9.2 attempts registered at the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2019 and, in India, the average of 13.9 shots per team per game compared with 12.9 at the FIFA event in France.

The goalscoring chart below breaks down the 104 goals into categories.



GOALS FROM SET PLAY

ACTION	GUIDELINES	GOALS
Corners	Direct from / following a corner	14
Free kicks (direct)	Direct from a free kick	2
Free kicks (indirect)	Following a free kick	4
Penalties	Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty)	12
Throw-ins	Following a throw-in	2

GOALS FROM OPEN PLAY

ACTION	GUIDELINES	GOALS
Combinations	Wall pass / combination move	5
Crosses	Cross from the wing	21
Cut-backs	Pass back from the bye-line	0
Diagonals	Diagonal pass into the penalty box	4
Running with the ball	Dribble and close-range shot / dribble and pass	3
Long-range shots	Direct shot / shot and rebound	15
Forward passes	Through pass or pass over the defence	15
Defensive errors	Bad back-pass / mistake by the goalkeeper	5
Own goals	Goal by the opponent	2

TOTAL GOALS SCORED : 104

SET PLAYS

Set plays accounted for 33% of the goals scored in India – a statistic that might raise a few eyebrows. It aligns, however, with percentages at other major national team tournaments, such as the 32% at the men's equivalent competition in 2019 or, if we continue to look at the men's game, the 35% registered at the last FIFA World Cup in 2018. On the other hand, at the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2019, dead-ball situations accounted for 27% of the goals, while club competitions habitually offer lower dividends more in line with the 24% during the 2021 edition of the men's AFC Champions League™. As a conditioning factor, it could be argued that club football offers greater opportunities to analyse opponents' dead-ball routines.

A dozen successfully converted spot kicks meant that 36% of the set play goals were penalties – again, pretty much in line with the last men's tournament, where they accounted for 37%. The most prolific source of dead-ball successes was, however, the corner kick. Six of them featured among the tournament's top 10 set-play goals, with Vietnam supplying half of them. Their 18 corners provided three of the team's seven goals during the tournament.

In this department the statistics are surprising. Nobody could rival Vietnam's success rate of 1:6. But an overall balance of one goal per 19 corners contrasted sharply with the men's tournament in 2019, where the success rate had been 1:40 or the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2019, where the ratio was 1:36.

Only six of the tournament's 104 goals stemmed from free kicks – two direct and four indirect. Having said that, the two direct successes were spectacular enough to earn top spots among the best set-play goals: Hikaru Naomoto's

strike for Japan against Myanmar; and Chen Ying-Hui's for Chinese Taipei against Thailand. Likewise, two of the indirect variety were outstanding: Yui Hasegawa's delivery which allowed Riko Ueki to head Japan into a 2-1 lead in the 13th minute of extra-time in the Semi-final against China PR; and another headed goal by Philippines' Sarina Bolden following a free kick on the left by Jessica Miclat.



OPEN PLAY

Wing play was once again the dominant feature in goalscoring patterns, but less so than in past competitions. Crosses were the source of 21 goals – 31% of the open-play total. The figure could be enlarged to 35% if the four diagonals from wide areas are included. Even so, it is below the 40% registered at the men's equivalent competition in 2019. However, the most surprising (and thought-provoking) statistic to emerge from the tournament in India was that no goals at all could be traced to a cut-back from areas close to the bye-line.

China PR drew the greatest dividends from the cross + finish formula, using it to score seven of their 19 goals,

ahead of Japan (5) and Australia and Korea Republic (3). Crosses also provided three of the tournament's top 10 goals – but in different ways. The Choe Yu-ri goal that put Korea Republic ahead against China PR in the Final stemmed from neat approach play on the right and a driven low cross. By contrast, the goal that brought the champions level at 2-2 was a header by Zhang Linyan following a lofted cross to the far post by Tang Jiali from a position near the bye-line after she had wriggled between two defenders.

The AFC technical observers at the tournament, by the way, noted a high standard of heading ability, as illustrated by Riko Ueki's opener against Myanmar. The Japan striker was two behind Australia's Sam Kerr in the scoring chart, but three of her five goals were headers. Also on five goals, China PR's Wang Shanshan deserves credit for completing a hat-trick: two goals with her right foot; two with her left; and one header.

Another significant statistic was that long-range shooting produced 21% of the tournament's open-play goals. Four of them were sufficiently striking to earn places in the top 10, with pride of place going to Ji Soyun's shot from distance – not just for the power and accuracy of her 87th-minute strike, but also for its significance as the only goal of the game and the one that eliminated Australia. This aspect is featured in the technical topics section of this report.

The through pass also delivered 21% of the open-play goals, including the one which earned China PR the trophy: Wang Shanshan's delightful, slightly scooped pass into the path of Xiao Yuyi's run towards space behind the Korea Republic centre-backs to score the winner timed at 90+3. A memorable goal to round off a memorable tournament.



Ranking	Player	No.	Team	Match	Time	Type
1	Hikaru Naomoto	8	Japan	Japan vs Myanmar	52'	Direct Free-Kick
2	Chen Ying-Hui	20	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei vs Thailand	93'	Direct Free-Kick
3	Aivi Luik	3	Australia	Australia vs Indonesia	78'	Corner
4	Riko Ueki	19	Japan	China PR vs Japan	103'	Indirect Free-Kick
5	Nguyen Thi Tuyet Dung	7	Vietnam	Vietnam vs Myanmar	47'	Corner
6	Sarina Bolden	18	Philippines	Indonesia vs Philippines	27'	Indirect Free-Kick
7	Nipawan Panyosuk	8	Thailand	Australia vs Thailand	93'	Corner
8	Chuong Thi Kieu	3	Vietnam	Chinese Taipei vs Vietnam	7'	Corner
9	Kanyanat Chetthabutr	13	Thailand	Indonesia vs Thailand	27'	Corner
10	Thai Thi Thao	11	Vietnam	Thailand vs Vietnam	24'	Corner

Ranking	Player	No.	Team	Match	Time	Type
1	Ji Soyun	10	Korea Republic	Australia vs Korea Republic	87'	Long-Range Shot
2	Riko Ueki	19	Japan	Japan vs Korea Republic	1'	Solo Action
3	Riko Ueki	19	Japan	Japan vs Myanmar	22'	Cross
4	Ellie Carpenter	21	Australia	Australia vs Indonesia	49'	Long-Range Shot
5	Yui Hasegawa	14	Japan	Japan vs Myanmar	47'	Combination Play
6	Zhuo Li-Ping	6	Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei vs Philippines	82'	Long-Range Shot
7	Choe Yuri	11	Korea Republic	China PR vs Korea Republic	27'	Cross
8	Zhang Linyan	19	China PR	China PR vs Korea Republic	72'	Cross
9	Yui Narumiya	17	Japan	Japan vs Myanmar	70'	Long-Range Shot
10	Xiao Yuyi	20	China PR	China PR vs Korea Republic	93'	Through Pass



TALKING POINTS

TWELVE IS AN ODD NUMBER?

The coaches in India expressed enthusiastic support for the expansion of the final tournament to 12 teams, on the basis that allowing more teams to taste top-level international competition is highly positive for the development of women's football in Asia. At the same time, there were some reservations about the 12-team format which spells elimination for one of the trio of third-placed teams and creates a degree of imbalance among the pairings for the Quarter-finals, where one of the group runners-up (the winner of the tie between Chinese Taipei and the Philippines) was guaranteed a place in the last four and a ticket to the FIFA World Cup. Two of the group winners were drawn against the two third-placed teams, whereas the other group winner (Australia) had to face Korea Republic. And, in this particular instance, the withdrawal of India meant that the other Group A contestants played only two games and had more rest-and-recovery time than the other participants. China PR had a full week to prepare for their Quarter-final against Vietnam, whereas their opponents had played three days earlier.

The coaches proposed that the 12-team format should be a stepping-stone towards the ideal solution of a 16-team final tournament, which would smooth off the rough



edges in draw procedures and qualification processes in addition to providing a great incentive for more Member Associations (MAs) to invest in the women's game and to benefit from experience at major tournament level. Asked whether they feared an increase in quantity could lead to a drop in quality, they immediately named seven MAs whose current development programmes, they felt, would stand them in good stead to make the step up in time to be competitive in the 2026 edition of the competition. The AFC has taken note...

A WORLD APART?

Doubling as a ticket to the expanded 32-team FIFA World Cup to be co-hosted in 2023 by Australia and New Zealand gave added incentives and motivation to the tournament, the coaches felt – especially to Vietnam and the Philippines, who qualified for the first time. Alen Stajcic, after leading Australia during the previous edition of the tournament in 2018, was in India as head coach of the Philippines team that clinched a historic place at the World Cup. “To win two games in the tournament for the first time and then qualify

for the World Cup were special moments that added to the belief and confidence in the group," he said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience and first time for it potentially to happen. To grow the game around the world, these opportunities have to happen for more and more countries."

But the coaches' responses varied when asked whether they would like to see World Cup qualification as a separate competition rather than pegged to results at the AFC Women's Asian Cup™. Whilst some relished the opportunity for more international games which would strengthen player development, some mentioned budget considerations such as travel costs which an additional competition would entail. What do you think?

IS TIME ON OUR SIDE?

Is time of the essence? Concerns about real playing time have become a regular discussion point at the AFC. So did the AFC Women's Asian Cup™ add fuel to the debate? Statistics reveal that, during the 25 matches played at the expanded final tournament, the ball was in play for an average of 52 minutes and 21 seconds – and this includes the Chinese Taipei v Philippines and China PR v Japan fixtures which required extra-time. Apart from these two games, none of the other 23 reached the 60-minute mark in terms of real playing time and seven fell below 50 minutes – eight if the Chinese Taipei v Philippines total is reduced pro rata to the 90-minute level.

Heat and humidity can evidently be conditioning factors. But was this more of an impediment in India than it had been in Jordan four years earlier, when the average ball-in-play time was 56 minutes and 42 seconds, even though, on that occasion, only one match went to extra-time? What is the explanation for a downturn of over four minutes?

The issue is not solely about the important facet of offering entertainment value to spectators and TV audiences. The



topic often raised by coaches in the men's game is about low levels of real playing time in domestic competitions and the question is whether, when AFC teams perform on international stages, this has a negative impact against opponents who regularly sustain high-intensity play for longer periods. Is this also applicable to women's football in Asia?

GOING VAR ENOUGH?

Talking of time, tournament statistics reveal that in India, the average stoppage for a VAR review was a couple of seconds over one minute. Some of the coaches wondered if this time was always added...

However, the main talking point about the introduction of VAR was its impact on the competition. Even though 98 checks were conducted (all but seven of them related to goals or incidents in the penalty area) only four decisions were reviewed and changed. In the Quarter-final against Australia, Korea Republic were awarded a penalty, which they failed to convert. But, in the Final, another review resulted in the spot-kick which put them 2-0 ahead against China PR. In the play-offs, Vietnam scored a classic counterattacking goal – arguably the best of the tournament – only for a VAR review to rule it out for offside. And a fourth review ended with a red card for a Thailand player in the closing minutes of the same match when the impact was minimal.

The main question raised among the coaches in India was, while admitting budgetary considerations, whether implementing VAR only in the knockout phase of the tournament was the optimal solution. Should it, if feasible, be used uniformly throughout the event?





TEAM PROFILES

AUSTRALIA

SQUAD	DATE OF BIRTH
GOALKEEPER	
1 LYDIA WILLIAMS	13-05-1988
12 TEAGAN MICAH	20-10-1997
18 MACKENZIE ARNOLD	25-02-1994
DEFENDER	
2 COURTNEY NEVIN	12-02-2002
3 AIVI LUIK	18-03-1985
4 CLARE POLKINGHORNE	01-02-1989
7 STEPHANIE CATLEY	26-01-1994
8 CHARLOTTE GRANT	20-09-2001
14 ALANNA KENNEDY	21-01-1995
21 ELLIE CARPENTER	28-04-2000
MIDFIELDER	
6 CLARE WHEELER	14-01-1998
10 EMILY VAN-EGMOND	12-07-1993
11 MARY FOWLER	14-02-2003
13 TAMEKA YALLOP	16-06-1991
19 KYRA COONEY-CROSS	15-02-2002
FORWARD	
5 CORTNEE VINE	09-04-1998
9 CAITLIN FOORD	11-11-1994
15 EMILY GIELNIK	13-05-1992
16 HAYLEY RASO	05-09-1994
17 KYAH SIMON	25-06-1991
20 SAMANTHA MAY KERR	10-09-1993
22 HOLLY MCNAMARA	23-01-2003
23 REMY SIEMSEN	10-11-1999



FORMATION: 1-4-3-3



COACH

TONY GUSTAVSSON (SWE)

Gustavsson is a former player who led Swedish club Tyreso FF to the UEFA Women's Champions League Final in 2014. He was also part of the United States women's national football team as an assistant coach that won the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2015 and 2019 before joining the Australian women's national team in 2020 as head coach.



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 with alert goalkeeper sweeping behind a high defensive line
- Varied build-up; direct attacking or short-passing combinations through thirds
- Full-backs creating overloads on the wings with overlapping and underlapping runs
- Emphasis on wing play with great variety of crosses and passes into the penalty area
- Quick attack-to-defence transitions with heavy pressure on the ball-carrier
- Dangerous set plays; counterattacking with penetrating runs from midfield
- Technically, tactically, mentally strong; excellent athletic qualities

STATISTICS

4	24	2	93	43	3	19	49	37	26	3	0
MATCHES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST	SHOTS	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	PENALTIES	OFFSIDES	CORNERS	FOULS COMMITTED	FOULS AGAINST	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS

TOP SCORER

SAM KERR
NUMBER OF GOALS

7



CHINA PR

SQUAD	DATE OF BIRTH
GOALKEEPER	
1 ZHU YU	23-07-1997
12 XU HUAN	06-03-1999
22 ZHAO LINA	18-09-1991
DEFENDER	
5 MA JUN	06-03-1989
19 ZHANG LINYAN	16-01-2001
MIDFIELDER	
2 LI MENGWEN	28-03-1995
3 WANG XIAOXUE	20-10-1994
4 LI JIAYUE	08-06-1990
6 ZHANG XIN	23-05-1992
8 YAO WEI	01-09-1997
14 LOU JIAHUI	26-05-1991
15 WU CHENGSHU	26-08-1996
16 YAO LINGWEI	05-12-1995
18 TANG JIALI	16-03-1995
20 XIAO YUYI	10-01-1996
21 LI YING	07-01-1993
23 GAO CHEN	11-08-1992
FORWARD	
7 WANG SHUANG	23-01-1995
9 WANG YANWEN	27-03-1999
10 ZHANG RUI	17-01-1989
11 WANG SHANSHAN	27-01-1990
13 YANG LINA	13-04-1994
17 LIU YANQIU	31-12-1995



FORMATION: 1-4-4-2
(half moon)



COACH

SHUI QINGXIA (CHN)

Shui was a member of China PR's golden generation that won the country's first-ever AFC Women's Asian Cup™ in 1986 and went on to lift the trophy five times in the next 11 years. She was appointed China PR's women's national team head coach in November 2021 where she guided them to a record extending ninth title. With the win, Shui preserved a personal record of never losing a single match in the showpiece as a player and coach.





KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 with emphasis on wing play; overloads, overlapping full-backs and good crossing
- Composed build-up through midfield; players able to retain possession in tight areas
- Effective combinations between strikers; midfielders supplying penetrating passes
- Fast transitions to defence, pressing the ball-carrier, dropping into a compact mid-third block
- Backline strong in 1v1 defending, protected by two screening midfielders
- Good blend of collective qualities, creative individual skills and ability to control tempo
- Well-organised unit with strong team ethic, fitness levels and mental resilience

STATISTICS

5	19	5	70	39	3	17	26	45	36	8	0
MATCHES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST	SHOTS	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	PENALTIES	OFFSIDES	CORNERS	FOULS COMMITTED	FOULS AGAINST	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS

TOP SCORER

	
WANG SHANSHAN NUMBER OF GOALS 5	WANG SHUANG NUMBER OF GOALS 5



CHINESE TAIPEI

SQUAD	DATE OF BIRTH
GOALKEEPER	
1 TSAI MING-JUNG	23-01-1989
12 LIAO WEN-CHI	08-08-1997
18 CHENG SSU-YU	25-09-1989
21 WANG YU-TING	27-05-2001
DEFENDER	
4 LAI WEI-JU	31-07-1994
5 PAN SHIN-YU	03-05-1997
13 PAN YEN-HSIN	18-02-1996
15 SU SIN-YUN	20-11-1996
16 CHANG SU-HSIN	04-10-1990
23 CHANG TZU-NUO	23-06-1999
MIDFIELDER	
2 CHANG CHI-LAN	18-09-1996
6 ZHUO LI-PING	29-09-1999
8 WANG HSIANG-HUEI	28-09-1987
9 HSU YI-YUN	29-04-1997
14 WU KAI CHING	14-11-1999
17 TING CHI	02-06-1995
20 CHEN YING-HUI	05-10-1998
22 TING CHIA-YING	25-01-2002
FORWARD	
3 LIN HSIN-HUI	06-02-2002
7 CHEN YEN-PING	20-08-1991
10 LEE HSIU-CHIN	18-08-1992
11 LAI LI-CHIN	15-08-1988
19 SU YU-HSUAN	21-02-2001



FORMATION: 1-5-4-1



COACH

KAZUO ECHIGO (JPN)

Echigo is a former Japanese national team player who started his coaching career at Vegalta Sendai where he would serve as head coach for the youth and the ladies team. He was appointed the Chinese Taipei women's team head coach in 2019 where his side was one win away from qualifying to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.





KEY FEATURES

- 1-5-4-1 with emphasis on direct back-to-front passing; winning the second-ball
- Full-backs providing width, crosses in attacking but only one at a time
- Wide midfielders with 1v1 skills, connecting well with the target striker
- One of two holding midfielders pushing forward to support attacks
- Chen Yen-Ping the playmaker; good vision and 1v1 skills in attack and defence
- Defensive transitions with retreat into middle or low block; pressing on the ball occasionally
- Centre-back Su Sin-Yun leading a flat back five with good aerial ability

STATISTICS

5	10	7	37	20	1	10	15	43	45	1	0
MATCHES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST	SHOTS	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	PENALTIES	OFFSIDES	CORNERS	FOULS COMMITTED	FOULS AGAINST	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS

TOP SCORER

	
LAI LI-CHIN NUMBER OF GOALS 3	SU YU-HSUAN NUMBER OF GOALS 3

INDONESIA

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
GOALKEEPER		
1	NURHALIMAH	14-08-1997
19	FANI	30-05-2004
21	RISKA APRILIA	19-04-1999
DEFENDER		
2	REMINI CHERE	09-10-2000
4	SHALIKA AURELIA VIANDRISA	01-08-2003
14	DAH TRI LESTARI	07-09-1995
17	VIVI OKTAVIA RISKI	07-03-1997
18	TIA DARTI SEPTIAWATI	24-09-1993
MIDFIELDER		
3	ROSDILAH SITI	30-07-2003
5	SABRINA MUTIARA WIBOWO	06-12-1999
6	PANI TRI OKTAVIANI	29-10-1997
7	OCTAVIANI DWI NURMALITA	25-10-1998
8	MAULINA NOVRYLIANI	14-11-1987
9	ADE MUSTIKIANA OKTAFIANI	03-10-1999
10	RANI MULYASARI	04-03-1993
15	HELSEA MAEISYAROH	07-05-2005
20	VINY SILFIANUS	03-07-2002
23	REVA OCTAVIANI	08-10-2003
FORWARD		
11	BAIQ AMIATUN SHALIHAN	16-07-1991
12	ZAHRA MUZDALIFAH	04-04-2001
13	MARSELA YULIANA AWI	23-03-2004
16	CARLA BIO PATTINASARANY	09-08-2002
22	INSYAFADYA SALSABILLAH	10-03-2002



FORMATION: 1-4-3-3



COACH

RUDY EKA PRIYAMBADA (IDN)

Rudy was appointed Indonesia's women's national team head coach in 2021. Under his guidance, the team qualified for their first AFC Women's Asian Cup Group Stage in 33 years. Rudy has worked in different footballing roles in his career which has taken him to Australia and Bahrain. On the local front, he has managed several football clubs before joining the women's national team.



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 with narrow 1-4-5-1 defending and encouraging opponents to go wide
- Holding midfielder sitting in front of the centre-backs in a deep defensive block
- Salsabillah is mobile, agile and strong in the isolated target striker role
- Extensive use of long back-to-front deliveries or individual forward runs
- Emphasis on numbers behind the ball; all players are back to defend set pieces
- Captain and centre-back Oktafiani is the leader and organiser of defensive play
- Committed, resolute defending with excellent team spirit and work ethic

STATISTICS

3	0	28	5	1	0	5	1	24	23	3	0
MATCHES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST	SHOTS	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	PENALTIES	OFFSIDES	CORNERS	FOULS COMMITTED	FOULS AGAINST	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS



IR IRAN

SQUAD	DATE OF BIRTH
GOALKEEPER	
1 ZOHREH KOUDAEI	24-11-1989
12 MARYAM YEKTAEI	19-06-1993
22 AREFEH KAZEMI	26-02-1998
DEFENDER	
2 FATEMEH AMINEH	03-06-1997
3 HADIEH KOR	25-02-1993
4 MELIKA MOTEVALLI	06-05-1998
5 GHAZALEH BANITALEBI	14-01-2002
8 BEHNAZ TAHERKHANI	22-05-1995
15 ZOHREH JALALI	16-02-1999
19 FATEMEH ADELI	16-07-1995
MIDFIELDER	
6 ZAHRA SARBALI	13-08-1993
10 SARA ZOHRABINIA	13-11-1996
11 SAMANEH CHAHKANDI	28-03-1989
13 YASAMAN FARMANI	12-02-1995
14 ELHAM FARAHMAND	12-09-1993
16 ZAHRA	18-06-2004
18 MELIKA MOHAMMADI	28-03-2000
21 NIKKHAH MARZIEH	25-11-1992
23 SANA SADEGHI	12-06-2000
FORWARD	
9 SARA GHOMIMARZDASHTI	20-08-1987
7 AFSANEH CHATRENOOR	14-04-1998
17 NEGIN ZANDI	20-01-2004
20 HAJAR DABBAGHI	22-03-1999



FORMATION: 1-4-4-1-1



COACH

MARYAM IRANDOOST (IRN)

Maryam Irandoost is a former professional footballer for Pegah Gilan and Malavan. As head coach of the IR Iran women's national team, Maryam guided her side to a historic qualification to the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ Group Stage. She is the daughter of former IR Iran player and coach Nosrat Irandoost.



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-1-1 with rapid transitions to a deep and compact 1-4-5-1 defensive block
- Preference for direct supply to the striker, with the shadow striker quick to support
- Equipped for possession play in midfield, using futsal skills in tight areas
- Semi-press on ball during transitions into two closely-positioned defence lines
- Strong tackling skills; tight individual marking during free kicks and corners
- Excellent goalkeeping by Koudaei; shot-stopping, aerial skill, leadership and bravery
- Well-organised team with a high level of technical ability, resolve and collective spirit

STATISTICS

2	0	12	6	4	0	1	5	14	16	1	0
MATCHES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST	SHOTS	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	PENALTIES	OFFSIDES	CORNERS	FOULS COMMITTED	FOULS AGAINST	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS



INDIA

SQUAD	DATE OF BIRTH
GOALKEEPER	
1 ADITI CHAUHAN	20-11-1992
19 SOWMIYA NARAYANASAMY	25-07-2000
23 ELANGBAM PANTHOI	23-12-1996
DEFENDER	
2 SWEETY DEVI NGANBAM	01-12-1999
3 MANISA PANNA	20-04-1991
4 ASHALATA DEVI LOITONGBAM	03-07-1993
5 SHILKY DEVI HEMAM	23-11-2005
17 DALIMA CHHIBBER	30-08-1997
21 RITU RANI	25-05-1997
MIDFIELDER	
6 KAMALA DEVI YUMNAM	04-03-1992
7 RATANBALA DEVI NONGM	02-12-1999
8 SANJU	12-09-1997
9 ANJU TAMANG	22-12-1995
12 INDUMATHI KATHIRESAN	05-06-1994
13 SANDHIYA RANGANATHAN	20-05-1998
14 PRIYANGKA DEVI NAOREM	09-04-2003
20 KARTHIKA ANGAMUTHU	21-11-1999
FORWARD	
10 PYARI XAXA	18-05-1997
11 GRACE DANGMEI	05-02-1996
15 RENU	16-01-2001
16 MANISHA	27-11-2001
18 MARIYAMMAL BALAMURUGAN	14-04-2003
22 SUMATI KUMARI	15-01-2004



Note: India failed to name the required 13 players for their AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ Group A match against Chinese Taipei on January 23. Under Article 4.1 of the special rules applicable to AFC competitions during the COVID-19 pandemic, they were deemed to have withdrawn from the competition.

COACH

THOMAS DENNERBY (SWE)

Dennerby has over 30 years of coaching experience where he previously managed the Swedish national team and Nigerian women's national team that won the 2018 African Women's Cup of Nations. He was subsequently named the 2018 Coach of the Year in Nigeria. Initially assigned to the Indian U-17 side, Dennerby took the reign of the India women's national team in August 2021 but will return to the youth team after the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™.



STATISTICS

1	0	0	16	5	0	1	9	9	5	1	0
MATCHES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST	SHOTS	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	PENALTIES	OFFSIDES	CORNERS	FOULS COMMITTED	FOULS AGAINST	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS

JAPAN

SQUAD

GOALKEEPER

	DATE OF BIRTH
1 SAKIKO IKEDA	08-09-1992
18 AYAKA YAMASHITA	29-09-1995
21 MOMOKO TANAKA	17-03-2000

DEFENDER

2 RISA SHIMIZU	15-06-1996
3 MOEKA MINAMI	07-12-1998
4 SAKI KUMAGAI	17-10-1990
5 SHIORI MIYAKE	13-10-1995
6 ASATO MIYAGAWA	24-02-1998
12 RUKA NORIMATSU	30-01-1996
20 HANA TAKAHASHI	19-02-2000
22 SAORI TAKARADA	27-12-1999

MIDFIELDER

7 RIN SUMIDA	12-01-1996
8 HIKARU NAOMOTO	03-03-1994
13 JUN ENDO	24-05-2000
14 YUI HASEGAWA	29-01-1997
15 FUKA NAGANO	09-03-1999
16 HONOKA HAYASHI	19-05-1998
17 YUI NARUMIYA	22-02-1995
23 HINATA MIYAZAWA	28-11-1999

FORWARD

9 YUIKA SUGASAWA	05-10-1990
10 MANA IWABUCHI	18-03-1993
11 MINA TANAKA	28-04-1994
19 RIKO UEKI	30-07-1999



FORMATION: 1-4-4-2



COACH

FUTOSHI IKEDA (JPN)

Ikeda is a former defender-turned-coach. He was previously the head coach for Urawa Reds before taking charge of the Japan women's U-20 national team that won the AFC U-19 Championship in 2017. His career highlight came in 2018 when he led his young chargers to their first FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup title, defeating Spain 3-1 in the Final.



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 with technical and tactical expertise across all the departments of the team
- Possession-based game; neat one-touch play; well-timed runs and passing
- Creative middle-to-front play with positional rotation and fluent movement
- Full-backs overlapping, driving infield, supplying a good variety of crosses and passes
- Immediate relentless pressure after ball-loss, seeking rapidly high regains
- Compact zonal defending with the keeper ready to cover behind the high line
- Disciplined unit with good team and work ethic and reading of the game

STATISTICS

5	18	3	101	43	2	11	57	47	38	2	0
MATCHES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST	SHOTS	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	PENALTIES	OFFSIDES	CORNERS	FOULS COMMITTED	FOULS AGAINST	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS

TOP SCORER

RIKO UEKI
NUMBER OF GOALS

5





KOREA REPUBLIC

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
GOALKEEPER		
1	YOON YOUNG GEUL	28-10-1987
18	KIM JUNG MI	16-10-1984
19	KANG GAAE	10-12-1990
DEFENDER		
2	CHOO HYOOJOO	29-07-2000
4	SHIM SEO-YEON	15-04-1989
5	HONG HYEJI	25-08-1996
6	LIM SEONJOO	27-11-1990
16	JANG SELGI	31-05-1994
17	LEE YOUNGJU	22-04-1992
20	KIM HYERI	25-06-1990
MIDFIELDER		
7	LEE MIN A	08-11-1991
8	CHO SO HYUN	24-06-1988
9	YEO MINJI	27-04-1993
10	JI SOYUN	21-02-1991
12	KWON HAH NUL	07-03-1988
13	LEE GEUMMIN	07-04-1994
14	CHO MIJIN	04-04-2001
15	PARK YEEUN	17-10-1996
21	KIM SEONGMI	02-04-1997
22	LEE JEONGMIN	11-11-2000
FORWARD		
3	SEO JIYOUN	20-05-1995
11	CHOE YURI	16-09-1994
23	SON HWAYEON	15-03-1997



FORMATION: 1-4-2-3-1



COACH

COLIN BELL (ENG)

The Englishman has an extensive coaching experience after retiring from playing professionally. Bell has been involved in various coaching roles in Europe including steering FFC Frankfurt to the 2015 UEFA Women's Champions League before his appointment as head coach for Korea Republic in 2019 where he successfully steered them to their first-ever AFC Women's Asian Cup™ Final appearance in India.



KEY FEATURES

- Tactically versatile with three or four at the back; 1-4-2-3-1 the default setting
- Emphasis on neat combination moves with switches of play and tempo
- Keeper and centre-backs active in launching attacks via the striker or wide areas
- Ji Soyun a box-to-box playmaker; good skills, vision, work-rate and ability to change the tempo
- Disciplined, compact zonal marking with the keeper sweeping behind the high line
- Aggressive collective high pressing when the opponents play out from the keeper or defence
- Athletic team with physical and mental strength, vigour and emotional stability

STATISTICS

6	11	4	70	36	3	10	32	64	47	5	0
MATCHES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST	SHOTS	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	PENALTIES	OFFSIDES	CORNERS	FOULS COMMITTED	FOULS AGAINST	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS

TOP SCORER

JI SOYUN
NUMBER OF GOALS

5



MYANMAR

SQUAD	DATE OF BIRTH
GOALKEEPER	
1 MAY ZIN NWE	07-03-1995
18 ZU LATT NADI	22-12-2000
23 KHINE ZAR WIN	26-06-1999
DEFENDER	
2 AYE AYE MOE	04-02-1995
3 CHIT CHIT	18-10-1996
4 KHIN MYO WIN	10-02-1999
5 PHYU PHYU WIN	01-12-2004
12 NANT ZU ZU HTET	26-09-2000
15 ZUNE YU YA OO	12-02-2001
21 KHIN THAN WAI	02-11-1995
22 EI EI KYAW	01-04-2002
MIDFIELDER	
6 THIN THIN YU	27-09-1999
8 SAN THAW THAW	09-01-2001
9 KHIN MO MO TUN	03-06-1999
10 KHIN MARLAR TUN	21-05-1988
13 HNIN PWINT AYE	26-01-2004
14 WIN WIN	12-02-2003
16 NAW HTET HTET WAI	30-07-2000
17 MYAT NOE KHIN	24-07-2003
20 NU NU	01-04-1999
FORWARD	
7 WIN THEINGI TUN	01-02-1995
11 KHIN MOE WAI	16-12-1989
19 JULY KYAW	21-07-1999



FORMATION: 1-4-4-2



COACH

TIN MYINT AUNG (MYA)

Aung served as interim manager for the Myanmar women's national team before his official appointment as head coach in May 2020. As a former player, Aung was a key player for the Finance & Revenue Football team. He moved to Malaysia to continue his playing career before retiring in 2000.





KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 with the two holding midfielders dictating the tempo, passing to the strikers and wingers
- Technically good possession game; skill in tight areas; playing through thirds
- Full-backs ready to support attacks but rarely appearing in the final third
- Fast transitions to narrow defensive block, forcing the opponents to play wide
- Quick counters with direct supply to the striker dropping wide to find space
- Strong, composed defence led by keeper New May Zin, centre-back Khin Than Wai
- Physically fit, dynamic unit; explosive movement, mental strength and team spirit

STATISTICS

3	2	9	11	8	1	0	7	30	22	1	0
MATCHES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST	SHOTS	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	PENALTIES	OFFSIDES	CORNERS	FOULS COMMITTED	FOULS AGAINST	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS

TOP SCORER

	
WIN THEINGI TUN NUMBER OF GOALS 1	KHIN MARLAR TUN NUMBER OF GOALS 1



PHILIPPINES

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
GOALKEEPER		
1	INNA KRISTIANNE BEZA PALACIOS	08-02-1994
22	KIARA FONTANILLA	07-01-2000
23	OLIVIA ALEXANDRA MCDANIEL	14-10-1997
DEFENDER		
3	DOMINIQUE RANDLE	10-12-1994
4	TARA SHELTON	26-06-2001
5	HALI LONG	21-01-1995
10	KRISTEN RYLEY BUGAY	23-01-1996
13	MORGAN EMMALISE BROWN	20-10-1995
14	ISABELLA FLANIGAN	22-02-2005
16	SOFIA NICOLE HARRISON	16-02-1999
21	KATRINA GUILLOU	19-12-1993
MIDFIELDER		
2	MALEA LOUISE CESAR	09-12-2003
6	TAHNAI ANNIS	20-06-1989
7	KATHLEEN CAMILLE MULDONG RODRIGUEZ	27-12-1994
9	JESSICA ANNE MICLAT	08-10-1998
11	ANICKA CASTANEDA	15-12-1999
12	SARA ISOBEL CASTANEDA	05-12-1996
17	KEANNE MAICAH ALAMO	17-12-2003
20	QUINLEY QUEZADA	07-04-1997
FORWARD		
8	CHANDLER BLUE MCDANIEL	04-02-1998
15	CARLEIGH FRILLES	11-04-2002
18	SARINA BOLDEN	30-06-1996
19	EVA MADARANG	13-09-1997



FORMATION: 1-4-4-2
(half moon)



COACH

ALLEN STAJCIC (AUS)

Stajcic successfully guided the Philippines to their first FIFA Women's World Cup following an impressive campaign at the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ where they progressed to the Semi-final stage. The Australian has several stints as head coach, including the Australian women's national team that qualified to the Quarter-finals of the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2015 and the Olympic Games in the following year.



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 with direct attacking, exploiting the pace and physicality at the front line
- High-tempo game with quick switches to the wings; rapid crossing and long-range shooting
- At times, the ball is played back for the keeper to play long for the strikers / second ball
- Defensive transitions with pressure on the ball and fast retreat into compact mid-block
- Well-drilled set plays (including long throws); ready to hold a high line in defence
- Technical skills in tight areas; strong and assertive in 1v1 defending
- Mobile, agile, well-structured team with commitment and good game awareness

STATISTICS

5	8	7	71	31	2	16	15	37	43	1	0
MATCHES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST	SHOTS	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	PENALTIES	OFFSIDES	CORNERS	FOULS COMMITTED	FOULS AGAINST	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS

TOP SCORER

TAHNAI ANNIS
NUMBER OF GOALS

2



VIETNAM

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
GOALKEEPER		
1	SUCHAWADEE NILDHAMRONG	27-04-1993
14	TRAN THI KIM THANH	18-09-1993
20	KHONG THI HANG	10-10-1993
DEFENDER		
2	LUONG THI THU THUONG	01-05-2000
3	CHUONG THI KIEU	19-08-1995
4	TRAN THI THU	15-07-1991
5	TRAN THI DUYEN	28-12-2000
13	LE THI DIEM MY	23-08-1996
15	PHAM THI TUOI	26-06-1993
17	TRAN THI PHUONG THAO	15-01-1993
22	NGUYEN THI MY ANH	27-11-1994
MIDFIELDER		
6	PHAM HOANG QUYNH	20-09-1992
7	NGUYEN THI TUYET DUNG	13-12-1993
8	TRAN THI THUY TRANG	08-08-1988
11	THAI THI THAO	12-02-1995
16	DUONG THI VAN	20-09-1994
18	NGUYEN THI VAN	10-01-1997
19	NGUYEN THI THANH NHA	25-09-2001
21	NGAN THI VAN SU	29-04-2001
23	NGUYEN THI BICH THUY	01-05-1994
FORWARD		
9	HUYNH NHU	28-11-1991
10	NGUYEN THI TUYET NGAN	10-02-2000
12	PHAM HAI YEN	09-11-1994



FORMATION: 1-5-4-1



COACH

MAI DUC CHUNG (VIE)

Mai, a former player, has a successful coaching career. Under his guidance, the women's national team has won four gold medals in four editions of the Southeast Asian Games while the highlight of his career came at the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ when his Vietnam side qualified for their first FIFA Women's World Cup.





KEY FEATURES

- 1-5-4-1 with midfield diamond and a genuine sweeper behind the back line
- Effective mix of short, medium and long passing with high levels of technique
- Emphasis on wing play with the hardworking full-backs overlapping and supplying crosses
- Huynh Nhu, a hardworking attacker ready to push forward as a second striker
- Counters pre-empted by pressing the ball in numbers while defensive block regroups
- Aggressive tackling, aerial power, interceptions and covering between the lines
- Organised, balanced unit with composure, tactical awareness and a positive attitude

STATISTICS

6	7	12	43	22	2	7	18	39	60	6	0
MATCHES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST	SHOTS	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	PENALTIES	OFFSIDES	CORNERS	FOULS COMMITTED	FOULS AGAINST	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS

TOP SCORER

	
HUYNH NHU NUMBER OF GOALS 2	NGUYEN THI TUYET DUNG NUMBER OF GOALS 2



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS TOURNAMENT RESULTS TOURNAMENT

GROUP A

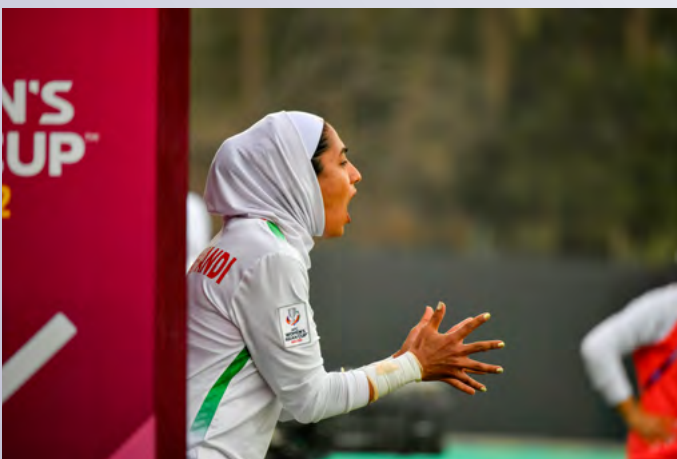
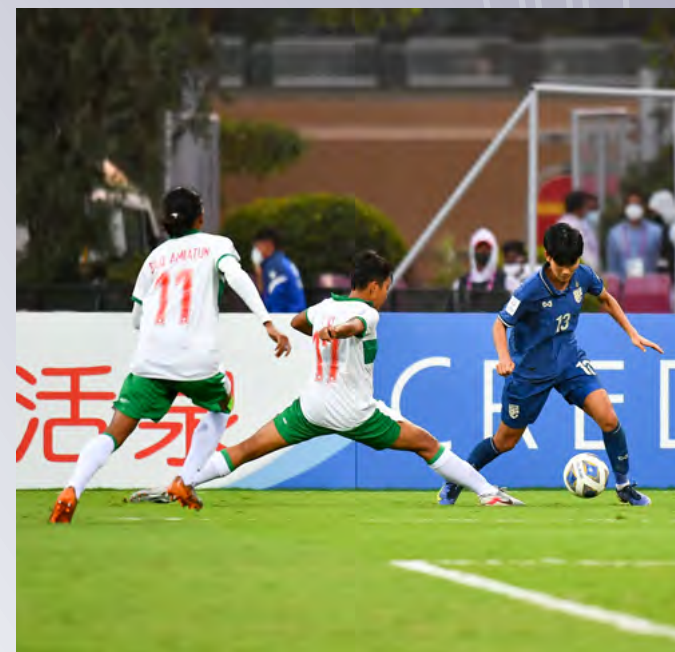
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
CHINA P.R.	2	2	0	0	11	0	11	6
CHINESE TAIPEI	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3
IR IRAN	2	0	0	2	0	12	-12	0

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AUSTRALIA	3	3	0	0	24	1	23	9
PHILIPPINES	3	2	0	1	7	4	3	6
THAILAND	3	1	0	2	5	3	2	3
INDONESIA	3	0	0	3	0	28	-28	0

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
20 Jan,22	CHINA P.R.	4-0 (2-0)	CHINESE TAIPEI
20 Jan,22	INDIA	Void	IR IRAN
23 Jan,22	IR IRAN	0-7 (0-2)	CHINA P.R.
23 Jan,22	CHINESE TAIPEI	Void	INDIA
26 Jan,22	INDIA	Void	CHINA P.R.
26 Jan,22	CHINESE TAIPEI	5-0 (3-0)	IR IRAN

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
21 Jan,22	AUSTRALIA	18-0 (9-0)	INDONESIA
21 Jan,22	THAILAND	0-1 (0-0)	PHILIPPINES
24 Jan,22	PHILIPPINES	0-4 (0-0)	AUSTRALIA
24 Jan,22	INDONESIA	0-4 (0-2)	THAILAND
27 Jan,22	AUSTRALIA	2-1 (1-0)	THAILAND
27 Jan,22	PHILIPPINES	6-0 (2-0)	INDONESIA



TOURNAMENT RESULTS TOURNAMENT RESULTS TOURNAMENT

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
JAPAN	3	2	1	0	9	1	8	7
KOREA REPUBLIC	3	2	1	0	6	1	5	7
VIETNAM	3	0	1	2	2	8	-6	1
MYANMAR	3	0	1	2	2	9	-7	1

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
21 Jan,22	JAPAN	5-0 (1-0)	MYANMAR
21 Jan,22	KOREA REPUBLIC	3-0 (2-0)	VIETNAM
24 Jan,22	MYANMAR	0-2 (0-0)	KOREA REPUBLIC
24 Jan,22	VIETNAM	0-3 (0-1)	JAPAN
27 Jan,22	JAPAN	1-1 (1-0)	KOREA REPUBLIC
27 Jan,22	VIETNAM	2-2 (1-1)	MYANMAR

QUARTER-FINALS

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
30 Jan,22	AUSTRALIA	0-1 (0-0)	KOREA REPUBLIC
30 Jan,22	JAPAN	7-0 (2-0)	THAILAND
30 Jan,22	CHINA P.R.	3-1 (1-1)	VIETNAM
30 Jan,22	CHINESE TAIPEI	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,0-0) 3-4 PSO	PHILIPPINES

PLAYOFF 1

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
02 Feb,22	THAILAND	0-2 (0-2)	VIETNAM

PLAYOFF 2

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
04 Feb,22	CHINESE TAIPEI	3-0 (1-0)	THAILAND

PLAYOFF 3

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
06 Feb,22	VIETNAM	2-1 (1-0)	CHINESE TAIPEI

SEMI-FINALS

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
03 Feb,22	KOREA REPUBLIC	2-0 (2-0)	PHILIPPINES
03 Feb,22	CHINA P.R.	2-2 a.e.t. (1-1,0-1) 4-3 PSO	JAPAN

FINAL

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
06 Feb,22	CHINA P.R.	3-2 (0-2)	KOREA REPUBLIC





REFEREES

1. SUMMARY

A total of 42 Match Officials from the AFC Elite Panel were appointed for the AFC Women's Asian Cup™, including three Stand-by Referees and Assistant Referees.

The pool included seven Video Match Officials (VMOs) who joined the competition for the introduction of the VAR system from the Quarter-final Stage onwards.

Additionally, seven Referee Technical Instructors and Assessors were appointed alongside two Fitness Instructors to provide the Match Officials with the best training and preparation.



1.1 AFC Match Officials

Referees	
Casey Lisa Reibel	AUS
Lara Christie Lee	AUS
Qin Liang	CHN
Ranjita Devi Tekcham	IND
Mahsa Ghorbani	IRN
Mahnaz Zokaee	IRN
Yosimi Yamashita	JPN
Asaka Koizumi	JPN
Veronika Bernatskaia	KGZ
Oh Hyeon Jeong	KOR
Kim Yu Jeong	KOR
Thein Thein Aye	MYA
Abirami D/O Apbai Naidu	SGP
Pansa Chaisanit	THA
Edita Mirabidova	UZB
Cong Thi Dung	VIE
Assistant Referees	
Joanna Kate Charaktis	AUS
Fang Yan	CHN
Xie Lijun	CHN
Uvena Fernandes	IND

Assistant Referees	
Ensieh Khabaz Mafi Nezhad	IRN
Makoto Bozono	JPN
Naomi Teshirogi	JPN
Ramina Tsoi	KGZ
Kim Kyoung Min	KOR
Lee Seul Gi	KOR
Park Mi Suk	KOR
Merlo Silva Albano	PHI
Heba Saadieh	PLE
Supawan Hinthong	THA
Kristina Sereda	UZB
Truong Thi Le Trinh	VIE
Stand-by Referee	
Wang Chieh	TPE
Stand-by Assistant Referees	
Nuannid Dornjangreed	THA
Zilola Rahmatova	UZB

Video Match Officials

VMOs	
Katherine Margaret Jacewicz	AUS
Ali Sabah Adday Al-Qaysi	IRQ
Kim Heegon	KOR
Abdulla Ali A A Al-Marri	QAT
Hanna Hattab	SYR
Sivakorn Pu-Udom	THA
Omar Mohamed Ahmed Hassan Alali	UAE

Referee Instructors

Referee Technical Instructors and Assessors	
Ali Ahmed Al Traifi	KSA
Subkhiddin Bin Mohd Salleh	MAS
Sachiko Yamagishi	JPN
Heba Mohammad Hassan Abed	JOR
Masoumeh Shakouri	IRN
Maria Piedade Rebello	IND
Widiya Habibah Binti Shamsuri	MAS
Referee Fitness Instructors	
Zhang Lingling	CHN
Yuliya Tarasova	UZB

1.2 Support Team

- Local organisers' team: a team from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) supported the coordination of all logistical requirements.
- Masseurs: massage therapists were on hand to provide massages to assist the Match Officials with their recovery and injury prevention.
- Medical Team: medical staff and an ambulance were stationed at the training venue daily to facilitate emergency and first aid treatment when required.

2. PRE-COMPETITION

2.1 Match Officials' Selection Process

The AFC ensured the highest level of officials by selecting the Continent's best Referees and Assistant Referees. Each Match Official was selected based on their:

- Technical knowledge
- Management skills
- Physical fitness
- Experience at top-level competitions (FIFA/AFC)
- Consistent high-level performances
- VAR training and experience

2.2 Match Officials' Preparation Overview



**AFC
WOMEN'S
ASIAN CUP™**

3. PREPARATORY COURSE

The Referees and Assistant Referees participated in a five-day preparatory course between January 15 and 19, 2022, consisting of theoretical, fitness and practical training sessions.

3.1 Fitness Check

All Match Officials were declared physically qualified to cope with the match demands upon the successful completion of:

- Yo-Yo Intermittent Test for Referees (target: 17.8)
- Assistant Referee Intermittent Endurance Test (ARIET) for Assistant Referees (target: 14-5.3)



3.2 Practical Sessions

Preparatory practical sessions were conducted daily at the referees' training pitch. Among other topics, the sessions focused on:

- Positioning and movement
- Concentration
- Teamwork
- Fitness Activities

Practical training sessions were further supported by an instant feedback replay system. This system allowed the Match Officials to review their actions and movement immediately, enabling them to apply the advice of the instructors in subsequent exercises.

3.3 Theoretical Sessions

Theoretical sessions were held to reinforce the technical knowledge of the Match Officials and optimise the level of consistency in their application of the Laws of the Game.

Video clips of different match situations were shown and Referees were encouraged to participate in discussions and analysis of each incident with the technical instructors clarifying any ambiguity to reach a consensus.

Technical subjects were supplemented with presentations on competition administration and fitness matters ensuring that Referees were prepared for every eventuality. Topics covered throughout the competition included:

- Technical**
- Teamwork and Match Management
 - Handball

- Offside
- Positioning and Reading of the Game
- Tactical Fouls
- Penalty Area Incidents
- Challenges
- VAR Line of Intervention
- Delay Flag Technique
- Simulator Training



Fitness

- Fitness Check
- Weight Control
- Match Preparation
- Recovery Exercises

Administration

- Accommodation and Logistics
- Championship Overview
- Match Procedures
- Communication System and Flags

Other

- Integrity
- Technical Study Group

4. DURING COMPETITION

4.1 Team Arrival Meetings

Refereeing matters were brought to the attention of teams by the Referee Assessors who attended the Team Arrival Meetings (TAMs) on behalf of the Referees Delegation.

The objective of the TAMs was to inform teams and team officials on all refereeing matters including players' equipment, technical area and implementation of the VAR system from the Quarter-final Stage onwards.



4.2 Practical Sessions

Throughout the competition, Referees took part in daily sessions at the training field. Each day consisted of fitness and practical training, with the level of intensity varying depending on each Referee's match schedule. This allowed each Referee to undergo customised pre and post-match training to complement their fitness conditioning and maintenance.

A combination of physical sessions at the training field and online Zoom sessions were used to ensure the Referees stayed in top physical condition despite the challenging circumstances due to the COVID-19 medical bubble.

4.3 Match Assessment

A Referee Assessor was appointed to each match to observe the officials' performance live at each venue. The Referee team's decisions and abilities were monitored throughout the match, allowing the assessor to provide first-hand feedback.

Additionally, a Video Referee Assessor was also assigned to analyse each match at the hotel headquarters. Key match incidents and potential teaching materials were identified, allowing clips to be produced post-match for the group and individual debriefing sessions held during the subsequent rest day.

4.4 Debriefing

Debriefing sessions were held on rest days, allowing feedback to be provided to all Match Officials. Any important incidents from the previous round's matches were discussed and analysed and any areas for improvement were highlighted by the Referee Instructors to ensure consistency and uniformity in foul recognition and Laws of the Game interpretation.

Referees who were not able to join the group in the Referees classroom were able to join the session via Zoom, ensuring all Match Officials were provided with the necessary advice and preparation throughout the competition.

Furthermore, individual sessions with the assigned Referee Assessor were conducted prior to and after each match. The Assessor was able to go more in-depth with each Referee team and offer more personal advice and expertise to the officials.



4.5 Technical Study Group Session

Prior to the Quarter-final Stage, a representative from the AFC's Technical Study Group shared technical information and tactical observations of the remaining teams.

Referees were provided with valuable insights into what to expect in the upcoming matches such as teams' tactical approach and individual players' style and behaviour which aided the Match Officials' preparation and enhanced their football understanding.

5. VAR SYSTEM

Following the debut of the VAR Light system at the Women's Club Championship 2021 Pilot Tournament, the full VAR system was implemented for the first time at the AFC Women's Asian Cup™ from the Quarter-final Stage. The system was used in 10 matches, including three play-off matches to decide the AFC's representatives at the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023.

5.1 Match Officials' Preparation

All VMOs appointed to support the implementation of the VAR were trained to the stringent standards and requirements put in place by FIFA. VMOs also had a wealth of experience, ranging from the Tokyo 2021 Olympic Games to the FIFA age-group competitions as well as at the Member Association (MA) level.

Throughout 2021, the AFC's women Match Officials gained extensive VAR training and experience. An initial online VAR course was held in June, introducing the Referees to various theoretical topics such as the line of intervention and VAR protocol and practicalities. A further two on-site training camps - held in UAE in July and October - were organised to provide the Match Officials with the opportunity to apply their knowledge in simulated matches, testing their abilities in making real time decisions.

The aim of the courses was to:

- Expand the pool of licensed VAR Match Officials
- Train Match Officials on the protocol and practicalities of VAR
- Test Match Officials' knowledge and understanding of the VAR system

This was achieved through the use of:

- Practical sessions where Referees and Assistant Referees assessed live match incidents on a mobile VAR station.
- Simulator sessions conducted off the pitch involving analysis of match video clips from worldwide competitions.
- Video tests to prove the Match Officials' understanding of the VAR system and lessons learned from the course.

Appointed VMOs took part in VAR-specific training during the competition prior to the Quarter-finals from January 25 to 29, 2022. The training involved two main areas:

Theoretical sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAR protocol – Principles, practicalities and procedures • Discussion and dialogue between Referees and Instructors
VAR Simulator sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor VAR system involving the staging of real-life match scenarios • Discussion after each simulation by all participants and observers • Rotation of the various roles (Referee, VAR, AVAR) • Instant feedback by the VAR instructors • Overall, these sessions allowed the procedures and principles learned in theoretical sessions to be instantly put into practice

5.2 Technical Setup

A decentralised system was implemented for the duration of the competition meaning that a Video Operation Room (VOR) was located at both venues using the VAR system: Navi Mumbai and Pune. The VOR was positioned next to the broadcast compound at the stadiums allowing for all camera feeds to be connected locally to the VAR system.

Video Operation Room (VOR)

- Located at each stadium
- Reception of all camera feeds from the stadium broadcast
- Branded with official competition graphics
- Personnel setup:
 - VAR, AVAR
 - One Replay Operator (RO)
 - One VAR Information Officer (VIO)

Referee Review Area (RRA)

- Pyramid monitor
- Located next to the fourth official bench
- Displays VAR output screen for Referees to review incidents in case of an On-Field Review (OFR)

Technology Provider

- Mediapro (Video)
- Vokkero by VOGO (Audio)

5.3 Communication Process

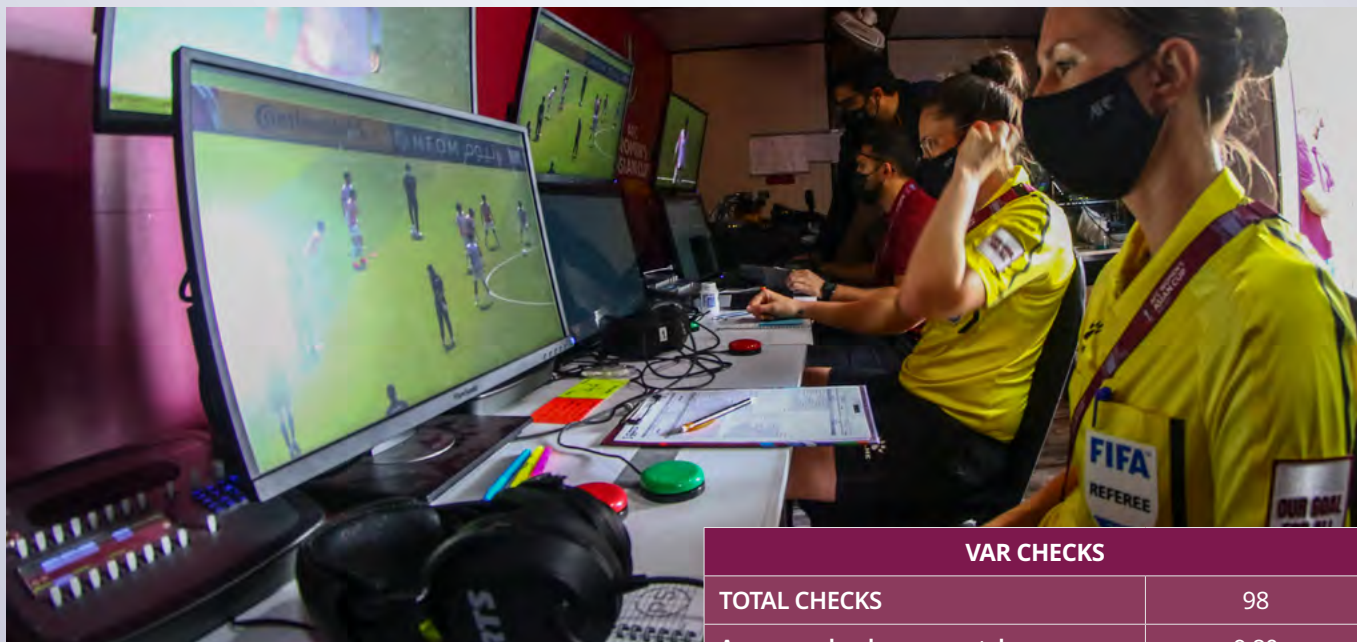
Various communication channels were put in place to facilitate the smooth operation of the VAR system. A VAR Information Officer (VIO) was present at each venue to liaise between stakeholders.

Situated in each VOR, a Video Information System (VIS) was operated by a Mediapro Quality Control Manager (QCM). The system allowed information on the status of any VAR review to be instantly shared with broadcast and infotainment teams. Once a VAR incident occurred, the

QCM confirmed the correct graphics to be shown with the AVAR before entering the review status into the VIS. The relevant graphics were then displayed on the stadium giant screen and on television broadcast.

There was a total of **four reviews** in 10 matches, an average 0.4 reviews per match / **one review every 2.5 matches**:

- Three On-Field Reviews (OFR): 3 decisions changed
- One Only-VAR Reviews (OVAR): 1 decision changed



VAR CHECKS	
TOTAL CHECKS	98
Average checks per match	9.80
Total Penalty Area Incidents Checked	49 (50%)
Total Goals Checked	42 (43%)
Total Potential Red Card Incidents Checked	7 (7%)
Total Mistaken Identity Situations Checked	0 (0%)

5.4 VAR Implementation Statistics

There was a total of **98 checks** in 10 matches, an average **9.8 checks per match**:

- 50% consisted of penalty area incidents
- 43% consisted of goal/offences leading up to a goal
- 7% consisted of challenges/tackles

VAR CHECKS	Total	Decisions Changed	Decisions Confirmed
Total Reviews	4	4	0
Average Reviews per match	0.40	0.40	0
1 Review every # matches	2.50	2.50	0

On-field Reviews	3	3	0
Only VAR Reviews	1	1	-
Penalty Area Incidents Reviewed	2	2	0
Goals Reviewed	1	1	0
Potential RC Incident Reviewed	1	1	0
Mistaken Identity Reviewed	0	0	0

A total of **42 goal incidents** were checked by the VAR including goalkeeper encroachment during penalty kicks:

- Five goals were disallowed by the on-field Referee.
- One goal was awarded by the on-field Referee but disallowed after a VAR review.

A total of **49 penalty area incidents** were checked by the VAR:

- A total of six penalty kicks were awarded.
- Four penalty kicks were awarded by the on-field

Referee and confirmed by VAR.

- Two penalty kicks were awarded after an On-field Review recommended by the VAR.

A total of **seven potential red card incidents** were checked by the VAR:

- One red card was shown after an On-Field Review.

There were **no cases of mistaken identity** related incidents that required VAR intervention.

6. TECHNICAL SUMMARY

6.1 General Performance

The Referee Assessors and Instructors' team, through their match reports and close monitoring, rated the Match Officials' performance as good (between 8.0 and 8.4) or above in 88% of cases. With VAR intervention, this number increased to 93.3%.

The continuous training, match debriefings and other resources provided to the Referees contributed significantly to the high standard of refereeing throughout the tournament.

The main highlight was the successful implementation of the VAR system from the Quarter-final Stage of the competition.

6.2 General Management

A total of 40 disciplinary sanctions were issued at the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ of which 39 were yellow cards. One direct red card was shown. On average, 1.54 yellow cards and 0.04 red cards were shown per match.

VAR interventions by match/referee

Match	Match Officials	Review	Incident
M20 – AUS vs KOR	REF: Qin Liang (CHN) VAR: Sivakorn Pu-Udom (THA)	OFR	Penalty Kick Awarded
M25 – CHN vs KOR	REF: Casey Reibelt (AUS) VAR: Kate Jacewicz (AUS)	OFR	Penalty Kick Awarded
M26 – THA vs VIE	REF: Edita Mirabidova (UZB) VAR: Abdulla Ali A A Al-Marri (QAT)	OVAR	Goal Disallowed
M26 – THA vs VIE	REF: Edita Mirabidova (UZB) VAR: Abdulla Ali A A Al-Marri (QAT)	OFR	Red Card Issued



AWARDS

AWARDS

AWARDS

AWARDS

AWARDS

AWARDS



MVP: WANG SHANSHAN (CHINA PR)

BEST GOALKEEPER: ZHU YU (CHINA PR)

TOP GOALSCORER: SAMANTHA MAY KERR (AUSTRALIA)

AFC FAIR PLAY AWARD





PLAYERS TO WATCH

GOALKEEPERS



ZHU YU (CHN)



KIM JUNG MI (KOR)



OLIVIA ALEXANDRA MCDANIEL (PHI)



AYAKA YAMASHITA (JPN)

DEFENDERS



ELLIE CARPENTER (AUS)



STEPHANIE CATLEY (AUS)



SAKI KUMAGAI (JPN)



RISA SHIMIZU (JPN)



KIM HYERI (KOR)



LIM SEONJOO (KOR)

MIDFIELDERS



YUI HASEGAWA (JPN)



JI SOYUN (KOR)



CHO SO HYUN (KOR)



MARY FOWLER (AUS)



EMILY VAN-EGMOND (AUS)



ZHANG XIN (CHN)

FORWARDS



RIKO UEKI (JPN)



SAMANTHA KERR (AUS)



WANG SHANSHAN (CHN)



WANG SHUANG (CHN)



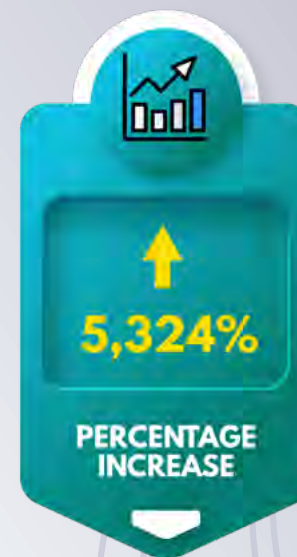
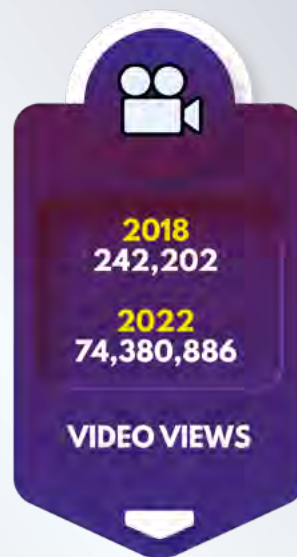
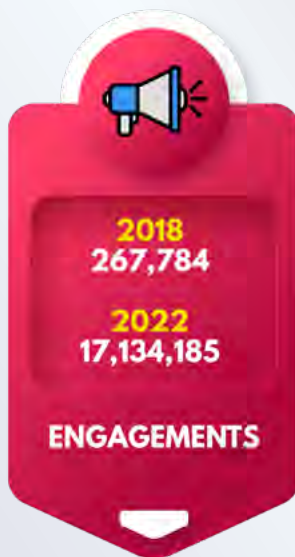
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DOUYIN

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