



By George Stavroulakis

# Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series Fixtures Confirmed

**The Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series will kick-off with Melbourne Victory hosting the Wellington Phoenix at AAMI Park on Friday 3 May in the the Hyundai A-League 2019 Elimination Final, whilst Adelaide United will take on Melbourne City FC on Sunday 5 May at Coopers Stadium in the Hyundai A-League 2019 Elimination Final 2.**



**Week two** of the Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series will see Perth Glory host the Hyundai A-League 2019 Semi Final 1 against the lowest ranked winner from the Elimination Finals on Friday 10 May at HBF Park and Sydney FC will face the highest ranked winners from the Elimination Finals in the Hyundai A-League 2019 Semi Final 2 which will be played on Sunday 12 May at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium.

**Club members** will have priority purchasing periods for each match before tickets go on-sale to the General Public (see below for details).

**All Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series matches** will be broadcast live on FOX SPORTS, 10 Bold, Sky Sport NZ and MyFootball Live App, Live Fast and Data Free for Telstra mobile customers.

## Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series (Week One) – Elimination Finals

### Hyundai A-League 2019 Elimination Final 1

**Date:** Friday, 3 May 2019  
**Fixture:** Melbourne Victory (3) v Wellington Phoenix (6)  
**Venue:** AAMI Park, Melbourne  
**Kick-off Time:** 7.50pm (AEST)

### Hyundai A-League 2019 Elimination Final 2

**Date:** Sunday, 5 May 2019  
**Fixture:** Adelaide United (4) v Melbourne City FC (5)  
**Venue:** Coopers Stadium, Adelaide  
**Kick-off Time:** 6.30pm (ACST) (7.00pm AEST)

## Hyundai A-League 2019 Finals Series (Week Two)

### Hyundai A-League 2019 Semi-Final 1

**Date:** Friday, 10 May 2019  
**Fixture:** Perth Glory (1) v Lowest Ranked Elimination Final Winner  
**Venue:** HBF Park, Perth  
**Kick-off Time:** 6.30pm (AWST) (8:30pm AEST)

### Hyundai A-League 2019 Semi-Final 2

**Date:** Sunday 12 May 2019  
**Fixture:** Sydney FC (2) v Highest Ranked Elimination Final Winner  
**Venue:** Netstrata Jubilee Stadium, Kogarah  
**Kick-off Time:** 7:00pm (AEST)

*Victory: We've done it before, we can do it again...*

**Melbourne Victory's** on-field leaders are in no doubt that lightning can strike twice, and the A-League powerhouse can take the Championship from outside the top two once more.

**Last season,** Victory became the first side to win an A-League title from fourth place, overcoming Premiers Sydney FC and grand final hosts Newcastle Jets in successive away finals.

**Captain Carl Valeri** believes Victory, this season's third-placed finishers, are even better placed to do it this year.

**"This season** has been a much better season. Much more positive," Valeri said. "We've played good football. Better football. Points-wise, we've finished better off. We've had more wins.

**"There are** so many more positives and this team on paper is fantastic.

**"But the** finals is a clean slate and you go again. We have three games to do it and that begins Friday."

**From the** statistics, Valeri is certainly right.

**As well** as finishing one place higher on the ladder, Victory have won three more matches, scored seven more goals and conceded five fewer.

**In terms** of personnel, it also appears Victory have improved.

**Last season,** Kevin Muscat's side were rocked by the mid-season departures of Mark Milligan and Jason Geria, and saw Rhys Williams injured just minutes before their semi-final.

**This season,** Victory haven't struggled from player losses, only shuffling out Nick Ansell for James Donachie in a like-for-like defender swap.

**The sole** injury concern leading into this year's finals series is James Troisi, who is set to miss their elimination final with a hamstring issue.

**And then** there's the tremendous class of Keisuke Honda and Ola Toivonen, a step up even on last year's admittedly strong foreign pair of Leroy George and Besart Berisha.

**But Victory** know the on-paper comparisons will mean nothing without bringing their best on game days.

**First up** are Wellington Phoenix, Mark Rudan's hot-and-cold outfit that Victory have failed to beat in three matches.

**All three** clashes have produced draws, but that hasn't dented Leigh Broxham's confidence that Victory can salute again this month.

**"Twelve months** ago we went and done it. We've got enough people that know what finals are about," he said.

**"We've got** the quality in the team. It's just getting the best out of everyone and I'm feeling good about that."



## A LEAGUE Results 27 ROUND

Perth Glory - Wellington Phoenix 5-0  
 WS Wanderers - Melbourne Victory 0-1  
 Newcastle Jets - Sydney FC 2-0  
 Melbourne City - Central Coast Mariners 5-0  
 Brisbane Roar - Adelaide United 3-5



## A - LEAGUE Table 27 Round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	Perth Glory	27	60	18	6	3	56	23	33
2	Sydney FC	27	52	16	4	7	43	29	14
3	Melbourne Victory	27	50	15	5	7	50	32	18
4	Adelaide United	27	44	12	8	7	37	32	5
5	Melbourne City	27	40	11	7	9	39	32	7
6	Wellington Phoenix	27	40	11	7	9	46	43	3
7	Newcastle Jets	27	35	10	5	12	40	36	4
8	WS Wanderers	27	24	6	6	15	42	54	-12
9	Brisbane Roar	27	18	4	6	17	38	71	-33
10	Central Coast Mariners	27	13	3	4	20	31	70	-39