

# RECORD



Austhai Geophysical



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>  
THAI POLO & EQUESTRIAN CLUB,  
CHON BURI, THAILAND



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# AFL ASIA WELCOME

On behalf of AFL Asia and the Advisory Board, I warmly welcome all competitors, officials and supporters back to Chon Buri, Thailand for the 2023 ATG Asian Championships. The AFL continues to support the development of the game in Asia, and the annual Asian Championships is our premier event and centerpiece of our activity calendar.

The Championships have been contested since the turn of the century. This is the fifth time the tournament has been held at the Thai Polo & Equestrian Club, and the tenth in Thailand. I want to extend my personal thanks to the Thailand Tigers, the organising committee and our amazing list of sponsors and partners.

While the last few years have seen significant disruption to football in the region, with the impact being felt on the training track, in the school yard, and on membership numbers across the continent, the enthusiasm and energy for Australian football in Asia has returned with a vengeance. The 2022 Asian Championships were a celebration of the return to football, and this year, the 2023 competition is a testament to everyone's determination to see it thrive. We are well and truly back. This year's event would not be possible without the resilience of our dedicated member clubs and organisations, and I extend my appreciation to all involved for bringing it all together, especially in the face of uncertainty and player turnover.

With that, welcome again to the 2023 Championships. We have an opportunity to test ourselves against the best, celebrate our efforts, and reinforce the fact that Australian football is bigger and stronger than ever in Asia. I encourage everyone to come together in the spirit of togetherness, love for our sport, and gratitude to be back as big as ever.

*I look forward to chatting with you over the weekend and enjoy your footy!*

**SIMON HIGHFIELD**  
International Development Manager





# WELCOME FROM THE THAILAND TIGERS

**WARWICK BAGLIN**  
Thailand Tigers President

The Thailand Tigers Australian Rules Football Club warmly welcome all competitors, sponsors, families, friends and spectators to the Austhai Geophysical 2023 Asian Championships. After a successful resumption of the Asian Champs last year, it has been great to see the return of domestic and international football to all countries throughout the region over the past 12 months. The turnout of players for this year's champs is looking great, which shows how healthy AFL Asia has become. The Tigers would like to extend gratitude to all of our sponsors, but in particular Gerard McNeill from Austhai Geophysical Consultants for once again supporting the Asian Champs as the major sponsor for the second year running.

This will be the tenth time in the event's history that the Tigers will play host to the event. The initial planning of this event saw an uptick in interested teams, with a particularly noticeable increase in women's teams registering their intent to join. With the strong number of clubs attending, we plan to host the event over three fields at the Thai Polo and Equestrian Club in Chonburi. Thanks to some magic scheduling from Jarrod Roberts, Matt Gale and AFL Asia, we have managed to plan a great day with teams from 4 divisions all playing at one venue.

It is a great honour for the Tigers to host this event, and we aim to maintain the high standards that have been set by past hosts. It has been fantastic to see the increase in local players at Champs, and the ever growing and successful Women's division continuing to evolve.

At this point I would like to extend a very big thank you to the the following members of the organising committee who have worked tirelessly for the Asian AFL community to enjoy today's event:

During the day we will feature an Auskick match to showcase some of the best young talent in the region, with all Auskickers welcome to join. The Tigers are working hard to develop the game for juniors in Thailand and regularly have over 30 local Thai children, male and female, join our programme. Some of these young men and women have even graduated to our senior teams for the day as well!

There will also be an All Asian game on the day, and in celebration, we will meet after the event for the customary boat races and to recognize the best players from across Asia. And who could forget the bragging rights that come from earning the title of the fastest man or woman in Asia?

**Enjoy your day and enjoy your time in Thailand.**



Austhai Geophysical Consultants was established in 2008 to service over 30 countries such as Thailand, China, Mongolia, South-East Asia, Asia and Africa.

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Austhai Geophysical



# 2023 ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER  
THAI POLO & EQUESTRIAN CLUB, CHON BURI, THAILAND

		Division 1 ( 4 Teams)	AFLW ( 8 Teams)	Division 2 ( 6 Teams)	Division 3 ( 5 Teams)	
Time	Mins	Oval 1	Oval 2	Oval 3	Duties	
08:00	25	China vs. Indonesia	Barbarians vs. Thailand	Bye: Philippines	Thailand	
08:25	25	Pakistan vs. Malaysia	Thailand vs. Hong Kong	Cambodia vs. Indonesia	China	
08:50	25	China vs. Barbarians	Thailand vs. Philippines	Bye: Indonesia	Indonesia	
09:15	25	Hong Kong vs. Cambodia	Thailand vs. Pakistan	Malaysia vs. Indonesia	Barbarians	
09:40	25	Barbarians vs. Philippines	Thailand vs. Indonesia	Bye: China	Pakistan	
10:05	25	Hong Kong vs. Malaysia	Thailand vs. Indonesia	Cambodia vs. Pakistan	Philippines	
10:30	25	Indonesia vs. Philippines	Thailand vs. China	Bye: Barbarians	Malaysia	
10:55	25	Div 2 SF 1st vs. 4th	Div 2 SF 2nd vs. 3rd	D2 5th vs. 6th	Singapore	
11:20	25	Indonesia vs. Barbarians	China vs. Philippines	Bye: Thailand	Hong Kong	
11:45	25	Singapore vs. Indonesia	Div 2 Grand Final	Hong Kong vs. Cambodia	Vietnam	
12:10	25	Malaysia vs. Vietnam	Div 3 Grand Final	Thailand vs. Pakistan	PNG	
12:35	15	Break - Welcome and anthems - Div 2 and Div 3 Presentations				
12:50	25	PNG vs. Indonesia	Singapore vs. Vietnam	Singapore vs. Hong Kong	Thailand	
13:15	25	Indonesia vs. Cambodia	Malaysia vs. Thailand	Vietnam vs. Pakistan	Hong Kong	
13:40	25	PNG vs. Singapore	Indonesia vs. Vietnam	AUSKICK	Malaysia	
14:05	25	Singapore vs. Cambodia	Vietnam vs. Thailand	Malaysia vs. Pakistan	Indonesia	
14:30	25	PNG vs. Vietnam	Indonesia vs. Singapore	Indonesia vs. Hong Kong	Cambodia	
14:55	15	Break - Fastest player in Asia / longest kick				
15:10	25	AFLW SF P1-1st vs. P2-2nd	AFLW SF P1-2nd vs. P2-1st	Div 1 3rd vs. 4th	Cambodia	
15:35	25	P1-4th vs P2-3rd	ALL ASIAN	P1-3rd vs P2-4th	SG/VN	
16:00	30		Div 1 Grand Final		AFL Asia	
16:30	25		AFLW Grand Final		AFL Asia	
17:00		Final Presentations - Div 1 and Women's Winners All Asian & Leading Goal Kickers / Best Players				
17:45		Buses to return, AFL on the Big Screen, Bar open till 7.30pm				
19:30		Last buses to leave at the conclusion of the AFL Finals Match				

AFL Finals live@bar

## GAME DURATIONS

- 25 min timeslots
- 2 x 10 minute halves / 3 minute half time breaks, 2 minute changeovers between games
- Coin toss between Captains to take place at officials tent at half time of prior game
- Division 1 Finals 12 Minute Halves

DIVISION 1	AFLW	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3
INDONESIAN VOLCANOES PAPUA NEW GUINEA MURUKS SINGAPORE WOMBATS VIETNAM SWANS	POOL 1 CAMBODIAN APSARAS HONG KONG DRAGONS INDONESIAN VOLCANOES SINGAPORE WOMBETTES  POOL 2 MALAYSIAN WARRIORS PAKISTAN THAILAND TIGERS VIETNAM SWANS	CAMBODIAN EAGLES HONG KONG DRAGONS INDONESIAN VOLCANOES MALAYSIAN WARRIORS PAKISTAN MARKHORS THAILAND TIGERS	BARBARIANS CHINA REDS INDONESIAN VOLCANOES PHILIPPINE EAGLES THAILAND TIGERS

# VENUE AND GROUND LAYOUT

## THAI POLO & EQUESTRIAN CLUB, CHON BURI, THAILAND

This venue provides a premier playing surface along with the space required for three well-sized ovals that can cater for the number of games we will play across 4 divisions. The venue also has the space for team tents, bar, VIP area as well as room for officials, scorers and live streaming services.





## “MATE. IT WAS JUST GREAT TO PLAY SOME FOOTY AGAIN!”

By Rob Spurr

I lost count of how many times I heard that phrase as Asian footy regained its mojo at the Patana School in Bangkok for the return of the 2022 champs.

For three years, players had endured a range of brutal lockdown scenarios that had decimated club membership across the region. Many expats were reluctantly forced home and training had become non-existent for the remaining players.

With that backdrop, the 2022 champs were a much-needed kicker for the code and a personal panacea for many deprived of exercise, community and travel.

My first “Champs” were in the foundation tournaments of 1999/2000 and hadn’t been back since the rain-soaked KL tournament of 2003. An all-male tournament comprising Indonesia, Singapore, HK, Malaysia and Brunei got things going back then, with expat Australians dominating the team sheets.

23 years later, Matt Gale’s single day 44 game, 21 team, all gender fixture seemed like a modern miracle, with a marked explosion of local talent.

What hadn’t changed in 20 years was the spirit of competition and enduring cross-cultural

friendships made through the prism of sport and in this case, Aussie rules footy.

To see the newly created Pakistan team applauded by all countries as they elatedly completed their Division 3 winner’s lap of honour was a moment of joy and poignancy. The improbability of a team scouted from the far-reaching provinces of one of South Asia’s most complicated geographies, coming together to compete in a foreign sporting code wasn’t lost the 450 participants at the Patana school. That’s the real beauty of the Asian Champs. Year by year, country by country, new entrants are seduced by the Sherrin and the unique mateship it provides. Whilst the results certainly matter on gameday, it’s the participation and sense of gradual progress that binds everyone.

As the sun was setting at the Patana School, I bumped into Ben Giles, President of the Jakarta Bintang. Benny was one of the first guys I met when landing in the “Big Durian” in 1998 and was feeling circumspect about Indonesia’s tight loss to PNG in the Division 1 final.

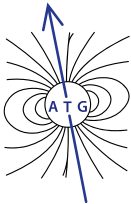
**“Mate. It was just great to play some footy again!”**

**Rob Spurr captained Indonesia to the 2002 Asian Championship in Singapore. He is a current AFL Advisory Board member.**





# AUSTHAI GEOPHYSICAL DIVISION 1



## Austhai Geophysical

We again see these four vie off for the title! Will it be another Muruks vs Volcanoes final, or might the Wombats or Swans go one better this year? Whoever makes it, no doubt it will be a fast-paced and hard battle, so start licking your licks spectators! Word has it that the Muruks have had strong preparations for the Champs, while the Wombats feel as though they might be able return to their glory days and get their hands back on the cup in the 30th year since the club's inception. Indonesia has continued to build in numbers and will again be hard to beat, and while the Swans have had mixed results, we all know that the Champs are a different game! Bring on the Austhai Geophysical Division 1 games!





# INDONESIAN VOLCANOES

**Coach:** Rick Olarens Shaw

PLAYERS NAME	RESIDES	PLAYS FOR
Jack Ahearn	Bali	Bali Geckos ©
Kalen Iselt	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang ©
David Stanford	Bali	Bali Geckos
Glenn Fernee	Bali	Bali Geckos
Brodie Grumley	Bali	Bali Geckos
Max Stobbs	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Jay Gillies	Bali	Bali Geckos
Peter McFarlane	Bali	Bali Geckos
Tim Schibli	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
<b>Michael Latupeirissa</b>	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
<b>Vincent Halim</b>	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Troy Luff	Sydney	Bali Geckos
Bryce Critch	Bali	Bali Geckos
<b>Joshua Pasaribu</b>	Bali	Bali Geckos
Tim Joughin	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Damian Hoo	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang

**Indonesian nationals.**



# PNG MURUKS

UNITED -TEAM -REVERED.

Year Founded: 2017

President: Alex “Homer” Simpson

Captain: TBA

Coaches: Kevin “Sheedy” Bull – On Tour, Patrick “lloydee” Lloyd- PNG

**How good is footy in PNG!**

With a former Muruk now on the playing roster for the Suns. The quality of AFL in PNG has been going from strength to strength.

The Muruks have lost some of their key players this year to Australian talent scouts, but we haven’t had to dig deep to uncover more players from the New Guinea islands. Who can easily match the strength and abilities from what AFL Asia can throw at us.

Watch out for the surprise packets this year from Big Mac busting through the pack and the precision of Curtly who has refined his kicking game.

Some notable absences this year so are the Muruks up for the challenge, will they be crowned the ultimate champions again and go for the 3 peat? Only time will tell!

Whatever happens the Muruks will bring the pride and passion of playing for their country to the main game and give there all to retain the championship cup.





### Team introduction

2022 Champs were slightly underwhelming for the Singapore Wombats. Fielding Div1 and Div3 teams, expectations were high, but results did not live up to expectation.

Preseason kicked off with huge numbers across the board. The return of the beers and a few snags after training saw a mix of new players and old heads back in their droves. The season opened with the trip to take on the Vietnam Swans for the annual ANZAC friendship match. Both teams battled it out in the Ho Chi Minh heat, and as usual the matches were played in great spirit, but unfortunately Singapore couldn't bring home a win.

Next up was the inaugural Tri Nations Cup in KL. The Wombats defeated the Warriors and Dragons to bring home the cup. The club enjoyed a return to a full touring calendar with further a win in Cambodia and a tough trip to Jakarta.

August saw the always competitive international rules matches against local Gaelic Lions, as well as the return leg of the Changi Cup, where the Wombats won to complete the sweep and retain the trophy for another season.

The club heads into Champs this year with a point to prove. In our 30th anniversary season, the Wombats are hungry to get their name back into the top echelons of the competition.



## VIETNAM SWANS



### Team introduction

It's a pleasure for the Vietnam Swans to return to Thailand this year to represent the club at Asian Champs!

Coming off the back of a really positive 2022, a season that was thrown together with limited options post-covid, our organization grew in both numbers and experience. This culminated in an appearance in Bangkok where both men's and women's teams showed that they can be amongst the most competitive on the continent. However, the off season saw the departure of long time legend and President Eric 'Kerro' Kerrison who has left some rather big shoes to be filled by incoming President Matt Barton. This has been a difficult task and no doubt during this adjustment period the rest of the AFL Asia Presidents will get a respite while Matty gets up to speed!

In terms of on the field, for the men coach Timmy Pickert put in a lot of effort early doors to get a good calendar of football established so that we can continue to hone our craft and sharpen ourselves progressively. Since March we have welcomed Hong Kong Dragons, Singapore Wombats/Wombettes, Indonesia Volcanoes, Cambodia Eagles / Asparas and also traveled to Cambodia. Though the Swans won out in all but one of these games it's that loss at home to the Indonesia Volcanoes that the boys will take the biggest learnings from coming into what's sure to be the pressure cooker of champs.

Due to some heavy turnover unfortunately the Swans men will only be able to field a Division one team this go round, though the good news is that we'll see largely the same squad as we did last year. In particular keep a lookout for 2022 All Asia picks Jonathan Mackay in the ruck and Russel Clarke in the guts powering the engine room alongside Ryan Tishler and Jake Norris, to name but a few. After bleeding themselves in Division one last year and following the full calendar of footie so far the Swans men will know what they're up against and will be looking to improve on last year's highly competitive and tight finish.



**Invite all participants to the 2023 ATG Asian Championships post-event party!**



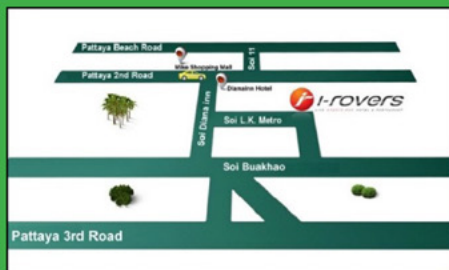
**Full replay of Elimination Final: Saints v Giants & Qualifying Final: Lions v Power will be screened once Champs participants have arrived!**

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# IT’S A DRAW!



As evident watching the drawn AFL games this season, drawn footy games bring out mixed emotions. They also raise the debate of whether there should be such a thing as sharing the four points. But as we know, drawn finals are another story. Obviously close, nail-biting with much on the line, they can make heroes or villains out of players, and bring everyone in the crowd to the edge of their seat.

This was the case in the 2007 Asian Champs Grand Final - the only drawn final (according to our fading memories) in the event’s history.

## THE PATH TO THE FINAL.

### Pool A

Thailand Tigers, Bali Geckos, Vietnam Swans, China Reds, Jakarta Bintangs

The Geckos had gathered their biggest ever team together for the event - 27 players. Though a clear minority had played any level above juniors in Australia prior to their move to Bali, the team was riding on the back on two consecutive appearances in the Asian Champs finals, losing both to Singapore in Manila in 05 and in Jakarta in 06. The club that had surfing as the common thread and proudly wore Quiksilver boardshorts as their uniform, the Geckos were too good for hosts Thailand in their first game, and then overran China, who were boosted by a number of recruits, including 2006 Richmond Tigers players Greg Stafford and Mark Chaffey, in their second. The third game saw the Geckos challenged by the Swans, mainly due to two Geckos being sent off, including their coach Peter “Gun” Muir. But their biggest challenge was in the final game against their arch rivals Jakarta Bintangs, with the winner of that game to finish on top of the pool and thus progress through to the grand final. After a quick start by the Bintangs getting the first two goals, the Geckos controlled the game, with wayward kicking preventing them from a convincing win.

**Bali Geckos** 5 - 7 - 37  
**Thailand Tigers** 2 - 2 - 14

**Bali Geckos** 4 - 8 - 32  
**China Reds** 2 - 0 - 12

**Bali Geckos** 3 - 12 - 30  
**Vietnam Swans** 3 - 1 - 19

**Bali Geckos** 5 - 9 - 39  
**Jakarta Bintangs** 4 - 3 - 27



Members of the winning team at the combined 15 year (2007) and 10 year (2012) reunion, Melbourne, December 2022

### Pool B

Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates

Led by coach Gary Wines, Hong Kong embarked on the 2007 Asian Championships with high hopes, fueled by a blend of seasoned players and promising newcomers. Facing arch rivals, the Singapore Wombats in their first game, the Dragons combined well to dominate the match. Captain Shannon Morgan controlled the stoppages from the outset and was well supported by onballers Dwight Stuchbury and Damien Guengerich. Full forward Aaron Best capped off the good work upfield with strong marks and accurate kicking. With winners on every line, the Dragons kicked away for a 41 point win.

The Dragons were challenged by Malaysia and Japan in the next two pool matches, but strong showings by a dominant backline, a reliable midfield, and an electric forward line saw them finish victorious. Matt Baron was awarded mark of the day in the match against Japan, with club stalwarts Nathan Byrne, Chris Nicolay and Graeme Rigg performing strongly.

New kids on the block, UAE, traveled with a small squad of 14 in 2007, and were running out of petrol tickets when they faced the Dragons in the final match. Early inaccurate kicking by the Dragons

kept UAE in the match, but it was the Dragons who finished stronger and remained undefeated in Pool B.

<b>Singapore</b>	<b>0 - 1 - 1</b>
<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>6 - 6 - 42</b>
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>3 - 1 - 19</b>
<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>5 - 2 - 32</b>
<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>6 - 2 - 38</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>1 - 2 - 8</b>
<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>4 - 6 - 30</b>
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	<b>3 - 3 - 21</b>

## THE FINAL

In a match that had the noisy crowd of more than 700 on the edge of their seats, the Dragons jumped out of the blocks with slick ball work and strong running. The Geckos midfield, led by Leigh Hughes and ruckman Ricky Nolan, had a patch of domination that saw the Geckos gain back control. And with Geckos coach and backman Muir, who years later won an Asian Championships title and best & fairest with the Dragons, managing to quell the impact of key forward and former WAFL player Aaron Best, who had dominated the scoreboard for the Dragons in earlier games and was later awarded the player of the tournament, the Geckos were looking strong. The accuracy that had plagued the team all day however started to take its toll and through their relentless efforts, the Dragons had edged closer.

The Geckos had a 10 point lead with five minutes to go before two goals against the run of play gave the Dragons a slender lead of one point. The scene was tense in the final minutes, and fueled on by quality footy and cold Singha's, the crowd edged closer to the boundary line in scenes reminiscent of finals at the MCG during the 60s. In what many saw as their final thrust forward, Gecko Jake Smart took a great grab 40 metres out on the boundary.

The siren then sounded, leaving Smart with a difficult shot to score into the stiff breeze let alone kick a goal. With the crowd going crazy a mere few feet away, Smart managed to score a behind, with the game to then be decided by extra time of two five minute halves.

Each playing their fifth game in searing Bangkok heat and humidity, both teams were physically and mentally drained. The Geckos backline managed to hold off a few forward attacks from the Dragons, but

with the Dragons dropping back an extra defender, they found it hard to score. Though they were kicking into the breeze, the Dragons managed to have much of the play in their forward line and although they did not score a goal, this gave them a mental advantage along with their marginal lead going into the last five minutes. The Geckos backline was again under pressure in the final five minutes, but worked together well to move the ball into attack but only to see their efforts thwarted by the defense of the Dragons, who were taking advantage of their larger bench and arguably fresher legs. During the dying minutes of the game the ball was in the Dragon's forward pocket, where the Geckos managed to lock it in for a ball up. The ruck tap went to Gecko Sammy Gosling, who saw an option to clear only to cramp at the worst moment, dribbling a kick across the Dragons' goal square to see it snapped up by Dragon Matt Baron who sealed the result with a goal.

<b>Hong Kong Dragons</b>	<b>7 - 6 - 48</b>
<b>Bali Geckos</b>	<b>5 - 9 - 39</b>

It was a fitting finale to what was at that stage, with 10 teams in action, the biggest Aussie Rules event in Asia. The quality of football was the best the continent had ever seen, with a number of former AFL stars as well as WAFL current and former players (what would today be considered "ring ins") ensuring the standard of play was at a high level.





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**THAILAND TIGERS**

**AFL ASIA 2023 CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
 OCTOBER, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>  
 THAI PALACE SUKHUMVIT ROAD, CHONG NONG, THAILAND

**AFL ASIA**

# THANKS TO ALL OUR ORGANIZERS AND VOLUNTEERS





## SMATS WOMEN'S DIVISION



The SMATS Women's Division continues to build, with eight teams vying for this year's title.

After taking over last year's event, the Singapore Wombettes are again looking strong and will likely feature in the finals this year, while another Asian powerhouse Hong Kong is also looking like they will challenge for the title. Despite having a smaller squad, Malaysia are confident that they can challenge other teams after going close to taking the title last year, and you can expect the Cambodian Apsaras to be as determined and courageous as ever. Indonesia has been growing its playing numbers as have Vietnam, with the Lady Swans hoping they can add another women's championship to the club's trophy cabinet. Hosts the Tigresses have been challenged to increase player numbers this year, but will be bolstered with the inclusion of young teens from their CUBS development program. Lastly, a fantastic inclusion to this year's event is the addition of Pakistan, who have seen massive growth in the game. No doubt they will be giving it their best in their first appearance in the SMATS Women's Division.

POOL 1



POOL 2





## CAMBODIAN APSARAS

### Team introduction

The Cambodian Apsaras make the journey to Pattaya with what shapes as their most complete lineup since inception, and off the back of their biggest ever victory – a 10+ goal thumping of the Vietnam Lady Swans in July. Look out, world!

Competing in their fourth Asian Championships, the Apsaras are humming along with a quiet confidence and one eye fixed keenly on the silverware in 2023. Over the past year, the club has welcomed back two foundation stars, who are now in peak form after a few years away from footy, unearthed a new crop of local rookies, and added a strong contingent of Australian players to compliment the ever-impressive mosquito squad that captures the imagination of fans with their bravery and guile.

Srey Touch – one of the first bonafide local stars of women’s footy and now a young mother – signalled her return to the top flight with a six-goal haul from the half-forward line in the recent win over Vietnam, and as long as she can get a bowl of (Amru) rice on the morning of the Champs, promises to unleash carnage once more. Touch will spearhead a pint-sized Apsaras forward line, along with Sreylak

Koun, who returned after completing a sports science degree to find that the Apsaras now had more than a handful of players at or above the standards she helped set as a foundation player, and Yen Sokry, a rookie who has joined the Apsaras’ heady ranks of ruthless tacklers and has one hand on Rising Star honours with a series of breakout performances in her first year getting to know the Sherrin.

In the midfield, club captain Hannah Slaughter travels to Pattaya under an injury cloud after dislocating her hip in the opening exchanges of a brutal return match against Vietnam in August, but the Apsaras have on-ball coverage like never before, with tireless ruckwoman Gemma XX, rugby convert Prom Puthyda and the returns of Apsaras legends Ruby Cray and Kelsey Burns, who are sure to be in the reckoning for best performances on ground and off.

In recent months, the Apsaras have also found a new level of voice, thanks plenty to Phat Sreymay, who from centre-half back – and off the back of a dominant performance at the GAA World Games in Derry – has taken the reins as the club’s defensive lynchpin, allowing the fully-fit Frenchwoman Mathilde Thillay and the rarely-fit Poeu Sophoan to carry out their jobs as enforcers and distributors at the back while she marshals the defensive unit and plays chief thwarter of attacking raids.

On the back of one an impressive preparation, the Apsaras are playing with great cohesion and understanding of their roles. They are ready to give the Champs – and the dancefloors – a red hot crack this weekend. Look out, Pattaya!

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:** Yen Sokry, Srey Touch, Phat Sreymich



## HONG KONG DRAGONS

### Team introduction

After a disappointing miss last year due to Covid restrictions, the Hong Kong Dragons AFLW team are geared up and ready to bounce back with a vengeance. Determined to leave their mark on the upcoming competition, these fiery Dragons are hoping that it's third time the charm after narrowly missing out on silverware in their previous two appearances.

The Dragons have been working tirelessly to sharpen their skills, fine-tune their tactics, and boost their overall confidence on the field. With several fresh faces joining the team and the sport, the experienced players will play a crucial role in fortifying the team's performance. Co-captains Bri Nation and Lucy Mac have been working hard behind the scenes and on the field and it's been fantastic to see the Dragons women's team have big numbers at training this season, rebuilding to be even stronger!

The squad boasts an impressive roster of players to keep an eye on...

First up is none other than Jess Cole, the team's formidable AFLW President. Known for her unwavering determination she is a force to be reckoned with on the field. With her impeccable timing and powerful tackles, she has a habit of shutting down even the most skillful attackers. AFLW Prez JCole wants a win after two runners up places in 2018 and 2019!

Next on the roster is Lucy McFarlane, a rising star who has been turning heads with her lightning-fast moves and superb ball control. Lucy has a knack for being in the right place at the right time, a perfect combination with her exceptional skills allowing her to crumb the ball from the first bounce.

When it comes to quick reflexes and an uncanny ability to anticipate the play, Josie O'Reilly is the player to watch out for. Josie's playmaking skills are second to none, as she possesses the vision and technical proficiency to deliver precise passes, launch incisive through balls, and orchestrate intricate attacking moves.

Last but certainly not least is Kai Sai Mei, a rookie sensation who has been making waves since joining the team. Her raw talent and boundless energy inject a fresh dynamic into the Dragons' gameplay. Watch out for her in the forward line.

The 2023 AFL Asia Champs will see a number of new Dragons keen to make a big impression in their first international games. The AFLW Dragons are excited to get back onto the field and to play footy - and to show AFL Asian champs why we are part of the best footy club in Asia!



# INDONESIAN VOLCANOES

**Coach:** Adam Bilwani

PLAYERS NAME	RESIDES	PLAYS FOR
Dawn Herring	Bali	Bali Geckos ©
Nora Yugueros Olamusu	Bali	Bali Geckos
Linzi Oliver	Bali	Bali Geckos
Ananda Kurnia Fitri	Bali	Bali Geckos
Prastika Citra Utami	Bali	Bali Geckos
Rimma Robinzonovich	Bali	Bali Geckos
Yohana Gebze (Anna)	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Sophie Bennett	Bali	Bali Geckos
Alison Linforth	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Alvina Gracia Sianturi	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Nathania Pardede	Bali	Bali Geckos
Dana Throssell	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Emily Bayliss	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Jacqui Lin	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Michelle McDaniels (Chanel)	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Miranda Semmens	Bali	Bali Geckos
Nabila Novianti Putri	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Dini Septiawati	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Shasha Pasta Larasati	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Givenia Regina Turnip (Nia)	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang

Indonesian nationals.



## SINGAPORE WOMBETTES

### Team introduction

While 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the Singapore Wombats, but it's only been four years since the group that would go on to become the Wombettes first hit the park. To win Champs in 2022 after such a short period was unexpected by many, except for those in Singapore who knew that the team had something special brewing. Expectations are high heading back to Thailand in 2023 and the girls have every intention of going back-to-back.

The Wombettes have had a mixed bag of results touring throughout this season. It kicked off with a low scoring loss in Ho Chi Minh for the annual ANZAC Friendship Match, followed by a win and a loss in KL in the Tri Nations Cup against Malaysia. More matches away against Bali and Cambodia saw competitive hit outs and a great introduction to the world of Asian footy for many new Aussie, Irish and local additions to the side.

This year's Champs will feature a Wombettes side with a few changes from the last campaign; a strong core of leaders is supplemented by an exciting injection of new talent. With Coach Harry on the magnets, the team are peaking at just the right time.

Back to back Champions of Asia has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?



# MALAYSIAN WARRIORS

## Team introduction

The fundamental essence of the Malaysian Warriors is formed through a blend of diversity, unity, and a shared enthusiasm for Australian Rules Football. Commemorating its sixth year, the Warrior Women showcase that our club transcends age, embracing a wide spectrum of skills and cultural origins. The Warrior Women extend an open invitation to all, irrespective of where they come from or their previous athletic involvement (if any!). The foundational principles of the Malaysian Warriors illustrate the conviction that true sports aficionados acknowledge no boundaries, underscoring that the joy of the game is accessible to everyone.

Becoming a part of the Warrior community involves more than just putting on the team guernsey and joining a group of Australian Rules Football enthusiasts. It means immersing yourself in a lively environment and embracing a competitive spirit that will leave a lasting impact even after your time in Malaysia comes to an end. Being a Warrior entails dedicating yourself to the challenging and sometimes hot Saturday training sessions led by Coach Nige. It also involves enjoying the post-training gatherings and perhaps even getting convinced to do a 'shoey' with Mali. Throughout this year, nearly every Cobra training session has seen us handing out bucket hats and stubbie holders to celebrate the arrival of new Warrior Women into our community, and we couldn't be happier about it!

We have had an action packed 2023 schedule and in our lead up to champs, have made sure that our preparation of social activities and sport continue to weave connections and forge friendships. The Warriors understand that off-field camaraderie is just as crucial as on-field prowess. As we reflect on the first nine months of 2023, we can see the dedication to fostering relationships, commitment to tradition, and passion for nurturing future talent exemplify the heart and soul of our club. We have experienced countless victories both domestically and internationally throughout this season, hence making us extremely eager to tackle the Asian Champs challenge.

The invitation from Thailand Tigers for the Malaysian Warriors Women to join ANZAC Day tour to Kanchanaburi was a highlight early in the year and stands as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by others in our South East Asian past. The club's participation in a pre-game service and reflection on the history of the ANZAC Spirit given by Phil serves as a testament to our respect for this history and our commitment to values beyond the sporting realm and truly set us up for the day. The Women's triumph taking the ANZAC Day Women's trophy, along with individual recognition for Warrior Teri for their stand out contribution on the day, exemplifies the Warriors' prowess on and off the field. Our first home tour was the Inaugural Tri Nations Cup. We were fortunately joined by the HK Dragons and Singapore Wombettes, and the event showcased the Warriors' spirit for the game and bond to camaraderie. Victories in both the Changi Cup and the Tri Nations Cup for the Warrior Women exemplified the Warriors' competitive spirit and commitment to meaningful connections across clubs. This event further solidified the notion that AFLW in Asia has the power to unite nations and forge lasting friendships.

We couldn't talk about the success of the 2023 year without mentioning our very own Warrior Woman Emmelie Fiedler, who is making headlines with Fremantle Dockers in the AFLW going at pick 7 in the Season 8 national draft. A huge congratulations to Emmelie who truly deserves to be the first AFL Asia Woman to be drafted in the main league. We are so proud to witness history and we will be wearing purple on your debut. The Malaysian Warriors Women eagerly anticipate our Champs Tour. The AFL Asia Championships promises to be a thrilling competition and unforgettable moments as the Warriors seek to etch their mark on the history of AFL Asia. After falling narrowly short last season, the Warrior Women are keen to put everything out there and bring back the silverware which we have dearly missed.

Thank you to my powerhouse Coach Nige, Captain Rach, as well as my faithful Warrior committee members for their tireless efforts and for shaping this club to be an inviting and friendly atmosphere with exactly the right amount of competitive spirit.

**- Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior.**

**President Kate**



## PAKISTAN WOMENS

### Team introduction

The Australian Football League Pakistan (AFLP) has been instrumental in promoting

Australian Rules Football in Pakistan since 2014. This year we held several key events:

1. Pakistan Independence Day Cup : A national celebration featuring men's and women's teams.
2. Inter-City Cups : Fostering city rivalries and showcasing the sport
3. Kashmir Day Tournament : Demonstrating AFLP's commitment to social causes.
4. Local grassroots events: Nurturing aspiring players and grassroots development.

We are gearing up for four upcoming nationwide events and aim to represent Pakistan in the

2024 AFL World Cup with both men's and women's teams. And we are very proud to enter our Women's team in this year's Asian Championships.

Our women's team is a diverse group, representing various regions of the country. Leading this talented team is Captain Farzana Batool , from Chakwal, Punjab. She is undoubtedly one of our standout players and exhibits unwavering commitment to the game. Farzana plays a pivotal role in ensuring that her team excels in all formats, maintains punctuality in training sessions, and nurtures the development of her fellow players.

Heading our coaching staff is the highly experienced Ghulam Fareed, who serves as our esteemed Head Coach. With a wealth of knowledge and a deep understanding of the intricacies of Australian Rules Football, Ghulam Fareed brings invaluable expertise to our team. His guidance and mentorship are instrumental in honing the skills of our players, both on and off the field. Under his tutelage, our team has shown remarkable growth and improvement, making him an indispensable asset to our AFL Pakistan coaching staff.





**Team introduction**

The Thailand Tigresses are proud to be representing Thailand in Asian Champs this year. We are a squad of many nationalities but always proud to wear a Tigers jumper. We have a strong squad full of different abilities and skills to bring to their games. The passion, dedication and enthusiasm is next to none from these players and we are excited to see their games in play.

**Coach** - Kym Downey

**Captain** - Holly Crawford

**Holly** - Hollywood is the newly appointed captain who loves to kick a bag of goals. She has an awesome right foot kick and is quick to the ball. She is fit and skillful, she's a great woman to have on your side.

**Sophie** - the Aussie player who is quick on the ground but not when it comes to her fingers. The spinning balls have caught her many times. Her positivity shines though and she is a player who never gives up.

**Jess** - Hardware played last year's tournament with passion, dedication and fierceness. This year she is stronger and better than ever. I would be scared if I was you she is a beast on the field. Expect great things from her this year.

**Kay** - Special Kay #12 the curly haired pommy who is always giving to the club. She is fast, speedy and never needy. She is our defence/back line warrior and I wouldn't want to be on the end of her tackles.

**Sarah** - is a keen player to the womens game. The heat may try to stop her but she always fights hard and helps on the backline. She's got a booming kick out of back pocket watch out for those spinning balls.

**Tud** - the mother of Mani and wife of Mark. Her passion and determination are a huge asset to the Tigers. Her dedication on and off the pitch is phenomenal. Watch out, she is always in the right spot and ready to tackle.

**Kym** - New recruit Kym and coach of the women's team has been a revelation for the Tigers this year. Always in the right spot, and with great skills. This is Kym's first Asian Champs but she is not new to the game. She is skillful, quick and full of tricks. She is one to watch.

**Grace** the G-train will be making a day trip to Pattaya for Champs. Look out as she unleashes all her skills and prowess on the field in a one day cameo in Tigers colours.

**Fiona** - This is Fiona's second Asian Champs in Thailand. She is fit, fast and skillful, she's a key player for the Tigers.

**Tarli** - Coming back from the birth of two miniature footballers Tarli will be making her return at this Asian Champs. Much is expected of the team enforcer and Vic Uni Spurs team of the decade player.

**A** - After attending a few Auskick sessions watching her kids, A decided to give it a go on the field. And give it a go she does! What A is lacking in experience, she clearly makes up for it in endeavor.

**Tara** - The Canadian beast is making her first debut for the Thailand Tigers and her awesome rugby skills are going to come in very handy on the pitch.

A very exciting development in our Women's team this year is the inclusion of players who have come through our AusKick and Communities United By Sport (CUBS) programs. Our women's team will also feature some of the young women just starting their aussie rules adventures this year. Huge thanks and credit to all Tigers involved in establishing and running the programs over the years and to the tireless efforts of the coordinators at the Duang Prateep Foundation. Special thanks also to the generous support and sponsorship of the program by AusThai Geophysics, Thailand AusCham and AFL Asia. We look forward to these girls getting involved in their game for the Tigresses.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>1. Pook</b>    | <b>7. Bam</b>     |
| <b>2. Paeng</b>   | <b>8. Fah</b>     |
| <b>3. Joy</b>     | <b>9. Barby</b>   |
| <b>4. Por Jai</b> | <b>10. Breeze</b> |
| <b>5. Cream</b>   | <b>11. Tle</b>    |
| <b>6. Kheow</b>   | <b>12. Grace</b>  |



## VIETNAM SWANS

### Team introduction

Since the team’s inception in 2018 the Lady Swans have gone from strength to strength. What initially began as an aspiration to have weekly training sessions has grown into a fully fledged national team that tours and competes with the best women’s teams in Asia, represented by both foreigners and a strong contingent of Vietnamese women as well. Under the longtime stewardship of Coach and Player Chia Sabatucchi the Lady Swans managed to make an impact at Asian Championships in 2022 with a place in the semi-finals. Since then with a change in life circumstances Chia has returned to Australia though will be making her Champs comeback as a player flying in specially all the way from the land down under

The void left in the coaching position was bravely taken on by Swans half forward gun and pest

Wayne McMahon. Wayne’s footy pedigree comes from his time as both president and leadership group experience at his home club in Melbourne. His strong links with the Gaelic football community is already paying dividends with record numbers of women on the track at training sessions in Saigon and strong playing stocks in the North. The team will be led out by former Rugby player and canuck Katie Quinn who has shown great leadership since taking on the mantle as well as improving her footie craft. Look for the aforementioned Chia Sabbatucchi to add some contested ball wins and hard solid tackling alongside our Vietnamese contingent of Layla Laelia, Vân Trâ n, Lucy Nguyen and Phu ng Trâ n to add some pace and run to the side. Despite losing the trio of Walsh ladies (long time Swan and daughters Ella and Hannah) the lady Swans have restocked their ranks and hit the track running this year with victories over current holders Singapore and Cambodia on our home turf but taking a tough L on the road to Cambodia. With a full squad at his disposal Coach Wayne will be looking to his players to make inroads in this Champs series and look to go even further than last year’s effort.

As mentioned at the start the Swans men and women love being at Champs, and we’d like to give a big thanks to the Tiges for organizing, we can’t wait to see you on the field and hopefully in the bar afterwards.

**HONK!**



# An AFLW Warrior!

Written by  
**Rebecca Simpson**

Emmelie Fiedler's journey from the bustling streets of Kuala Lumpur to becoming a star in the Australian Football League Women's (AFLW) is a remarkable tale of determination, skill, and cross-cultural influences.

Born to an Australian father and a German mother, Fiedler's diverse heritage has undoubtedly shaped her unique playing style on the field. Raised in Kuala Lumpur and attending the German International school, she developed a worldly perspective that adds depth to her game.

Her AFLW journey began in 2017 when she debuted for the Malaysian Warrior Women in their inaugural game. Sharing the field with her sister Zoe, both teenagers showcased a bond that extended beyond sisterhood. Fiedler's raw talent was evident, setting her on a trajectory of success.

In 2019, Fiedler played a pivotal role in the Warrior Women's championship victory at the Asian Championships in Pattaya, Thailand. Her contributions in the ruck, her tenacity and her loose ball gets were instrumental in clinching the title, solidifying her status as a future rising star.

Relocating to Perth to pursue studies at Curtin University, Fiedler's commitment to AFLW remained unwavering. 2021 sees Fiedler once again joining forces with sister Zoe playing with the Curtin University Football club. Standing at 187cm Fiedler was bound to be on the radar of the WAFL club scouts in Perth and was picked up by the East Fremantle Women's football club. Playing at the Sharks in 2022, she quickly made her presence felt,

becoming an integral part of the team's success and taking out rookie of the year.

2023 marked a turning point as Emmelie was selected as the 7th draft pick by the Fremantle Dockers in the AFLW draft. Donning the Dockers' purple colours and her favoured jersey number 50, she carries the hopes of her multicultural upbringing and a nation that watched her ascent.

Emmelie Fiedler's story encapsulates the power of diverse influences and relentless dedication. From Kuala Lumpur to the AFLW stage, her journey continues to inspire athletes worldwide. As she propels forward, we eagerly anticipate the next chapter in Fiedler's remarkable athletic odyssey.

We are so proud of Emmelie and her AFLW success - there will be a splash of purple in KL this AFLW season as the Warriors cheer from her beloved tropical home.

**Once a Warrior Always a Warrior.**





## BEVCHAIN DIVISION 2



Bevchain Division 2 has attracted the most teams of the men's divisions this year, and is looking like it is going to be a tight contest! While hosts and reigning Division 2 champions the Thailand Tigers have lost a number of their top players, a key reason they have remained in this division, they still have a list that should see them be near the top of the table. Indonesia has the depth that should see them more than competitive, while the Warriors are confident they will feature in the finals and perhaps go all the way. Cambodia has returned to division 2 with confidence and depth while Hong Kong, despite missing a number of their key players, might be able to go one step further this year and take the title. Pakistan comes up after dominating Division 3 last year, and from what we saw in 2022, they could surprise all in attendance!





### Team introduction

After a narrow loss to newcomers Pakistan in the 2022 Asian Champs Division 3 final, the Cambodia Eagles are stepping back up to Division 2 this year, looking to go one better than their 2016 grand final loss to a Laos Elephants team boasting premiership winning WAFL players (which they are not still bitter about).

The Eagles are – as often – in a period of transformation, with local Cambodian players making up some 90% of the squad in some recent matches. However, with the bells of Asian Champs ringing, all hands are on deck, and the core contingent of locals and Australians will be complemented by some additional Irish and South African flavours.

On a three-game slide, the Eagles welcome back tireless Welshman Duncan Smith from injury, and are rumoured to have devised an actual strategy around

their dominant ruckman for the first time in years, finally moving out of the shadows of club legend Grant 'Con Air' Fitzgerald, who famously stated on many occasions: 'we're not good enough for a gameplan!'

Moving into the twilight of his career, Peter 'Greyhound' Kokke is expected to be deployed in the forward line for the Eagles in 2023, with young blood including 2022 All-Asian Jordan Randazzo and rising Cambodian star Oem Po set to share on-ball duties alongside the first superstar of Asian footy, Nan Nas, and Irish whippet 'Angry' Conor Wall, who returns from coaching at the GAA World Games with no voicebox and a laundry list of verbal infringements aimed at (his own) players and officials alike.

The Eagles will likely run with a lightweight backline, with Raksmei Lionel establishing himself as a key member of the defensive unit and 18-year-old Sva Seavfong proving he belongs with a stunning run-on debut against Vietnam in July, where he was a pinch away from being named best-on ground.

Up front, Nic 'Darkhorse' Welsh will be looked to as a target and distributor to rookie forward Tong Kimang, fresh from nailing his first goal against the Swans, and veteran clubman Chin 'kbaal thom' Sitha.

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:** Nan Nas, Oem Po, Sva Seavfong, Lionel Raksmei





## HONG KONG DRAGONS

### Team introduction

After going close to winning but being defeated by the home team last year, the Hong Kong Dragons men's team are looking at going one better in the division 2 competition. The Hong Kong Dragons Mens Div 2 team will be a mix of experience and first timers. Our coach James Storey has been working the team hard over the grueling Hong Kong summer to get everyone in shape, countering some of our off field practice.

President Jake 'Slothington' McCauley will be marshaling the troops down back with some help with Vaughan and new Dragon Kai. Look for the dash of Sammy Jain out the backline and the skills of Stephen 'Ghost' Troy coming out of defense. Our midfield will have the experience of Nathan Jaspar,

formerly of Singapore Wombats, to guide them with our American running machine Benny trying out something new in the ruck.

Luke Colbran will be running up and down the wing all day with Sammy Viele on the other side. Helping them out will be a couple of bulls in Phil 'Filthy' Shaw and Thomny Giang, Ernest 'Ernie' Choy and Kyle Li will be rotating through mids with them.

Up Forward we have Laneo the mark taking machine finally getting some support with Matty Schulte making a comeback in what should make a great one two punch. Alex Suter will be helping link up the forward line and at the feet of the tall lads will be Mikey Stern and Dicko, club vice president and touring guru.

The team is loaded with a healthy mix of experience and new energy - and the Hong Kong Dragons will be well represented on and off field.



## INDONESIAN VOLCANOES

PLAYERS NAME	RESIDES	PLAYS FOR
Leigh Semmens	Bali	Bali Geckos
Arn Susanto	Bali	Bali Geckos
Rick Olarenshaw	Bali	Bali Geckos
Matt Jolly	Bali	Jakarta Bintang
David Dollar	Bali	Bali Geckos
Christian Azzopardi	Bali	Bali Geckos
Andrew Murdoch	Bali	Bali Geckos
Hariyanto (Bombok)	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Ardiansyah Widiyanto	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Janu Arta	Bali	Bali Geckos
Hariyanto (Bombok)	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Niles Collins	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Sam Shearer	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Guspriaman Warasi	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Oliver Lilford	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Diky Hermawan	Balikpapan	Borneo Bears
Eddy Wahyu Septiadi	Balikpapan	Borneo Bears
Guspriaman Warasi	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang

Indonesian nationals.



# MALAYSIAN WARRIORS

## Team introduction

Diversity, unity, and a shared love for Australian Rules Football define the essence of the Malaysian Warriors. The Warrior Men now in their 31st year in the AFL Asia competition prove that we are a club that transcends age and skill levels. The Warriors welcome anyone to join their ranks no matter where you hail from or what sport, if any, may have been played before.

The Malaysian Warrior epitomizes the notion that the joy of sport is for all, and the values that AFL bring to an international community consists of no boundaries. Becoming a Warrior is more than just donning a guernsey and joining a crew of Aussie Rules enthusiasts; it's entering into a World with a vibrant community and a competitive force that will leave its mark on you long after your days in Malaysia have finished. Becoming a Warrior means you are committing to the demanding and often sweltering Saturday training sessions with Coach Digger, and welcoming the post training 'hydration' sessions at the Snake Pit with Ben and Matty. I would say the post-training sessions are more anticipated than the actual footy on some days!

Our 2023 schedule of home or away games have seen the club continue to offer a tapestry of social activities and sport that weave connections and forge friendships. The tours have been eagerly awaited (especially by the more social individuals at our club) and the footy aspect has been just as appreciated! Already this year we have celebrated victories on tour, honored club legends while having to farewell others, so is the nature of our game in this transient expat world.

The significance of tradition and sportsmanship shines through in events like the Brendan Chatham Cup. This long standing tradition of the International Rules games shared with the Orang Eire Gaelic Football Club Malaysia, highlights not only the competitiveness of the game in KL but also values of respect. These events serve as a tribute to the memory of individuals like Beej, who embodied the spirit of the game. As anticipation builds for game #2, the Warriors will be looking to get a game back on the Irish to go into the decider level. On their first International tour, the Mens side were invited by the Thailand Tigers to take part in an ANZAC Day tour located in Kanchanaburi. This was a major highlight for the side, and although we had a small traveling team, it allowed us to reminisce and remain thankful for the sacrifices made by others in the past. The pre-game ANZAC service was extremely special and to the few traveling men, was a massive testament to our respect for history. The ability to show recognition and reconciliation through sport is another reason as to why Asian footy is such a key aspect in our international lives.

We were fortunate to host the Inaugural Tri Nations Cup in KL this season, being joined by the HK Dragons and Singapore Wombats. The event showcased the Warriors' spirit for the game and bond to brotherhood. A win against Hong Kong gave the team a reason to believe, and further highlighted the hard work put into training sessions throughout the year. This event was massive in highlighting the importance of international connections through Asian footy, and how easy it is to go from competitors to comrades at the conclusion of the final whistle.

The Warrior Men once again headed to Finns Recreation Club in June entering a 35+ and 45+ team in the Bali Masters 9's. Rylø received his Life membership medallion surrounded by an incredible volume of the club history with five previous life member recipients being present. Congratulations to PBO for celebrating his 50th game with the club watched by his family cheering on the sidelines. Well done to our Warrior men for showcasing their abilities and competitiveness in the tournament with the 45+ lads bowing out in the semi and for 35+ taking out the plate. It was great to see so many Alumni players joining our current Warriors, and even a Wombat joined, this fun weekend. The word around the ground and the club on their return was that Josh, Weeksy, Nige and Eggy were standout players for the tournament displaying their ball handling, endurance and ability to maintain an incredible level of intensity across the weekend's games.

The celebration of the Singapore Club's 30th Anniversary and participation in game #2 of the Changi Cup in August by the Warrior Men again serves as an opportunity for the Warriors to continue our connections with our frenemies and be well on the way to prepare for Champs.

The game was low scoring and a tough bruising battle with Singapore just reclaiming the heavy bars trophy. The Malaysian Warriors Men can't wait to once again get stuck into an Asian Champs tour. Having been almost 6 years since we have last hoisted the cup, the Warriors are keen to get their names back onto the cup. With a strong team travelling from all corners of the globe, the Warrior men are keen to make damage in the Mens division.

Thank you to my powerhouse Coach Digger, Captain Bents, as well as my faithful Warrior committee members for their tireless efforts and for shaping this club to be an inviting and friendly atmosphere with exactly the right amount of competitive spirit.

- Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior.

**President Kate**





## PAKISTAN MARKHORS

### Team introduction

Over the years, we have witnessed significant progress in the development of AFL in Pakistan, with the participation of both Pakistani men and women teams in the AFL International Cup held in Melbourne, Australia, in 2017. We have successfully organized numerous national events for men, women, and kids, garnering extensive coverage from print, electronic, and social media outlets.

Our remarkable achievement of winning Division 3 last year signifies the immense potential and promising future of AFL in Pakistan.

Our Men's team comprises individuals from across the country who are deeply passionate about the game. Our men's team captain, Muhammad Talha Yousaf, is from Islamabad and is undeniably one of our star players. His dedication to motivating and training the team ensures that we bring our best performance to the field.

In preparation for the championship, our coaching staff, led by Head Coach Ghulam Fareed, has implemented a rigorous and comprehensive training regimen. This includes the organization of intensive training camps and practice sessions, meticulously designed to enhance the skills and fitness of our players. Additionally, a selection camp was conducted to identify and choose the best players, ensuring that our team is composed of the most talented and committed individuals. The combination of these elements has allowed us to focus on skill development, teamwork, and strategic planning, all essential components in our quest to excel in the championship.



### Team introduction

The championship drought now being over, the Thailand Tigers go into the 2023 competition as defending champions for the first time ever. New coach Gunny has brought his wealth of Asian footy experience to the side and the Tigers have been training hard. While there have been some inevitable changes to the squad from last year, the heart of the team remains the same and they are hungry to defend their crown.

**Coach** - Peter Muir

**Captain** - Jake McIntosh

A reinvigorated J-Mac, relieved of the pressure of coaching the side has been immense in domestic footy this season. Probably the Tigers most important player.

Joey Kheng, with his fitness and his height is one of the Tigers key backs. His footy knowledge continues to grow, as does the accuracy of his kicking.

Wellby's leads out of the forward line are always spot on, as is the accuracy of his set shots. He's such an important target for the Tigers up front.

Mark (Big Boy) Saunders suffered a heartbreaking injury just days before the tournament last year. A key figure in the Tigers both on and off the field, Big Boy will be itching to get out and contribute to the Tiger's campaign alongside his son Mani.

Mani is as good as his Dad but can run twice as fast. Fit, agile, skillful and determined, he also cuts a fine figure on the catwalk.

Expect to see Gunny, likely wearing a silly hat, exploding out of the backline to link up with his forwards. His fitness, skillset and voice are a huge asset to his team.

Kai has had a breakout season in domestic footy for the Tigers. Always skillful, his confidence has grown immensely

this year along with his goal tally. Underestimate him at your peril.

Chicago Joe, the winner of the Players Player of the Year Award last season is the second nicest Thailand Tiger after Ruty. But if you are the opposition, and the game is on, he will use his American Football skills to crush you.

Ruty has not been slowed down by fatherhood at all. In fact his passion for footy has got even stronger. Expect to see Ruty arrive at the tournament with a bag full of goodies for his teammates. What a legend.

Drew is a huge man without a nickname. He's got a booming kick out of back pocket and a wealth of footy experience. A key player for the Tigers.

Watto is not very quick (due to a dodgy hamstring) but he always seems to be in the right spot. He's a gun footballer who coaches those around him on the field. He's a real asset to the squad.

Pez is a gun. Fit, fast and skillful, he's a key player for the Tigers.

Andrew "2.0" Smith has been starved of footy this season but has still contributed to the running of the club. A great footballer and a great bloke, 2.0 will soak up every minute of the tournament this year.

Eskii flies under the radar a bit but before you know it he's kicked a couple of goals on you. Fit and skillful, he's a great man to have on your side.

The return of Ollie is a huge boost to the Tigers. One of our strongest players, also with new boots, the Tiger's are a much stronger outfit with him in our side.

Joffrey is an immensely talented footballer and a great bloke. It's great to have him back.

Few players have contributed as much to the Thailand Tigers as Jazza. Full of passion and determination, Jazza will give 100% effort on the field in between helping run the tournament. What a guy.

New recruit Nam has been a revelation for the Tigers this year. Always in the right spot, and with great skills, Nam is a player to watch out for.

Andrew "Manimal" Smith is a busy man who always makes time for some footy. A reliable set shot, he kicked a memorable goal against Singapore last year to seal the win for the Tigers.

Muppet is one of the two players from Phuket Power joining the event. Small in stature and completely void of run. He'll be in and under unless the ball finds him walking behind the play



## ACCOR MEN'S DIV 3



It looks to be shaping up as a case of young local players learning the game through development programs mixed in together with very experienced (very old) and those totally new to the game. You could say that the Accor Division 3 really personifies what Aussie Rules in Asia is all about! China is making their comeback to the Champs, with the team made up of players from clubs across the country, while the Barbarians were a late entry with the amalgamation of Laos, Hong Kong and Singapore players. Hosts, the Thailand Tigers, are looking forward to giving their young teenagers from their CUBS program their first taste of competitive footy, and the Philippines are stoked to be able to get a team together after a big exodus of players in recent times. Lastly, Indonesia will be well represented with the depth of the Bintangs, Geckos and Bears allowing them to enter their third team in the event.





**Team introduction**

As what might often be the case with Barbarian teams in tournaments, the team was a last minute inclusion in this year’s Champs. With the risk of Laos not being represented at all in the event this year, there was a strong last ditch effort to try and muster some players from other teams. With both the Wombats and Dragons initially looking to enter Div 3 teams, when those numbers did not get up and word about Laos looking for numbers reached them, the Barbarian team was born!

After some great leadership from Caz in Laos, the team uniform was quickly developed by combining the countries three main colours, Red - Singapore, Blue- Hong Kong and Pink - Laos.

This was a crazy last minute group effort primarily driven by wanting to have Laos participate. After lots of communication a great team line up has been created. Laos is being represented by a bunch of rugby boys, with a few new expats joining reliable oldies Chris Smithies and Langas. The Wombats and

Dragons players are welcoming the opportunity to get a kick on the day, still wearing their club’s respective logos while creating a chance for all members of this team to enjoy the day! Go the Barbarians!

<b>Chris Smithies -Laos</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Phiboun Xayasane -Laos</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Soupati Phengkanya -Laos</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Komin Phaengmeuang -Laos</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Keunphady Bounmany -Laos</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Laddy Xayasamone -Laos</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Thanongsone Xaysongkham -Laos</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Sonesila Chanthavong -Laos</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Ben McDermott -Laos</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Shane Langdon -Laos</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>David Ormsby -Laos</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Craig Colbran -HK</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Chiu Ka Sing- HK</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Rami Chan- HK</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Adam Parker - HK</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Will Burgess - HK</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Ben Dixon- HK</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mark Sinclair - Sing</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Damien Damianos - Sing</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Quinton Ritchie - Sing</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Stefan Wood - Sing</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Adam Wilkinson - Sing</b>	<b>7</b>



中国红澳式足球队

## CHINA REDS

### Team introduction

After a tumultuous few years away from Asian Games glory Team China are bringing back the halcyon days of previous Reds Plate triumphs back to the 2023 Tournament. After a majority of the team (including former Red, Dane Swan) have all moved to other pastures around Asia and back to Australia the annual 'bringing the band back together' is once again in full swing.

The "Reds" will once again be made of players across the breadth of the country, spearheaded by the ferocious Guangzhou Scorpions outfit they will be joined by many fresh faces and many old players from the Beijing Bombers, Shanghai Tigers and Xiamen teams, seeing the China Reds primed to take on all challenges in their comeback to Pattaya.

Once again household names of previous successful China Reds campaigns will be making the journey over, including fearless and bearded captain Whisker who will be leading the mostly native squad over along with the GOAT of Chinese football Howard and everyone's favorite Bruce who remains the only person to come to every event with his shirt already off, along with a new strong contingent of AFL stars selected to don their national colours.

Of course there will be Aces up the Reds sleeve with veteran Stephen out of Beijing coming to provide stability at the front along with strongmen Danny and Tim and Coaching Legend Craig out of Shenzhen stepping up to the plate along with a few fresh expats coming along for the ride to thicken the skin of those on the field.

Hierarchy at Team China HQ are proud of the ongoing development of our local footballers across the vast country by all the volunteers and we are looking forwards to seeing them make waves during the tournament and make their country proud.

Carn' the Reds!



## INDONESIAN VOLCANOES

PLAYERS NAME	RESIDES	PLAYS FOR
Anugrah Akbar	Balikpapan	Borneo Bears
Ardansyah Widiyanto	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Sky	Bali	Bali Geckos
Agustinus Sihombing	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Hendra Iman Waruwu	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Desi Firman Sarumaha (Riman)	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Sasja	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Jon Baker	Singapore	Batam Bats
Rob Prowler	Singapore	Batam Bats
Alfie Giles	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Adrian Skimming	Jakarta	Jakarta Bintang
Nick Royan	Bali	Bali Geckos
Harry Comerford	Balikpapan	Borneo Bears

Indonesian nationals.



## PHILIPPINE EAGLES

### Team introduction

The Philippine Australian Football League (PAFL) and their football team, the Philippine Eagles are the only Australian Rules representative in the Philippines. Formed in 2004, the PAFL started as an expatriate social club using AFL football as a form of exercise and entertainment. Since our formation, the club's footprint has grown; our members come from a range of diverse backgrounds, football experience and nationalities.

Currently the PAFL provides Auskick opportunities for children under 12, hosts and co-hosts social events, training, and competitive opportunities for the Philippines Eagles. We always endeavour to seek out and nurture local players and develop their skills and love of the sport as part of our aim to bring AFL footy to a wider Filipino audience.

Hit hard by the Covid expat exodus and the loss of some of our most experienced players, this year, the Eagles will bring a small but stubbornly determined squad. Expect Captain and veteran hard baller, Winner Santos to once again lead the way in the middle. Brendan Driscoll will dominate in defence

with his intercept play, The twin tall, Theo and Graham will undoubtedly hand the Eagles first use of the ball and Filipinos, Jonel and Reymarc will astound with their speed and zip.

We thank our all-important sponsors, Poolworld, Techno Global Team, Flat Planet, Boutique

Outsourcing, Glenhams and Mr Clean as this tour would not be possible without your assistance.

In 2023, we are also proud to partner with Cebu Pacific and thank them for their direct sponsorship of two young Filipino players, who otherwise would not get the chance to travel to Thailand, experience another country and gain experience playing football at a tournament level. The Filipino players are welcome additions to our squad and our efforts to bring the cup back to Manila!

### SQUAD

**Ben Plummer (Coach)**

**Tim Beckensall (Assistant Coach)**

**Winner Santos (Captain)**

**Phil Ballard**

**Steve Boardman**

**Reymarc Bustillo**

**Graham Catley**

**Theo Chamberlain**

**Brendan Driscoll**

**Peter Hammon**

**Matt Jones**

**Jonel Madrona**

**Alden Vidao**

**Chris Waiting**

**Zac Williams**



**Team introduction**

The Tigers second team did themselves proud last year with a notable draw against the eventual champions, Pakistan and a win against an always strong Singapore side. There is plenty of talent in this team, and they will be aiming for a place in the final this season. Very pleasing is the addition of players from our local junior development program.

- Coach** - Peter Muir
- Captain** - Michael Sammons

Sammo, possibly the second most well-known Asian footballer after Rooster (especially according to Samo), has unfortunately had very little footy this year. His composure in front of goal and footy IQ will be a huge asset to the side again. We look forward to his leadership after him being named Captain of our Division 3 side.

DJ Jonno is always itching for a run, even if he just got home an hour ago. Always up for a yarn, there is no better Tiger to sit next to on the team bus. Also a very handy footballer.

Len is a very handy footballer with plenty of speed and stamina. He has improved immensely this season.

Big Nate played last year's tournament with dengue fever and was still one of the Tigers best. Expect even more from him this year.

Big Gavin has made enormous progress this season. A fierce competitor and a great fella, Gavin's skills have just got better and better.

Withan's (Wu-Tang) goal celebrations are so good even the opposition will be hoping he kicks one.

Tatsuya is a Japanese workhorse who never stops running. An incredible tackler, his work in the middle will be key to the Tigers chances.

President "Wazza" Baglin has been a busy man since returning to Thailand. President of two clubs (is that legal?) and a new father, Wazza has somehow still made it out on the pitch a few times this season.

Despite being in his 60's, Yoda gets around the field like a man in his 50's. Still kicking goals both on and off the pitch, expect Yoda to chat to you throughout the game and then sell you some insurance afterwards. Another Tiger's legend.

Shad's one of 2 players from Phuket looking to make an impact for the home side. A gym regular, his dedication to the Champs has seen him complete one leg day this year.

Mark "Skinny" Anderson doesn't move like he used to (averagely fast, sometimes laterally) but he is kicking straighter. He's looking to kick his first ever Asian Champs goal after many years of trying.

Carey really made his presence felt last tournament, especially against the Pakistan team. His passion and determination are a huge asset to the Tigers but watch out he's not kicking sherins over the fence as he lives next door.



# Championship Rules

The event will be run in accordance with AFL Asia's Match Rules and Regulations (please note these are being revised and will be updated accordingly), with some amendments to suit this year's championship context.

Please note the following key rule variations from televised games:

## 6-6-6

16 players - 5-6-5, 14 players - 4-6-4 or 5-4-5, 12 players - 4-4-4, 9 players - 3-3-3. As the midfield becomes reduced to 3 or 4 players, all players would start inside the centre square and the wingman would be removed. As the amount of players inside both of the 50m arcs is reduced the same rule applies regarding players inside the arcs at centre ball-ups, as does one player required inside each goal square.

## No "Stand"

The "stand" on the mark rule will not be enforced.

## Kick-ins

Following a behind, the man on the mark will be brought out to 10m from the top of the goals square, rather than the existing five metres, and play-on without kicking to self is permitted.

## Back 9m in defense

When defenders mark or receive a free kick within nine metres of their own goal, the man on the mark will be brought in line with the top of the goal square.

## Kicking for goal after the siren

Able to kick across their body using a snap or check-side kick BUT must kick the ball directly in line with the man on the mark and the goal.

## Marking contests

The 'hands in the back' rule interpretation has been repealed so a player can now:

Place his hands on the back of his opponent to protect his position in a marking contest PROVIDED he does not push his opponent in the back.

## Ruck contests

A ruckman who takes direct possession of the ball from a bounce, throw-up or boundary throw-in will no longer be regarded as having had prior opportunity. Third man up will result in a free kick against. If a ruck man from either team does not touch the ball, it must hit the ground before another player may touch the ball.

## 25m penalties

The player with the ball must be allowed to advance the mark by 25m without the infringing player

delaying the game, and is able to play on while the 25m penalty is being measured out.

## Championship Format

The following is our intention in terms of duration of matches, and will be revised once participation is established.

### Duration of games

- Two 10-minute halves with a 2-minute half-time break and 3-minute changeover, or
- Two 12-minute halves with a 3-minute half-time break and 5-minute changeover, or
- If scheduling allows Division 1 matches will be 15-minute halves

### Start Times

Games will be scheduled in either 25 or 30-minute blocks with all fields starting and finishing halves at the same time.

Teams will need to be ready to take the field immediately following the preceding game as tight scheduling will again be a feature of the day. The changeover between games will be 3 or 5 minutes allowing teams to clear the field following their game and the new teams to take their starting positions.

A centrally controlled siren will sound on the designated start and end times for all grounds.

The game will officially start when the umpire blows the whistle and bounces the ball. Be in position ready to go or risk letting your team down.

### 1-minute rule and 'no-show' penalties

If a team is not ready to go and in position once the siren has sounded to start play, a penalty of 1 goal per minute (maximum of 6 minutes) will apply until the offending team takes the field of play. If both teams are not in position the penalty will commence once the first team takes the field of play.

If by half time a team has not shown, the game will be awarded to the opposing team up to a maximum score of 36-0. The central umpire will be responsible for managing and ruling on any infringement.

### Overtime

If a pool game ends in a draw the result will stand. Semi-finals and Finals – in accordance with AFL Asia's Match Rules, a golden goal will apply for Semi-finals with extra time for Finals matches

### Coin Toss

The Captain (or Club representative) of each team must attend the Match Officials area at half-time of the preceding game where the coin toss will take place by the designated umpire or official.



The annual tournament is AFL Asia’s premier event and see’s Asian national sides face off to contest for the title of champions of Asia. More affectionately known as the ‘Champs’, the event has been in circulation since 1999 and now sees over 20 teams and 500+ players attend.

**Location:** Chon Buri, Thailand

**Date:** September 9, 2023

**Current Champions:** PNG Muruks (Men) and Singapore Wombettes (Women)

YEAR	Men Division 1	Women	Men Division 2	Men Division 3
1999	Singapore Wombats			
2000	Indonesian Bintangs			
2001	Singapore Wombats			
2002	Indonesian Bintangs			
2003	Hong Kong Dragons			
2004	Hong Kong Dragons			
2005	Singapore Wombats			
2006	Singapore Wombats			
2007	Hong Kong Dragons			
2008	Dubai Heat			
2009	Dubai Heat			
2010	Dubai Heat			
2011	Singapore Wombats			
2012	Hong Kong Dragons			
2013	Hong Kong Dragons			
2014	Singapore Wombats			
2015	Hong Kong Dragons			
2016	Philippine Eagles			
2017	Malaysian Warriors			
2018	Indonesian Volcanoes			
2019	PNG Muruks			
2022	PNG Muruks			
		 Vietnam Swans Malaysian Warriors Singapore Wombettes	 Laos Elephants Bali Geckos Bali Geckos PNG Muruks Vietnam Swans Thailand Tigers	 Japan Goannas Pakistan Markhors



**OVER 35's AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN PARADISE**



**WHEN:** SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2023

**WHERE:** ACG CRICKET & SPORTS FACILITY, PHUKET, THAILAND

**FORMAT:** MEN's & WOMEN's DIVISIONS OVER 35'S / 12 A SIDE / 2 X 12 MINUTE HALVES / MAXIMUM 8 TEAMS

**MORE INFO:**

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