

2018 FIFA WORLD CUP ASIAN QUALIFIERS

■ ASIAN PLAY-OFF V SYRIA (MALACCA, MALAYSIA ■ THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2017 AND SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA ■ TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2017)



Caltex Socceros Head Coach Ange Postecoglou named his preliminary 30-player squad for October's crunch 2018 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers against Syria. The latest Caltex Socceros squad features 22 of the 23 players originally named for the team's most recent 2018 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers against Japan and Thailand.

Also included in the Caltex Socceros' preliminary squad are European-based players Mile Jedinak, Aziz Behich, Mark Birighitti, Craig Goodwin, James Jeggo and Nikita Rukavytsya, as well as defenders Matthew Jurman from Suwon Samsung Bluewings in Korea Republic and Josh Risdon from Western Sydney Wanderers FC. While there is still over a week of club football to be played before Postecoglou finalises his 23-player squad for the Caltex Socceros' critical play-off matches against Syria, Postecoglou is confident that the group ultimately picked will be ready for October's play-off games. "There is a short turnaround from the last matches so we are fully focused on these upcoming fixtures against Syria," said Postecoglou. "The players that we have selected for these crucial matches all have the benefit of several club matches under their belts over the past few weeks, and I am confident whichever 23 players we settle on will be able to do the job next month. "Now that the match venues have been confirmed, we will prepare for our fixtures against Syria just like every other international opposition we faced throughout this campaign," concluded Postecoglou.

Meanwhile, Football Federation Australia CEO David Gallop reissued his call for the Australian sporting public to get behind the Caltex Socceros in October. "Ange (Postecoglou) and his players and staff will put enormous effort and energy into October's play-off matches against Syria in Malaysia and Sydney," said Gallop. "But the support of Australia's football family and all sports fans will help the Caltex Socceros in their bid to qualify for November's inter-continental play-off against CONCACAF's (Central and Northern America) fourth-placed team, so I encourage fans to get their tickets early and rally behind the team in Sydney."

The Caltex Socceros will begin to assemble in Malacca, Malaysia from Sunday 1 October 2017

Name	Club, Country	A-International Caps (Goals)
Mustafa AMINI	Aarhus Gymnastikforening (AGF), DENMARK	2 (0)
Aziz BEHICH	Bursaspor, TURKEY	16 (2)
Mark BIRIGHITTI (GK)	NAC Breda, NETHERLANDS	1 (0)
Tim CAHILL	Melbourne City FC, AUSTRALIA	102 (48)
Milos DEGENEK	Yokohama F. Marinos, JAPAN	12 (0)
Alex GERSBACH	Rosenborg BK, NORWAY	4 (0)
Craig GOODWIN	Sparta Rotterdam, NETHERLANDS	3 (0)
Jackson IRVINE	Hull City AFC, ENGLAND	14 (1)
Mile JEDINAK	Aston Villa FC, ENGLAND	71 (15)
James JEGGO	SK Sturm Graz, AUSTRIA	0 (0)
Tomi JURIC	FC Luzern, SWITZERLAND	28 (8)
Matthew JURMAN	Suwon Samsung Bluewings, KOREA REPUBLIC	0 (0)
Robbie KRUSE	VfL Bochum, GERMANY	57 (4)
Mitchell LANGERAK (GK)	Levante UD, SPAIN	8 (0)
Mathew LECKIE	Hertha BSC, GERMANY	46 (6)
Massimo LUONGO	Queens Park Rangers FC, ENGLAND	30 (5)
Awer MABIL	FC Paços de Ferreira, PORTUGAL	0 (0)
Jamie MACLAREN	SV Darmstadt 98, GERMANY	5 (0)
Ryan MCGOWAN	Al-Sharjah SCC, SAUDI ARABIA	20 (0)
Mark MILLIGAN	Melbourne Victory FC, AUSTRALIA	61 (6)
Aaron MOOY	Huddersfield Town AFC, ENGLAND	27 (5)
Josh RISDON	Western Sydney Wanderers FC, AUSTRALIA	3 (0)
Tom ROGIC	Celtic FC, SCOTLAND	29 (7)
Nikita RUKAVYTSYA	Maccabi Haifa FC, ISRAEL	13 (1)
Mathew RYAN (GK)	Brighton & Hove Albion FC, ENGLAND	37 (0)
Trent SAINSBURY	Jiangsu Suning FC, CHINA	29 (3)
Brad SMITH	AFC Bournemouth, ENGLAND	18 (0)
James TROISI	Melbourne Victory FC, AUSTRALIA	34 (5)
Daniel VUKOVIC (GK)	KRC Genk, BELGIUM	0 (0)
Bailey WRIGHT	Bristol City FC, ENGLAND	19 (1)

2018 FIFA WORLD CUP ASIAN QUALIFIERS – ASIAN PLAY-OFF: MATCH DETAILS

Syria v Caltex Socceros

Thursday 5 October 2017
 Hang Jebat Stadium, Malacca, Malaysia
 Kick-off: TBC

Caltex Socceros v Syria

Tuesday 10 October 2017
 Stadium Australia, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW, Australia
 Kick-off: 8pm (AEST)
 Both matches will be broadcast LIVE on FOX SPORTS and the Nine Network.

Road to Russia – Caltex Socceros Qualifying Path

Australia finished the Final Stage of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) FIFA World Cup Qualifying in third place of Group B behind Japan and Saudi Arabia. As the third-placed team in Group B, Australia will now play a two-legged (home and away play-off series against Group A's third-placed side, Syria, for the opportunity to face the fourth-placed team from CONCACAF (Central and Northern America) in an Intercontinental Play-off (home and away) series for a place in the 2018 FIFA World Cup.