



By George Stavroulakis



## 'FFA EXECUTIVES IN THE CROSSHAIRS NOW'

David Gallop is one of three executives reported to be in the crosshairs of the Football Federation Australia board as the fallout from the Alen Stajcic debacle gathers momentum

The chief executive has been the face of the sacking of the Matildas coach since the decision was made last month, sparking a PR disaster for the sport.

According to a report in the Sydney Morning Herald, the meeting on Monday night revealed the board's fury over the way the sacking has played out in public, and they also questioned why key executives were blindsided by the "toxic culture" that sparked the dismissal.

The roles of Emma Highwood, the FFA's head of women's football, and Luke Casserley, FFA's head of the national teams, are now also facing questions over their role.

"Every one of our staff will have a performance review because this has trashed our brand," a board source told the SMH.

Much of the five hour board meeting was reportedly spent focused on a strategy to bring the debacle to a swift conclusion...and prevent any repeat.

The board – chaired by newly-elected Chris Nikou – were said to be standing by their decision to sack Stajcic but angry that they had to act so quickly and with very little warning.

They are reported to want to know why the alleged "toxic team culture" that led to Stajcic dismissal was not known about earlier.

The board is now questioning what executives knew, what actions were taken and why the issues discovered by the PFA and One Watch surveys had been allowed to fester.

They also reportedly to want to know the background to the surveys and how they came to be used as evidence against Stajcic.

The report also flags a possible change in CEO following the split of the A-League from the FFA at the end of next month, which would make the current role substantially different from the job currently done by Gallop.

## PERSIJA STAR ARRESTED EN ROUTE TO JETS CLASH

Persija Jakarta star Marko Simic has faced court over allegations he touched a woman indecently on his way to tonight's Asian Champions League clash with Newcastle Jets.

Simic, 31, will be forced to stay in Australia now until his next court appearance on April 9 after he was ordered to surrender his passport to the court.

Simic's club Persija Jakarta play the Jets at McDonald Jones Stadium tonight in a sudden death knockout clash to qualify for the next stage of the Asian Champions League.

But Simic was arrested on Sunday by Australian Federal Police at Sydney Airport when he flew in from Denpasar.

They were probing allegations he indecently touched a woman on the flight and today he faced a Sydney court on charges of common assault and an act of indecency. He could face a jail sentence if convicted.

He was accompanied in court by a representative from the Indonesian Embassy and was granted conditional bail.

He trained with his side in Newcastle yesterday and was the club's top scorer last season, finding the net 18 times in 30 games in his first season at Persija.

Simic has played for six different south-east Asian clubs in the past three years in a career which has seen him turn out for 14 different clubs over 10 years, including spells in Latvia, Poland and Hungary.

## JURIC FROZEN OUT BY SWISS CLUB

Socceroo Tomi Juric is on the hunt for a new club after he was sidelined by his Swiss side FC Luzern and banned from first team training.

The former Western Sydney Wanderers striker has struggled for form for both club and country recently and Luzern's patience has apparently run out now. He's been told to find a new club and made to train by himself, according to the Swiss media, but the club stressed it was not for behaviour issues, but for "sporting and strategic reasons."

"Juric has been struggling since last summer," sporting director Remo Meyer told Luzerner Zeitung. "I felt he was not 100 per cent right."

"Juric should be free to negotiate with other clubs."

Juric, 27, joined Luzern from Eredivisie side Roda JC almost three years ago but his form has been hampered by injuries.

He couldn't find the back of the net for the Socceroos in the World Cup in Russia, and was ignored completely by new Socceroos coach Graham Arnold for the Asian Cup squad.

Meyer admitted the move to make him train by himself and cut him from the squad for the next two Luzern games was specifically to "put pressure on the player."

The local press are suggesting he may move to Croatia, Poland, Russia or the Czech Republic, or to the Chinese Superleague before that transfer window shuts on February 28.



## A LEAGUE Results 18 ROUND

Melbourne Victory-Perth Glory 1-2  
Melbourne City-Adelaide United 1-1  
WS Wanderers-Central Coast Mariners 2-0  
Brisbane Roar-Sydney FC 2-1  
Newcastle Jets-Wellington Phoenix 1-1



### A - LEAGUE Table 18 Round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Perth Glory	18	43	13	4	1	38	17	21
2	Melbourne Victory	18	36	11	3	4	40	23	17
3	Sydney FC	18	35	11	2	5	32	21	11
4	Adelaide United	18	30	8	6	4	26	21	5
5	Melbourne City	18	28	8	4	6	22	19	3
6	Wellington Phoenix	18	27	7	6	5	25	25	0
7	Newcastle Jets	18	19	5	4	9	21	24	-3
8	WS Wanderers	18	13	3	4	11	26	40	-14
9	Brisbane Roar	18	12	2	6	10	23	39	-16
10	Central Coast Mariners	18	6	1	3	14	18	42	-24

### A - LEAGUE 19 ROUND

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	Kick-Off (AEDT)
Friday, 15 February 2019	Newcastle Jets	Melbourne City FC	McDonald Jones Stadium	7:50PM
Saturday, 16 February 2019	Wellington Phoenix	Melbourne Victory	TBC	5:35PM
Saturday, 16 February 2019	Adelaide United	Western Sydney Wanderers FC	Coopers Stadium	7:50PM
Saturday, 16 February 2019	Perth Glory	Brisbane Roar FC	nib Stadium	10:00PM
Sunday, 17 February 2019	Sydney FC	Central Coast Mariners	Leichhardt Oval	5:00PM