

**Caltex Socceroos Head Coach Graham Arnold has announced the 23 players that have been selected to represent Australia at the 17th edition of the AFC Asian Cup.**

# CALTEX SOCCEROOS SQUAD FOR AFC ASIAN CUP UAE 2019



**Arnold's squad**, which has an average age of 26, will assemble in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for Australia's pre-tournament training camp from Boxing Day (26 December 2018) onwards, and will open its AFC Asian Cup campaign against Jordan at the Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium in Al Ain on January 6. **Australia's squad** for the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™ features a strong Hyundai A-League flavour, with three current players – Josh Risdon (Western Sydney Wanderers FC), Rhyan Grant (Sydney FC), and Chris Ikonomidis (Perth Glory FC) – receiving call ups for the prestigious competition. Moreover, 19 of the 23 players set to represent the green and gold in the UAE have played in the Hyundai A-League at some point in their professional careers, highlighting the pathway Australia's top-flight paves to the most elite levels of the game.

**Arnold, who** confirmed his squad at a media conference at the iconic North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club, said he feels he has selected a balanced and exciting group of players that possess great character for the tournament ahead. **"Our squad** for the upcoming AFC Asian Cup in the UAE blends youth with experience," Arnold said. "Individually and collectively the players are determined to excel at the tournament and following the three positive camps that we have had since September I know that Australia will enter the Asian Cup with the best camaraderie in the competition." **"It is** exciting that 15 of the 23 players in the squad will be attending their first AFC Asian Cup, and I am expecting that Australian fans will see some great performances from our kids throughout the tournament.

**"In the** short amount of time I have had in charge I feel that we have come a long way, and we will travel to the UAE expecting to win every match and ultimately lift the trophy in early February in Abu Dhabi." **22 of** the 23 players that have been selected for Australia's AFC Asian Cup charge have been part of either camps or matches under Arnold since September, with 23-year-old Perth Glory flyer Chris Ikonomidis the exception. **Arnold explained** that Ikonomidis deserved his place at the tournament following his standout performances in season 14 of the Hyundai A-League. **"Chris [Ikonomidis]** has made a great start to his time at Perth Glory under Tony Popovic and it has been his form in the Hyundai A-League that has sealed his place in the squad," he said. "Chris will add pace and energy to our attack, which is the

consistent feature of the players that we have picked in the Socceroos' attack for this tournament. **"We will** play energetic, high-intensity football in the UAE, and the rapid attackers we have selected including Chris, Mathew [Leckie], Robbie [Kruse], Awer [Mabil], Martin [Boyle], Andrew [Nabbout], and Jamie [Maclaren] will enable us to implement our style," he concluded. **Australia will** play Jordan, Palestine, and Syria in Group B at the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™. **All matches** will be broadcast live in Australia on FOX SPORTS. **Eight venues** in four cities (Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, and Al Ain) will host matches at the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™. The tournament will kick-off in Abu Dhabi on 5 January 2019 and conclude in the same city on 1 February 2019.

## JAMES JEGGO ADDED TO CALTEX SOCCEROOS SQUAD FOR AFC ASIAN CUP UAE 2019™

**Football Federation Australia (FFA)** has confirmed that Austria-based midfielder James Jeggo will replace Aaron Mooy in the Caltex Socceroos squad for the upcoming AFC Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates. **26-year-old Jeggo** has been playing regularly in the Austrian Bundesliga for his club FK Austria Wien this season and will add a defensive option to Graham Arnold's midfield mix for the tournament. **Caltex Socceroos** Head Coach Graham Arnold said: "James has been performing really well in Austria and is a fantastic character, so we are very happy to have him join the squad. Initially James was very unlucky to miss out on the squad, but sometimes these things happen in football and we are glad we can provide him with this opportunity. James has thrived at club level playing in a defensive midfield role and with three attacking central midfielders already in the squad, we felt we needed someone with James' attributes to provide some depth in that area." **Jeggo's addition** to Australia's squad for the tournament follows confirmation that Aaron Mooy will miss the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™ due to injury. **The decision** for Mooy to remain in the United Kingdom comes following consultation with Huddersfield Town's medical staff, an independent specialist,

and FFA's High Performance Coordinator – Senior Physiotherapist, Phil Coles, over the weekend. **Arnold added:** "It is disappointing to lose Aaron for the tournament however it was important that we left no stone unturned in exploring every option to get Aaron on the pitch for Australia in the UAE. We will remain in close contact with Aaron and Huddersfield Town during his rehabilitation and trust that he will make a successful return to action. **"In making** the assessment on the injury we agreed Aaron would need at least another month to return to fitness. In a best-case scenario, this would mean he would not be ready to play until after the quarter-final stage [24-25 January 2019]. With so many games in such a short period we felt it would be best to bring in a player that is fully fit and ready to go from the outset." **Meanwhile, Hertha** BSC midfielder Mathew Leckie will join Socceroos camp in the United Arab Emirates over the coming days. Leckie, who sustained an injury in the German Bundesliga at the weekend, will be assessed in person by Australia's medical team in the UAE. Having reviewed his initial assessment in Germany, there is confidence that Leckie will be able to play for the Socceroos at the tournament.

### Squad | Australia | AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™

Name	Club (Country)	A-International Caps (Goals)
Mustafa AMINI	AGF Aarhus (Denmark)	4 (0)
Aziz BEHICH	PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands)	29 (2)
Martin BOYLE	Hibernian FC (Scotland)	2 (2)
Milos DEGENEK	Red Star Belgrade (Serbia)	19 (0)
Alex GERSBACH	Rosenborg BK (Norway)	5 (0)
Rhyan GRANT	Sydney FC (Australia)	1 (0)
Chris IKONOMIDIS	Perth Glory (Australia)	6 (0)
Jackson IRVINE	Hull City AFC (England)	24 (2)
James JEGGO	FK Austria Wien (Austria)	1 (0)
Matthew JURMAN	Al-Ittihad Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)	5 (0)
Robbie KRUSE	VfL Bochum (Germany)	69 (5)
Mitchell LANGERAK (GK)	Nagoya Grampus (Japan)	8 (0)
Mathew LECKIE	Hertha BSC (Germany)	59 (8)
Massimo LUONGO	Queens Park Rangers (England)	38 (6)
Awer MABIL	FC Midtjylland (Denmark)	3 (1)
Jamie MACLAREN	Hibernian FC (Scotland)	7 (0)
Mark MILLIGAN (C)	Hibernian FC (Scotland)	73 (6)
Andrew NABBOUT	Urawa Red Diamonds (Japan)	7 (1)
Josh RISDON	W. Sydney Wanderers FC (Australia)	13 (0)
Tom ROGIC	Celtic FC (Scotland)	42 (8)
Mathew RYAN (GK)	Brighton & Hove Albion FC (England)	49 (0)
Trent SAINSBURY	PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands)	41 (3)
Daniel VUKOVIC (GK)	KRC Genk (Belgium)	3 (0)

### Match Schedule | Australia | AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™

**Australia v Jordan**  
**Date:** Sunday, 6 January 2019  
**Venue:** Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates  
**Kick-off:** 3.00pm (local); 10.00pm (AEDT)  
**Broadcast:** Live in Australia on FOX SPORTS  
**Tickets:** www.ticketmaster.ae

**Australia v Syria**  
**Date:** Tuesday, 15 January 2019  
**Venue:** Khalifa Bin Zayed Stadium, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates  
**Kick-off:** 5.30pm (local); 12.30am (AEDT - Wednesday, 16 January 2019)  
**Broadcast:** Live in Australia on FOX SPORTS  
**Tickets:** www.ticketmaster.ae

**Palestine v Australia**  
**Date:** Friday, 11 January 2019  
**Venue:** Rashid Stadium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
**Kick-off:** 3.00pm (local); 10.00pm (AEDT)  
**Broadcast:** Live in Australia on FOX SPORTS  
**Tickets:** www.ticketmaster.ae