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2019 ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS FOOTY RECORD AND POSTER DESIGNED BY

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Thanks for support in producing this record! It was designed by X Digital's Giang Tong Phong as always at the very last minute via great effort. We'll miss some people but thanks to Matty Gale (the big fella's tireless work for the good of us all is immeasurable both this weekend and throughout the year), Darren Whitfield, Dom Dunn, the Big Rooster, Shaun Di Gregorio, Hinchy, Edgey, Prossy, Robbo, Evan Spargo, Justin Barbaro, Jarrod Roberts and the Thai Tigers Organizing Committee. We've left out plenty so thank you all!





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AFL ASIA PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



AFL ASIA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of our AFL Asia, we'd like to officially welcome you to the AFL Asia 2019 Asian Championships at the impressive Thai Polo & Equestrian Club, in Pattaya Thailand, which was the venue for the 2012 & 2013 'Asian Champs' also hosted by the Thailand Tigers.

Firstly, I'd like to give a warm welcome to our newly appointed Asia Development Manager, Simon Highfield. Simon's wealth of experience, passion, knowledge and understanding of growing and developing football within the AFL South Pacific will hold him in great stead with the role moving forward and we certainly wish him all the very best in the future.

This year's 'Asian Champs' will see a record 24 teams from 14 different countries participate at the 20th Asian Champs, which includes 6 x Division 1 teams, 6 x Division 2 teams, a record 6 x Women's teams and for the first time a newly introduced Division 3, which will also include 6 teams.

The ever-growing Asian Champs will also see a new format introduced, whereby the Division 2 & 3 teams will play in the morning and the Division 1 and Women's Division teams will play in the afternoon. This has been overwhelmingly well-received by the participating clubs and also allows three games from each division to be played at the same time across three equally sized ovals.

The Division 1 is going to a magnificent spectacle with last year's Division 2 Champions, PNG elevating themselves into the top flight of Asian football and they will mix it with the five previous Division 1 Asian Champions in Indonesia (2018), Malaysia (2017), Philippines (2016), Hong Kong (2015) and Singapore (2014). It promises to be a tightly fought division, with 5 preliminary games to be played by each team before the eventual Grand Finalists earn the right to play off to become the Champions of Asia. Each team will be required to have a strong squad mentality if they're to run the Division 1 gauntlet this year!

The Singapore Wombettes and the Thailand Tigers are the newcomers to the 2nd edition of the AFLW Asian Championships, with the inaugural Women's Division won by the Vietnam Lady Swans in an exhilarating Grand Final encounter against the Hong Kong Dragons. The Malaysian Warrior Women's and the Cambodian Apsaras will be out to make amends and build on their successes from last year. Women's football continues to grow at a rapid rate and we can expect this year's AFLW Asian Champs to be an absolute cracker and highly anticipated once again.

Division 2 probably ranks as the most open division, with a blanket of sides capable of taking out this division on any given day. Leading the charge are the hosts – The Thailand Tigers, who have been a consistent team all year. The Vietnam Swans are a strong and passionate club and will certainly be around the mark, whilst the China Reds, Indonesian Volcances B and Cambodian Eagles will all be looking to jump out of the blocks and be the last team standing. The Japan Warriors will be making their Asian Champs debut and their team consists of local Japanese university-based footballers. They may well be the surprise packet and will only gain respect from how they approach their football.

First the first time in 20 years we have introduced a Division 3, which will cater for those teams that are in the twilight of the careers, teams that may have struggled for players in recent years or teams on the cusp of playing in Division 2. Hong Kong B and Singapore B are expected to feature strongly, while Macau and Laos will enjoy the drop back in pace. Myanmar will field a number of locals and we hope that by playing in Division 3 it will be a platform that can rejuvenate their club. The Japan Goannas, who have previously played at the 2013 and 2016 Asian Champs are back from another 3 year hiatus, which is pleasing to see.

It is an enormous responsibility to host AFL Asia's showcase event – The Asian Champs and in doing so, we'd would like to sincerely thank the Thailand Tigers Football Club and their Asian Champs Committee for their superb efforts and logistical preparations as hosts. AFL Asia has an enormous amount of appreciation for our sponsors and proud partners including ANS, Tribal Sport, X.Digital, ATPI, Australian Finance Advocates plus our amazing event sponsors Infinity, Thai Expat Club, Santa Fe Relocation, The Clubhouse Sports Bar & Grill, Bistro 33, Tenderloins, Bangkok Hospital, Bench Fitness, Thai Visa The Nation and Intrepid. Without their amazing support AFL Asia and this event could never reach the scale it has today so please do make sure to use their fine services whenever you get the chance.

Lastly but not least, we'd like to wish all of the players and teams all of the very best throughout the day and we hope that this year's Asian Champs is a memorable day for you and your team.

AFL Asia President

MATT GALE



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WELCOME FROM THE THAILAND TIGERS

The Thailand Tigers Australian Rules Football Club warmly welcome all competitors, families, friends and spectators to the 20th AFL Asian Champs to be held at the Thai Polo & Equestrian Club, Pattaya, Thailand. It is a great honour for the Tigers to host this event, and we aim to maintain the high standards that have been set over the past few years. It is great that the Asian Champs has grown from 4 competing teams to over 20, with the historical first-time inclusion of a women's division last year. This year we expect even greater participation as we celebrate the event's 20 th year.

The 2019 Asian Champs will be held in Bangkok for the 5 th time in the 20-year history of the event. The Tigers have previously hosted the event back in 2007, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015. On two of these occasions we have held the event at the Thai Polo & Equestrian Club – a venue which boasts an excellent playing surface and enough space to meet the demands of three playing fields as is now required.

We have 24 teams registered for the event, with 6 teams in Division 1, 6 teams in Division 2, 6 teams in the new Division 3, and following on from the success

in Malaysia last year, the Women's Division has grown to 6 teams for 2019. It is an outstanding effort from clubs across the region in promoting the growth of the game. A further highlight is the inclusion of an all Japanese team in Division 2.

During the day we hope to feature an Auskick match between Thailand and the rest of Asia, with all Auskickers welcome to join. The Tigers are working hard to develop the game for juniors and regularly have over 20 local Thai children join our program and are keen to give them the opportunity to play against other opposition.

The Tigers will also hold an All Asian game on the day, along with the Fastest Man in Asian Footy and Longest kicking competitions, and the customary boat race to finish proceedings.

We aim to provide a Champs that rises to the level of the previous hosts to ensure a great day is had by all. This includes ensuring all teams have suitable game time, fairly structured scheduling, suitable transport options to and from the venue and quality food & beverages available.



AFL ASIA 2019 ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE THAI POLO & EQUESTRIAN CLUB, PATTAYA, THAILAND

PICK U	JP 6:00 -	PICK UP 6:00 - 8:00 Bus pick ups as advised (Each club to arrive 1 hr before first match)	ch club to arrive 1 hr before first	match)
TIME	DIV.	1 DVAL 1	OVAL 2	OVAL 3
07:50	07:50 Div. 3	Hong Kong v Japan	Laos v Macau	Myanmar v Singapore
08:20	08:20 Div. 2	Thailand v Vietnam	Cambodia v China	Indonesia v Japan
08:50	08:50 Div. 3	Hong Kong v Laos	Japan v Myanmar	Macau v Singapore
09:20	09:20 Div. 2	Cambodia v Thailand	Indonesia v Vietnam	China v Japan
09:50	09:50 Div. 3	Hong Kong v Macau	Japan v Singapore	Laos v Myanmar
10:20	10:20 Div. 2	China v Thailand	Japan v Vietnam	Cambodia v Indonesia
10:50		>	Welcome Speech & Anthems	
11:00	11:00 Div. 3	Grand Final 1st v 2nd	3rd v 4th	5th v 6th
11:40	11:40 Div. 2	Grand Final 1st v 2nd	3rd v 4th	5th v 6th
12:20	12:20 Div. 1	Hong Kong v Indonesia	Malaysia v Philippines	PNG v Singapore
12:50	12:50 Women's	Cambodia v Hong Kong	Malaysia 🗸 Singapore	Thailand v Vietnam
13:20	13:20 Div. 1	Hong Kong 🗸 Malaysia	Indonesia v Singapore	Philippines < PNG
13:50	13:50 Women's	Cambodia 🗸 Malaysia	Hong Kong v Vietnam	Singapore v Thailand
14:20	14:20 Div. 1	Hong Kong < Philippines	Indonesia v PNG	Malaysia v Singapore

14:50	14:50 Women's	Cambodia v Singapore	Hong Kong v Thailand	Malaysia v Vietnam
15:20 Div. 1	Div. 1	Hong Kong < PNG	Indonesia v Malaysia	Philippines v Singapore
15:50	Women's	15:50 Women's Grand Final 1st v 2nd	3rd v 4th	5th v 6th
16:30 Div. 1	Div. 1	Hong Kong v Singapore	Indonesia v Philippines	Malaysia v PNG
17:00		All Asian Game	Auskick Game	Longest Kick
17:30 Div. 1	Div. 1	Grand Final	Half Time Sprint	
18:10		Presentations		
18:30		Buses return to Hotels		

GAME DURATIONS

- 2 x 12 & 3min half time / 3 minutes between games Preliminary games (30 min timeslots)
- Semi and Grand Finals (40 min timeslots) 2 × 15 & 5min half time
- Coin toss between Captains to take place at officials tent at half time of prior game

DIVISION 1

INDONESIAN VOLCANOES PNG MURUKS SINGAPORE WOMBATS MALAYSIAN WARRIORS HONG KONG DRAGONS PHILIPPINE EAGLES

DIVISION 2

THAILAND TIGERS CAMBODIAN EAGLES VIETNAM SWANS CHINA REDS JAPAN WARRIORS INDONESIAN VOLCANOES

DIVISION 3

HONG KONG DRAGONS SINGAPORE WOMBATS MACAU LIGHTNING LAOS ELEPHANTS JAPAN GOANNAS MYANMAR SHWE CHINTHES

AFLW

CAMBODIAN EAGLES VIETNAM SWANS MALAYSIAN WARRIORS SINGAPORE WOMBETTES HONG KONG DRAGONS THAILAND TIGERS

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PREFERRED GROUND LAYOUT

The event will be spread across 3 ovals, each of equal size: 100m by 140m



ALSO ON SITE

- Food and beverage options
- Individual team canopies
- Control station for officials, umpires and VIPs
- Additional canopies for playing teams interchange benches
- Multiple toilet locations
- Medical and massage station

All ovals will be north facing, with the final played on the left field to maximise viewing spectacle.



LEGENDS'S TIPS

We caught up with some of the guys who've become legends of AFL Asian Champs over the 20 year journey to find out their thoughts on their favorite memories, best players they've seen and what they're looking forward to this year!



Greg 'Hinchy' Hinchcliff Bali Geckos

I've played in every Champs and even the pre-cursor tournament where the idea of an Asian Champs was born. The pre-cursor was in Bangkok in 1999.

One of the funny moments was in the first Champs in Jakarta in 2000. The Jakarta Bintangs had invited a few Bali Geckos boys to join them to strengthen their team. We thought we needed to have some sort of recognition of being part of the Indonesian uniform (the proposed uniform was the Jakarta Bintangs one), so the Geckos wore long green boardies with the Bintangs jumper. The first bounce of the tournament went Ruckman Green Boardies taps to rover Green Boardies handballs to winger Green Boardies who hits Full Forward Green boardies on the tit for the first ever goal of the tournament. The Jakarta Bintangs Prez smiled at me and said "glad you guys are here".

That was also Peter "Gun" Muir's debut in Asia and he is undoubtedly the best player I have seen play in the Champs and consistently so for over a decade. For this year's title, the form line is tough to follow but apart from ourselves, I feel the dangers will be from Hong Kong or PNG.



Dom 'Bowski' Dunn

Hong Kong Dragons

My first champs was in Malaysia in 2008, Dragons eliminated in the Prelim to eventual winners the Dubai Heat.

The 3 Asian Champs premierships are an obvious highlights for me. But to be more specific I'd say Coach Gary Wines decision in the 2013 Final to drag Luke Jericho in the last quarter, sending on Korean pocket rocket Shaun Cooper. Coop Daddy kicked 2 goals himself, had a hand in 2 others and to this day he says it's the move that won the Dragons the Asian Champs. Legendary stuff! I would also add, the post-match drinks & Sunday sessions with the other teams at Asian Champs. These are some of my fondest memories and the ones that will live with me forever. Enjoy every moment while you're there!!

Tough to pick only one best player I've ever seen as there have been some super players at Champs! You'll have to excuse my Dragon's bias for obvious reasons but let be mention some of my favourites: Matt Jackson (Dragons), Dave O'Shea (Jakarta/ Swans), Dwight Stuchbery (Dragons), Grant Bell (China Reds & Wombats), Luke Jericho (Dragons), Luke Creamer (Swans), Mic Mittasch (China Reds – he knows why!), Liam Ginnivan (Dragons), Ed Clarke (Singapore), Troy Clements and Matt "MJ" Jolly (Jakarta).

If I had to pick one, at his best, it's very hard to go past Big Sammy "The Difference" Agars!

It's looking like a very competitive field this year. The Wombats lead up forms looks promising and they always bring their best at Champs. If the Volcanoes bring a similar squad to last year, they are going to be very hard to beat - but it's always hard to go back to back. So my selection, slightly sentimental, but I'm going the Dragons. They have a few old warriors back and they will be wanting to give Coach Barrie & club legend Barbs the dream send off. Go DragonsI Good luck to all teams.



Michael 'Edgey' Edge Philippine Eagles

The first Asian Champs I attended was in 2012 which were held in Pattaya, Thailand. Up until that time the Philippine Eagles had never been to the Champs. We only had Winner Santos, Philippine Eagles present Captain representing us on a few occasions when he got to play with

Malaysia and Jakarta. It was that year that we really got the Philippine Eagles into gear to go onto better things in the future.

Without a doubt my best memory was the Philippine Eagles winning the Champs in 2016 in

Vietnam. We beat the Singapore Wombats by one goal in the Grand Final. We put a hell of a lot of work into winning that year and it paid off. When we got back to Manila three of us got a tattoo to celebrate the win on our Mad Monday. In a past life I spent 23 years as a deck officer in the merchant navy and never had a tattoo as I could not think of anything worthwhile to permanently etch into my arm. That all changed in 2016 when we won and I had the best reason to do it!

There have been many great players at the Champs over the years. But Evan Spargo from the Philippine Eagles would be the best I have seen. I have been lucky to watch him play on a weekly basis here in our local PAFL comp too. Not only is he a great leader and mentor on the field for the other players but an absolute inspiration to all of us off the field. My second would be Dom Dunn from Hong Kong. He was a great leader who gave everything on the field.

This year will be very interesting to see who wins. PNG played us in early May here in Manila and gave the Eagles a lesson in playing footy. They trashed us! I also rate Indonesia again after what they did last year at the Champs. Hong Kong who are our nemesis could do anything also. But if I need to pick a winner it would be Indonesia as I think they can keep it together through all the prelim games. I would love to say The Philippines, but we have lost many of our players through departing the Philippines so it will be hard for us this year. As they say in footy we need to rebuild for the future.



Shaun 'Digger' Di Gregorio

Malaysian Warriors

My first ever champs was 2012 in Pattaya.

My favorite memory would be beating Singapore in the semi final in 2015 and making the final for the first time, only to be rolled by HK. It was then that we thought "geez we can win this one day"

The best player I've ever seen at a Champs was Michael Rix in 2012, closely followed by Ed Clarke in 2014 and Josh Leary in 2016.

For this year I think Singapore has to be favourite with PNG a close second.



The Big Rooster

Singapore + + +

My first champs were 1999 in Bangkok, it was effectively a Champs, all the big teams and everyone was invited.

My best memory was 2011 when Singapore won in Bangkok after losing 3 years in a row.

Best player is bloody hard! I've seen a lot of great players. Gunny was dominant for a while. And I've seen a lot of the Wombats play very well and that's obviously close to the heart. But I'll say the absolute best, and I'll put it in the category of playing coach, would be Ed Clarke. He had an absolute blinder in 2014 when we won. 2014 was an Asian Champs the Wombats won through coaching. Each other time it's just been a great team and I think that team was good but it was the coaching. We were coached to that 2014 Asian Champs. So Ed Clarke would be the best performance I've seen.

I think in the first division Singpore are looking all right. They're always pretty shit through the year but they just belted Malaysia in KL with a lean team and there's more quality players to come into that team in Pattaya. In Division 2 I can't really make a call but I'll go with the crowd and say probably Thailand. In Division 3, whoa, I'll say Singapore... actually footy will win division 3 on the day! I have only seen 1 women's game and on that form I'm going to say Cambodia based on that.

YEAR	Host	Champions	Div 2 Champions	All-Asia	Women's Champions	Div 2 Plate
1999	Bangkok, Thailand**	Singapore Wombats	1.00. 00.			
2000	Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesian Bintangs		🖤 🖤 🛯		P
2001	Bangkok, Thailand	Singapore Wombats				•
2002	Singapore	Indonesian Bintangs	. 🙈 .			
2003	Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dragons	a Cantak	T T T	P 🏆 🏆 🦉	2
2004	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Hong Kong Dragons	June			
2005	Manila, the Philippines	Singapore Wombats			1	
2006	Jakarta, Indonesia	Singapore Wombats		Y Y Y	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	
2007	Bangkok, Thailand	Hong Kong Dragons				
2008	Singapore	Dubai Heat	2 DUBAI HE	AT YY	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	
2009	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Dubai Heat	PAGLES			
2010	Shanghai, China	Dubai Heat		T		
2011	Bangkok, Thailand	Singapore Wombats	VENIOR DE			
2012	Pattaya, Thailand	Hong Kong Dragons	WARHORS	V		
2013	Pattaya, Thailand	Hong Kong Dragons		^		
2014	Angeles City, Philippines	Singapore Wombats				
2015	Bangkok, Thailand	Hong Kong Dragons	Laos Elephants			
2016	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	Philippine Eagles	Bali Geckos	Indo Garuda		
2017	Manila, Philippines	Malaysian Warriors	Bali Geckos	China Dragons		
2018	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Indonesian Volcanoes	PNG Muruks	China Dragons	VN Swans	China Reds
2019	Pattaya, Thailand					

ASIAN CHAMPS HALL OF FAME

*The initial event hosted in Bangkok was known as the Four Nations Cup



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STRONGER <mark>TOGETHER</mark>

ASIA DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (ADM) POSITION ANNOUNCED



Following the release of the job description in May, we received a huge amount of interest in the position, with over 100 applications received of exceptionally high standard. Following a rigorous process involving two rounds of interviews with a panel of AFL and AFL Asia representatives, we are pleased to announce the **successful candidate is Mr Simon Highfield**.

Simon, originally from Newcastle, comes with a wealth of relevant AFL and international experience, with 8 years of experience as an AFL Development Officer, Solomon Islands Development Manager, AFL Fiji Development Manager and most recently Development Coordinator for AFL South Pacific. Simon is also a qualified PE teacher and an accredited Level 2 AFL Coach.

Simon has done a power of work throughout the South Pacific and has been chosen to help take footy in Asia forward.

In his most recent role as AFL South Pacific Development Coordinator, Simon grew the sport across six Pacific countries, coordinated development programs and successfully secured Australian Government and commercial funding opportunities.

As he has done over the past two years as the AFL South Pacific Development Coordinator, Simon will be based at AFL House in Melbourne and will travel regularly to Asia as required. He will commence in his new role on August 1 and we hope all Member Clubs will extend him a warm welcome.



THAILAND TIGERS WOMEN



THAILAND TIGERS WOMEN

The Thailand Tigers will unleash an assault on the women's competition for the first time at Asian Champs. The side has been coming together extremely well and Coach Axe has been extremely pleased with how well the girls have picked up the game. Several of the players also play Gaelic football but seem to like the contact of Aussie Rules. Look for the two Anna's to be busting the packs open and extracting the ball to the likes of Gen and Laura with the outside run.

Caitlin and Cookie have slotted into the side seamlessly and will look to lead a strong, tight defence with an attacking flair. Semhar will be looking to get the crumbs whenever the ball gets forward and there is no lack of avenues to goal with the likes of Martina and Andrea showing they know where the goals are.

The Tigers are also rapt to welcome some players from both Indonesia and the Philippines who by all indications are going to bring a lot of competitive spirit to a team that is constantly improving. The girls will be coming together to play their first competition but have worked hard to get themselves ready to compete. All Tigers stakeholders wish them the very best as the inaugural Thailand Tigers women's team!





Year Founded: 1996 President: Jeff Hills Captain: David Shields Coach: Jake McIntosh

Player to watch at the 2019 champs:

There won't be any one single player to look out for, with the Tigers bringing a very even team. That said, look for young Manboy to dominate the contested ball, as well as couple of handy, quick Irish recruits transitioning over from Gaelic in Dude and Clifford, who have picked up the game quickly giving the team a lot of dash. Also look out for young Jezza Cox, with his fearless attack on the ball and ability to run all day.

Club Legend: Michael "Samo" Sammons has been a stalwart for the Tigers, being the first ever to reach the magical 100 games milestone on ANZAC Day this year. His accolades include All Asian, four time leading goal kicker, coach, captain and best and fairest. Provided he doesn't pop a hammy or pull a calf muscle in the first 5 minutes, expect Samo to have a good crack at this years Champs.

Best previous finish for the club at Champs: The Tigers have never tasted the ultimate success at Champs, in 2018 we had a best run in Div 2 falling to a determined and rampant PNG team.

Biggest Rival Club: The Tigers enjoy a healthy rivalry with our fellow Indochina clubs, Vietnam and Cambodia. Both great sides, and it is always great to beat them on the field.

Thailand Tigers in 2019

It's been another busy year for the Tigers, with a successful ANZAC Day match against Singapore and solid wins in our return matches against Cambodia. The club has been working hard in preparing and will head into this years Champs with great optimism that we will put up a competitive performance in Division 2. A lot of work has been done at the Tigers in establishing and building our Auskick program, with up to 40 Thai children now involved. We also held our second ever Phuket Masters event which we hope to grow into an even bigger and better tournament next year. The Tigers have a very diverse group of players, with Americans, Canadians, South Africans, Somali's and even Scottish players representing the club. The Club have also been working hard to establish a women's team and are super excited to see the Tiger Women debut at this years Champs.

THAILAND TIGERS MEN

Dave Shields

Club captain and reigning best and fairest, Shieldsy is an ever reliable footballer who works incredibly hard. In fact, Shieldsy is just an all round nice guy. Good luck to anyone who tries to catch him, tackle him, or outmark him. He has an egg addiction, make sure you stay clear of him when he has a few too many.

Jake McIntosh

Arrived after spending years over in London, JMac is very clean with the ball and an excellent read of the game. Look for him to dominate the forward line and bring some excellent leadership to the team.

Justin Olsson

Very creatively nicknamed, Ollie spend his first few years keeping time and scoring for the Tigers before a stellar off field performance at our ANZAC match a few years back saw him dust off his boots. A big unit, Ollie is handy at either end of the field, possessing silky skills. Goes very well when he is not hungover and not too bad when he is. Look to see him possibly dominate both on and off the field.

John Wellby

Wellby is a crafty forward who loves snagging goals. Joining the club via the veterans draft, Wellby has slotted into the side superbly and become a favourite among all the Tigers, doing some amazing work following on from the irreplaceable Bear in running the Auskick program. For a greater insight into Wellby, sit down and have a chat with one of his boys and marvel at the stories that come out. His only downfall is that he supports the Crows.

Andrew Smith

Provided he can get into the country, expect 2.0 to both play some awesome footy for the Tigers and to provide plenty of off field drama. If his gear arrives with him, he might even get to wear his own boots.

Michael Sammons

Club stallwart, games record holder, coach, captain, best and fairest, leading goal kicker, t-shirt designer... Samo has done it all! He likes to think he looks like George Clooney, and rather bizarrely has many photos of naked men in his outdoor shower. A gun back man, Samo took up the coaching gig so he could position himself at full forward. Samo is a great clubman and along with Yoda one of most toured Tigers. Look for him to either dominate, or go off early injured if the Tigers are well behind.

Justin Campisano

Campo is somewhat of the new enigma at the club. Rocks up when he feels like it, and can play some great football down back for the club. Has smooth skills and great commitment to the contest. Wore a crazy mo at last years Champs...

Eric Nguy

Easy by name, easy by nature. Easy looks like he couldn't be stuffed playing football, yet he has been playing some very football of late, taking his game to a new level. Can run all day and has excellent decision making and disposal. Unfortunately his abilities off the field have shown no signs of improving, with plenty of work to be done on his sculling skills. Look for him to dominate the all Asian game, selling some candy even when no one is there!

Niall Geraghty

A massive unit who is a complete natural at football, and has been dominating the Gaelic game for years. Looking for an extra challenge, and just to piss off some Aussies that have playing the game for years, Niall has had an immediate impact on the field and can tear a game apart. Will DJ for free at any random bar after the games and sure to fill any dance floor or bar top.

Rut Ngarmarayakul

Somewhat of a legend at the Tigers, and well known throughout Asian footy, Rut absolutely love Aussie Rules and has an interest in safety and well-being, he will probably be flying in and out on the same day. Rut has a somewhat poor record at Champs events with terrible decision making... off the field that is! Time for him to redeem himself.

Jason York

The word legend also comes to mind when mentioning this bloke. Yorky has been a part of the Tigers for a good few years now, and is ever reliable on the field. Reads the game well and used the ball superbly. Will be very handy making an impact in short bursts through the midfield.

Tyler York

Manboy by name, beast by nature. This young fella has been dominating the field for the Tigers of late, with a fearless attack on the ball and lots of hard running. Certainly he is a way better player than his old man, and will probably end up being a better bloke too.

Jeff Hills

Hillsy has slotted in nicely to the Tigers forward line. So nicely, in fact, there is no longer room for anyone else. Another who is new to football, Hillsy comes with a great attitude and commitment to the club and will no doubt cause a lot of trouble for the opposition.

Jarryd Turner

Another top lad who goes about his football business with little fuss. A better looking version of his namesake, and a passionate Richmond supporter, Roughie is a genuine father-son recruit for the club, with his old man still playing for the Tigers masters team.

Alan Sutherland

Yoda is the same age as the rest of the team combined! Despite this, he will probably get as many possessions as the rest of the team. A perennial tourer and one of the longest serving Tigers, Yoda has given a lot to the club and continues to make massive contributions both on and off the field. If you haven't shared a room with Yoda, then you haven't truly toured with the Tigers.

Tyrone Obst

T-Bone is a new member to the club, having not played footy in about 10 years. He has slotted in nicely, played well with a defensive role, and provided some drive through the middle of the ground.

David McCormack

Named Irish Dave by Easy, cause his Irish and a Dave. Aka Dude. Can run all day and is as fast as lightening, bringing his skills across from the Gaelic game. Watch him run like a greyhound. A natural sportsman with great athletic ability. Very much loved by Easy.

Joe Stahura

"Chicago Joe", says his from Chicago but not really, he's from a place close by. Loves lollies almost as much as Stewie Dew. Been a great addition to the club with his attack on the ball and marking ability. Also a nice bloke.

Matt Jones

A silent assassin... look for Jonesy to lurk around the field with a fierce attack on the ball with beautiful use. Also look for him out on the Saturday night wearing a stellar shirt!

Steve O'Connor

Missing in action of late due to parenting duties, Scottish was born in the wrong country. After plying his trade with the Wombats, he has slotted in nicely into the Thailand back 5, where he is super reliable and almost unbeatable.

Jeremy Cox

Young Jezza has pace and sublime skills, and can run all day. He will take control of one of the wings and provide excellent link up for the Tigers

Brandon Butler

King Joffrey may look like he is about to reach puberty, but don't be fooled. Expect Joffrey to run hard all day and rarely be beaten for the ball.

Steve Foster

A crafty, hard as nails bull who will hit every contest hard. Last Week Steve can dominate in the midfield and up forward. Look for him to have a lot of impact.

Drew Franklin

Mudbuckets will slot in lovely across half-back, or half-forward, and with his brute size provide an excellent aerial option for the Tigers. Scary on the field... wait to he gets on the beers after the game!

Matt Harkness

Finally a match on his home deck, fully recovered from a knee op, look for Mattaya to provide an impenetrable wall across half back or a likely target up forward. He will be your go to man for the night out with his local knowledge.

Matthew Wharf

All jokes aside, this funny man spends more time on the Comedy Stage than the football field, where is a crafty little bugger with a keen sense for goals. Did I mention he kicked over 100 goals one year?

Michael Elliot

Hard as nails and able to fill any position on the ground, the Tigers are just glad to have Michael tackling for us and not against us!

Tristian Woodward

Woody is another Pattaya native, who will no doubt have a lot of impact across the flanks. Has the skills and fitness to have a massive impact for the Tigers, and if not, he will help Mattaya lead the post event partying in Sin City.

CAMBODIAN APSARAS WOMEN

CAMBODIAN APSARAS WOMEN



Year Founded: 2016

President: Neat Khin

Coach: Hannah Slaughter/Peter Kokke

The Apsaras enter this year's Champs with another huge squad, again featuring a majority of Khmer players. Last year we suffered 2 narrow losses at the inaugural Champs in KL, so we'll be hoping to notch up a win or two in 2019. We've been training regularly and will be more than ready for the first bounce!

Some new faces from various parts of the world have added some good strength and players are competing for every spot on the team. This year we played Malaysia away, a 5 goal loss, and Vietnam at home, a 4 point win. We're looking forward to the return match in Vietnam on August 10, which will be an ideal hit-out as we head into Champs.

Players to look out for include: Sreylak, our 2018 best and fairest, who has been studying in Thailand this year. Hannah, who has recently moved back to Cambodia bringing both playing and coaching skills with her. Neat, who has taken her game to another level this year as Captain. Reliable defenders Sreyneth and Kelsy and Irish girl Cristina in the ruck. We also welcome back the passion and tenacity of French player Mathilde at full-back.

Best of luck to all the teams! How good is AFLW in Asia!!





CAMBODIAN EAGLES DIVISION 2 MEN

Year Founded: 2000 President: Stephen Higgins Captain: Pieter Bossink Coach: Stephen Higgins

After starting the year with a big home win against Singapore, it's been tough going for the Eagles on the field. A lack of new blood (meaning young, fit blokes) coming into the club, combined with some departures, resulted in some heavy losses to Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. However we'll be looking to keep our impressive Asian Champs record going and we head into the tournament with plenty of enthusiasm!

Once again, we'll have plenty of local talent in the squad, including Cobras captain Nas and a rejuvenated Kun in the backline. They'll be joined by the speedy Phanouth who has been studying in Bangkok and training with the Tigers.

Player to watch at the 2019 Champs: X Factor, Borres Kieng - If he comes, he'll be looking to match last year's effort of 13 goals. Otherwise, Nick Edwards (Picasso) will surely put on a show up forward.

We always look forward to the Champs and will give it another red hot crack again this year. Good luck to all teams!

CHINA REDS





'Training the house down' and 'one week at a time' are old footy clichés, but none are truer than the old 'China Reds are the Voltron of the Asia Champs'.

After trading out spuds who can't kick straight (see Stewart Gray – Singapore Wombats) the annual coming together of super-teams Shanghai Tigers, Beijing Bombers and Guangzhou Scorpions sees the Reds primed and ready to take on Pattaya!

The Guangzhou Academy already puts Sydney's to shame as evidenced by local products Whiskers, who will be captaining the Reds, and Bruce who remains the only person to punch a cyclops between the eyes. They will also be supported by a strong contingent of SCAFL stars who have been selected to don their national colors.

BUT everyone knows you can't win a premiership without the allimportant 'role player' – which this year includes, but not limited to, evergreen legends Nobby and Webby (who's brand of footy is more about 'out-smarting' their opponents instead of out-running them), Still Sh*t Mike (despite all the other Mikes leaving), matchwinning-goal-kicker Dylan who finally has some boots to play in too, Jo the German weapon, and Mitch 'Kiss the Lady-Boys and make them cry' Francis. Toby is also back for more glory, but somebody please tell him that a 'falcon' to the face doesn't count as a touch, no matter how good Prossy's photo looks!

Carn The Reds!

INDONESIA VOLCANOES DIVISION 1 & 2 MEN



Made up of members of the Jakarta Bintangs, Bali Geckos, Borneo Bears and the newly formed Batam Bats, are defending Champions in Division 1 and biting at the bit to pull on the guernsey and try and go back to back which will not be an easy task.. The Division Two team are also looking forward to representing the jumper well by competing hard and enjoying this year's Asian Championships.

We are particularly proud of the development of our local footballers and we look forward to seeing them show off their wares during the tournament. Watch out for Vinnie local Jakarta Boy who dominated the second half of the Final last year in Div 1.

The form of the Volcanoes on the road this year has been mixed with a win, a draw and recently a heavy loss, they will need to turn that form around swiftly to ensure their defence of the title is successful. With coach Ricky Olarenshaw leading the way, they will be given every opportunity to achieve that goal.

A big thank you to the Thailand Tigers for hosting the event and to AFL Asia and everyone involved in putting together the showcase event of footy in Asia.

HONG KONG DRAGONS WOMEN





HONG KONG DRAGONS

HONG KONG **DRAGONS**

Year Founded: 2018 President: Jessica Cole Captain: Jessica Cole Co-Vice Captains: Ciara Fitzsimons and Triona O'Donoghue Coach: Will Burgess

Players to watch at the 2019 champs: Ciara Fitzsimons, Katie Klatt and Kate Durie

Best previous finish for the club at champs: 2018 runners up

Biggest rival club: Vietnam Swans

2019 has been a year of growth for the HK Dragons with strong numbers and a full social calendar. We've been in constant recruitment mode with focused AFLW trainings and Coach Will drilling in basic skills week after week. We hosted the first Bauhinia Cup in Hong Kong against Vietnam Swans in May, with the Swans showing their experience and creating a fire within the team for Champs. There's plenty of talent and expectations are high - we want that silverware!



DIVISION 1 MEN

While most division one teams have been focusing their energy on the logistics required to fly in players from various leagues throughout Victoria, the Dragons have decided to buck the trend and field a side of Hong Kong-based players. Training has been going gangbusters over the last couple of months and the Dragons are primed for a gruelling day of Champs footy.

The Dragons have a rich history of Champs success but things have been a little lean in recent years, with Hong Kong's latest win coming in 2015.

That win capped the Dragons third Champs win in four years after back-to-back victories in Pattaya in 2012-13 and the club is confident it can again reign supreme in Thailand.

The division one team looks solid all over the park, with centre-half forward Darren Brakenridge headlining a versatile attack.

The Monaco Marvel is in the form of his life after a dominant performance in the Shanghai Cup in June and is poised to continue on where he left off.

The midfield boasts plenty of grunt and run, with Tommy Liew and Ryan the Rolls Royce Fleming set to lead from the front.

After 12 months of referring to himself as the Great Wall of Hong Kong, reigning All Asian Jake McCauley returns to lead a Dragons backline that looks positively impenetrable.

With Tommy Fox and Matty Cook also there, the defensive six should provide plenty of dash to go with its stopping prowess.

DIVISION 3 MEN

While the Dragons' seconds have struggled in recent years in division two, the inclusion of a third tier means Hong Kong will be right in the hunt for silverware in 2019.

The team is loaded with a healthy mix of experience and energy, with the evergreen Gary Wines set to lead the way from the middle of the ground.

The octogenarian is showing no signs of slowing down and will combine with ruckman Tim Archer and the rest of the on-ball brigade to create plenty of headaches for the opposition.

Mitch Stanton knows where the goals are and is no stranger to leading his opponents a merry dance inside the forward 50, while the round mound of sound Will Sandman will provide plenty of encouragement for his fellow forwards.

The backline is absolutely loaded, with Champs veteran Paul Mallia on hand to offer his expertise and Benn "Timber" Naylor promising to be as honest as the day is long at centre-half back, provided he can stay upright.

The international brigade also looks set for a big day out, with Kyle Li, Rami Chan and Ernest Choy coming on in leaps and bounds in recent years and providing a real spark around the club.





JAPAN WARRIORS **DIVISION 2 MEN**

Captain: Shota Horiguchi

The Japan Warriors is the name for AFL Japan's representative team of native Japanese university students. Although the team has been making annual tours to Australia for a number of years, this will be the first time that a Warriors team will participate in the Asian Champs. Furthermore, it also marks the first time that an all-Japanese team will take part in the tournament.

Our squad for this Asian Champs is made up of players from four clubs in the AFL Japan A.League, the vast majority of which are current university students. Most of the players in the squad are coming off the back of a tour to Melbourne from August 13 to 22, during which they played against local clubs and attended a Richmond FC training session and match.

Players to watch include tall, athletic utility Yusuke Murata and strong, skilful midfielder Hiroo Kuroda,



both of whom have been the recipients of AFL Japan scholarships to train in Melbourne in the recent past.

We are really looking forward to competing against teams from many different countries, which is something that we rarely get to do and our aim is to take out the Division 2 title!

Good luck to all teams!



JAPAN GOANNAS DIVISION 3 MEN

Japan Goannas return to the Asian Champs for the first time since 2016. Goannas are made up of players from Japan AFL clubs Tokyo Goannas, Tokyo Bay Suns and Osaka Dingoes. Goannas will look to JAFL veteran Kuno Yosuke to hold things together down back and the unstoppable Matty Gale to post a score. It's a farewell tour for veteran big man Alex Wyatt and the weekend also serves as a bucks party for popular Goannas playing coach Sam Ghirardello. The captaincy arm band goes to Travis Wilson in his 8th Champs tour.

We're delighted to have so many players from Japan at the championships this year and look forward to a great tournament. Special thanks to our sponsor Santa Fe Relocation services for helping to get us to Thailand!

LAOS ELEPHANTS - DIVISION 3 MEN



The club has been in operation for 30 years as a fun social experience and hope to continue the development of Australian Rules Football in Laos.

The Laos Elephants are excited to again be joining the Asian Champs and Indochina Cup for 2019. AFL in Laos can be difficult with the reduction of Expats and no formal competition we rely on training sessions to educate and develop our local players skills and knowledge. It is challenging to get the team together for training due to the variety of residential locations across the country.

We are aware that we live and operate in a developing country and are also committed to helping tackle local development issues through sport as well as creating opportunity for Laos Nationals to experience our national game.

The Laos Elephants are excited about the new inclusion of Division 3 and are proud to be bringing a team which will include 10 Laos Nationals on the playing roster. Many players at the Asian Champs have never played a full game before so it will be great to watch them improve and grow over the 4 games. The interest from Laos Nationals is growing every year, which is our goal.

Unfortunately, due to work commitments we will be missing a few of our best Laos locals but we are confident that the boys that are coming along will enjoy the experience, have fun and do Laos proud.

Laos Elephants would like to thank our sponsors who help support the expenses of our Local National players, VCC, VDC, KXN, CHIFENG LXML, BOUAT LONGYEAR and ASN.

We thank the Thailand Tigers and AFL Asia for organizing 2019 Asian Champs and wish all teams the best of luck and hope everyone has fun.







MACAU LIGHTNING DIVISION 3 MEN

Year Founded: 2009 President: Dave Smith Captain: Dave Thomas / Shayne Simpson Coach: Stuart Cations

Macau Lightning AFL club was formed in 2009 and began running Auskick Clinics at the International School of Macau.

With an increasing demand for more football, the club started Saturday morning training which continues to grow with boys and girls aged between 4 to 13 years.

It was a smaller beginning for the Senior Macau Lightning Team in 2009 with only a handful of guys looking for a social kick.

As word spread of AFL in Macau numbers grew to a competitive squad of 30 players by 2010.

From small beginnings The Lightning grew up to over 100 social and playing members in 2016, however times are tough in Macau these days with mass exodus of expats and us being only 32Km square in size. Luckily we have some past Lightning Legends who are flying in for the Champs this year and hopefully 2019 can be a good one for us in the new Division 3.

Go Lightning!!!





MALAYSIAN WARRIORS WOMEN

Year Founded: June 2017 President: Luke Rylands Captain: Lyndsay Clarke/Helena Blair Coach: Nigel Godde

The Malaysian Warrior Women continued to go from strength to strength during their second complete year in action. Whilst the team is smaller than that fielded on their home turf at the Inaugural AFLW Asian Champs in Kuala Lumpur in 2018, the team has continued to work on their football skills, their team bond (both on and off the pitch!) and welcome new players to the squad.

Having not quite finished with the result that they had hoped for after their incredibly successful first year together at last year's Champs, the team have banded together and are hungry for victory this year. With Malaysia as a second home for many of them, they have seen some key players and friends depart for pastures new but have been lucky enough to have a number of great new players join them.





MALAYSIAN WARRIORS DIVISION 1 MEN

Year Founded: 1992 President: Luke Rylands Captain: James Worland Coach: Corey Weekes \ Luke Phipps

The Malaysian Warriors Australian Rules Football Club (MWAFC) was formed in 1992 by Aussie Expats working and living in Kuala Lumpur, who carried with them, a love of the "Great Game". The MWAFC was initially known as the MARK Tigers (Malaysian Australian Rules Kelab) and the team recorded their first win in August 1994 against the RAAF in Butterworth, Penang. The name change came in 2000 along with a rejuvenation of the club, as the economic crisis in Asia had left the player contingent in a shambles. The club managed to survive and subsequently thrive in the years following which culminated in our first Asian Champs victory in 2017. The Warriors have continued to grow in strength and have carved out a reputation for their fierce grit and determination and have established a reputation as one of the most formidable tribes in the region.

MYANMAR SHWE CHINTHES





MYANMAR SHWE CHINTHES DIVISION 3 MEN

Year Founded: 2014 President: Wazza Baglins Captain: Han Tun Aung – the fastest man in Asia! Coach: Wazza Baglin

Player to watch at the 2018 champs: Arron Moon Senior & Junior – can they turn form on the training field to results in the game?

Club Legend & Why: Chris "Shez" Sheridan & Alex "Wicksy" Wicks – will either of them make the team bus on Saturday morning?

Best previous finish for the club at Champs: Div B runners up 2016

Biggest Rival Club: Bali Geckos

General Write Up on the club: Previously known as the Fighting Cocks the Shwe Chinthes have excelled after a recent name change and the removal of the Bamboo Curtain. Slowly rising as we introduce Aussie Rules to Myanmar, the Shwe Chinthes are aiming for glory at the Champs in 2019.

PHILIPPINE EAGLES

EAGLES

PHILIPPINE EAGLES DIVISION 1 MEN

2019 has seen 'The Mighty Philippine Eagles' celebrate our 15 Year Anniversary. This is a huge milestone for the club and we will be looking to improve on last year's runners up by going one better and take home our second ever Asian Champs.

The 2019 Champs will see the Philippine Eagles representing for the first time in three divisions. Women's Div. 1, Men's Div. 1 and of course Off field.

It is with great pride that the Philippines will be providing players for the Women's division for the first time ever. The two superstars flying the flag will be Charlize & Leah IIa who will be joining the Thailand Tigers. The sisters have been playing with the men's team all season and have kept the men on their toes, hard at it, and silky skills like their old man, the girls will be a challenge for any team. Good Luck Girls!

The Men's team will be a team of old and new faces. Once again led by our fearless captain the evergreen Irwin 'Winner' Santos! Some say it's his 60th birthday this year... who would know? He's looked 14 for the last 20 years! We also welcome back some Eagles stalwarts in Shaun 'Hutchy' Hutcheson and Craig 'Marshy/Moneybags' Marsh, both key players in our historic first ever Manila Cup win, when the Eagles announced we are a force in Asian footy! Good to have you back boys! As always keep an eye on Evan 'Spargs' Spargo, you will be able to pick him out, he's the one who comes up from the bottom of a pack without a hair out of place. And finally, an exciting new face, Roland 'Rolls Royce' Jones, you will spot him running off half back and delivering to the outreached hands of Blake 'Broady' Broadhurst streaming out of the forward line. A formidable team looking to go one better than last year.

That brings us to the off field. This year the Eagles will be well represented on Saturday night and Silly Sunday. This years Silly Sunday is sporting heros. Betting for the annual 'Peter Hore Award' awarded to the biggest serial pest on tour is tightening, names to look out for; our spiritual leader Peter 'Hammo' Hammon will be leading the charge and leaving nothing out on the field, always a favourite but knows there is stiff competition. His biggest rival Sean 'Boagy' Boag, this man personifies serial pest, look out for him chasing some poor bustard with a bottle of ouzo forcing shots down his throat. For those punters looking for some value, you would struggle to go past Matthew 'Trimmers' Brimble, if he is on song he will firm into unbackable odds.

One thing is for certain, when the whips are cracking the Philippine Eagles will be well represented in the Men's Women's and off field. 'GO EAGLES!





Year Founded: 2017 President: Alex 'Homer' Simpson Captain: Tim 'mo' Richter

Coach: Kevin 'Sheeds' Bull

Player to watch at the 2019 champs: Kelly Kaugla – a young lad who is very popular on and off the field! Runs and tackles all day, loves a bounce and a goal – he will get noticed!

Club Legend: Gary 'Gravity' Koglin. The heart and soul of the Muruks. The engine room of the tour.

Best previous finish for the club at Champs: Div 2 winners 2018.

Biggest Rival Club: Philippines Eagles (not because we don't like them, we just like the Manila visits...)

The Papua New Guinea Muruks enter their third Asian Championships and the first in Division 1 after claiming the Division 2 title last year.

This year's team is a credit to the local player development in PNG, with 21 national players touring in the squad.

Win or lose – there won't be a more exciting team to watch at the champs. We promise they'll be the fastest and fittest.

PIC Darren Whitfield

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SINGAPORE WOMBETTES WOMEN



There is a team called Wombettes From the little red dot We're here to play And also slay But fun is what we got

Grace and Mac are tough as nails Wheels and the Sineads are quick Bondy pushes us hard But Lisa & Nona's our guard Together the Wombettes will stick

Singapores first Ladies team, Has Brid, Ali, Kim and Anna, It has Laura, Carris Louise and Denise And let's not forget about Hannah.



DIVISION 1 MEN

That rumble you hear is the waking of a sleeping giant.

After 5 years of wandering in the wilderness without a Champs win, 2019 sees the Wombats primed to give the title a red-hot go.

We certainly expect to be aided by the earlier than usual date - and the subsequent absence of ring-ins from other clubs who shall remain nameless.

Questions have been asked both inside and outside the club about our recent lack of titles.

It's been a season of big results (in both directions). Do you judge the Bats by our 100+ point losses in Indonesia and Cambodia? Or by our 88 point wins in Malaysia and at home vs the Volcanoes?

What is missing from our make-up that used to define the club?

After a thorough review from the president down to the boot-studder, we've come to one conclusion: Bring Back The Arrogance.

The other clubs hate us. The umpires hate us (perhaps with good reason). So let's own it.

The Bats are back in town, and we're here to win - on and off the field.

We're bringing Branchy, Belly, at least one of Tim Nash's hamstrings and a whole lot of heat. So get ready...

When asked for comment on this year's Champs, Sanchez The Wombat replied: "This years champs fixture is like a Sunday with my missus ... Every time I sit down for a rest I get told to get up and work again"

DIVISION 3 MEN

AKA the Magoos

Definition: Magoo is the collective noun for a group of has-been and never-were Wombat footballers, based in Singapore.

Appearance: You can generally spot a Magoo by one of these outward traits:

1) Protruding belly

2) Haggard, aged facial Features

3) Shortness of breath and profuse sweating after running for 10 seconds

4) Hands on knees

5) Hand on lower back, pained look on face

Behaviour: Magoos are most often found playing in the lowest-available football division, though still not winning any games. Slow-footed and aggressive, its best not to get between a Magoo and the bar once a tournament is over.

Habitat: Magoos are not known for kicking more than one goal per tournament, so can mostly be found near their opponent's goal. They've also been spotted on the bench about to pass out, but also in a more lively state around streets with neon signs and establishments offering alcoholic beverages and live entertainment.



VIETNAM SWANS WOMEN



VIÊT NAM

The Lady Swans have had an exciting but challenging season so far, with four international AFLW games and an inter-club match under their belts as they head into the champs with some quality AFL experience. The Lady Swans are the current holders of the AFLW Asia championships cup, from its first inclusion in the Asian Championships last year. They built on this success and went on to beat the Malaysian Warrior Women in the Crown Cup in March and bring The Bauhinia Cup home and beating the Hong Kong Dragons on their home turf in an international friendship match to round off the year.

A recent defeat at the hands of the Cambodian Apsaras, has left the Lady Swans hungry for a return to form in the Asian Championships. With a new focus in training and the recruitment of new talent, we are hopeful the Lady Swans will bring their best efforts to the champs. A couple of girls to look out for at the champs are the likes of Naomi and Jos dominating in midfield, Steph and HJ holding firm

VIETNAM SWANS WOMEN

at the back and new recruit Becks in the forward line holding strong with one of our strongest goal kickers, Cindy. Coach Chia will also look to sneak a few goals, taking a run at center half forward. Not to mention the support on the flanks from the likes of Alex, Nini & Tracey, who are all capable of moving the ball up the field with pace. Katie, one of our most experienced leaders will look to have a run further up the field than normal alongside her two daughters Ela and Hannah, holding the midfield strong and making history with three family members on the pitch These names are just a few of our ladies to keep an eye on.

In the lead up to the champs the girls have been back at training, working on game scenarios that they hope to replicate on the day. Numbers at training have been good in the lead up, due to high-intensity preparation for the biggest games of the year.

Building relationships both on and off the field, coach Chia hopes they can use these to work as a team on the day.

The Lady Swans will be travelling to Thailand with a squad of 19, and will be fielding a record number of 5 local Vietnamese girls - the "Thu Duc twins" Linh and Lucy are raring to get back on the field, with star forward Hang and new recruits Yen and Giang slotting in to provide support the forward and back lines.



VIETNAM SWANS - DIVISION 2 MEN

The "Vietnam Swans" is a National Football Club that unites the South and North of Vietnam. The club was Nationalised in 2007 and played their first game as a National Team in the 2007 Asian Championships.

The Vietnam Swans look forward to taking two teams for the second year in a row to compete in the 2019 Asian Championships. The Men's team, coached by Rod White and the Women's team, coached by Chia Sabbatucci, will head to Pattaya with a strong contingent of players. Within these squads a record number of local Vietnamese players will be representing their country on the day. The club feels honoured to be able to give such a strong representation of local development with AFL in Asia. The club is looking to build on what has been a great year so far, both off and on the field.

The boys are hoping to venture beyond the semifinal stage this year, but it will be a big ask, given the 2019 team is only half of what we had in 2018, however this opens up an opportunity for some of the newer guys to showcase their skills. After a very competitive year to date, the champs will be a big test for the Swans this year.

The Swans continue to develop local Vietnamese talent with 'Veteran' Dinah continuing to improve every game, having recently represented Vietnam in China. Big Vinh and Little Vinh (so as not to get them confused) are both also looking to improve on a recent run of good form. Part of the Swans ethos is not only to develop the game, but also invest in the people locally and within the improvement in our local recruits, boys and girls, shows that this is moving in the right direction.

We have also done well with our cross sport additions, Irish Garret (aka Gary), Tom Holden & Watson converted 'ruggers' learning quickly plus another Tommy – yeah it's confusing! We have a father & son combo this year with the Sullivans...not sure who is better plus a Tractor on our books!

As for others, the young punks are leading the way with the 'Grouch' Oscar Silk, 'Big Bird' Jono Mckay, Mad Micka and Thomas 'Tatts' Nitt. Speaking of veterans, there will be some familiar faces at this year's Asian Champs, Bill 'Captain Snooze' Crang, Jake 'pass me the veggies' Norris, Andy 'Flappa" Glendenning and Shane "Bulldozer" McFarlane. We definitely have an all rounded squad with elderly, youth, first timers and old timers that all makes for a good bunch of guys!

The year to date results in 2019 for the Swans have been quite solid, though they will need to find some extra legs this year after falling short against our closest neighbour Cambodia earlier this month. New additions and plenty of experienced faces plus the Vietnamese mafia's pace and skills have the squad ready to take on Asia's best!

VIETNAM SWANS MEN

Micka Mathews

The Skipper! Passionate, bald and skinny! Talk the legs off a chair...But runs all day!

Oscar 'The Grouch' Silk

Not that Grouchy and doesn't say a lot, so lets his footy do the talking.

Jakey Norris

No vegan jokes here, instead talk EPL, and he will never shut up! You have been warned! Another veteran who has one pace, flat out!

Billy Crang

The stalwart! A full back who is just annoying....for his opponent and us, in a good way!

Will 'Slick' Sullivan

First year player! Can run, and run, and run...The new Forest Gump.

Big Vinh

A Viet veteran...A big unit, so when he hits you, u know you have been whacked!

Tommy R

was carrying the worst moustache in Asian footy... Lets hope this year is different but very gritty in and under

Dino Nguyen

An upcoming talent with the Vietnamese ladies....and his footy is pretty good too.

Adam Bodey

The Tractor is at his first Champs. May well challenge Tommy R for the worst Asian moustache but big body! High expectations.

Max Scheele

A Belgium playing AFL. Ironically his footy is much better than his drinking

Thomas Watson

As an ex Union player, he goes alright for a pilot. AFL....a growing mind for the game

Little Vinh

He is the KING of Tinder! Biggest calves in Asian footy & another ex-Viet soccer player

Andy G

Not far off receiving a pension but still very slick on the park

Tommy Sullivan

Father of Will. Take note, don't hurt Will as his old man will repay the father with interest!!!

Garrett Lombard

The Irishman with the most posh name in the Club. Call him Gary (or Irish) & goes hard!!

Toddy Donovan

Toddy, floats through the forward/ wing and creates the magic

Pommy Tom

Hard nut! Excellent face planting skills. Enough said.

Sha 'Diddy' Mac

The immovable rock. As fast as slow melting concrete. On his day that's fast.

Eric ' The Prez" Kerrison

Ol' twinkle toes himself. Dodgy knee and does his best work off the field on the yap, unquestionably!

Kevvy Wilkinson

Our official pensioner and biggest off field supporter! We all love him!

Josh Pike

FMJ as he is known. I'm still not sure if he even know what that means! His first champs

Garry Jenkins

Gazza, unassuming, quiet young man! Handy skills for an old fella!

Mitch Hyde

Back with the Swans after a year with Laos. Back at his rightful home.

Jonno Mackay

Pits...Back from a 5 month lay off! Runs well for a big man. Can win a game off his own boot.

Grant Keys

Ex-Prez. Retired, tall, beanpole. Go gadget arms and likes a 'snag' or two!

Rod White

Rocket is the playing coach, a little less of the playing and more of the coaching these days.

Finally, good luck to all the competing teams both in the Men's and Women's draws and a huge thank you to the Thailand Tigers and all involved for hosting the biggest AFL event for the year in Asia.



2019 ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES

STRUCTURE OF SCHEDULE

The structure for AFL Asia Championships will be determined by the AFL Asia Champs Subcommittee, with preference for;

- A minimum of 4 games for each Team

- Semi-finals (if the they can be accommodated within the schedule) and/or a Grand Final

In 2019, the Division 1 Men's will play 5 preliminary round games, the Division 2 & 3 Men's and Women's Division will play 3 preliminary round group games and an additional game related to their final standings (Finals system explained below in 5.4 Finals).

POINTS

For all preliminary games Teams are to be awarded: 4 points for a win, 0 for a loss & 2 for a draw.

FINALS

Historically, at the completion of the preliminary matches, the top four teams will compete in the Semi Finals (teams will be ranked by points and percentage). The winners of the Semi Finals will then compete in the Grand Final.

However in 2019, given the increased number of participating teams, available daylight and scheduling there will be no Semi Finals in the Men's Division 1, 2, 3 or the Women's Division, with the top two teams ranked by points and percentage to play off in the Grand Final. This particularly suitable in Division 1 as each team will play each other once during the tournament.

After 3 preliminary games have been played in each respective division, the Men's Division 2 and 3 and the Women's Division teams will be individually ranked, with the top two teams ranked by points and percentage to play each other in the Grand Final, whilst a 3rd vs. 4th game, 5th vs. 6th game will allow all of the teams to play 4 games across the course of the day.

MATCH CONDITIONS

LENGTH OF GAMES

Preliminary games shall be in half-hour blocks,

consisting of 2x12 minute halves with 3-minute half time and 3-minutes break between games.

Finals games shall be in 40-minute blocks, with 2x15min halves with 5-minute half time and 5-minute break between games.

The Competition Manager may in their absolute discretion alter the duration of each game if necessary.

NO DRAWN MATCHES IN FINALS

(a) Preliminary Games – No overtime will be played in the preliminary games. Both teams will be awarded 2 points. (4 points for a win, 0 for a loss)

(b) Grand Final – Should scores be tied at the end of play, 2x5-minute overtimes will be played with 1-minute break to allow players to change ends in between periods. Coaches will not be allowed on the ground in between periods. Should the scores still be tied at the end of the overtime period, on the sounding of the siren the umpire will return the ball to the center square for a Golden Goal period of play.

SQUAD AND PLAYING NUMBERS

(a) Division 1 Teams will be able to select a squad of 26 players/game (16-a-side and 10 interchange players) with an uncapped playing squad.

(b) Division 2 Teams will be able to select a maximum squad of up to 24 players/game (12/14/16-a-side and 8 interchange players), with an uncapped playing squad.

(c) Division 3 Teams will be able to have unlimited squad numbers to encourage increased participation numbers. 12/14/16-a-side games will take place with unlimited interchange players.

(d) Women's Teams will be able to have unlimited squad numbers to encourage increased participation numbers. 14/16-a-side games will take place with unlimited interchange players.

(d) Teams are able to alter the number of players for each game by mutual agreement between both teams. If one team does not want to increase or decrease playing numbers, their opposition must play to the designated numbers as set above. If an agreement is put in place, teams must notify AFL Asia and the Head Official before the start of play.

QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS



Traditionally a player must have played in at least 2 preliminary games to be eligible to play in the Semi Finals.

A player must have played in at least 3 games to be eligible to play in the Division 1 Grand Final or a player must have played at least 2 games to be eligible to play in the Division 2, 3 or Women's Grand Final.

MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS BETWEEN FIRST AND SECONDS TEAMS

Players may be brought up from Second/Third Division into the same Club's First Division team to replace players suffering tournament ending injuries. Approval must be sought prior to the move from the Competition Manager and normal Qualification for Finals requirements (noted above) will still apply.

Movement of players from First Division down to Second Division or Third Divison is not be permitted.

SECONDS TEAMS

Clubs fielding two teams are obliged to pick their best team for their First Division team. Any Club that is seen to have players in Second Division or Third Division who should be clearly playing First Division will have the other Clubs to answer to.

MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS FROM ONE TEAM TO ANOTHER TEAM DURING THE TOURNAMENT

If one team is struggling for players or has a number of tournament ending injuries and cannot field enough players they need to notify AFL Asia and the Head Official, who will come up with a solution with the club/s accordingly. It is expected that the replacement player/s cannot return to their original team for the Grand Final if they have assisted the struggling team for the majority of the tournament.

Division 1 teams who are struggling to comply with the Local Players Policy (8.2) will be able to field Local Players from other Division 2 & 3 teams provided they have the consent of the players team officials and is in the best interests of the Local Player's development.

LOCAL PLAYERS

(a) All Teams in First, Second & Third Divisions are required to name Asian Nationals in their Squad. In Division 1, 2 & 3, each team must have at least two Asian Nationals in their squad with one player on the field at all times. Clause 7.5 has been introduced in 2019 to assist Division 1 Teams with the specific changes to their increased Local Player requirements.

Although encouraged, there are no Asian Nationals rules in place for the Women's Division during the development phase of this division, with the vision of maximising participation.

(b) A Player is deemed an Asian National if:

 (i) the Player is or has been predominantly resident in the country of an AFL Asia Member Club between 10 and 18 years of age; or

 (ii) the Player is a citizen of the country of an AFL Asia Member Club at the time when the Competition is conducted.

LAWS OF THE GAME

Unless otherwise provided in these Match Rules and Regulations, matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football.

THE LAST DISPOSAL BETWEEN THE ARCS RULE will only apply to the Women's Division in accordance to AFLW rules and regulations, which is clearly stated below

In 2019, the 'Last Disposal Between The Arcs' rule will apply only in the middle of the ground, between the 50 metre arcs. If a team kicks or handballs the ball out of play from this part of the ground, the other team gets a free kick. If the ball goes out of bounds in the general field of play within the arcs it will be a throw-in.

However, no free kick will be awarded if the opposition player shepherds the ball across the boundary line where the football could have otherwise been touched.

NEW RULES IMPLEMENTED BY THE AFL IN 2019 THAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT THIS YEAR'S ASIAN CHAMPS.

(a) **STARTING POSITION RULES** – At the start of every half or after a goal has been kicked.

In games whereby there are 16 players starting on the field, teams will field 5 forwards, 5 defenders and 6 midfielders (4 starting in the centre square and 2 wings). The 5 forwards and 5 defenders must start within the arcs of the ground with a minimum of 1 forward and 1 defender starting in the goal square.

Games whereby there are 14 players starting on the



field, teams will field 4 forwards, 4 defenders and 6 midfielders, whilst games with 12 players starting on the field, teams will field 4 forwards, 4 defenders and 4 midfielders, with the 2 wings to be removed.

The same starting position rules will apply to all games regardless as to whether there are 12, 14 or 16 players starting on the field.

(b) KICK INS

After a behind, a player no longer needs to 'kick-in' to one's self to play on out of the goal square. And, the player on the mark will move 10m away from the top of the goal square – this used to be 5m.

(c) MARKS / FREE KICKS

If a defender takes a mark, or gets a free kick, within 9 metres of their own goal, then the player on the mark in the attacking team will be brought in line with the top of the goal square.

(d) KICKING FOR GOAL POST SIREN - CENTRE OF GOAL LINE

Half-time, full-time – when play ends, if there's a player who's taken a mark or been awarded a free kick they can now kick across their body using a snap or check-side kick. They still need to end up in the same place, in line with the player-on-the-mark and the goal, but can start where they like.

(e) MARKING CONTEST

The 'Hands in the Back' rule interpretation has been repealed. A player can hold their ground by placing their hands on the back of their opponent in a marking contest. But, they can't push the player in the back.

(f) RUCK CONTESTS - PRIOR OPPORTUNITY

A ruck player who takes possession when contesting a throw-up, or boundary throw-in, will not be regarded as having had prior opportunity.

Other important rules that need to be considered;

There will be an interchange zone area and teams are encouraged not to allow a substitute onto the ground until a player has fully crosses over the boundary line of the interchange area (unless in the case of injury).

25 meter penalties will apply, not 50 meters.

The Order Off law contained in the Laws of Australian Football (Section 20)

(a) **RED CARD** A Player ordered from the field for the remainder of the match under Law 20.2 of the Laws of Australian Football shall be shown a Red Card.

(b) **YELLOW CARD**, A Player shall be shown a **YELLOW CARD** and ordered from the field for a three (3) minute period of match playing time for all other reportable offences prescribed in the Laws of Australian Football other than the reportable offences listed in Law 20.2. The Interchange Steward shall be responsible for administering the 3-minute period. The Player need not be reported to be ordered from the field.

(c) Players ordered off the field may not be replaced

In the case of a particularly serious offence, AFL Asia and its Officials will have the right to ban a player for the remainder of the competition. In this instance, the player can be replaced for the next game.

Time wasting and abusive language rules also apply to runners, water bearers, coaches and interchange players. If need be, Officials will have the right to order that club to remove the Captain for 3 minutes in the sin-bin.

Each team is permitted one team runner and 2 water bearers.

Head counts. Only a captain can request a head count from the central umpire. If requested, the teams must immediately line up in the center of the ground for a count. Any player observed to leave the field will be counted.

If there are extra players on the field, that team (applies to both) will have their score reset to zero. If there are no extra players on the field – the opposing captain will get a free kick, plus 25-meter penalty to restart the game.



ALL ASIAN GUERNSEYS MAKING A COMEBACK!

All-Asian guernseys have been reintroduced to reward those named in the All Asian Team of the Year, which will see a combination of the best footballers chosen from the 14 Men's teams across the 3 Divisions, as well as an All Asian Women's team.

30 guernsey's will be awarded to the All Asian Men's Team and 20 guernseys will be awarded between the 6 teams in the Women's Division.

AFL Asia in conjunction with the Thailand Tigers see this as a wonderful opportunity to reignite an Asian Champs tradition first introduced by Asian Football Singapore Wombat's Legend the Big Rooster.

The all Asian Team guernsey has been designed and produced by AFL Asia's Preferred Apparel Provider – Tribal Sport, who has also produced the Malaysian Warriors, Malaysian Warrior Women's, Laos Elephants, China Reds and Japan Goannas guernsey's ahead the Asian Champs, as well as the Shanghai Tigers, Beijing Bombers, Eastern Hawks (AFL Japan) and Osaka Dingoes Club Apparel.















2000 JAKARTA



2005 MANILA



2007 BANGKOK



2010 SHANGHAI



2013 PATTAYA



2003 HONG KONG



2007 BANGKOK



2007 BANGKOK



2012 PATTAYA



2014 ANGELES CITY



2003 HONG KONG



2007 BANGKOK



2010 SHANGHAI



2012 PATTAYA



2014 ANGELES CITY



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2014 ANGELES CITY



2015 BANGKOK



2016 SAIGON



2016 SAIGON



2017 MANILA



2018 KL



2018 KL



2014 ANGELES CITY



2015 BANGKOK



2016 SAIGON



2016 SAIGON



2018 KL



2018 KL



GECKOS RING INS



2015 BANGKOK



2015 BANGKOK



2016 SAIGON



2016 SAIGON



2018 KL



2018 KL







*The possibilities are endless





Get in touch for a non obligatory chat

Email: Mobile: +668 7699 8707 tmustafa@infinitysolutions.com

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- infinity financial solutions infinity financial solutions
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