



Football Australia Circular

Circular No. 21-01

4 February 2021

TO THE MEMBERS OF FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN DOMESTIC MATCH CALENDAR

The purpose of this Circular is to notify Members that Football Australia will release the Australian football domestic match calendar (**DMC**) for 2021 today to all relevant stakeholders.

Principle IV of the recently published *XI Principles for the future of Australian Football (XI Principles)*, highlights the desire to reset and rebuild Australian football products, by creating a greater emphasis on reconnecting the football pyramid via the creation of a national football calendar and the realignment of Australian football competitions. An opportunity exists, via the establishment of a DMC, to better align all football activities in a unified manner.

In this regard, the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations provide that all football Competitions must be played in accordance with the DMC unless otherwise approved by Football Australia.

As world football activity is coordinated through FIFA's International Match Calendar (**IMC**), key relevant FIFA and AFC dates have also been incorporated alongside domestic dates.

The main features of the DMC 2021, include:

- (1) Registration Periods for Professional Competitions;
- (2) A- League and Westfield W-League season windows;
- (3) National camps; and
- (4) FFA Cup/Festival of football.

In developing the DMC 2021, Football Australia has set out to achieve the following key objectives:

- (1) Unite the game through improved alignment of domestic football activities to enhance engagement and drive participation and growth;
- (2) Enhance transparency to improve and facilitate planning of football activities e.g. FFA Cup, Junior National Championships, Talent ID activities.
- (3) Improve the possibility of creating unique football experiences through stakeholder alignment and engagement e.g. annual festival-style events and the opportunity for finals football to be played each year, including the FFA Cup Final as the last match of the football calendar year; and
- (4) Align the professional competitions with the AFC calendar and the FIFA IMC.

Annexed to this Circular is 'Version 1' of the DMC for 2021, which will be updated by Football Australia, as required, to ensure it provides clarity but also responds to changes due to the

ongoing challenges posed by COVID as well as opportunities identified by Football Australia in collaboration with stakeholders.

Please note that 2021 will be a year of transition towards a completely unified and integrated approach as we also enter a COVID safe environment with the view of optimum alignment to be achieved in 2022.

Yours sincerely



James Johnson
Chief Executive Officer