

Dick, Greg

From: Media <media@ffa.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 March 2020 10:03 AM
To: Media
Subject: FFA Media Release: Update on COVID-19 impact on football

Monday, 16 March 2020
Sydney, Australia

Football Federation Australia (FFA) today confirmed that the remainder of the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 regular season, and the Westfield W-League 2020 Grand Final scheduled for this weekend will go ahead, but with all matches to be played behind closed doors and with no fans permitted to attend. This policy will apply for the remaining six rounds of the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 regular season and will be reviewed for the Hyundai A-League 2020 Finals Series.

The decision by the Federal Government that all travellers to Australia arriving from today will have to self-isolate for a period of 14 days means that matches involving Melbourne Victory and Wellington Phoenix will not proceed in Rounds 24 and 25 of the Hyundai A-League. These matches will be re-scheduled and Wellington Phoenix will play all their matches in Australia for the remainder of the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 season.

FFA also confirmed that grassroots football, including all levels of the National Premier Leagues and FFA Cup Preliminary Rounds, may continue to be played at this time in line with Government advice, but with additional measures implemented to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection or transmission through the football community, including recommended hygiene measures and appropriate social distancing at football matches.

FFA Chief Executive Officer James Johnson said that the decisions taken were designed to protect the 1.96 million members of Australia's football community, as well as ensure that football's vast community would be a positive force in helping Australians remain healthy and combat the spread of the virus.

"The scale of football means that we have a key role to play in maintaining the health and well-being of Australians, as well as their families and the wider community. We are doing so by allowing people to play, in line with the current Government position but with additional guidance to further improve social distancing at football fields around the country."

"We have been working closely with our stakeholders, Government health officials and our own chief medical officer to develop our policies for the whole of the game following the COVID-19 outbreak. The situation is subject to constant change, and further measures may be necessary in the future."

Johnson added: "The decision to play the remainder of the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 season, and the Westfield W-League 2020 Grand Final behind closed doors was made in consultation with the clubs and in accordance with the latest Federal Government advice."

"The health and safety of all members of the football community, including players, coaches, referees, volunteers, administrators and fans continues to be of paramount importance. We will continue to work with the Government and seek advice as the situation changes."

The National COVID-19 Working Committee will continue to meet and FFA will provide regular updates to the football community as the situation continues to develop.

-ends-

For more information please contact:

Ricardo Piccioni
GM Media & Government Relations
M: +61 401 107 146
E: ricardo.piccioni@ffa.com.au

W: <http://www.ffa.com.au>

Football Federation Australia
Level 22, 1 Oxford St, Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Locked Bag A4071, Sydney South NSW 1235



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

DISCLAIMER: It is the policy of Football Federation Australia (FFA) not to enter into binding contracts, or vary the terms of existing contracts, via the exchange of e-mail. Except for this disclaimer, nothing in this e-mail creates any legally binding obligation on any party. This e-mail transmission and the content is intended only for the addressee. The content of this e-mail, including attachments, may be privileged and confidential. Confidentiality and privilege are not waived if you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, nor may you use, review, disclose, disseminate or copy any of the content of this e-mail. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify us by return e-mail and then delete it including the attachments. FFA does not warrant that any attachments are free from viruses or other defects. You assume all liability for any loss, damage or other consequences which may arise from opening or using the attachments. [v.1.0.1]