



Asian Cup Australia 2015

ABC coverage starts 9 January



ABC
Australian
Broadcasting
Corporation

Asian Cup - Australia 2015

Starts 9 January on ABC TV, ABC Radio and ABC iview

5 cities, 16 countries, 23 days, 32 matches

ABC TV is the official free-to-air broadcaster and ABC Grandstand is the official non-commercial radio broadcaster of the **Asian Cup Australia 2015**, the biggest sporting event in Australia since the 2000 Olympics and the biggest ever football event ever held in this country. ABC will bring you the best of the action with coverage on ABC TV, ABC iview and ABC Radio.

Held every four years, the Asian Cup is the pinnacle of Asian Football and features the top 16 teams in the Asian Football Confederation. Australia's Socceroos were runners up in the last Cup, and the team plans to go one better this time round.

ABC TV

- Every group round game featuring the Socceroos will be broadcast on ABC TV and simulcast on ABC iview, commercial free and in its entirety. All Socceroos finals matches will be broadcast live on ABC TV and ABC iview.
- Every other game night, ABC will screen a 30 minute highlight package bringing you expert analysis and the best of the day's action across all four groups.
- Esteemed ABC sports broadcaster and AFC Asian Cup Ambassador, Stephanie Brantz will lead a team of national and international experts on ABC TV's coverage.

ABC Radio

- Every Socceroos game and all finals will be broadcast live on ABC Radio.
- The ABC Radio commentary team will be lead by ABC Grandstand's Francis Leach, who is also an AFC Asian Cup Ambassador.
- For ABC Radio broadcast details go to abc.net.au/grandstand

Matches will be played in Sydney – Stadium Australia, Newcastle – Newcastle Stadium, Canberra – Canberra Stadium, Brisbane – Brisbane Stadium and Melbourne – Melbourne Rectangular Stadium.

abc.net.au/asiancup and watch at iview.abc.net.au

For further information, images or to arrange an interview please contact:

Cat Bocking on 02 8333 4250 / 0424 333 543 or bocking.catherine@abc.net.au

Images available at abc.net.au/tvpublicity

ABC TV Broadcast Schedule

Asian Cup Australia 2015 Group Round Matches

FRIDAY 9 JAN 10PM AEDT – ABC TV and ABC iview

Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015: Australia v Kuwait

In the very first match of the Asian Cup Australia 2015 the Socceroos take on Kuwait at Melbourne Rectangular Stadium.

SATURDAY 10 JAN 10PM – ABC TV and ABC iview

Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015: Highlights

Hosted live by Stephanie Brantz, a round-up of all the action from day two of the Asian Cup includes Socceroos update and match highlights from South Korea v Oman, Uzbekistan v North Korea and Saudi Arabia v China.

SUNDAY 11 JAN 10.15PM – ABC TV and ABC iview

Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015: Highlights

Hosted live by Stephanie Brantz, a round-up of all the action from day three of the Asian Cup includes Socceroos update and match highlights from UAE v Qatar and Iran v Bahrain.

MONDAY 12 JAN 10PM – ABC TV and ABC iview

Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015: Highlights

Hosted live by Stephanie Brantz, a round-up of all the action from day four of the Asian Cup includes Socceroos update and match highlights from Japan v Palestine and Jordan v Iraq.

TUESDAY 13 JAN 10PM AEDT – ABC TV and ABC iview

Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015 : Oman v Australia

Australia takes on Oman at Stadium Australia, Sydney in the Socceroos' second match in the Asian Cup. Coverage hosted by Stephanie Brantz with special guest panellists. Includes highlights from Kuwait v South Korea.

WEDNESDAY 14 JAN 10.15PM – ABC TV and ABC iview

Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015: Highlights

Hosted live by Stephanie Brantz, a round-up of all the action from day six of the Asian Cup includes Socceroos update and match highlights from North Korea v Saudi Arabia and China v Uzbekistan.

THURSDAY 15 JAN 10PM – ABC TV and ABC iview

Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015: Highlights

Hosted live by Stephanie Brantz, a round-up of all the action from day seven of the Asian Cup includes Socceroos update and match highlights from Bahrain v UAE and Qatar v Iran.

FRIDAY 16 JAN 10PM – ABC TV and ABC iview

Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015: Highlights

Hosted live by Stephanie Brantz, a round-up of all the action from day eight of the Asian Cup includes Socceroos update and match highlights from Palestine v Jordan and Iraq v Japan.

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SATURDAY 17 JAN 10PM AEDT – ABC TV and ABC iview**Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015 : Australia v South Korea**

Australia takes on South Korea in the Socceroos' final group match in the Asian Cup.

Coverage hosted by Stephanie Brantz with special guest panellists. Includes highlights from Oman v Kuwait.

SUNDAY 18 JAN 10.15PM – ABC TV and ABC iview**Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015: Highlights**

Hosted live by Stephanie Brantz, a round-up of all the action from day 10 of the Asian Cup includes Socceroos update and match highlights from Uzbekistan v Saudi Arabia and China v North Korea.

MONDAY 19 JAN 10.30PM – ABC TV and ABC iview**Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015: Highlights**

Hosted live by Stephanie Brantz, a round-up of all the action from day 11 of the Asian Cup includes Socceroos update and match highlights from Iran v UAE and Qatar v Bahrain.

TUESDAY 20 JAN 10.00PM – ABC TV and ABC iview**Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015: Highlights**

Hosted live by Stephanie Brantz, a round-up of all the action from day 12 of the Asian Cup includes Socceroos update and match highlights from Japan v Jordan and Iraq v Palestine.

Asian Cup Australia 2015 Finals

All the finals featuring the Socceroos will be broadcast LIVE on ABC TV, ABC iview and ABC Radio. Coverage will includes a 30 minute preshow hosted by Stephanie Brantz, who will be joined by Gerard Whateley and esteemed guest panellists from the world of football. Francis Leach will commentate for ABC Radio with live crosses to the ABC TV Studio. TV Commentary will be supplied by Fox Sports.

FINAL BROADCAST DETAILS TBA

THURSDAY 22 JAN**Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015 : Quarter Finals 1 & 2****FRIDAY 23 JAN****Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015 : Quarter Finals 3 & 4****MONDAY 26 JAN****Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015 : Semi Final 1****TUESDAY 27 JAN****Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015 : Semi Final 2****FRIDAY 30 JAN****Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015 : Third Place Playoff****SATURDAY 31 JAN****Football: Asian Cup Australia 2015 : Final**

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ABC Asian Cup Broadcast Team

Stephanie Brantz

Stephanie Brantz will host the ABC TV broadcast of the Asian Cup matches and the 30 minute highlights show. Stephanie is an official AFC Asian Cup Media Ambassador.

A self-confessed 'sports nut', Stephanie's has presented a wide array of sporting events for ABC Sport including the W League (Women's National Football League); Women's Cricket; Women's Australian Open Golf; WNBL (Women's National Basketball League); and more.

Prior to joining ABC Sport Stephanie was a presenter at the Nine Network on *National Nine News*, *Nightline* and *Sunday* and prior to that hosted the FIFA World Cup highlights and contributed to *On the Ball* for SBS.

Stephanie has interviewed a variety of athletes and personalities including Harry Kewell, Steve Waugh, Ian Thorpe and John Eales, and has covered The Ashes, FIFA World Cup, Ironman Series and National Basketball League.



Francis Leach



Francis Leach will provide live commentary of the Asian Cup finals matches for ABC Radio and live crosses from the matches to the ABC Television coverage. Francis is an official AFC Asian Cup Media Ambassador. Francis is an official AFC Asian Cup Media Ambassador.

Francis Leach is an established commentator who is already known to sporting and ABC audiences alike from his work on radio, including *triple j* and *ABC Grandstand*, as well as ABC TV's *Offsiders* and *The Drum*. Francis is also a frequent contributor to Network Ten's evening news and current affairs show *The Project*.

Previously Francis has worked at *triple J*, *Fox Footy Channel*, *ABC Radio National*, *774 ABC Melbourne*, *The Age* and *Melbourne's 1116 SEN*.

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Gerard Whateley

Gerard Whateley will join Stephanie Brantz and national and international stars in providing special comments in the ABC TV finals coverage of the Asian Cup.

Combining authoritative journalism and sharp-eyed analysis with emotive broadcasting, Gerard Whateley has established a unique voice in the coverage of sport in Australia. Gerard is a TV and radio broadcaster with the ABC, fronting *Grandstand's* AFL and horse racing coverage. He presents *Offsiders* on Sunday mornings on ABC and ABC News 24 and is also co-host of *Fox Footy's AFL 360* program.

Gerard has previously worked at the *Herald Sun* and for *Channel Ten*.



Guest panellists

The ABC Asian Cup broadcast team will be joined by high profile national and international football experts. More details to be revealed soon.

Official AFC Asian Cup Ambassadors

The following footballers are AFC Asian Cup Ambassadors:

- John Kosima (Adelaide/Sydney)
- Matt McKay (Brisbane)
- Craig Moore (Brisbane)
- Rale Rasic (Sydney)
- Brett Emerton (Sydney)
- Paul Okon (Sydney)
- Ali Abbas (Sydney)
- Ned Zelic (Canberra)
- Harry Kewell (Melbourne)
- Alan Davidson (Melbourne)
- Ray Baartz (Newcastle)
- Michael Bridges (Newcastle)
- Sarah Walsh (Sydney)
- Sally Shipard (Canberra)
- Ellyse Perry (Sydney)
- Kyah Simon (Sydney)

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The Asian Cup Teams

16 countries —the top teams in the Asian Football Confederation...

Group A —Fast Facts

Australia

Result in 2011: 2nd
Population: 23 million
FIFA ranking: 102
Ranking among Asian nations: 10
Year of first attempt: 2007
Previous attempts: two
Best finish: runners-up 2011
Qualified: automatically as host
Players to watch:
Tim Cahill (New York Red Bulls, USA)
Robbie Kruse (Bayer Leverkusen, Germany)
Tommy Oar (FC Utrecht, Netherlands)
Mathew Ryan (Club Brugge, Belgium)

Oman

Result in 2011: DNQ
Population: 2.8 million
FIFA ranking: 86
Ranking among Asian nations: 7
Year of first attempt: 2004
Previous attempts: 2
Best finish: first round 2004, 2007
Qualified: top of Group A
Players to watch:
Ali Al-Habsi (Wigan Athletic, England)
Eid Al Farsi (Al-Oruba SC, Oman)
Ahmed Mubarak (Al-Oruba SC, Oman)
Ismail Al Ajmi (Saham SC, Oman)

Korea Republic (South)

Result in 2011: 3rd
Population: 50 million
FIFA ranking: 69
Ranking among Asian teams: 3
Year of first attempt: 1956
Previous attempts: 12
Best finish: champions 1956, 1960, runners-up 1972, 1980, 1988
Qualified: as third place-getter in the 2011 tournament
Players to watch:
Son Heung-min (Bayer Leverkusen, Germany)
Ki Sung-yueng (Swansea City, English Premier League)
Koo Ja-cheol (Mainz 05, Germany)
Kim Shin-Wook (Ulsan Hyundai, Korea)

Kuwait

Result in 2011: 14th
Population: 2.7 million
FIFA ranking: 120
Ranking among Asian nations: 15
Year of first attempt: 1972
Previous attempts: 9
Best finish: champions 1980, runners-up: 1976
Qualified: second Group B behind Iran
Players to watch:
Bader Al-Mutawa (Qadsia SC, Kuwait)
Yousef Nasser (Kazma, Kuwait)
Waleed Ali (Al Kuwait, Kuwait)

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Group B —Fast Facts

Uzbekistan

Result in 2011: 4th
Population: 30 million
FIFA ranking: 65
Ranking among Asian nations: 3
Year of first attempt: 1996
Previous attempts: 5
Best finish: semi-finals 2011
Qualified: automatically as host
Players to watch:
Qualified: second in Group E behind UAE
Players to watch:
Server Djeparov (Seongnam, Korea)
Odil Ahmedov (FC Krasnador, Russia)
Jasur Khasanov (Lokomotiv Tashkent, Uzbekistan)

Saudi Arabia

Result in 2011: 15th
Population: 28 million
FIFA ranking: 106
Ranking among Asian nations: 12
Year of first attempt: 1984
Previous attempts: eight
Best finish: champion 1984, 1988, 1996
Qualified: top of Group C
Players to watch:
Naif Hazazi (Al-Shabab, Saudi Arabia)
Fahad Al Muwallad (Al-Ittihad, Saudi Arabia)
Osama Hawsawi (Al-Ahli, Saudi Arabia)

China PR

Result in 2011: 9th
Population: 1.357 billion
FIFA ranking: 99
Ranking among Asian nations: 8
Year of first attempt: 1976
Previous attempts: 10
Best finish: runner up 1984 & 2004
Qualified: highest ranked third placed team in main qualification draw
Players to watch:
Zheng Zhi (Guangzhou Evergrande)
Gao Lin (Guangzhou Evergrande)
Zhang Xizhe (Beijing Guoan)

DPR Korea (North)

Result in 2011: 12th
Population: 25 million
FIFA ranking: 137
Ranking among Asian nations: 20
Year of first attempt: 1980
Previous attempts: three
Best finish: fourth, 1980
Qualified: as winner of the 2012 AFC Challenge Cup
Players to watch:
Jong Tae-Se (Suwon, Korea Republic)
Pak Nam-Chol (Sisaket FC, Thailand)
Pak Kwang-ryong (FC Vaduz, Switzerland)

Group C —Fast Facts

Iran

Result in 2011: 5th
Population: 77 million
FIFA ranking: 51
Ranking among Asian nations: 1
Year of first attempt: 1968
Previous attempts: 12
Best finish: Champions 1968, 1972, 1976
Qualified: top of Group B
Players to watch:
Reza Ghoochannejhad (Al-Kuwait, Kuwait)
Ashkan Dejagah (Al-Arabi, Qatar)
Andranik Teymourian (Esteghlal, Iran)
Javad Nekounam (Osasuna, Spain)

Qatar

Result in 2011: 7th
Population: 2 million
FIFA ranking: 88
Ranking among Asian nations: 10
Year of first attempt: 1980
Previous attempts: 8
Best finish: quarter-finals: 2000, 2011
Qualified: second in Group D behind Bahrain
Players to watch:
Sebastian Soria (Lekhiwiya, Qatar)
Khalfan Ibrahim (Al Sadd, Qatar)
Bilal Mohammed (Al Gharafa, Qatar)

UAE

Result in 2011: 13th
Population: 9 million
FIFA ranking: 79
Ranking among Asian nations: 6
Year of first attempt: 1980
Previous attempts: nine
Best finish: Runner-up 1996
Qualified: top of Group E
Players to watch:
Ali Mabkhout (Al Jazira, UAE)
Omar Abdulrahman (Al-Ain, UAE)
Amer Abdulrahman (Baniyas, UAE)
Ahmad Khalil (Al-Ahli, UAE)

Bahrain

Result in 2011: 10th
Population: 1.3 million
FIFA ranking: 104
Ranking among Asian nations: 12
Year of first attempt: 1984
Previous attempts: four
Best finish: fourth 2004
Qualified: top of Group D
Players to watch:
Mohamed Husain (Al-Nassr, Saudi Arabia)
Mohamed Salmeen (Muharraq Club, Bahrain)
Ismail Abdul-Latif (Al-Ahli, Qatar)
Mahmood Abdulrahman (Al-Shamal, Qatar)

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Group D —Fast Facts

Japan

Result in 2011: 1st
Population: 128 million
FIFA ranking: 52
Ranking among Asian nations: 2
Year of first attempt: 1988
Previous attempts: seven
Best finish: champion 1992, 2000, 2004 and 2011
Qualified: automatically as defending champion
Players to watch:
Keisuke Honda (AC Milan, Italy)
Shinji Kagawa (Borussia Dortmund, Germany)
Shinji Okazaki (Mainz 05, Germany)
Yuto Nagatomo (Inter Milan, Italy)

Iraq

Result in 2011: 8th
Population: 32 million
FIFA ranking: 81
Ranking among Asian nations: 7
Year of first attempt: 1972
Previous attempts: 7
Best finish: Winners 2007
Qualified: second in Group C behind Saudi Arabia
Players to watch:
Younis Mahmoud
Ahmed Yasin (Orebro, Sweden)
Ali Adnan (Rizespor, Turkey)
Salam Shaker (Al-Shorta, Iraq)

Jordan

Result in 2011: 6th
Population: 6 million
FIFA ranking: 74
Ranking among Asian nations: 5
Year of first attempt: 2004
Previous attempts: 2
Best finish: Quarter Finals 2004 & 2011
Qualified: from Group A
Players to watch:
Ahmad Hayel (Al-Arabi, Kuwait)
Mus'ab Al Lahham (Najran, Saudi Arabia)
Khalil Baniateyah (Al-Faisaly, Saudi Arabia)
Odai Al-Saify (Al-Salmiya SC, Kuwait)

Palestine

Result in 2011: DNQ
Population: 4 million
FIFA ranking: 108
Ranking among Asian nations: 14
Year of first attempt: 2015
Previous attempts: 0
Best finish: N/A
Qualified: Winners of 2014 AFC Challenge Cup
Players to watch:
Ashraf Nu'man (Al-Faisaly FC, Saudi Arabia)
Murad Ismail Said (Al-Wehdat, Jordan)
Ahmad Wridat (Shabab Al Dhahriah, Palestine)