



THE 2019/20 PFA

A-LEAGUE REPORT

SUPPORTING THE PLAYERS BUILDING THE GAME



Professional Footballers Australia

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Photography

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Indigenous Recognition

The PFA acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

FOREWORD

Beau Busch and Kathryn Gill

Co-Chief Executives
Professional Footballers Australia



“There is no passion to be found in playing small – in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living”.

As we assess and evaluate the status and progress of our premier male domestic competition, these words, from South African revolutionary Nelson Mandela, provide us with a poignant point of reference, particularly at a time of great change and uncertainty.

A global pandemic has challenged our sport like never before. The suspension of the A-League brought football to its knees, while the resumption of the season and its successful conclusion barely ensured the game’s survival.

As we now rise back to our feet and attempt to rebuild our sport, we must decide whether we want to settle for a competition that is less than what it is capable of.

What’s clear is that the challenges that the A-League confronts have only been exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19. The various symptoms of dysfunction, from extreme short-term contracting, declining crowds to growing uncertainty, will not be addressed by playing small.

Playing small will not enable the A-League’s atmosphere, once the envy of other codes, to miraculously return. Playing small will not attract the best young athletic talent to play our beautiful game. Playing small will not deliver a long-lasting legacy from the FIFA Women’s World Cup. Playing small will not ignite and sustain our collective passion for the game.

The alternative is to play big and to not settle for less than what we are capable of.

We must harness and enhance what our game represents when it is at its very best. At its best, our game can unite our growing, diverse and passionate football community, deliver pathways and dignified careers for our professional footballers and propel Australia onto the global stage.

This report reveals that despite severe disruption, there are a number of positive trends we can build upon. For example, when compared against the previous two A-League seasons, the 2019/20 campaign delivered improvements in several technical areas, rather than suffering decline – even after the players endured a challenging four-month hiatus.

Players under the age of 21 averaged a 66 per cent increase in match minutes, while the age profile at A-League clubs continues to shift towards youth, with players aged 20 or under enjoying a 33 per cent increase in match time.

Amidst uncertainty, the A-League remains a critical part of the Australian football ecosystem and, upon reflection and deeper analysis within this report, the 2019/20 season provided more reason for hope than despair.

As we aim to rebuild and reboot the A-League, this report not only delivers the evidence for reform but provides the inspiration the A-League needs to overcome this existential challenge and once again ignite our collective passion.

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A-LEAGUE SURVEY



Methodology

Where this symbol appears, you will see data and quotes from our major survey of A-League players. Every A-League player was sent a link to the online survey in mid-August and were afforded a two-week opportunity to respond. In that time, a record 184 players responded to the survey, almost 60% of the playing cohort.

The survey covered a broad range of areas impacting a player's career, from their contract security, assessment of club culture and performance standards, management of the A-League, collective bargaining and the PFA Player Development Program. Particular emphasis was placed on the player hub established during the resumption of the A-League in New South Wales between July and August 2020.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



184

NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO RESPONDED TO THE 2019/20 SURVEY (60% OF THE A-LEAGUE PLAYING COHORT)



78%

PERCENTAGE OF METROPOLITAN PLAYERS DEVELOPED IN SYDNEY, ADELAIDE OR MELBOURNE



30

NUMBER OF PLAYERS WITH AN AFRICAN BACKGROUND IN THE A-LEAGUE



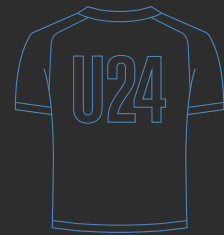
55%

PERCENTAGE OF PLAYERS WITH A EUROPEAN BACKGROUND IN THE A-LEAGUE



31

THE AGE WHERE AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS REACH THEIR OPTIMUM EARNING CAPACITY IN THE A-LEAGUE



53%

THE PERCENTAGE OF PLAYERS AGED 24 AND UNDER PLAYING IN THE A-LEAGUE



13.5%

PERCENTAGE OF MATCH MINUTES AFFORDED TO AUSTRALIANS UNDER THE AGE OF 21



22.5%

PERCENTAGE OF MATCH MINUTES AFFORDED TO AUSTRALIANS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 POST COVID-19



9,428

A-LEAGUE AVERAGE HOME-AND-AWAY ATTENDANCE (THE SECOND LOWEST ON RECORD)

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

COVID-19: From Crisis Comes Opportunity

When Steven Ugarkovic scored the winning goal for the Newcastle Jets against Melbourne City on the evening of March 23, it would be the last goal scored in the A-League for a period of four months. With the COVID-19 global pandemic forcing sport to retreat behind closed doors, competition ultimately ground to a halt as governments and sports bodies conferred on how to best deal with the most volatile health crisis witnessed in over a century.

The A-League recess would ultimately endure for an interminable period, with a mid-winter return in July and 27 matches played in as many days to complete the season. But this only tells some of the story. In that four-month hiatus almost 30 players exited the league, club football departments left to determine whether youth team players could step up to the plate, or if they should dip into the NPL to top up their roster. With a little from column A and a little from column B, few can doubt the A-League resumption had a point of difference – youth.

The cohort which has received much attention of late, those players under the age of 21, stood to benefit the most out of the resumption of the A-League, and they took their opportunity in an unprecedented manner. In the period leading up to that final match in March, our youngest players were averaging 13.5% of match time available to them, in real terms, 12 minutes. Upon resumption that percentage rose to 22.5%, almost 20 minutes per match.

Some clubs were more impacted than others. If you were a youngster at Perth Glory, a mere 3.2% rose to 45% of match minutes after the resumption. The Mariners, already above the curve at 29.2% jumped to 40.7% while the Melbourne Victory, with their squad severely dented, saw a fourfold increase from 8.1% to 35.6%. Other than Brisbane Roar and the Newcastle Jets, every club offered more match time to their up-and-coming young guns.

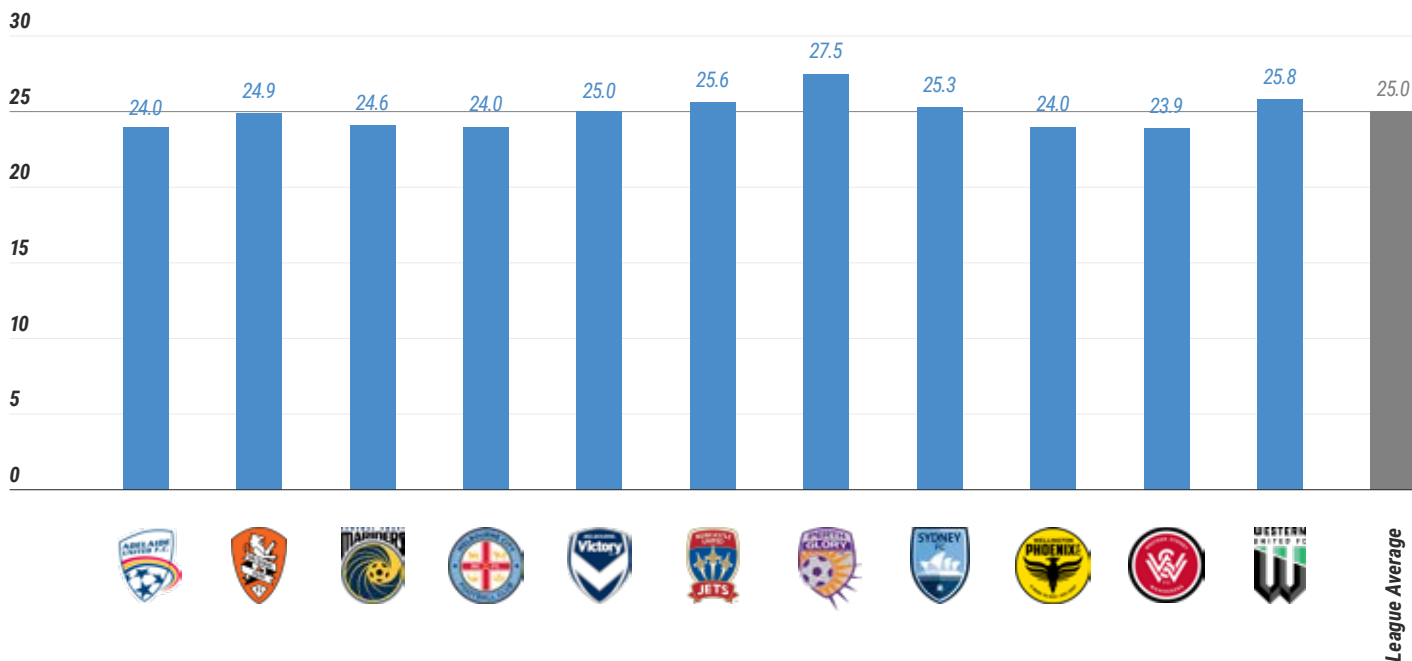
When you examine the list of players that benefit the most from more match time, the numbers are striking. The Reds' Taras Gomulka and Victory's Aaron Anderson didn't set foot on the pitch in the pre-COVID-19 A-League competition, but barely missed a beat in July and August, as they accumulated 92.7% and 80% of match time respectively. Melbourne Victory had four players in the Top 10, and half of the outfielders which took the pitch in their 4-0 romp of Perth Glory in the penultimate round were aged 21 or under.

While 27 matches across the league is a small sample size, a closer examination of match minutes afforded to youngsters in 80 of the best football leagues around the world reveals a picture vastly different to the one painted in some circles. In its study, the CIES Football Observatory explored the percentage of minutes by 21-year-old or younger players since 2015. Here, the A-League ranked mid-table, with 13.5% of match minutes, but that figure in itself placed it ahead of renowned football countries such as Argentina, Brazil and England. What's more, when you compare this with other nations in the AFC, Australia offers far more opportunity than our traditional rivals in Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

However, what the vast majority of other football nations around the world have is an underpinning professional second and third tier football structure, which offers the opportunity for younger players to hone their craft, be it on loan from larger city clubs, or developing at a more rapid rate with smaller regional clubs. Without regulatory intervention, the A-League can only achieve so much in this regard. Putting the genie back in the bottle will only stifle their development, so what next for our flourishing generation next? They have had a taste of first team football - but will the A-League give them more?



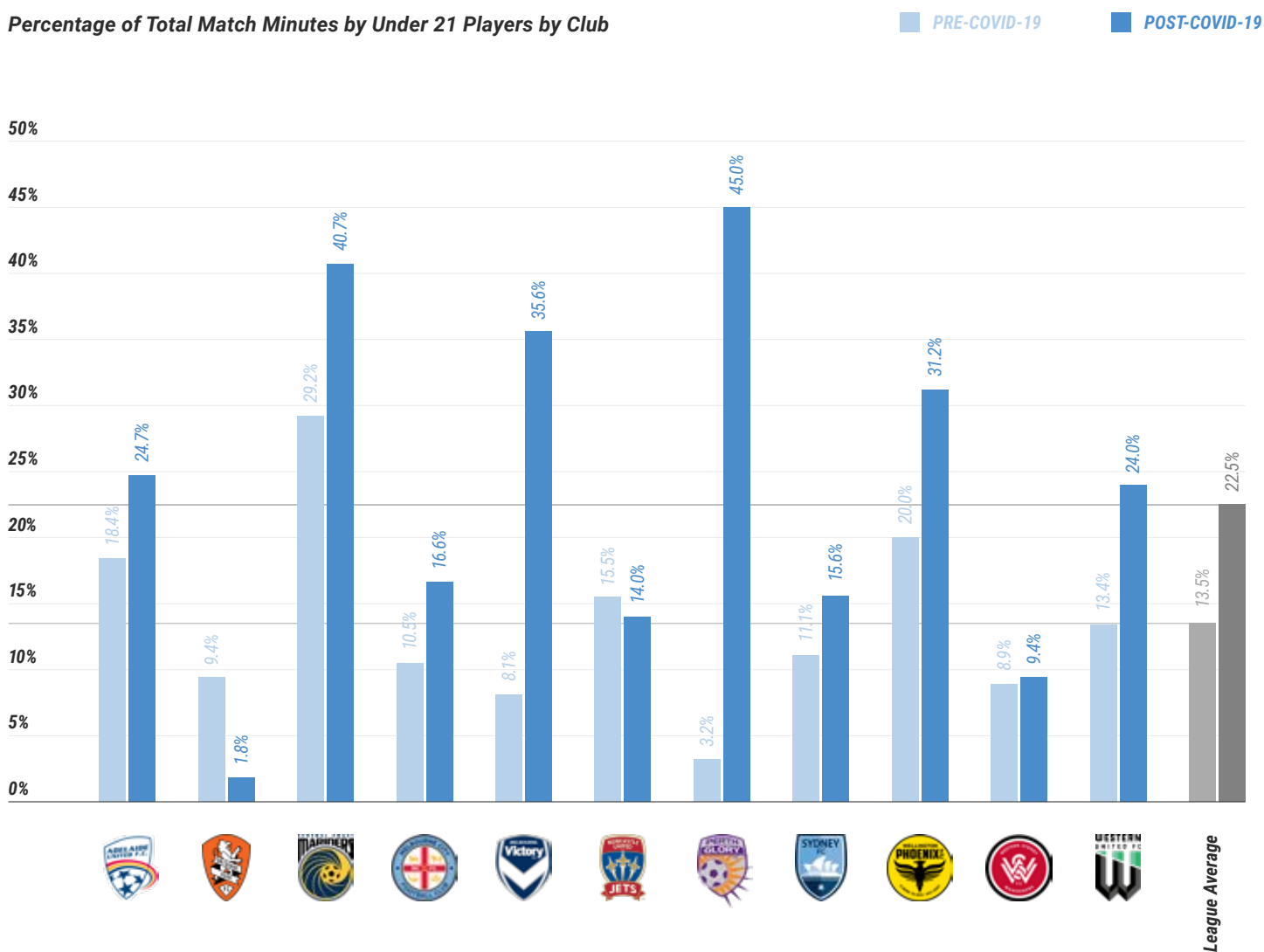
Average Squad Age by Club:



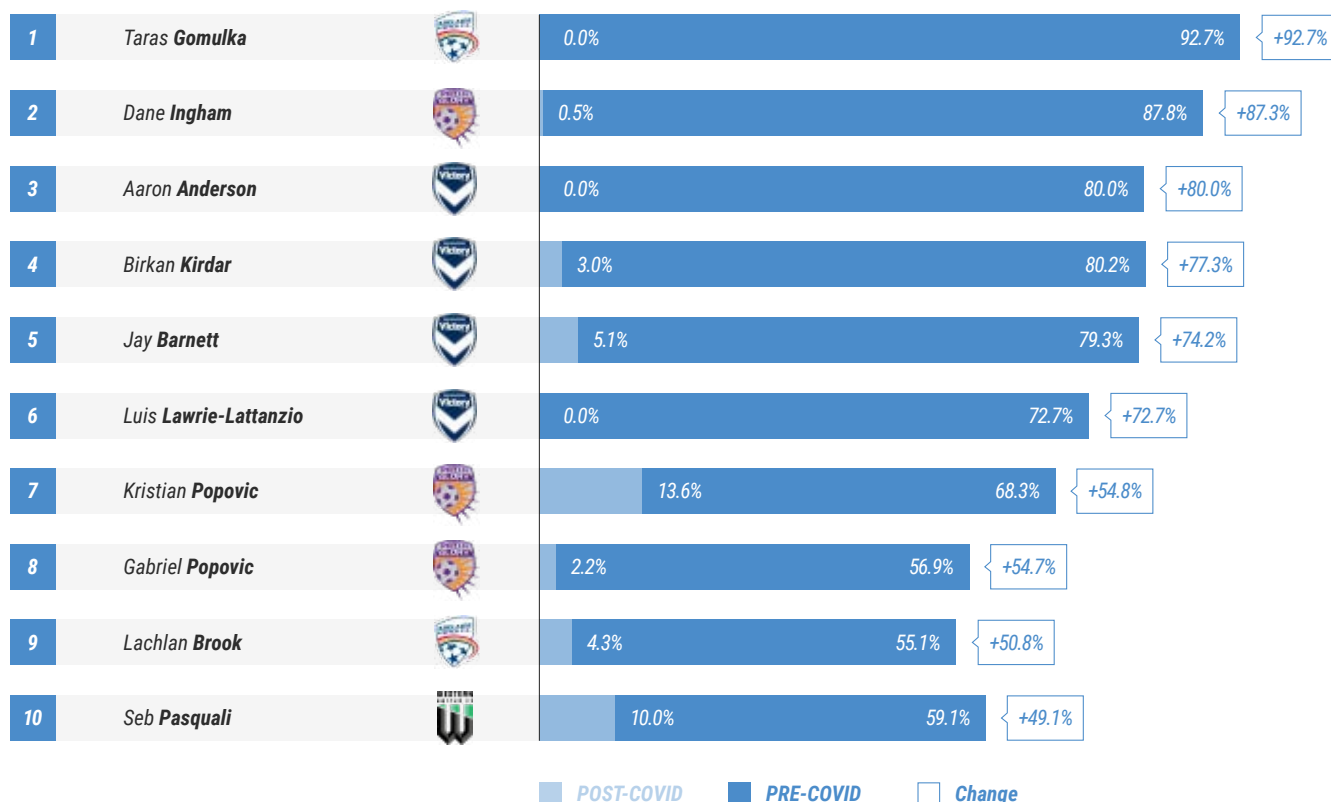
Note A: Age at the commencement of the 2019/20 A-League season.

Note B: Only players with accumulated match minutes included.

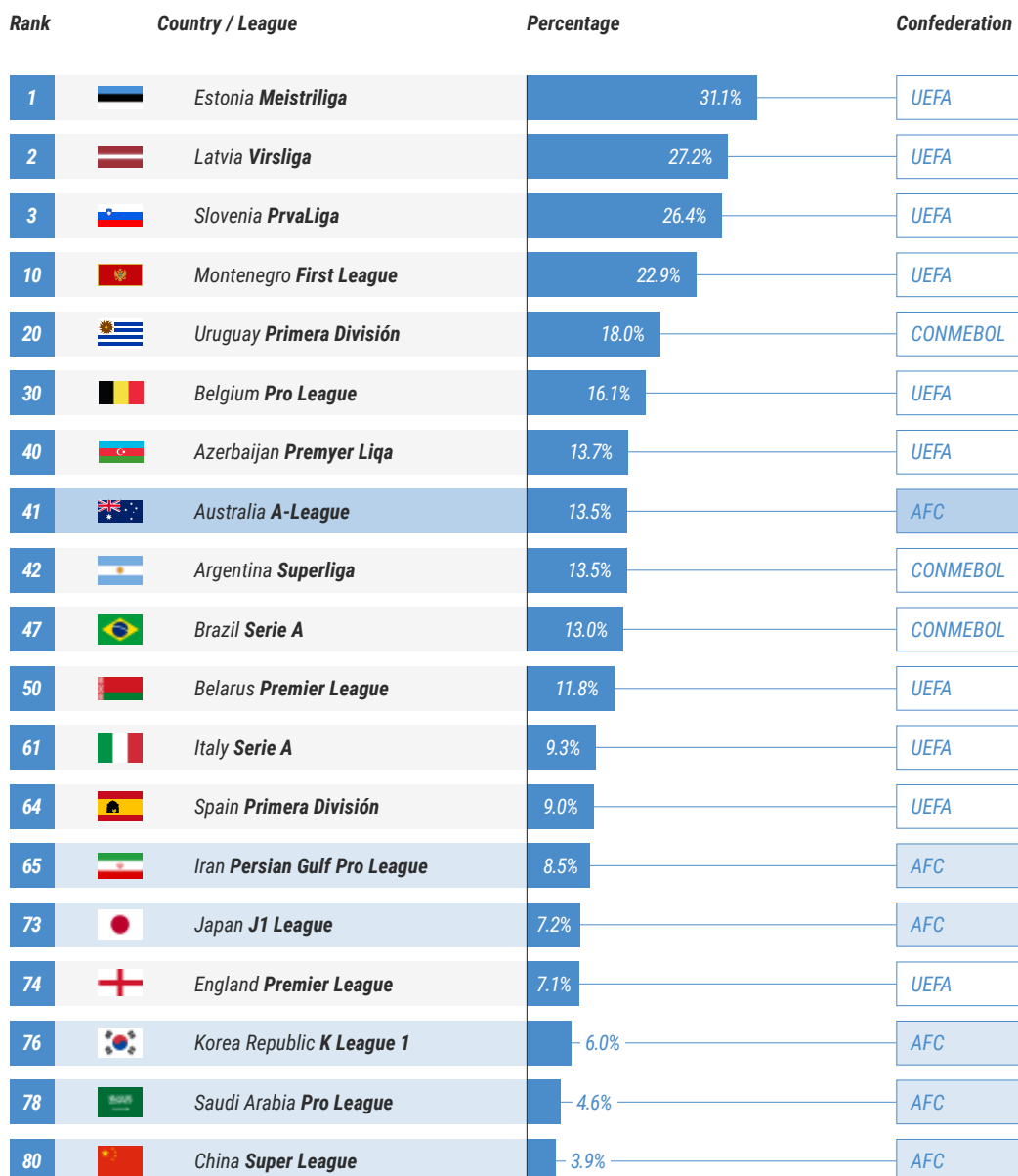
Percentage of Total Match Minutes by Under 21 Players by Club



Top 10 Under 21 Players Post COVID



Average Minutes by Under 21 Players by League



A-League: Member Federation Distribution

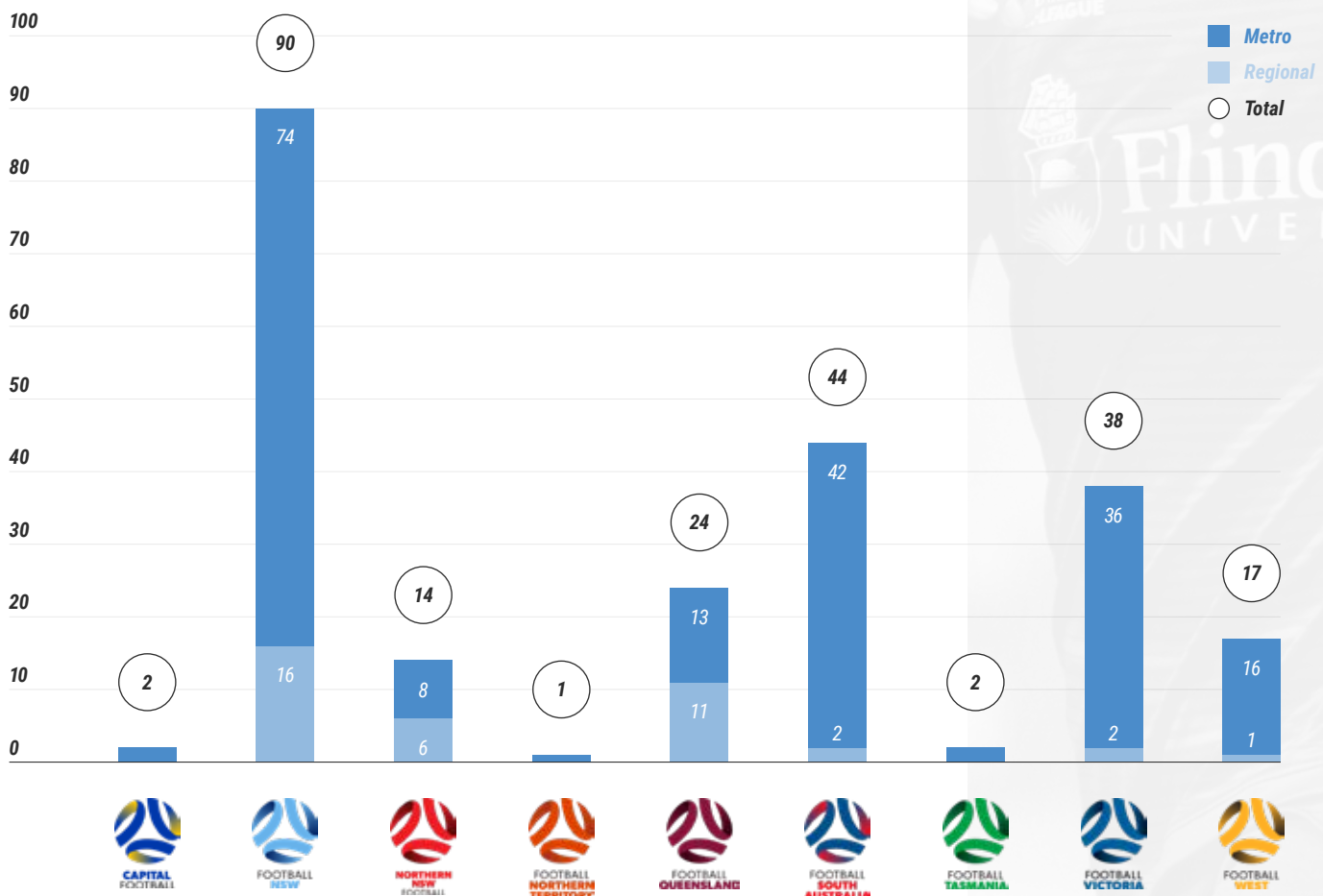
To gain a better understanding of the talent pool involved in the A-League, the PFA explored the member federation distribution in both a metropolitan and regional context. With almost 74% of players developed in Australia and three states and territories not represented by an A-League club, understanding the relationship between the harnessing of talent and the existence of professional clubs provides food for thought as the A-League considers expansion in the future.

Unlike a similar analysis undertaken with the W-League, it is clear that the heart of the A-League talent pool lies in Australia's metropolitan hubs, with 83% of all Australian players developed in a state or territory capital city, with 78% of them hailing from either Sydney, Adelaide or Melbourne.

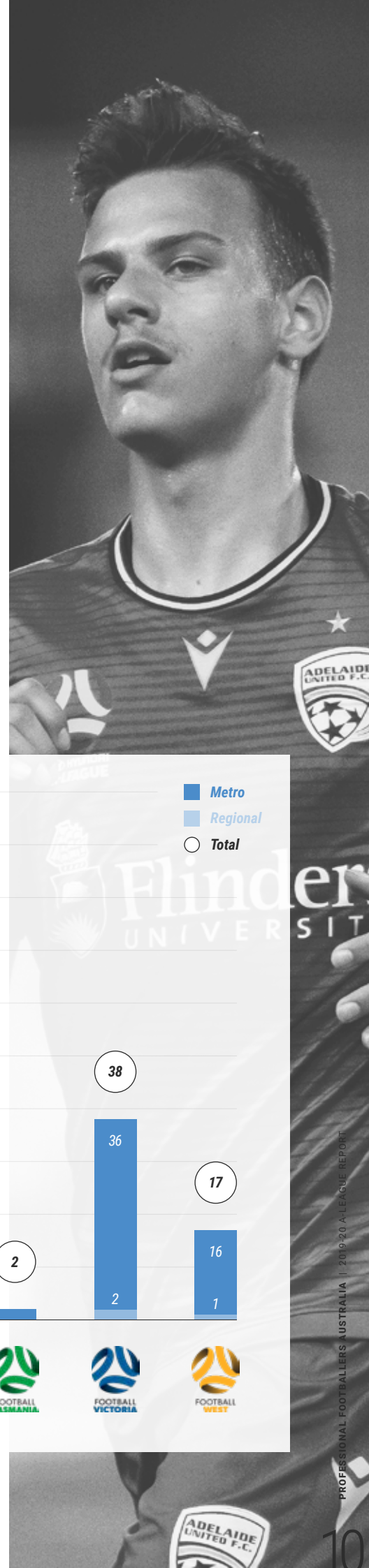
While Sydney remains at the heart of Australia's production line with 74 players, the success of South Australia's youth development system has seen Adelaide become the second most prosperous city, with 42 players produced, ahead of Melbourne at 36. This is remarkable when you consider that South Australia has half as many male participants as Victoria, while Melbourne has three A-League teams as opposed to Adelaide's one.

Queensland and Northern New South Wales are the outliers in this analysis, with almost 46% of players developed in Queensland hailing from regional areas, and 43% in Northern New South Wales, if you consider that Newcastle is the metropolitan hub of that region.

Member Federation Distribution:



Note: For the purposes of this data set, Newcastle is considered 'metro' as it is the geographical hub of Northern NSW Football.

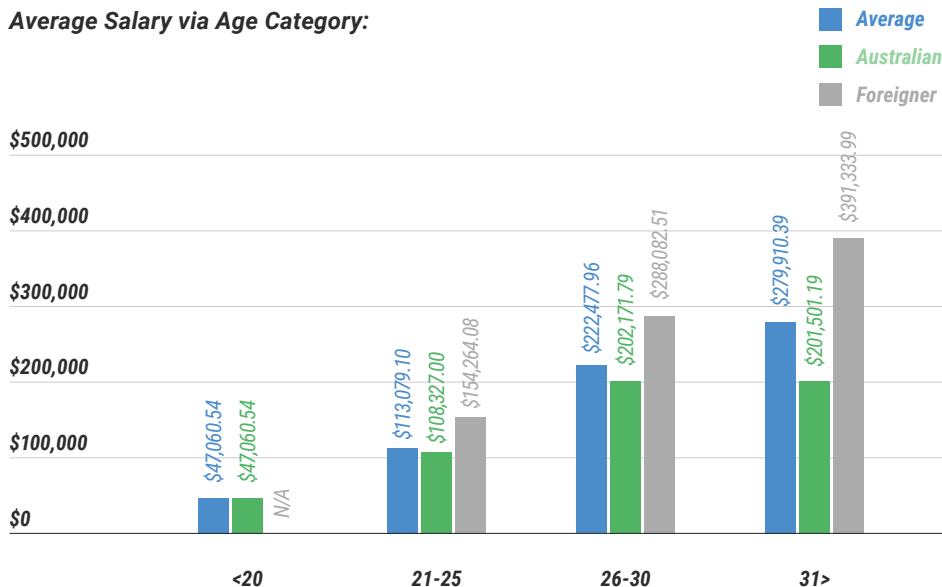


A-League: Salary Benchmarking

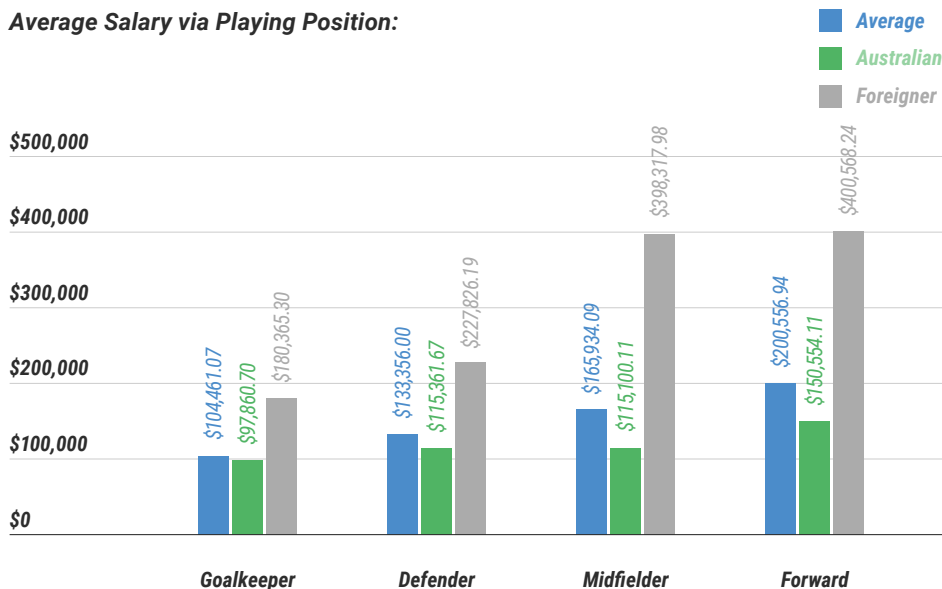
The sample data gathered by the PFA suggests that as a general rule, Australian players shouldn't expect to earn more than \$100,000 per annum prior to their 24th birthday, nor is the likelihood of them reaching their maximum earning potential on the right side of 30.

In any competition around the world, creative players are rewarded for their ability to score and create goals, and the A-League is no different, with experienced strikers the most prized possession in the A-League, and an average salary of \$400,000 per annum suggesting as much.

Average Salary via Age Category:



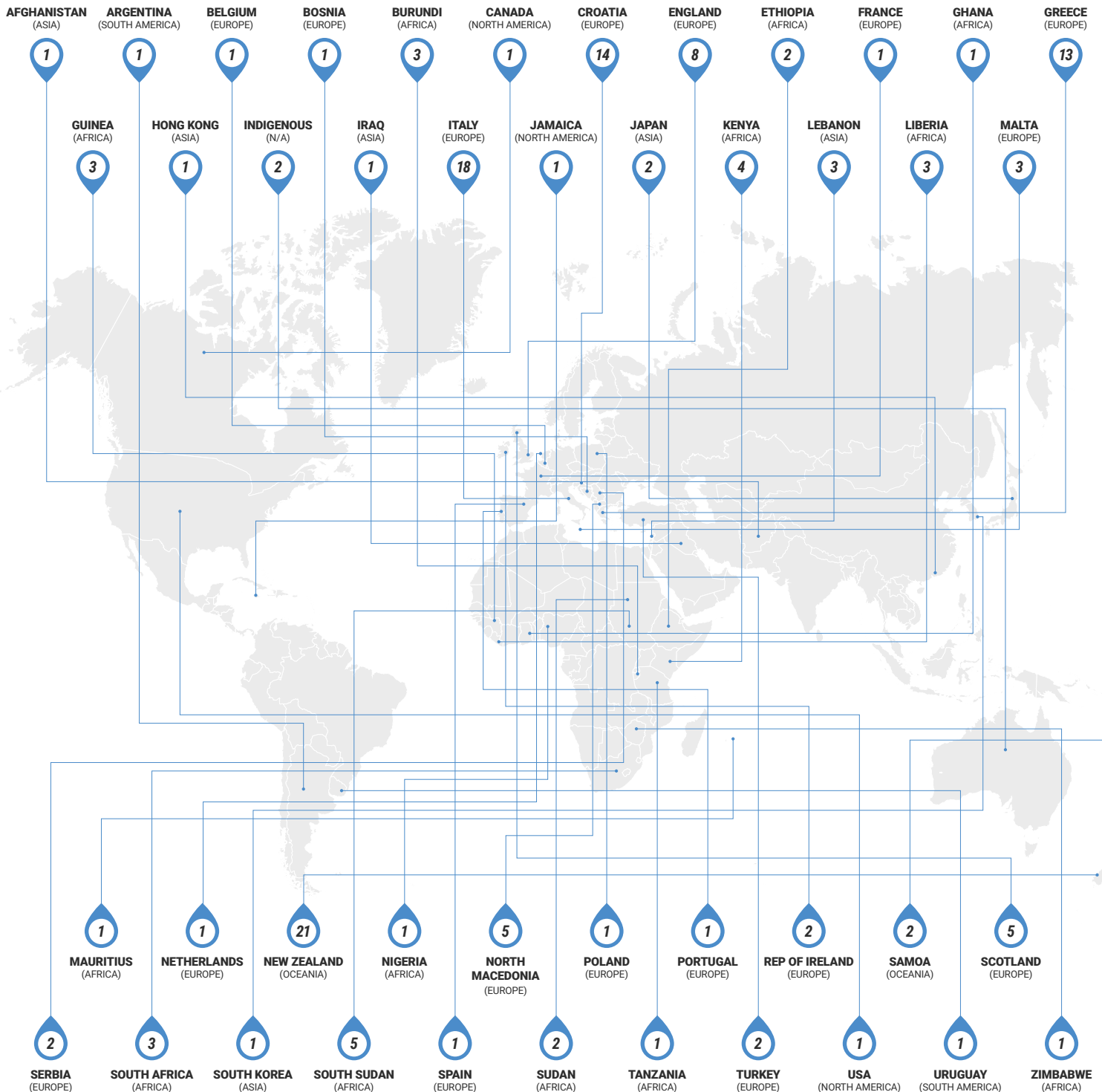
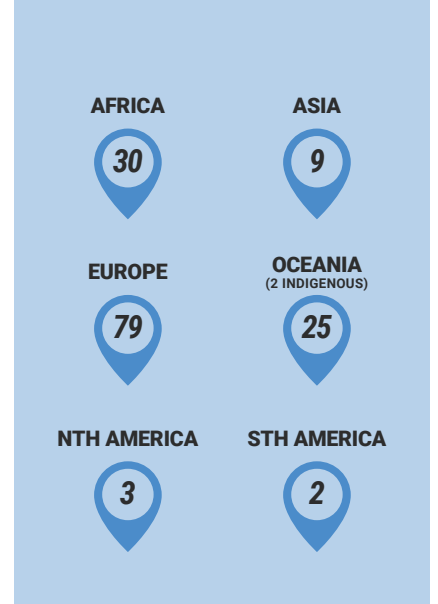
Average Salary via Playing Position:



Australian Players: Cultural Background

While the history of Australian football can trace its roots to the 1870's, the post-war European migration boom witnessed an influx of talent and knowledge, creating a multi-generational pool of players which have fed the National Soccer League and A-League. While the next generation of Australian players predominantly hail from a European background, there has been an exponential growth of talent from the African continent, with some 30

players taking the pitch at some point throughout this A-League season, the second most represented playing group from a confederation standpoint. Given the presence of Wellington Phoenix and the over-representation of New Zealanders in the A-League as a result, this only illustrates the wave of young African talent that are choosing the world game as their sport of choice.

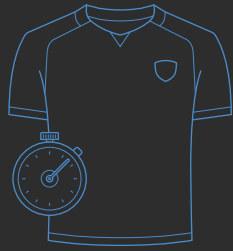


EMPLOYMENT FRAMEWORK

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS AUSTRALIA THE 2019-20 A-LEAGUE REPORT EMPLOYMENT FRAMEWORK

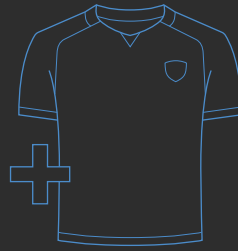
- ▶ *SNAPSHOT*
- ▶ *PLAYER ANALYSIS*
- ▶ *SQUAD STABILITY*
- ▶ *MATCH MINUTES*
- ▶ *STANDARDS*
- ▶ *FOREIGN PLAYERS*





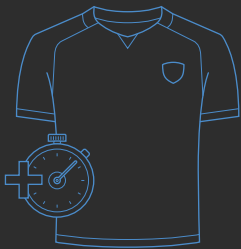
277

TOTAL PLAYERS WITH
MATCH MINUTES



28.8

AVERAGE NUMBER OF
PLAYERS USED PER CLUB



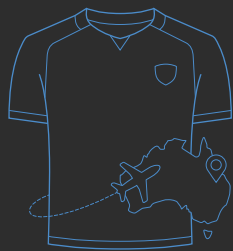
7

NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO
PLAYED EVERY MATCH
MINUTE OF THE SEASON



31%

PERCENTAGE OF SYDNEY
FC PLAYERS WITH 75% OR
MORE MATCH MINUTES



61

NUMBER OF FOREIGN
PLAYERS IN THE A-LEAGUE



47

NUMBER OF EUROPEAN
PLAYERS IN THE A-LEAGUE

PLAYER ANALYSIS

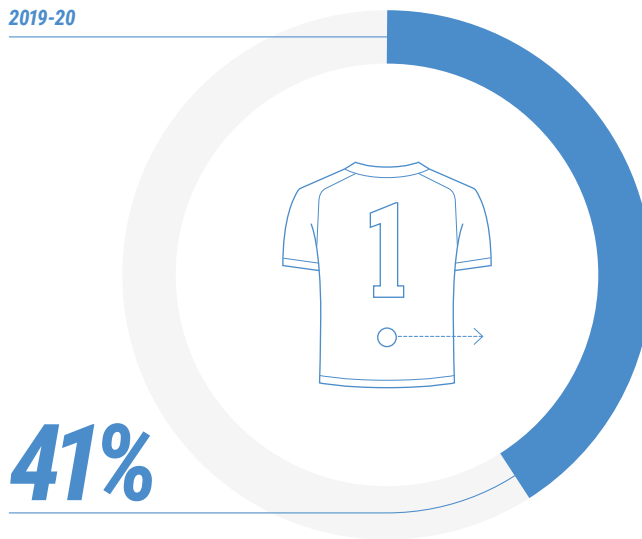
Total Players:

Note: 287 total players used includes 10 players who appeared with multiple clubs throughout the 2019/20 season.



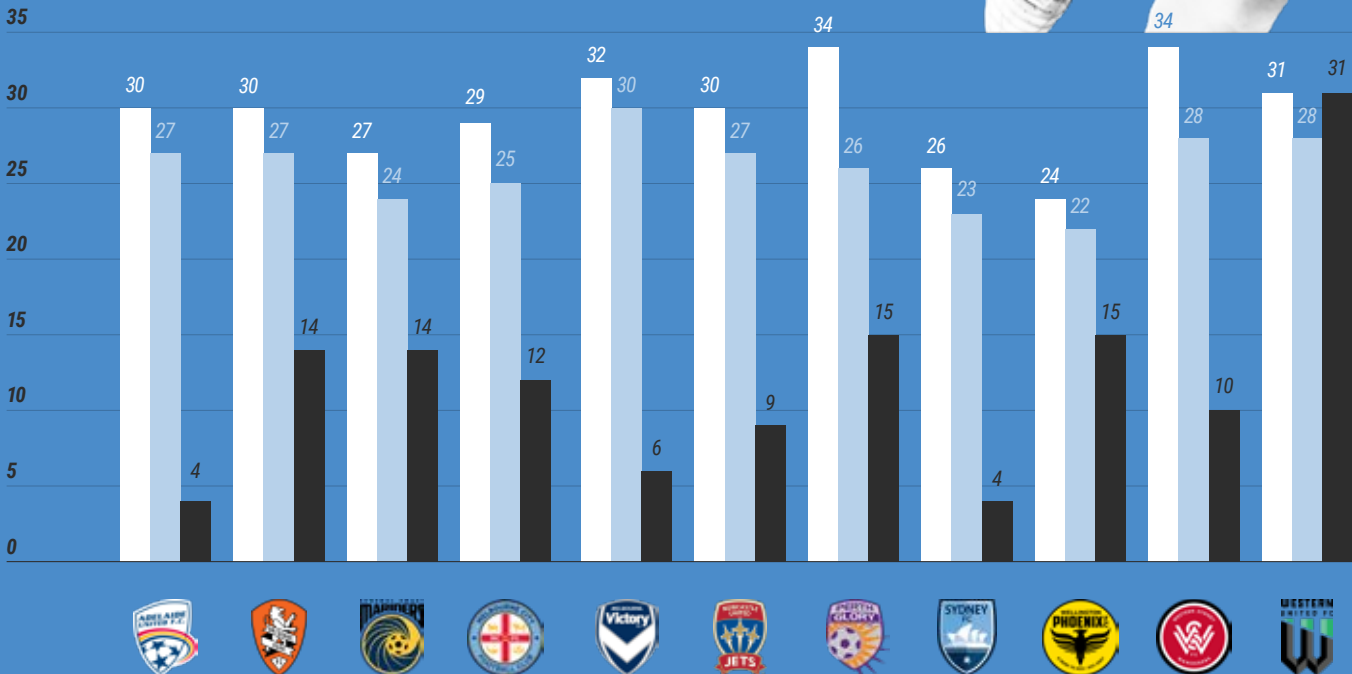
Percentage of Players in the First Year at Their Club:

2019-20



Club by Club Breakdown:

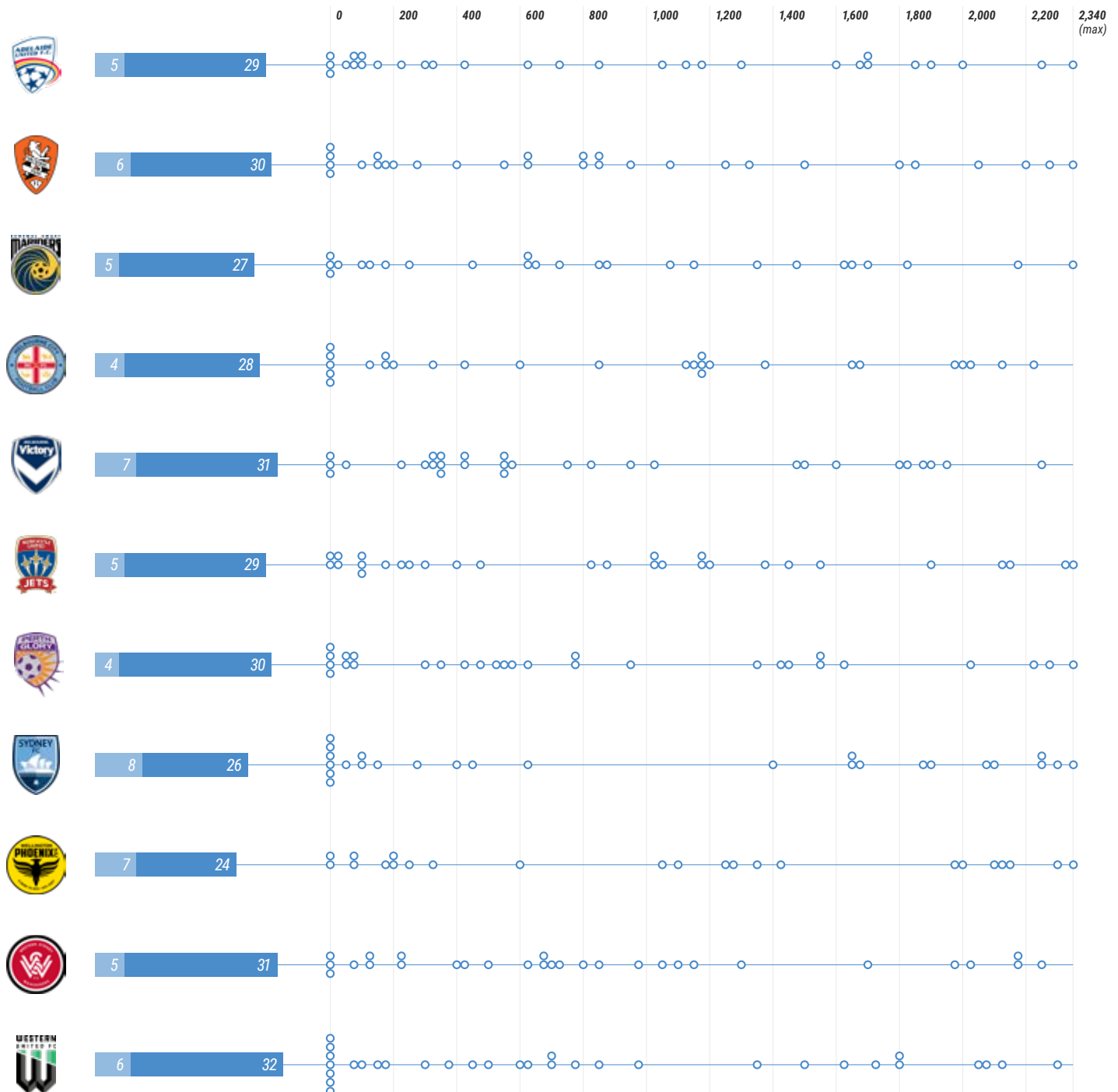
■ Players Contracted
■ Players Used
■ Players in First Year at Club



SQUAD STABILITY

- Number of Players Contracted
- Number of Players who Played Over 75% of Available Match Time
- Individual Player Minutes

Spread of Minutes Within Each Team:



The correlation between squad stability and success was on show once again this season. Other than Western United, every club that made the Finals used 30 players or less throughout the home-and-away season, their cumulative average of 28.1 lower than the average across the entire league (28.8). Sydney FC had eight players in their squad that recorded more than 75% of the match

minutes available to them, almost 31% of their playing squad. Wellington Phoenix were next best with 29, ahead of the anomaly in the pack, Melbourne Victory, with a touch over 22%.

The age profile continues to shift towards youth, with 82 players aged 20 or under making at least one appearance throughout the season, with over

36,000 minutes representing a 33% increase in match time. The season break owing to COVID-19 undoubtedly provided the impetus for clubs to give their kids a chance, but with 9 players in each squad aged 21 or under, there is every reason to suggest this trend will continue.

MATCH MINUTES

Total Players Who Made an Appearance:

277

Total Minutes Played:

282,289

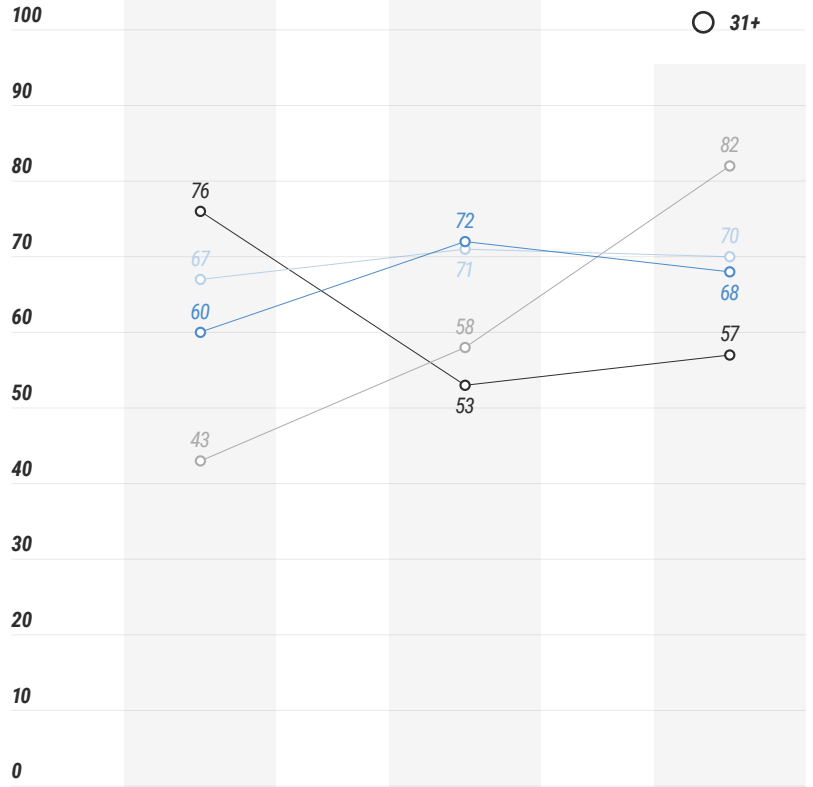
Average Minutes Played Per Player:

1,019

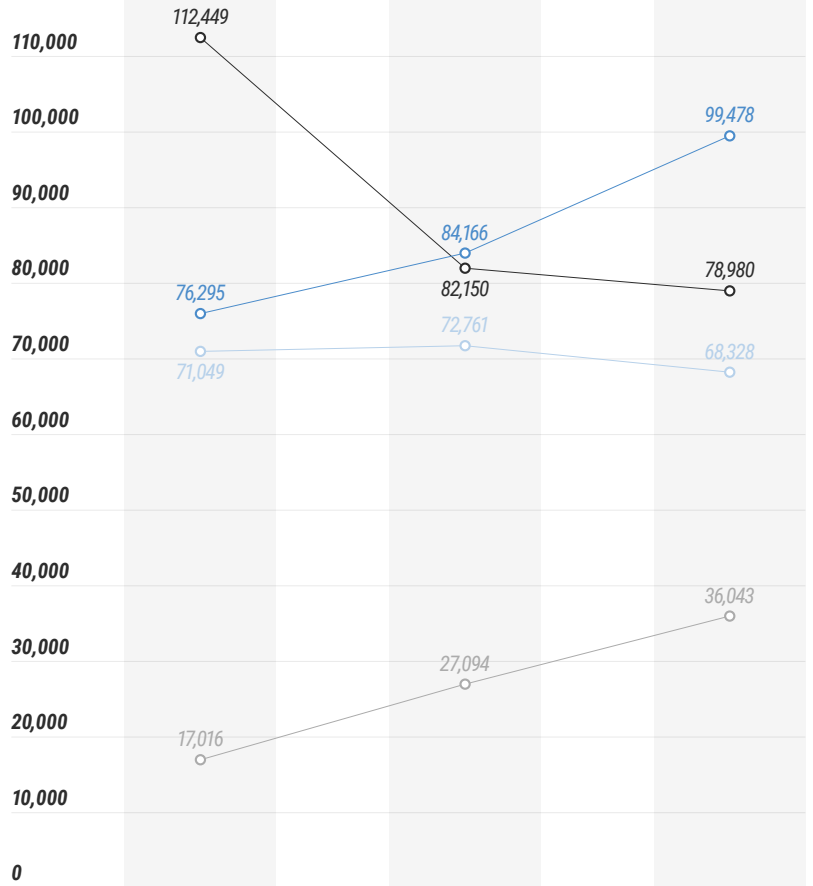


Number of Players Who Made an Appearance:

- U21
- 21-25
- 26-30
- 31+



Average Minutes Played:



2017-18

2018-19

2019-20

Performance

League Average

	Very Dissatisfied	Slightly Dissatisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Not Answered
Medical	5.2%	14.4%	26.6%	52.6%	1.2%
Performance Analysis	5.2%	8.1%	34.9%	50.0%	1.8%
Logistics / Travel	4.1%	10.5%	42.4%	40.7%	2.3%

League Low / High

	Very Dissatisfied	Slightly Dissatisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Not Answered
Medical	0.0% / 22.2%	0.0% / 38.9%	0.0% / 58.8%	10.5% / 100.0%	0.0% / 5.6%
Performance Analysis	0.0% / 42.1%	0.0% / 25.0%	8.3% / 60.0%	5.3% / 83.3%	0.0% / 7.7%
Logistics / Travel	0.0% / 15.8%	0.0% / 33.3%	15.8% / 69.2%	5.3% / 84.2%	0.0% / 11.1%

Workplace

League Average

	Very Dissatisfied	Slightly Dissatisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Not Answered
Training Pitch	9.3%	20.4%	27.3%	43.0%	0.0%
Dressing Room	9.9%	15.5%	29.7%	43.4%	0.6%
Gym	8.1%	15.7%	34.3%	41.9%	0.0%
Recovery	7.0%	11.1%	33.1%	47.7%	1.2%
Medical	3.5%	14.5%	36.6%	44.8%	0.6%
Meeting Room	5.9%	8.2%	34.5%	50.3%	1.2%
Dining Area	15.8%	11.7%	33.9%	33.9%	4.7%
Social Area	14.0%	15.8%	30.4%	35.1%	4.7%

League Low / High

	Very Dissatisfied	Slightly Dissatisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Not Answered
Training Pitch	0.0% / 53.3%	0.0% / 46.7%	0.0% / 46.2%	0.0% / 100.0%	0.0% / 0.0%
Dressing Room	0.0% / 46.7%	0.0% / 46.2%	0.0% / 87.5%	5.6% / 100.0%	0.0% / 5.6%
Gym	0.0% / 21.1%	0.0% / 42.1%	0.0% / 60.0%	0.0% / 100.0%	0.0% / 0.0%
Recovery	0.0% / 33.3%	0.0% / 26.3%	0.0% / 66.7%	0.0% / 100.0%	0.0% / 6.7%
Medical	0.0% / 16.7%	0.0% / 42.1%	0.0% / 64.7%	5.3% / 100.0%	0.0% / 6.7%
Meeting Room	0.0% / 21.1%	0.0% / 23.5%	0.0% / 64.3%	10.5% / 100.0%	0.0% / 6.7%
Dining Area	0.0% / 50.0%	0.0% / 35.3%	5.3% / 66.7%	0.0% / 94.7%	0.0% / 25.0%
Social Area	0.0% / 41.7%	0.0% / 41.2%	0.0% / 60.0%	0.0% / 100.0%	0.0% / 25.0%

FOREIGN PLAYERS

Number of Foreign Players in the A-League:



Average Age:



Average Minutes Per Game:



Percentage of Minutes Per Game:



Location of Foreign Players in the A-League:



NORTH AMERICA



EUROPE



ASIA



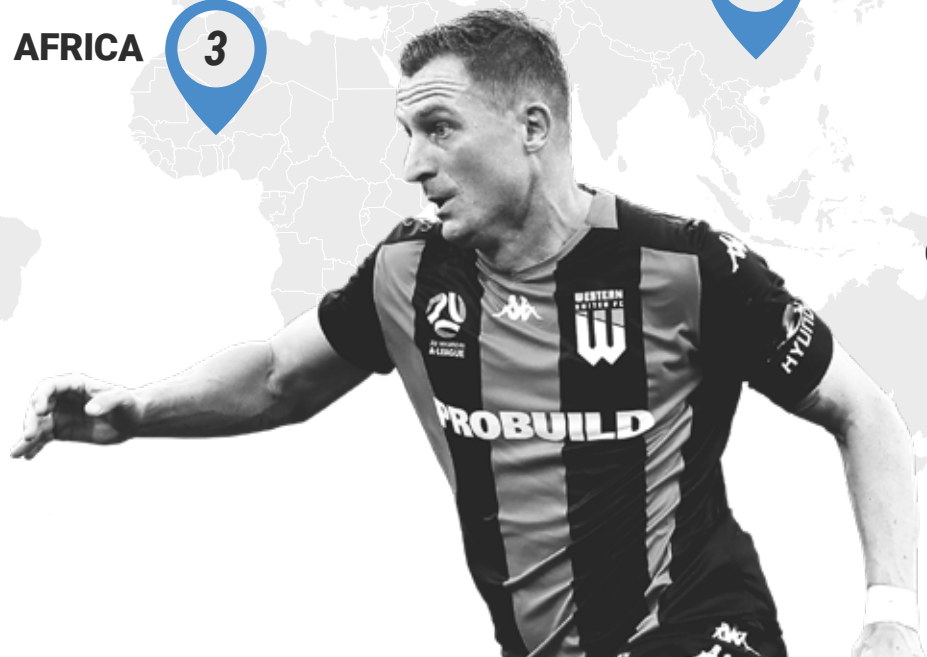
AFRICA



SOUTH AMERICA



OCEANIA



LEAGUE ASSESSMENT

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE ASSESSMENT THE 2019-20 A-LEAGUE REPORT LEAGUE ASSESSMENT

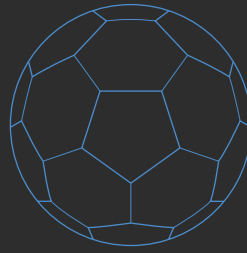
- ▶ *SNAPSHOT*
- ▶ *COMPETITIVE BALANCE*
- ▶ *ATTENDANCE*
- ▶ *PITCH RATINGS*
- ▶ *ATMOSPHERE*





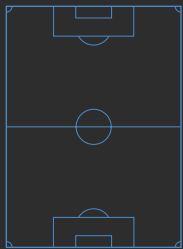
35 POINTS

THE GAP BETWEEN PREMIERS
SYDNEY FC (53 PTS) AND
BOTTOM-PLACED CENTRAL
COAST MARINERS (18 PTS)



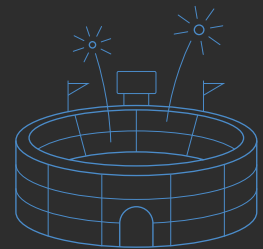
4.9%

PERCENTAGE OF MATCHES
WON BY FOUR GOALS OR
MORE



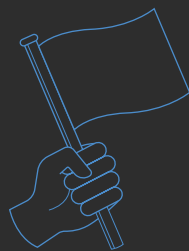
4.18

COOPERS STADIUM:
BEST OVERALL PITCH
QUALITY



4.2

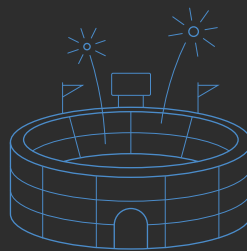
BANKWEST STADIUM:
BEST STADIUM
ATMOSPHERE



9,428

AVERAGE HOME AND AWAY
ATTENDANCE, THE SECOND
LOWEST ON RECORD

DOWN 10.4%



2.99

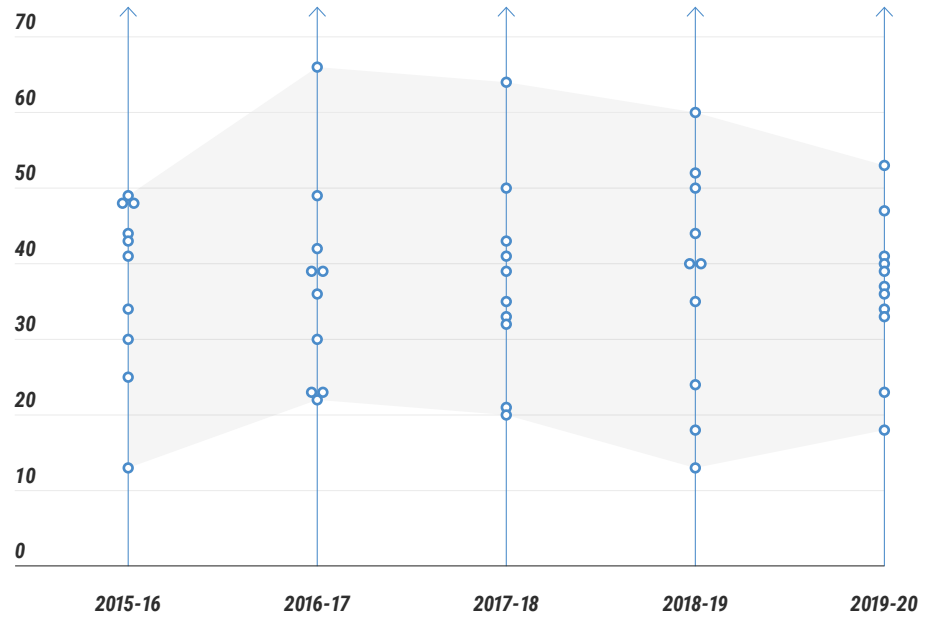
AVERAGE ATMOSPHERE
SCORE (STADIA)

UP 0.05

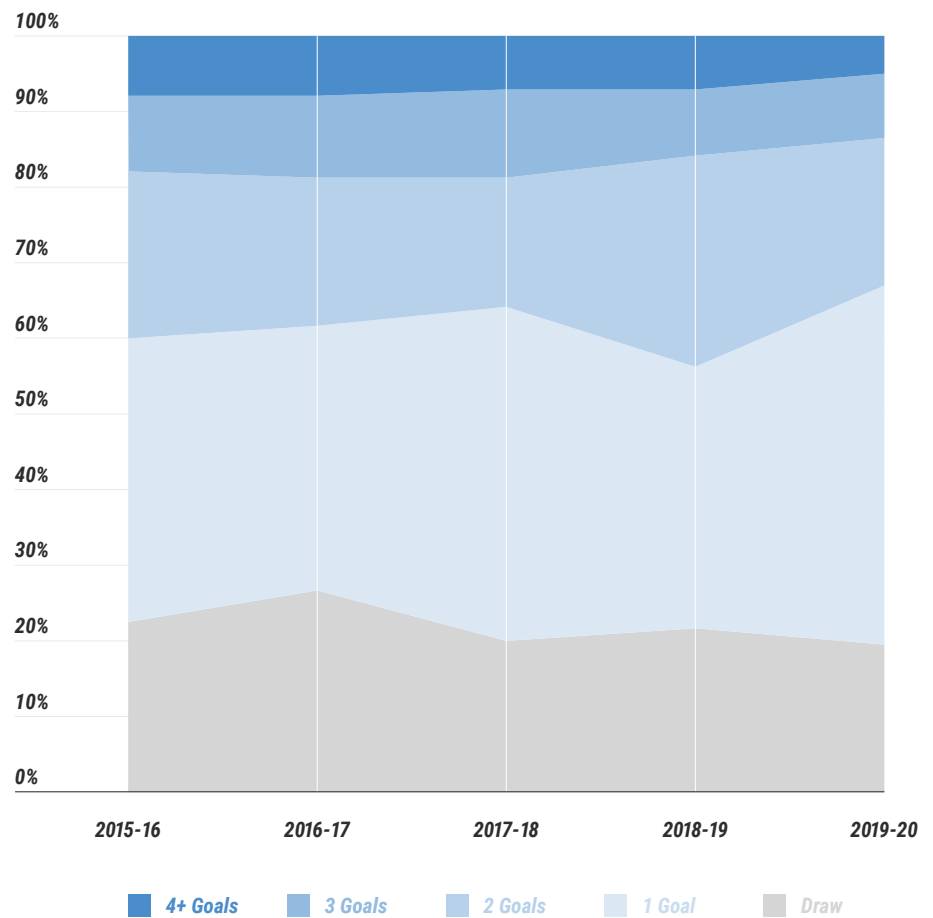
COMPETITIVE BALANCE



Points Spread Comparison:



Winning Margins:

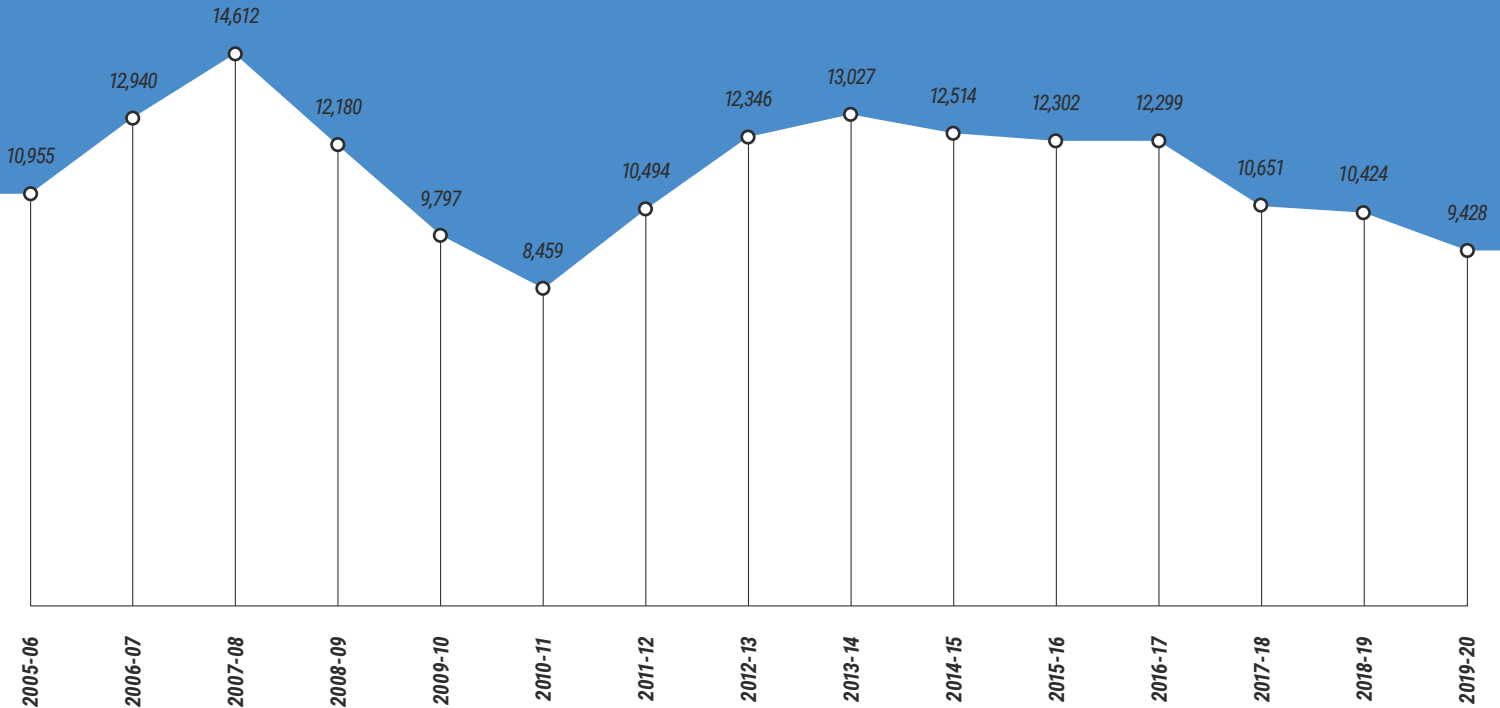


Sydney FC finished two matches clear of their nearest rivals, Melbourne City, and although the 35-point margin between the Sky Blues and the bottom placed Central Coast Mariners isn't the largest in A-League history, it is the third time in four seasons the club has headed the table. When you examine the performances of the foundation clubs across all 15 seasons of the

A-League, Sydney FC are the best in virtually every measure, with more Premierships (4), Championships (5), competition points (633) and home-and-away match wins (181) than any other club. They have won 47.3% of their home-and-away matches (their nearest rival is Melbourne Victory with 43.9%) and they have claimed a win or draw a remarkable 71.5% of the time.

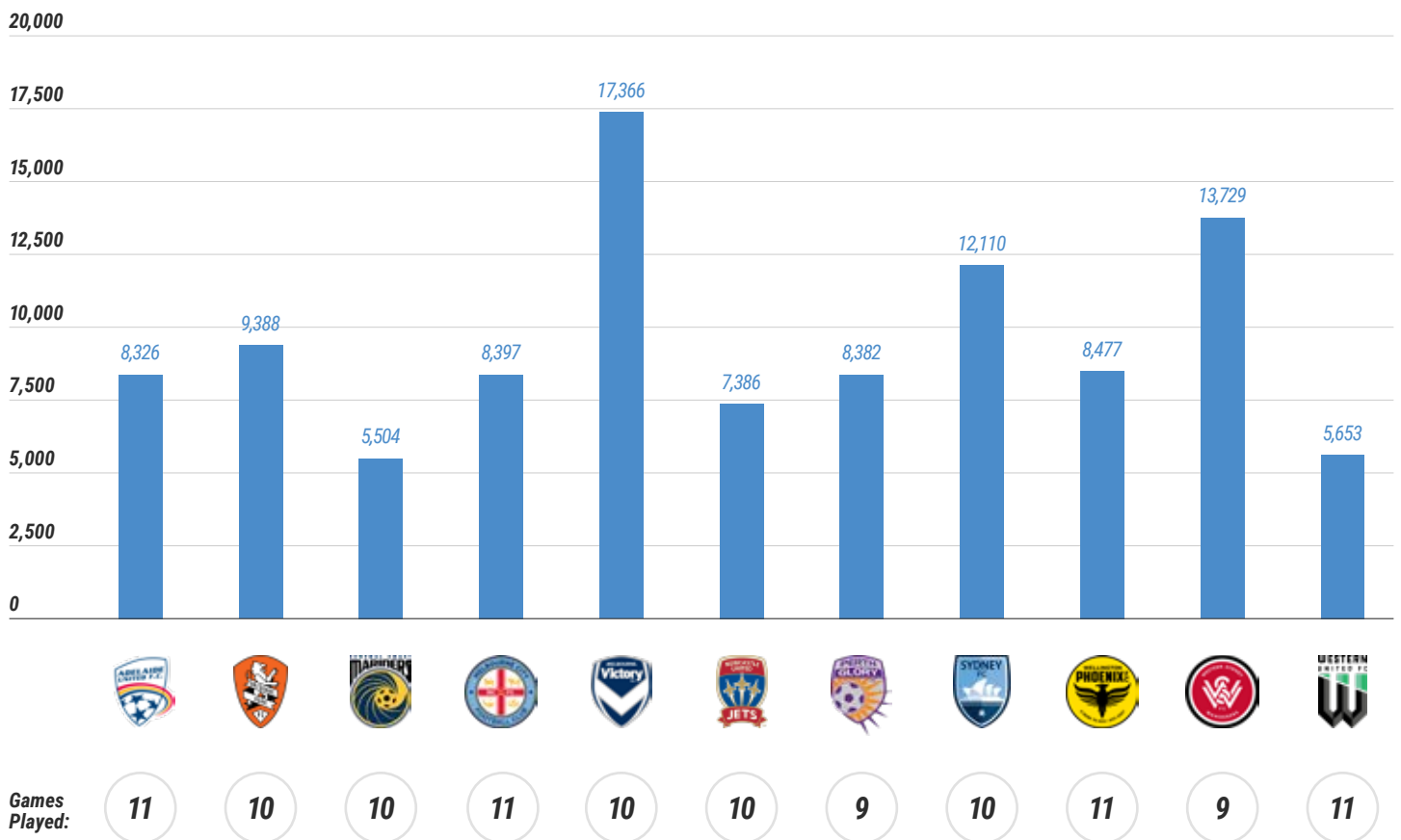
ATTENDANCE

Average A-League Attendance, Home-and-Away Season Comparison:



2019-20 Average Crowds by Club:

Note: Average home-and-away attendances calculated prior to COVID-19 season hiatus.

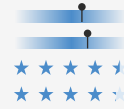


PITCH RATINGS



PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

Coopers Stadium

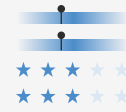


PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

Suncorp Stadium



Dolphin Stadium



CBUS Stadium



PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

Central Coast Stadium



PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

AAMI Park



PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

AAMI Park



Marvel Stadium



PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

McDonald Jones Stadium



PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

HBF Park



PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

Jubilee Stadium



Leichhardt Oval



PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

Westpac Stadium



Eden Park



PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

Bankwest Stadium



PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

GMHBA Stadium



Mars Stadium



Whitten Oval



PACE
HARDNESS
SMOOTHNESS
OVERALL QUALITY

ANZ Stadium



The PFA A-League Pitch Ratings are voted on by selected away team players at the conclusion of each match. Players rate the playing surface on four measures: pace, hardness, smoothness and overall quality. Pace and hardness are measured on a scale where the ideal score sits at the middle, while smoothness and overall quality are simply scored out of five.

Pitch Ratings Key



ATMOSPHERE

The average rating for the atmosphere at stadiums was 2.99, a marginal increase from the 2.94 which was compiled for 2018/19, an exceptional result, given the COVID-19 restrictions placed on crowd attendances for the final 32 matches of the season.

Bankwest Stadium replaced AAMI Park as the most atmospheric in the A-League, with a rating of 4.6, with Jubilee Stadium and Coopers Stadium marginally behind.

Rating out of 5

	Coopers Stadium	3.7
	Suncorp Stadium	3.0
	Dolphin Stadium	3.0
	Central Coast Stadium	2.0
	AAMI Park	2.7
	AAMI Park	3.6
	Marvel Stadium	3.3
	McDonald Jones Stadium	2.9
	HBF Park	3.0
	Jubilee Stadium	3.8
	Leichhardt Oval	3.0
	Westpac Stadium	3.1
	Eden Park	2.0
	Bankwest Stadium	4.6
	GMHBA Stadium	2.9
	Mars Stadium	3.0
	Whitten Oval	3.0

Note: Only matches which were open to spectators were included in the survey data.



TECHNICAL REPORT

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS AUSTRALIA THE 2019-20 A-LEAGUE REPORT TECHNICAL REPORT

- ▶ **SNAPSHOT**
- ▶ **GOALS**
- ▶ **CREATION**
- ▶ **PASSING**
- ▶ **POSSESSION**
- ▶ **DEFENDING**
- ▶ **REFEREEING**

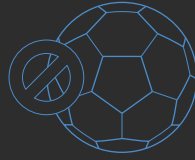




2.97

GOALS PER MATCH

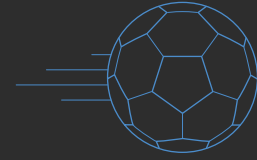
DOWN 0.04



4.9%

MATCHES ENDING
GOALLESS

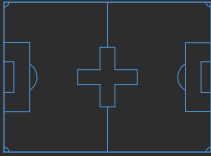
UP 0.5%



1,000

PASSES PER MATCH

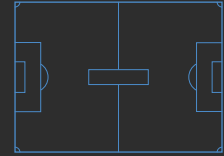
UP 104



56%

BRISBANE ROAR:
HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF
POSSESSION

SNAPSHOT



42%

WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS:
LOWEST PERCENTAGE OF
POSSESSION



3.66

YELLOW CARDS PER MATCH

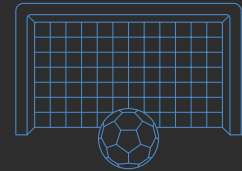
DOWN BY 1 CARD EVERY
3 MATCHES



3.5/5

IMPLEMENTATION OF VAR

UP 0.6



90%

PENALTY SUCCESS RATE

UP 19%

In a post COVID-19 world where players were asked to take a break from competitive football for a significant period of time, you could be excused for thinking that the technical levels of the A-League would have fallen significantly. The comparative statistics suggest otherwise. This season, we compare the technical aspect of the 2019/20 A-League against the previous two seasons, and the results suggest improvement in several areas rather than a decline. Despite a greater reliance on younger players to complete the season, there is an argument to be made that the future looks bright as the A-League enters a transitional phase.

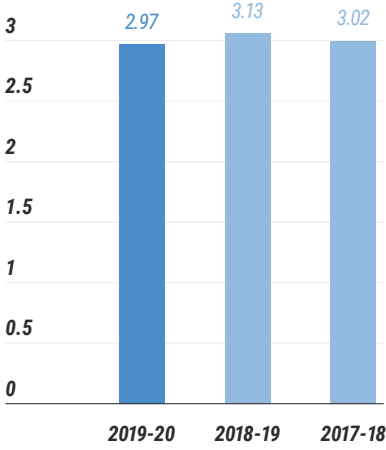
In a recent report released by the CIES Football Observatory, the A-League was rated alongside 80 other top divisions around the world for the percentage of minutes by 21-year-old or younger players since the 2015 season. While the Baltic leagues of Estonia (31.1%) and Latvia (27.7%) top this list, Australia finds itself ranked 41 in this list, alongside South American nations Argentina and Ecuador with 13.5%. What may surprise many, is that of the Asian leagues sampled, Australia's youth are afforded more opportunity than every other nation with the exception of India (17.3%). Traditional Asian powerhouse nations such as Iran

(8.5%), Japan (7.2%), South Korea (6.0%) and Saudi Arabia (4.6%) are barely offering their young players half the opportunities afforded their Australian counterparts.

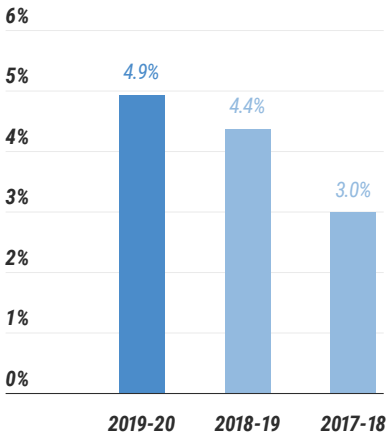
Combine the improvement in the majority of technical categories sampled in the technical report with an increase in match minutes for Australia's burgeoning youth, the future may be brighter for the next generation of players breaking through the ranks.

GOALS

Goals Per Game

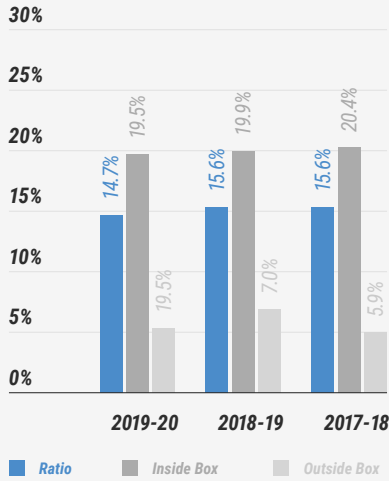


Percentage of Goalless Draws

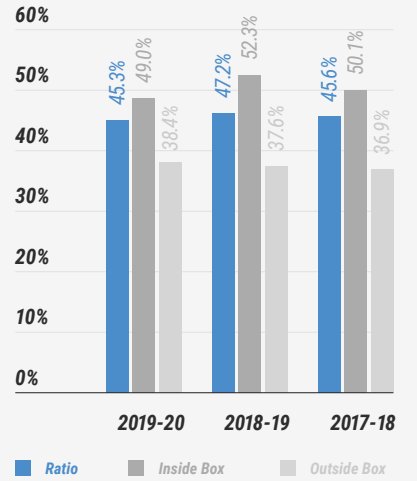


CREATION

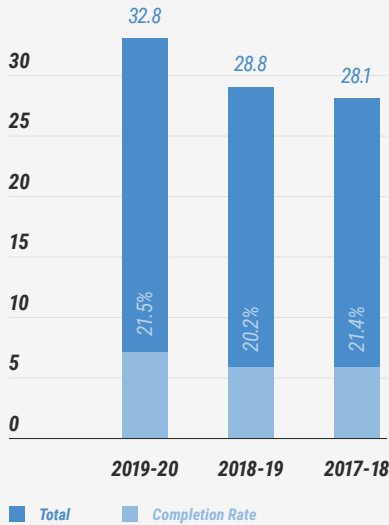
Goals to Shots Ratio



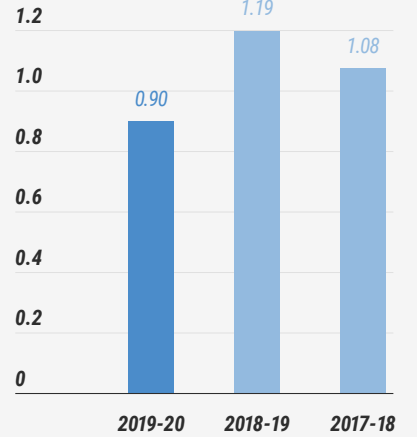
Shooting Accuracy



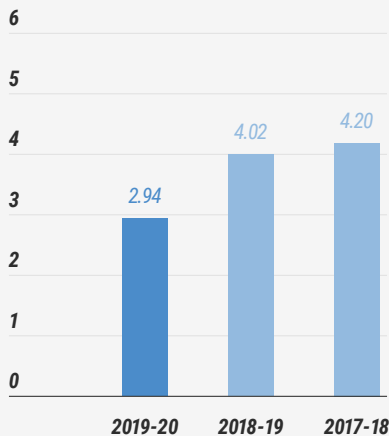
Crosses Per Match



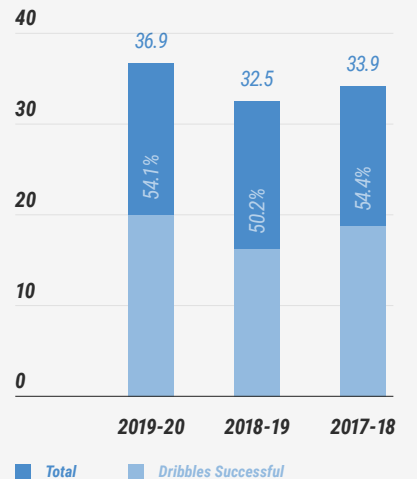
Through Balls Per Match



Offsides Per Match

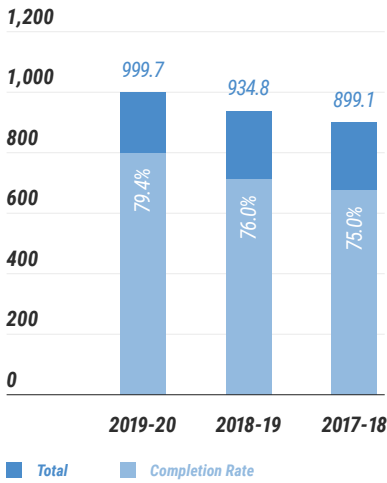


Dribbles Per Match

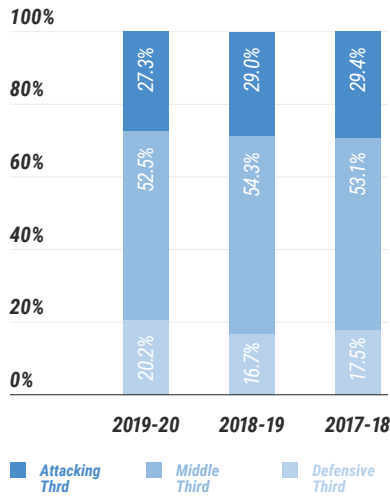


PASSING

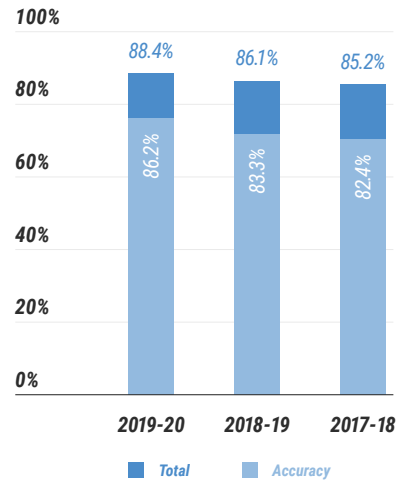
Passes Per Match



Percentage of Passes Across the Pitch

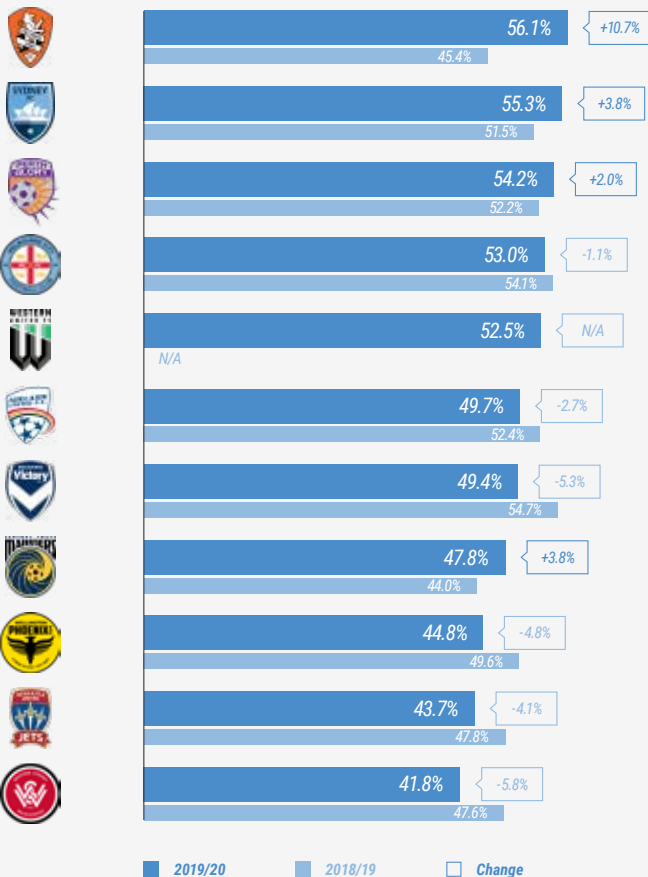


Percentage of Passes Short

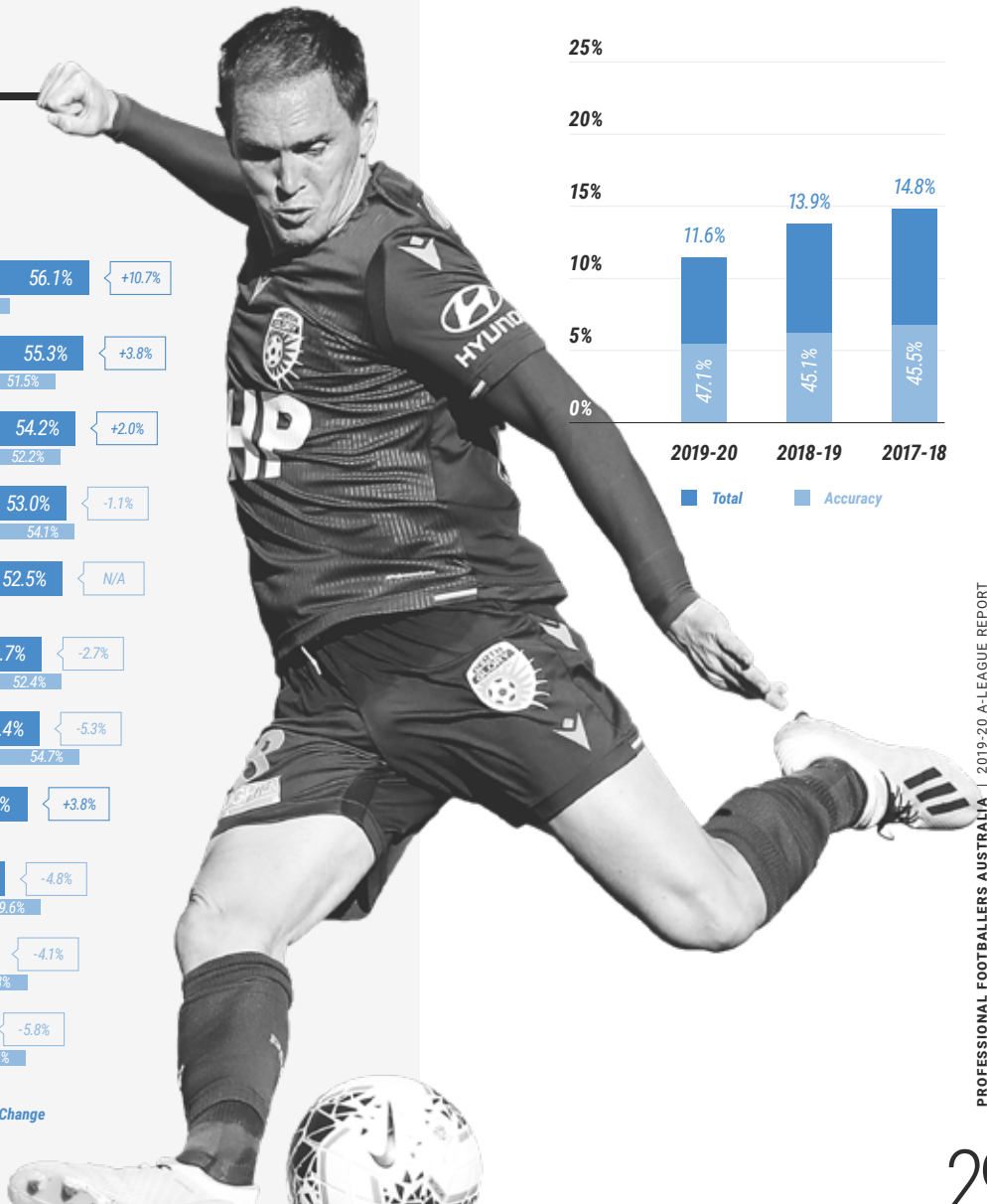
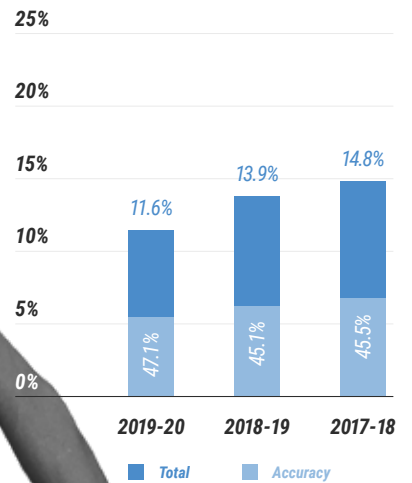


POSSESSION

Percentage of Possession

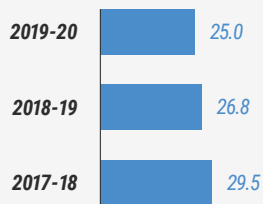


Percentage of Passes Long

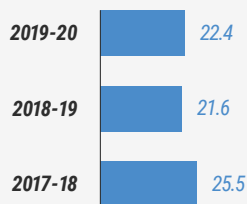


DEFENDING

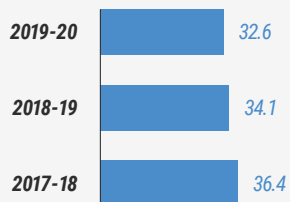
Fouls Per Match



Interceptions Per Match



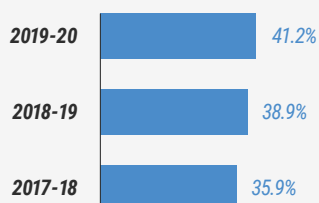
Tackles Attempted Per Match



Tackle Success Rate

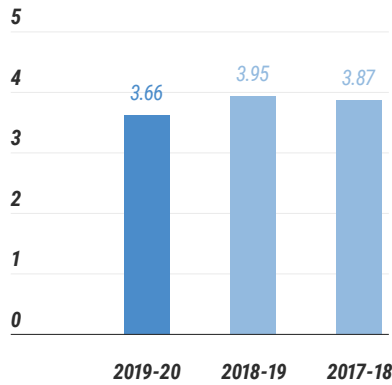


Tackled but Possession Retained

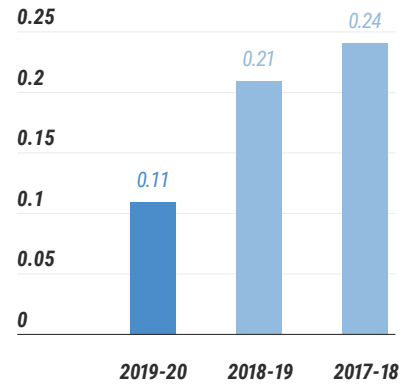


REFEREEING

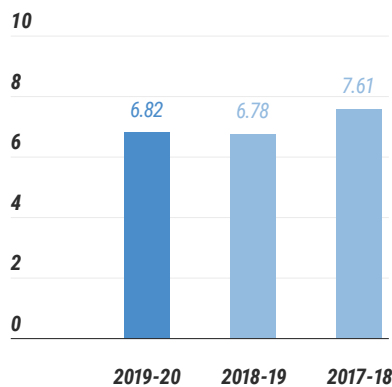
Yellow Cards Per Match



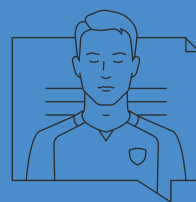
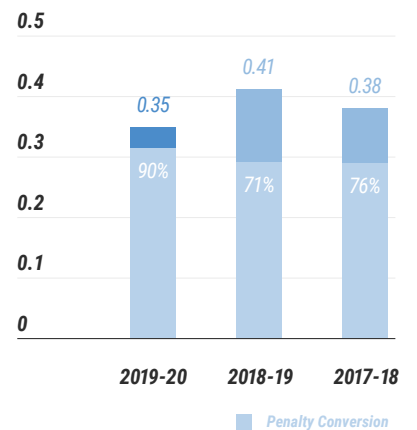
Red Cards Per Match



Fouls Per Yellow Card



Penalties Per Match



Referee Assessment (from the PFA's post-match player surveys):

A-LEAGUE SURVEY

Getting the big decisions right



3.3 +0.1

Communicating with players



3.4 +0.3

Protecting player safety



3.8 +0.2

Implementing VAR (if used)



3.5 +0.6

INJURY REPORT

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS AUSTRALIA THE 2019-20 A-LEAGUE REPORT INJURY REPORT

- ▶ *SNAPSHOT*
- ▶ *METHODOLOGY*
- ▶ *SEASON OVERVIEW*
- ▶ *INJURY LOCATION*





\$5.4M

TOTAL COST OF INJURIES
FOR THE 2019/20 SEASON

DOWN \$0.7M



747

TOTAL MATCHES MISSED
DUE TO INJURY

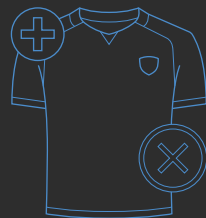
DOWN 23



153

TOTAL NUMBER OF
INJURIES

DOWN 12



4.88

AVERAGE MATCHES MISSED
PER INJURY

UP 0.21

Since 2005, the PFA's A-League Injury Report has been a fundamental tool in the PFA's efforts to ensure the health and safety of our members. The Report has underpinned the PFA's advocacy for fairer scheduling, safer playing surfaces and improved conditions at clubs, headlined by the introduction of the Minimum Medical Standards in 2011.

With the 2018/19 season the worst on record in reference to injuries sustained, it was pleasing to witness a downward trend in the number of injuries sustained. The 153 injuries recorded were 12 fewer than the previous season; heartening when you

consider an additional club is factored into that equation.

In all, 747 matches were missed due to injury, and although this was fewer as a collective, the average matches missed per injury increased slightly to 4.88, essentially one additional match for every five injuries sustained.

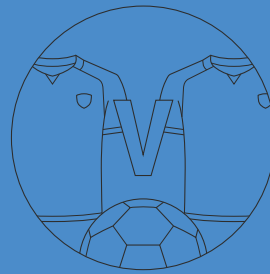
Ultimately, the cost of injuries dropped to \$5.4 million, down 11% from the \$6.1 million recorded in 2018/19.

Knee injuries were responsible for 308 matches missed this season, an increase of 27% from 2018/19. While hamstring injuries dropped 15%, they still remain common, with 99 matches missed as a result, followed by shoulder injuries (67) up by 62 from the previous season. Promisingly, calf (68%) and foot (48%) injuries were down from the 2018/19 season.

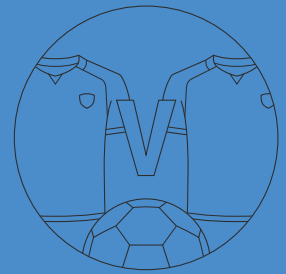
METHODOLOGY

During the 2019/20 A-League season (excluding finals), the PFA collected and recorded the occurrence and location of all injuries causing players to miss matches.

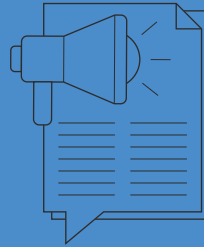
The PFA Injury Report was formulated from publicly available information and private feedback, specifically through the following key sources:



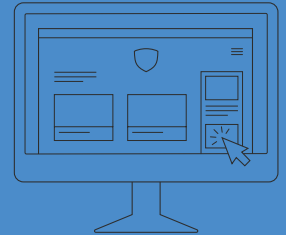
FFA WEEKLY MATCH PREVIEWS



OFFICIAL A-LEAGUE CLUB MATCH PREVIEWS/REVIEWS



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASES



OFFICIAL WEBSITES



DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH A-LEAGUE PLAYERS



In this report, injury is defined as “any physical complaint sustained during a competitive game or training that resulted in a player being unable to take part in, at a minimum, the player’s next official A-League game.” Based on the data collected about injury occurrence and related games missed, descriptive analyses were conducted.

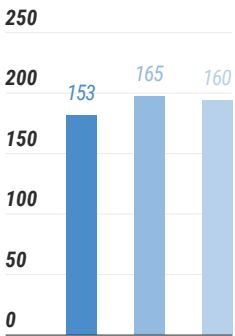


Note: The accuracy of the PFA A-League Injury Report’s results and analysis is dependent upon the accuracy of the sources of information from which it is derived. Accordingly, the PFA does not warrant that the results are an exact and complete record of player injuries. They are, however, an accurate summation of the publicly available information provided by FFA and club sources. This report does not include injuries players sustained while playing for the Australian Men’s National Teams.

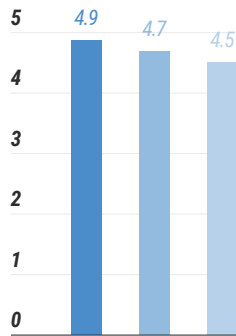
SEASON OVERVIEW

2019/20 Injury Overview

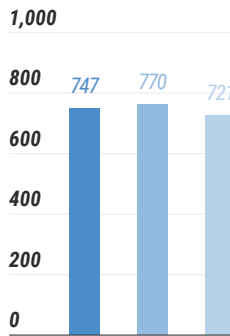
Number of Injuries



Matches Missed Per Injury



Total Missed



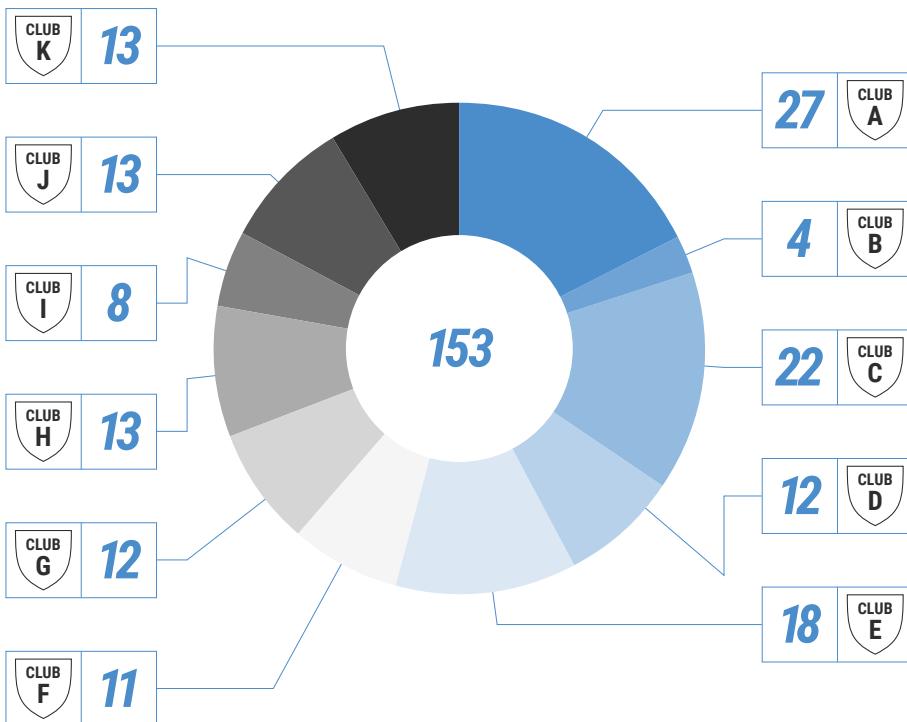
■ 2019-20 ■ 2018-19 ■ 2017-18

Total Cost of Injuries

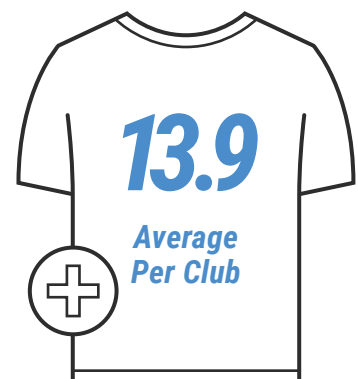
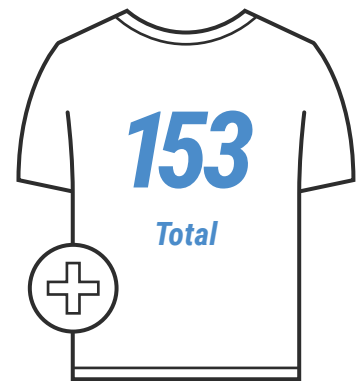
\$5,421,027

Cost of injuries is defined as the average wage spend on players unavailable to participate in matches due to injury. It is calculated by dividing the total player payments at each club by 432 (16 players x 26 rounds) to find the average cost to that club of each match missed due to injury, then multiplying by the recorded number of matches missed. Finals, Asian Champions League and FFA Cup matches are not included, nor are payments to marquee and guest players; so the true cost is likely much higher.

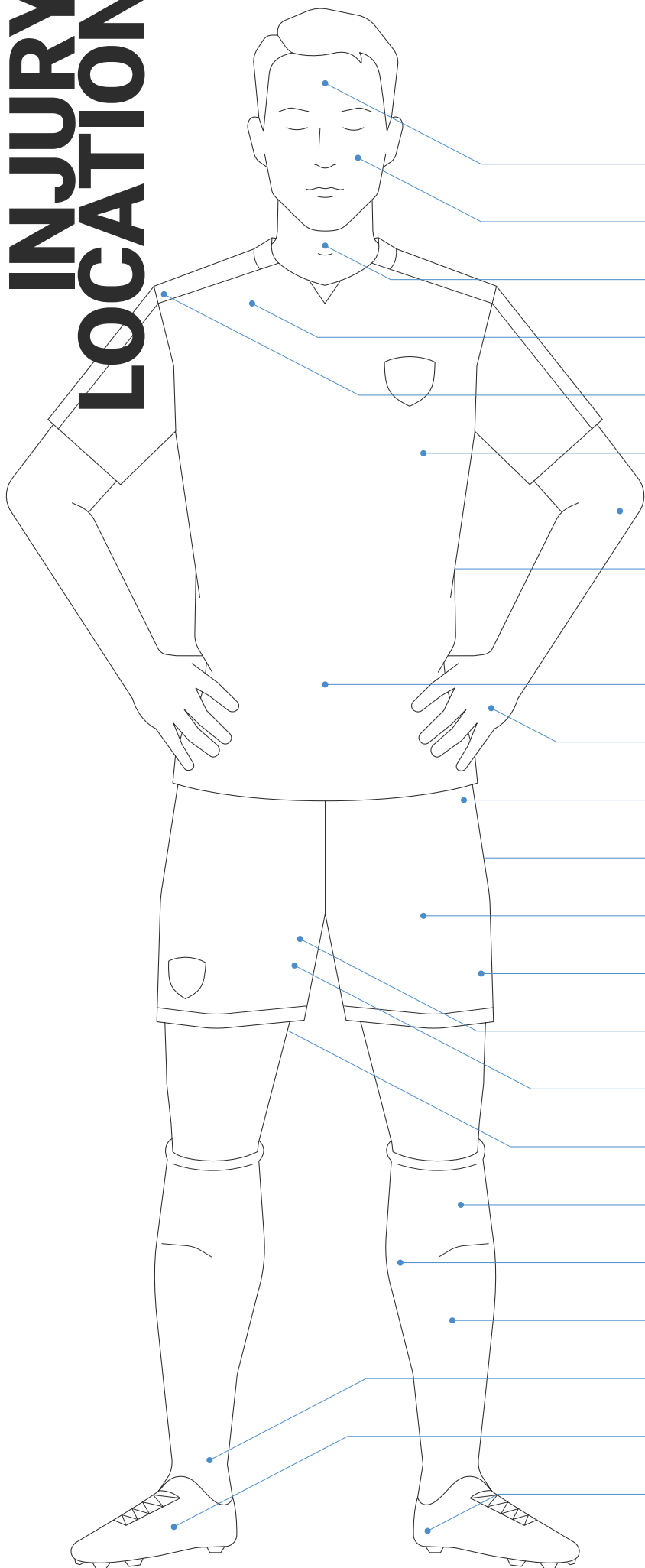
Number of Injuries by Club



Number of Injuries



INJURY LOCATION



	Number of Injuries	Matches Missed	Change from 2018/19
CONCUSSION	2	4	+2
FACIAL INJURY	0	0	-1
ILLNESS	8	8	-5
COLLAR BONE	0	0	-7
SHOULDER	5	67	+62
RIBS	0	0	0
ELBOW	1	2	0
BACK	0	0	0
SORENESS	2	2	-5
ABDOMINAL	1	2	-1
HAND	1	7	+7
HIP	5	10	-3
GLUTE	0	0	-5
QUAD	10	38	-3
THIGH	0	0	-17
GROIN	7	33	-23
ADDUCTOR	4	24	+21
HAMSTRING	28	99	-15
KNEE	33	308	+67
CALF	8	22	-47
LEG	5	10	-11
ANKLE	7	49	+6
FOOT	7	32	-29
HEEL	0	0	-1
UNSTATED	19	30	-1

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA | THE 2019-20 A-LEAGUE REPORT | PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS AUSTRALIA | THE 2019-20 A-LEAGUE REPORT | PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

▶ *IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON PLAYER MENTAL HEALTH*

▶ *THE FUTURE*



Impact of COVID-19 on Player Mental Health

Professional Footballers Australia (the PFA) in association with FIFPro, the global representative body for professional footballers, undertook research examining mental health symptoms in professional football during the coronavirus (COVID-19) global crisis. The research project involved 150 Australian players participating in a research study in March and April, conducted by FIFPro's Chief Medical Officer Vincent Goutteborge.

Key Findings:



35%

REPORTED MILD ANXIETY SYMPTOMS AND 23% MODERATE-TO-SEVERE ANXIETY SYMPTOMS



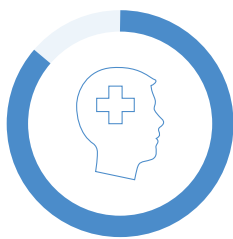
29%

REPORTED MILD DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS AND 16% MODERATE-TO-SEVERE DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS



77%

OF THE PLAYERS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR FUTURE AS A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER



86%

REPORTED THAT RESOURCES / SUPPORT AVAILABLE (E.G. CLUB, UNION) FOR THEIR MENTAL HEALTH WERE SUFFICIENT



Note: All members have access to expert and confidential support services through the PFA's Mental Health Referral Network. For more information contact your Player Development Manager or the PFA directly via info@pfa.net.au or 1300 650 497



**PROGRAM
ENGAGEMENT**

THE FUTURE

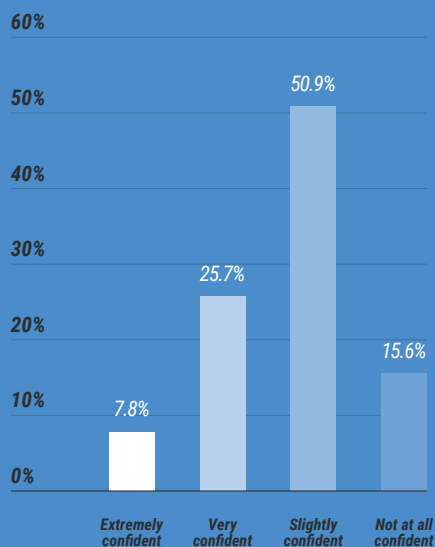
While the impact of COVID-19 on the global football landscape has been significant, the difficulties associated with completing the 2019/20 A-League season have created an air of hesitancy. An exodus of foreign and domestic talent from the A-League hasn't been witnessed to this extent since the demise of the National Soccer League in 2004. The uncertainty which surrounds future broadcast deals, summer versus winter scheduling, salary cap regulations and the often-touted domestic transfer system has eroded the players' confidence.

The post-season survey explores some of this ambiguity, with particular focus on career confidence, participation in the A-League, future competition season structure and the overall satisfaction gained via the services offered by the PFA.

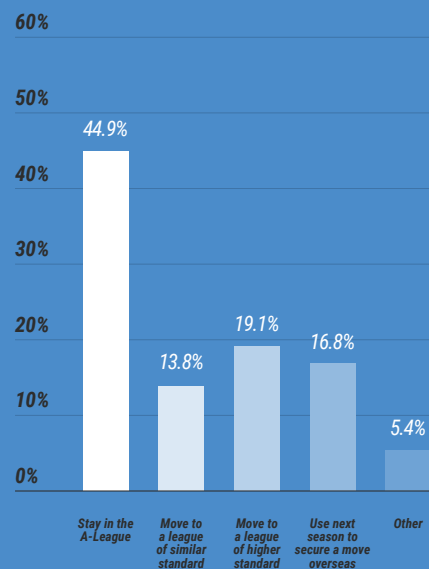


A-LEAGUE SURVEY

In general, how confident are you about the direction of your control over your football career? (167 Responses)



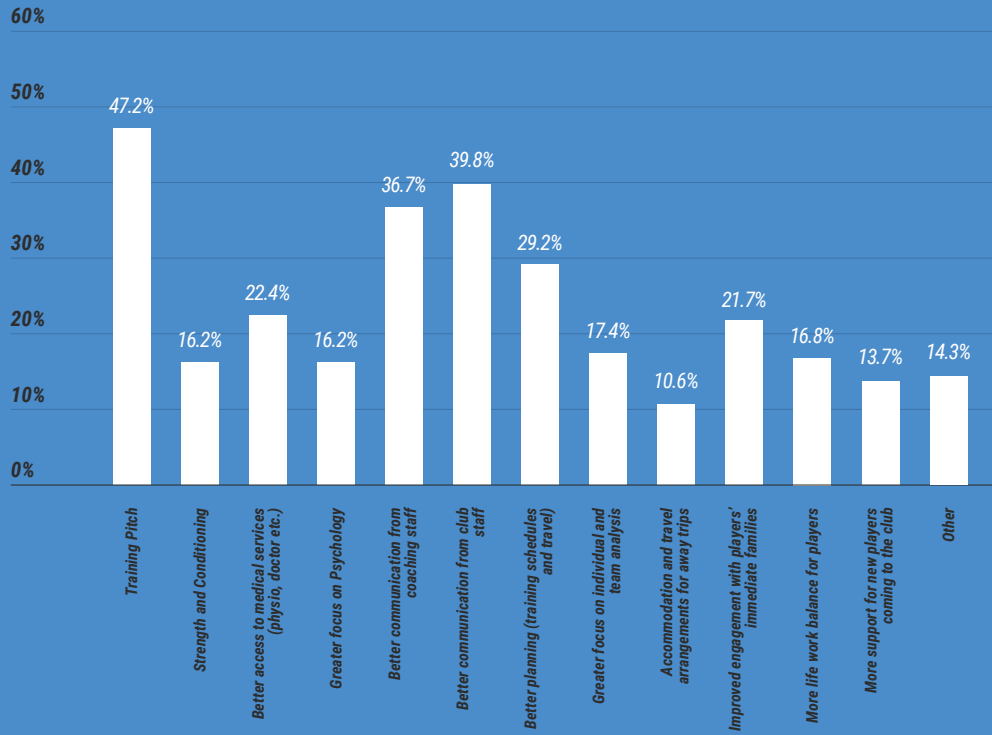
Please select the statement below which best describes your preference towards the next A-League Season? (167 Responses)



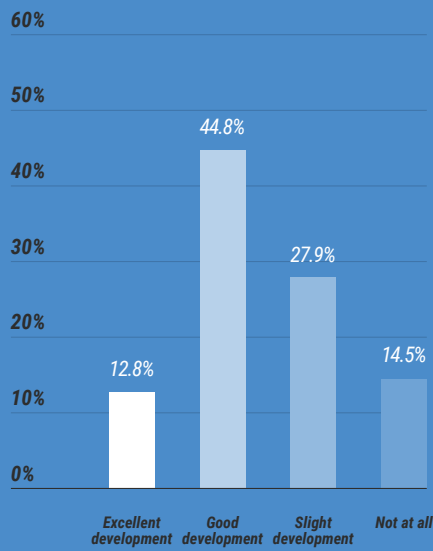


A-LEAGUE SURVEY

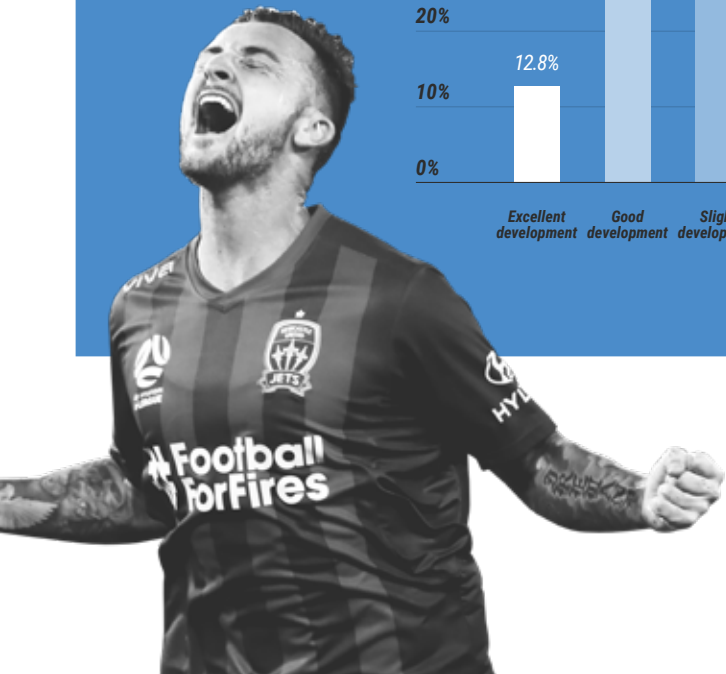
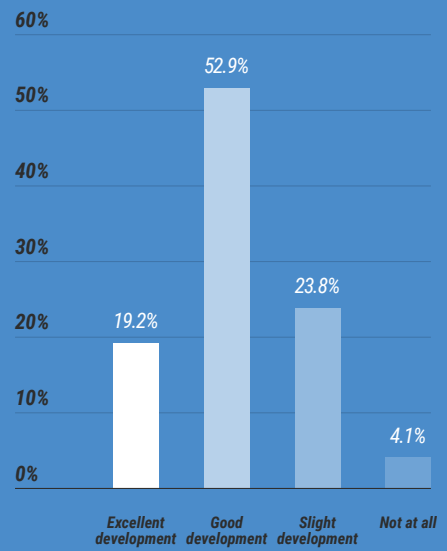
In what areas do you feel the biggest gains could be made to improve the club's performance standards? (multiple answers allowed)



To what extent do you feel you have developed as a player this season?



To what extent do you feel you developed as a person this season?



**COURAGE
WORLD CLASS
INTELLIGENCE
TRUST
RESPECT**



Professional Footballers Australia

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