

news

Qantas Socceroos versus Japan 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian

Football Federation Australia has today announced that following consultation with FIFA, the AFC and the World Sport Group the kick-off time for the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers match between the Qantas Socceroos and Japan in Brisbane on Tuesday 12 June 2012 is now confirmed for 8:00pm. The amendment of the previous kick off time of 7:30pm has been made to accommodate a potential viewing audience of around half a billion people across Asia. "This World Cup qualifier between the two top nations in Asia is already attracting huge interest around the region with two months

to go to the game," said FFA CEO Ben Buckley. "The vagaries of time zones mean that an 8pm (AEST) kick off time better accommodates the massive TV audience in Japan in particular and makes the telecast more accessible to fans across

Asia. "Australia is part of a worldwide football family and it's great to know that so many eyes will be on the Qantas Socceroos and Brisbane on 12 June." The match between the 1st and 2nd ranked teams in Asia will

be the highlight of match day three of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Final Round and will have one of the highest viewing audiences for the round. The last time the two teams met in the final

of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011, the viewing audience was 484 million in 80 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, North America and North Africa. The Qantas Socceroos will be seeking to reverse the result in Doha that saw Japan emerge with a 1-0 victory in extra time. The Qantas Socceroos have been drawn in Group B, along with Japan, Iraq, Jordan and Oman and as the top ranked team in the group, the Qantas Socceroos have a bye on the opening match day. The Qantas Socceroos first match of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Final Round will be away to Oman on Friday 8 June 2012 before returning to Australia for their first home match against Japan on Tuesday 12 June 2012. The next two match days for the

Qantas Socceroos will be away to Jordan on Tuesday 11 September 2012 and then Iraq on Tuesday 16 October 2012. The Qantas Socceroos next match day will be at home on Tuesday 26 March 2013 against Oman, with the final three match days in June against Japan (away - Tuesday, 4 June 2013), Jordan (home - Tuesday, 11 June 2013) and Iraq (home Tuesday, 18 June 2013). The top two teams from each group will progress directly to the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. The two third placed teams from each group will meet in a play-off over two match days (6 & 10 September 2013) with the winner over the two legs to face the a CONMEBOL team on 15 October 2013 and 19 November 2013 with the winner of that fixture

over two legs then progressing to the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. The Qantas Socceroos will warm-up for the start of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Fourth Round campaign with an international friendly against Denmark in Copenhagen on Saturday 2 June 2012 before they face Oman in Muscat on Friday 8 June 2012. Tickets for the Qantas Socceroos versus Japan match are on sale now. To purchase tickets, go to "<http://www.footballaustralia.com.au/tickets>" \t "_blank" www.footballaustralia.com.au/tickets
Match Details
Qantas Socceroos vs Japan
Tuesday 12 June, 2012
Brisbane Stadium, Brisbane
Kick-Off: 8.00pm AEST
Gates Open 6.00pm



FFA appoints Aurelio Vidmar and Paul Okon as National Youth Team Coaches

Football Federation Australia (FFA) announced today the appointment of two former Socceroos as coaches of Australian Men's Youth Teams leading up to major championships in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Aurelio Vidmar has been appointed the Head Coach of the new Qantas Australian U-22 Men's National Team leading up to the inaugural AFC U-22 Championships which has a qualifying tournament to be played in late June 2012 and finals to be held in January 2014. This new event will be held every

two years. The second edition in January 2016 will constitute the qualification tournament for the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil. Vidmar will also continue in his role as the Assistant Coach of the Qantas Socceroos for the upcoming 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers. Paul Okon has been appointed as the Head Coach of the Qantas Young Socceroos (Australian U-20 Men's National Team). This team will compete in the AFC U-19 Championships in the UAE in November of this year, which will also serve as the qualifiers for the 2013 FIFA

U-20 World Cup which will be held in Turkey in June/ July 2013. Okon will also be Aurelio Vidmar's Assistant Coach for the Qantas Australian U-22 Men's National team, the same position he held for the recent Olympic Qualifiers. This appointment will ensure continuity in the elite player development pathway. FFA's National Technical Director, Han Berger, said that these two coaches have been developing throughout the coaching pathway and are coaches of the highest quality. Both are currently completing their Pro Licenses, and have now had considerable

experience in our national teams. "We have been intent on not only developing a growing pool of talented players, but also the pool of talented coaches. It's very satisfying to see Paul and Aurelio taking responsibility for our national teams." "The group of players who will be involved in the Qantas Young Socceroos are players born in 1993 or later. "These players will graduate from the Qantas Young Socceroos of 2012 and 2013, to the Qantas Australian U-22's of 2014 and 2015, and on to the 2016 Olympic Games. So there is a consistent pathway there for them. "We

will be selecting this Qantas Young Socceroos group to play in the AFC U-22 Qualification Tournament which will be held in Indonesia in June / July of this year. "Even though they will be 2 years below the Under 22 age group at that time, we think this group of players will be competitive, and the experience will be invaluable for the AFC U-19 Championships which they will compete in in November. Being a qualification tournament for the 2013 FIFA U-20 World Cup, this is a major priority for us. This sequence of events gives us the opportunity to develop this group of players from June 2012 through until the Olympic Games of 2016 and beyond. They are a talented group and it is an exceptional opportunity to develop this generation," concluded Berger.

Australian Men's National Team's Coaching Structure

TeamHead Coach

Assistant Coach(es)
Qantas Socceroos
Holger Osieck
Aurelio Vidmar and
Robbie Hooker
Qantas Australian U-22's
Aurelio Vidmar
Paul Okon
Qantas Young Socceroos
Paul Okon
(To Be Appointed)
Qantas Joeys
Alistair Edwards
Tony Vidmar