

Wednesday 4 April 2018



A-League clubs: We will not accept FFA's A-League expansion

A-League clubs have hit back at FFA for not consulting them about expansion submissions, saying their plan "lacks all legitimacy and will not be accepted."

The Chairman of the Australian Professional Football Clubs Association (APFCA), Greg Griffin, said that FFA's opening of Expressions of Interest (EOI) for A-League expansion candidates was in "complete conflict" with ongoing governance reform negotiations. FFA announced the formal opening of submissions from potential A-League franchises on Thursday, with a shortlist to be created by the end of August and two new A-League clubs to be announced by October.

FFA said that the player's union, A-League clubs and state federations would have a chance to express their views on how league expansion should operate. The APFCA, however, said that the announcement defied an agreement to wait until FIFA and AFC representatives decided how a "Congress Working Group" would be structured, to resolve the ongoing governance standoff. "(This) process has been undertaken without any formal consultation of both the (clubs) and the PFA," Griffin said.

"Should you proceed to make the announcements that you seemingly intend to make soon, APFCA puts you on notice that it does not accept the legitimacy of the process, whatever that may have been, adopted by FFA Administration and the FFA Board to expand the A-League competition. "Unless and until the corporate governance issues have been resolved any decision made by the FFA Board as to expansion lacks all legitimacy and will not be accepted by APFCA."



sublime piece of skill from former Wanderer Matteo Poljak. Twice though, they were pegged back by Manly United as Brendan Cholakian and Travis Oughtred sent both teams to the break 2-2. After the break Manly United underlined their club spirit to 'never give up' as they struck two decisive blows from Nikola Tanevski and Kye Conna to finally get themselves off both off the bottom of the ladder and the duck egg. Peter Tsekenis lamented some regrettable errors that cruelled the Stallions in the second half as they now have to pick themselves up for a mid-week catch up against APIA Leichhardt Tigers FC.

Sydney United 58 FC 5 - Sydney FC 3 at Sydney United Sports Centre

A Panny Nikas hat trick has handed Jason Culina his first win at Sydney United Sports Centre after defeating a spirited Sydney FC 5-3 in a hugely entertaining round four National Premier Leagues NSW encounter at Edensor Park. The see-sawing contest was highlighted by a breathless ten minute period in the opening half that saw Jeremy Cox give the Sky Blues the lead on two occasions before United 58 fought back to restore parity twice and eventually edged in front before half time courtesy of a Chris Payne effort and a pair of Nikas strikes. Patrick Antelmi gave the home side breathing space early in the second half before Nikas all but sealed back to back victories for United 58 and claimed his treble with an audaciously struck penalty with fifteen minutes remaining. Jerry Skotadis netted a fine stoppage time consolation for the Young Sky Blues, who despite their third match defeat in a row, will be buoyed after contesting toe to toe against a vastly more experienced United 58 unit with five former A-League stalwarts peppered throughout the team.

New A-League teams to launch in October

FFA has formally opened invitations for new clubs to apply for an A-League licence which will be approved in October and join the competition in the 2019/20 season.

Two new clubs are set to join the A-League after the FFA announced Expressions of Interest are now open for submission and can move to the next step towards an A-League franchise. Both potential and already existing football clubs need to prove they're able to compete in the 2019/20 season, when FFA is planning to introduce the new clubs into the A-League. FFA has outlined four key factors which will outline the decision-making process in choosing two new A-League clubs. Financial viability: FFA is seeking a detailed explanation of how bidders will finance their clubs, including evidence of resources and membership numbers. Proposed location: FFA is looking for successful expansion candidates to have a well-established connection to, and understanding of, their local area. Vision and strategy: Unique selling

points, including media and fan engagement. Player pathways and youth development, including grassroots systems will also be important. The fourth factor FFA cited involves the bidders' personal involvement, with key figures and stakeholders - popularly coined 'football-people' highly regarded. CEO David Gallop said he was confident the next two A-League franchises wouldn't follow in the path of North Queensland Fury and Gold Coast United. "We have done a lot of work on the fundamentals behind

successful expansion of the Hyundai A-League and we are confident that we will receive some high quality bids as part of this process," Gallop said. "But it's important to remember that this is an interaction with the market and the market will have its own views. "Australian sport has seen expansion produce both hits and misses over the last few decades as the competition for hearts and minds becomes more and more intense. "In short, we are determined to be one of the hits."

The timeline for bid-submissions is as follows:

Activity	Date
Release of Invitation for EOI	29 March 2018
Closing date for submission of EOI Response	24 May 2018
Confirmation of shortlisted bidders	June 2018
Release of Request for Proposal	11 June 2018
Deadline for submission of proposals	31 August 2018
Announcement	31 October 2018