



By George Stavroulakis



FIFA MAKE CHANGES TO VOTING FOR 2023

After months of waiting, FIFA has finally lifted the lid on how the bidding process will go for the 2023 Women's World Cup.

Unlike the open vote held for the 2026 men's tournament, FIFA is set to revert back to the way France won hosting rights for 2019 with a secret ballot.

But it won't happen until March 2020.

The FIFA Council, who will be voting, is male dominated with only six of its 37 members being women and none are Australian.

The decision also means that the 2019 World Cup will conclude without knowing for the next host will be.

"FIFA believes that women's football still has even more potential for growth and we look forward to receiving hosting submissions for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, to see how potential host countries will aim to promote the ultimate competition in women's football, and create a sustainable legacy that will inspire upcoming generations of young girls and women to get involved in the game," said FIFA Chief Women's Football Officer Sarai Bareman.

Expressions of interest from potential hosts can be made until March 15 this year but its likely Colombia, South Africa, New Zealand and Japan will also put their hands up from previous reports.

Football Federation Australia declared its intentions in June 2017 to host the 2023 event and launched their Bid website, AusBid2023.com, late last year.

Today, FFA reaffirmed their intentions to host the event.

"Hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup™ would provide even more opportunities for women and children to play the world game. This bid is a strategic play towards increasing female participation at all levels, and supports our ambition to make football the number one sport in the nation," FFA CEO David Gallop said.

The federal government has pledged \$5 million to assist Australia's bid.

The key dates of the bidding process are:

15 March 2019: Deadline to submit the completed expression of interest form

18 March 2019: FIFA to dispatch the bidding registration and overview document

16 April 2019: Deadline to submit the completed bidding registration to FIFA

18 April 2019: FIFA to dispatch hosting documents to the member associations that have returned the bidding registration by the above deadline

4 October 2019: Submission of the bid book, the signed hosting agreement and all other hosting documents to FIFA

March 2020: Expected appointment date of the host(s) by the FIFA Council

KRISHNA 'ISN'T WORRIED' BUT PHOENIX FACE OFF-FIELD BATTLE

With 12 goals and a PFA Player of the Month award under his belt, Wellington Phoenix's Fijian superstar, like his coach, is keeping his options open.

Roy Krishna has excelled under Wellington boss season, playing a starring role in the Nix's vastly improved performances.

Fresh off an impressive draw with Melbourne Victory which Krishna netted - made all the more notable 20,000 people in attendance at Auckland's North Harbour Stadium - Krishna is hoping his greatest league campaign is far from over yet.

"I'm very grateful to the people who voted for me (the PFA Award), but my main focus is for the team to want that to continue into the weekend," Krishna said.

"Every striker wants to score every week and it was

frustrating not to get goals, I ended up converting one but I should have scored two.

"I'm enjoying every week, Mark (Rudan) has given me the freedom to do what I've wanted to do, the other boys have been helping me out and with age, you get better as well.

"The result was disappointing but at the end of the day it was fair enough, they're a good side. Just disappointed not to get three points at home, the fans came out in good numbers."

But while lapses in form for Adelaide United and Melbourne City beckon promisingly for the New Zealand club's finals aspirations, Wellington's off-field issues may prove more troublesome than their remaining fixtures.

Rudan has been consistently linked with the vacant managerial role at 2019/20 A-League entrants Western United, while Krishna is also off-contract at the end of this season.

Should Wellington lose both, it could derail the upsurge in form and interest that has momentarily stabilised the club and kept franchise-doubters at bay.



A LEAGUE Results 19 ROUND

Sydney FC-Central Coast Mariners 1-1
Perth Glory-Brisbane Roar 4-0
Adelaide United-WS Wanderers 1-3
Newcastle Jets-Melbourne City 3-1
Wellington Phoenix-Melbourne Victory 1-1



A - LEAGUE Table 19 Round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Perth Glory	19	46	14	4	1	42	17	25
2	Melbourne Victory	19	37	11	4	4	41	24	17
3	Sydney FC	19	36	11	3	5	33	22	11
4	Adelaide United	19	30	8	6	5	27	24	3
5	Melbourne City	19	28	8	4	7	23	22	1
6	Wellington Phoenix	19	28	7	7	5	26	26	0
7	Newcastle Jets	19	22	6	4	9	24	25	-1
8	WS Wanderers	19	16	4	4	11	29	41	-12
9	Brisbane Roar	19	12	2	6	11	23	43	-20
10	Central Coast Mariners	19	7	1	4	14	19	43	-24

A - LEAGUE 20 ROUND

DATE	HOME	AWAY	VENUE	Kick-Off (AEDT)
Friday, 22 February 2019	Central Coast Mariners	Brisbane Roar FC	Central Coast Stadium	7:50PM
Saturday, 23 February 2019	Wellington Phoenix	Sydney FC	TBC	5:35PM
Saturday, 23 February 2019	Melbourne Victory	Melbourne City FC	Marvel Stadium	7:50PM
Sunday, 24 February 2019	Newcastle Jets	Adelaide United	McDonald Jones Stadium	5:00PM
Sunday, 24 February 2019	Western Sydney Wanderers FC	Perth Glory	Spotless Stadium	7:00PM