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# FOOTBALL EXCELLENCE

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1st January 2011—31st March 2012

## **Introduction**

FAS is encouraged by the progress of the key football development and excellence programmes that fall under the purview of the Football Excellence Committee which is tasked to achieve success for Singapore through international competitions. These programmes include:

- A) Coach Education;
- B) Junior Centers of Excellence;
- C) Centers of Excellence;
- D) National Football Academy
- E) National Teams

Youth development is of paramount importance for Singapore football and FAS has, over the past 15 months, expanded the breadth and depth of our training and development programmes for our youth players. We are heartened by the acknowledgement from leading football officials that our targeted programmes including the JCOE, COE and NFA will position Singapore well for future success.

Going forward, we will continue to strengthen our talent pipeline both at the youth development and coaching levels.

Below is a summary of the various football development and excellence programmes from January 2011 to March 2012.

## **A) COACH EDUCATION**

### **- AFC Coaching Certification Courses**

Developing good coaches is a key strategy of our FAS Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015 and in this regard FAS have in place a Coaches Pathway.

FAS continue to train more coaches annually and currently have 622 AFC certified local coaches on our register.

In November 2011, the AFC Pro-Diploma course, which is the highest coaching qualification in AFC, was organized by FAS for our elite local coaches who already possess the AFC “A” certification to further enhance their tactical and technical capabilities and capacities as elite coaches.

This was the first such certification course to be conducted in South East Asia and the course attracted 21 participants including 5 S.League Head Coaches, 5 foreign coaches and the remaining participants are involved in coaching club COE, Prime League and NFA teams. AFC appointed Mr Erich Rutemoeller from Germany as the Chief Instructor and Mr Gary Phillips from England as the Conditioning Instructor for this course.

The AFC 'C' Certificate courses continue to be very popular. The participants are selected for each course based on a first-come-first-served basis and on condition that the applicants passed the pre-entry theory test and national skills' assessment. A total of 95 participants registered for the AFC 'C' Certificate courses and 88 were certified.

The summary of coaching courses conducted in 2011 and first quarter (Jan – Mar) 2012 are as follows:

#### AFC 'C' Certificate

10-22 Feb 2011

No. of Participants: 19

No. of Passes: 17

No. of Pro-Passes: 1

7-20 Apr 2011

No. of Participants: 15

No. of Passes: 10

No. of Pro-Passes: 3

1-14 Jun 2011

No. of Participants: 21

No. of Passes: 21

17-30 Oct 2011

No. of Participants: 19

No. of Passes: 14

No. of Pro-Passes: 3

18-29 Feb 2012

No. of Participants: 21

No. of Passes: 16

No. of Pro-Passes: 3

#### AFC "B" Certificate

12-18 Mar 2011 (Part II)

No. of Participants: 10

No. of Passes: 6

22-5 Oct 2011

No. of Participants: 10

No. of Passes: 6

No. of Pro-Passes: 3

## AFC Pro-Diploma

29 Nov—19 Dec 2011 (Phase I)

No. of Participants: 16 (Local)  
(On-going)

### **- Number of AFC Certified Coaches in Singapore**

The number of AFC certified local coaches registered with FAS continue to increase annually as follows:

|                 | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| AFC Pro Licence | 7           | 7           |
| AFC 'A' Licence | 42          | 46          |
| AFC 'B' Licence | 140         | 150         |
| AFC 'C' Licence | 361         | 419         |

### **- FAS Course Instructors**

The following Singaporean Coaching Instructors are regularly appointed by AFC to conduct coaching courses in Singapore and overseas:

P.N. Sivaji  
AFC Elite Instructor  
- Conducted AFC 'A' Certificate Courses

Vincent Subramaniam  
AFC Elite Instructor  
- Conducted AFC 'A' Certificate Courses

Mike Wong  
AFC Elite Instructor  
- Conducted AFC 'B' Certificate Courses

Kadir Yahya  
AFC Instructor  
- Conducted AFC 'B' Certificate Courses

Robert Lim  
AFC Instructor  
- Conducted AFC 'B' Certificate Courses

Mohamed Zainudeen  
AFC Instructor  
- Conducted AFC 'C' Certificate Courses

Kunju Jamaludeen  
AFC Instructor  
- Conducted AFC 'C' Certificate Courses

Mohamed Basir  
AFC Instructor  
- Conducted AFC 'C' Certificate Courses

Johanna Johari  
AFC Instructor  
- Conducted AFC 'C' Certificate Courses

S. Subramani  
AFC Instructor (Provisional)  
- Conducted AFC 'C' Certificate Courses

## - FAS Coaches Morning Sessions

FAS continues to train our elite youth coaches who are coaching the COE and NFA teams through the weekly Coaches Morning sessions conducted by FAS Technical Director. The sessions are also attended by some S.League coaches. The objective of these sessions is to improve the technical and tactical knowledge of our local coaches. The National Football Syllabus is the main coaching manual for these coaches.

## - FAS Monthly Coaches Evening Sessions

FAS also conducts monthly Coaches Evening sessions for the JCOE coaches. Similar to the Coaches Morning sessions, these evening sessions are held to continuously assist these coaches in building their capacity and capability including aligning their coaching methods with the National Football Syllabus.

## **B) JUNIOR CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE**

The FAS Junior Centre of Excellence (JCOE) programmes for boys U-8, U-10 and U-12, is part of the FAS Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015, to systematically develop and nurture players from even younger age, as part of FAS' long term player development pathway.

There are a total of 10 JCOE Centers in operation in 2012, up from 3 JCOEs in 2011. The JCOE Centers operate from the following school venues around Singapore:

- (a) Yio Chu Kang Primary School
- (b) Innova Junior College
- (c) Naval Base Primary School
- (d) Queensway Primary School
- (e) Tampines Secondary School
- (f) Bedok South Secondary School
- (g) Temasek Secondary School
- (h) Bedok Green Secondary School
- (i) Hong Kah Secondary School
- (j) Regent Secondary School



A total of 606 young talents are being systematically developed at these 10 Centers.

The following are the breakdown of the number of players in each age group at the ten centers:-

(a) Yio Chu Kang Primary School

|        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| U-8    | - | 15    |
| U-10   | - | 19    |
|        |   | ..... |
| Total: |   | 34    |

(b) Innova Junior College

|        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| U-8    | - | 19    |
| U-10   | - | 21    |
| U-12   | - | 25    |
|        |   | ..... |
| Total: |   | 65    |

(c) Naval Base Primary School

|        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| U-8    | - | 20    |
| U-10   | - | 22    |
| U-12   | - | 25    |
|        |   | ..... |
| Total: |   | 67    |

(d) Queensway Primary School

|        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| U-8    | - | 19    |
| U-10   | - | 24    |
| U-12   | - | 25    |
|        |   | ..... |
| Total: |   | 66    |

(e) Tampines Secondary School

|        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| U-8    | - | 22    |
| U-10   | - | 26    |
| U-12   | - | 25    |
|        |   | ..... |
| Total: |   | 73    |

(f) Bedok South Secondary School

|        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| U-10   | - | 30    |
| U-12   | - | 18    |
|        |   | ..... |
| Total: |   | 48    |

(g) Temasek Secondary School

|        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| U-8    | - | 14    |
| U-10   | - | 23    |
| U-12   | - | 23    |
|        |   | ..... |
| Total: |   | 60    |

(h) Bedok Green Secondary School

|        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| U-8    | - | 11    |
| U-10   | - | 23    |
| U-12   | - | 25    |
|        |   | ..... |
| Total: |   | 59    |

(i) Hong Kah Secondary School

|        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| U-8    | - | 21    |
| U-10   | - | 22    |
| U-12   | - | 25    |
|        |   | ..... |
| Total: |   | 68    |

(j) Regent Secondary School

|        |   |      |
|--------|---|------|
| U-8    | - | 18   |
| U-12   | - | 22   |
| U-10   | - | 26   |
|        |   | .... |
| Total: |   | 66   |

Training sessions are held every Saturday at the respective JCOEs. The training hours are as follows: -

- (a) U-8 (7:30am to 8:45am) and  
U-8 (8:00am to 9:15am) @ Marsiling Secondary School;
- (b) U-10 (9:00am to 10:30am);  
U-12 (9:00am to 10:30am) and  
U-10 & U-12 (9:30am to 11:00am) @ Marsiling Secondary School

Attendance at all age groups trainings have been very encouraging. There was minimal disruption to the training sessions despite players' school activities and exams.

There has been a noticeable improvement overall in the technical skill level of the JCOE players.

Plans are already in the pipeline to increase the weekly training sessions from the current one per week to two per week starting from June 2012 as part of the long-term development pathway.

FAS also launched the pilot U-6 JCOE Project at Hong Kah Secondary School on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012, to reach out to our even younger talents and will be monitoring its progress project before the U-6 programme is rolled out to the other JCOEs.

## C) CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

There are a total of nine S.League Centers of Excellence (COE) in operation in 2011. The brief details of the respective COEs including the names of the respective Head Coaches are as follows:

| CLUBS                | U-16 COE COACHES | CLUBS                | U-18 COE COACHES |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Balestier Khalsa     | Khairul Asyraf   | Balestier Khalsa     | Hariss Sumri     |
| Geylang United       | Robert Lim       | Geylang United       | Hidir Khamis     |
| Gombak United        | Rosli Bidin      | Gombak United        | Hatta Ali        |
| Home United          | Philippe Aw      | Home United          | Khairil Amin     |
| Hougang United       | Hyrizan Jufri    | Hougang United       | Nahar Daud       |
| SAFFC                | Hairi Su'ap      | SAFFC                | Razif Onn        |
| Tampines Rovers      | Satria Mad       | Tampines Rovers      | K. Balagumaran   |
| Tanjong Pagar        | Winston Yap      | Tanjong Pagar        | Samawira Basri   |
| Woodlands Wellington | Tan Kiah Fook    | Woodlands Wellington | Mohd Sani        |

The above-mentioned COE teams participated in the 2011 Centers of Excellence League which was played in a one round format, due to the COE players' participation in their respective school competitions.

The COE League was divided into two-age groups, i.e. U-16 and U-18, respectively. The COE Leagues was completed on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

The COE U-16 League's, top 3 teams were as follows:

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Champion:              | Home United FC     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: | Tampines Rovers FC |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: | SAFFC              |

The COE U-18 League's, top 3 teams were as follows:

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Champion:              | Home United FC     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: | SAFFC              |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: | Tampines Rovers FC |

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The following awards were also given out at the end of the season in the respective categories:-

### **Under 16 Awards**

#### League Top Scorer

Taufik Suparno (12 goals)  
- Tampines Rovers FC

#### Best Goalkeeper

Shahul Rayyan  
- Home United FC

#### Best Player

Muhd Azmeerudin  
- Tampines Rovers FC

#### Best Coach

Philippe Aw  
- Home United FC

#### Fair Play Award

Gombak United FC

### **Under 18 Awards**

#### League Top Scorer

Nicholas Lee (8 goals)  
- Geylang United FC

#### Best Goalkeeper

Khalid Koban  
- Home United FC

#### Best Player

Sadiq Sanusi  
- Woodlands Wellington FC

#### Best Coach

Hairil Amin  
- Home United FC

#### Fair Play Award

SAFFC

The 2011 COE Challenge Cup U-16 competition was held from 2<sup>nd</sup> October to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011 while the U-18 competition was held from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

Besides the nine S.League Clubs' COE teams, FAS also accepted the application of the



International Soccer Academy to participate in the COE Challenge Cup U-16 category.

In the U-16 category the results were as follows:

Champions: Home United FC  
Runners-Up: Tampines Rovers FC

In the U-18 category the results were as follows:

Champions: Home United FC  
Runners-Up: Tampines Rovers FC

The inaugural U-14 COE Challenge Cup was held for the first time in 2011 and the results were as follows:

Champions: Gombak United FC  
Runners-Up: Geylang United FC

## 2012 COE Programme

A total of nine S.League Centers of Excellence (COE) are participating in the 2012 COE Leagues including two teams from our partners in elite youth development, the Singapore Sports School's (SPS) U-13 and U-15 teams as well as the FAS National Football Academy (NFA) U-15 and U-16 teams.

As part of FAS Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015, FAS introduced the Under-14 age-group into the COE Programme, in-order to provide elite and systematic training to our players at the club level from a younger age.

| CLUBS                | U-14 COE COACHES | U-16 COE COACHES | U-18 COE COACHES |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Balestier Khalsa     | Mohd Taufek      | Nasaruddin Jalil | Hariss Sumri     |
| Geylang United       | P. Sugunan       | Hidir Khamis     | Nadzi Sujad      |
| Gombak United        | Jasni Hatta      | Rosli Bidin      | Hatta Ali        |
| Home United          | Adi Sharin       | Phillipe Aw      | Khairil Amin     |
| Hougang United       | Azman Mohd       | Winston Yap      | Nahar Daud       |
| SAFFC                | Mohd Darus       | Hairi Su'ap      | Razif Onn        |
| Tampines Rovers      | Dalis Supait     | Norhalis Shafik  | Satria Mad       |
| Tanjong Pagar        | Yip Kum Hoong    | Luo Jian Zhen    | Samawira Basri   |
| Woodlands Wellington | Khairul Asyraf   | T.M. Sivarajan   | Mohd Sani        |
| SPS U-13             | Abdullah Noor    | -                | -                |
| NFA U-15             | -                | Nazri Nasir      | -                |
| SPS U-15             | -                | Donald Wan       | -                |
| NFA U-16             | -                | -                | Dejan Gluscevic  |

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The 2012 COE Leagues are now played on a 2 round format. The total matches in the respective leagues, taking into consideration the number of participating teams, per age-group are as follows:

COE U-14 League: 90 matches per season

COE U-16 League: 110 matches per season

COE U-18 League: 90 matches per season

### **D) NATIONAL FOOTBALL ACADEMY**

Singapore football has continued to progress steadily at the various national age groups levels, through the concerted efforts within our National Football Academy's (NFA) elite football development programme.

The 2011 NFA comprised of 4 NFA squads and the following FAS staff coaches were appointed as Head Coaches respectively:

|            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| NFA U-18 - | Akbar Nawas        |
| NFA U-17 - | Saswadimata Dasuki |
| NFA U-16 - | Takuma Koga        |
| NFA U-15 - | Dejan Gluscevic    |

Below is a summary of each team's progress report in 2011:

#### NFA U-15

The NFA U-15 took part in the International Youth (U15) Football Invitation Tournament which was held in Hong Kong from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011. The team won the Championship trophy and also clinched the Best Player, Best Goalkeeper and Fair Play awards.

The results of the matches played were as follows:

vs Hong Kong won 4-1  
vs Chinese Taipei won 6-1  
vs Guam won 20-0

The NFA U-15 took part in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Lion City Cup which was held on 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2011. The team received praises from opposing team coaches who were impressed with the team's performances during the tournament. The team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall behind CR Flamengo U-15 and NFA U-16.

The results of the matches played were as follows:

18<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
vs Newcastle FC U-15 won 4 – 3

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011  
vs Juventus FC U-15 lost 0 – 1



24<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
vs CR Flamengo U-15 lost 0 – 3

26<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
vs Juventus FC U-15 won 4 – 0

The team then went on to compete in the Asean Football Federation's U-16 Championship in Vientiane, Laos from 7<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011. Singapore emerged runner-up in the group stage and qualified for the semi-final. Unfortunately, they were beaten 0-2 in the semi-final match by a superior Thailand team that eventually went on to win the Championship. Singapore failed to gain third placing when they were again defeated by Myanmar 1-2 in the third placing match.

The results of the Championship were as follows:

08<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
vs Vietnam won 5 – 0

10<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
vs Philippines won 5 – 0

14<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
vs Myanmar lost 1 – 2

16<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
vs Cambodia won 4 – 0

#### Semi-Final

18<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
vs Thailand lost 0 – 2

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Placing

20<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
vs Myanmar lost 1 - 2

The NFA U-15 participated in the AFC U-16 Championship 2012 Qualifiers held in Pyongyang, DPR Korea from 8<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Singapore was drawn in Group E together with reigning Champions DPR Korea, China PR, Malaysia and Timor Leste.

The results of the Qualifiers were as follows:

10<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
vs China PR lost 1 – 3

13<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
vs DPR Korea lost 0 – 1

15<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
vs Malaysia drew 1 - 1

18<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
vs Timor Leste won 8 - 1

## NFA U-16 (YOG Team)

The NFA U-16 were sent to Sydney, Australia on 9<sup>th</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011 for a training tour, in preparation for their participation in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Lion City Cup.

The results of the matches played were as follows:

10<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
vs Westfields Sports lost 1 - 2

12<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
vs NSWIS drew 1 - 1

14<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
vs Hills Sports won 2 - 1

The NFA U-16 also took part in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Lion City Cup which was held on 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2011. The team qualified for the final however they lost to the eventual champions CR Flamengo U-15.

The results of the matches played were as follows:

20<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
vs CR Flamengo U-15 drew 1 - 1

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011  
vs Everton FC U-15 drew 1 - 1

24<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
vs Juventus FC U-15 drew 2 - 2  
(won 5 - 4 on penalties)

26<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
vs CR Flamengo U-15 drew 0 - 0  
(lost 3 - 4 on penalties)

The 2010 Dollah Kassim Award winner, Ammirul Emmran Bin Mazlan, who is in the NFA U-16 Team left for Newcastle United Football Academy for a training attachment from 31 October to 14 November 2011. Ammirul benefitted from this attachment as he gained valuable experience from training with players from the Newcastle United Youth Academy's U-18 team.

Ammirul commented on his return that, ***"The players from the academy really make me feel part of the team as well as the coaches & staff, which is really good I must say."***

***What I've learnt here is that hard work is the key word in football. Especially during trainings. I've been training with the U-18 boys. No doubt they are physically big and very determined during training. So, that's good for me. I can learn something new from them."***

This is in-line with FAS Strategic Plan 2010-2015 objectives in providing opportunity for talented young players to gain overseas training and match exposure by having the opportunity to experience higher level of competitive football in top footballing nations.

## NFA U-17

As part of FAS's Strategic Plan (2010-2015) to expose our younger teams to competitive match exposure locally by playing against older players the team participated in the 2011 Prime League.

As part of the pre-season preparations, the team participated in the International Youth (U-18) Football Invitation tournament hosted by Hong Kong FA which was held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

The other 3 teams that competed in the tournament were Chinese Taipei, Guam and host Hong Kong.

The results of the matches played were as follows:

vs Hong Kong drew 1 – 1

vs Chinese Taipei lost 0 – 2

vs Guam lost 0 – 2

In the 2011 Prime League season, which is an Under-23 competition, the NFA U-17 team played a total of 27 matches.

The team was placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the Prime League. Playing in the U-23 league had brought valuable match experience and exposure for the young players and also provided them with a challenging platform to compete against bigger and faster opponents.

Six of the players from the NFA U-17 were selected to join the NFA U-18 team for the AFC U-19 Championship 2012 Qualifiers held in Kuala Lumpur from 31 October to 9 November 2011.

## NFA U-18

The NFA U-18 participated in the 2011 Prime League and finished 7<sup>th</sup>.

Similar to the NFA U-17, playing in the U-23 league had also brought valuable match experience and exposure for these young players especially when competing against older, bigger and faster opponents.



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The NFA U-18 represented Singapore in the AFF U-19 Championship held in Yangon, Myanmar from 8<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011.

The results of the matches were as follows:

9<sup>th</sup> September  
vs Philippines drew 1 - 1

13<sup>th</sup> September  
vs Malaysia lost 0 - 6

16<sup>th</sup> September  
vs Cambodia drew 1 - 1

17<sup>th</sup> September  
vs Thailand lost 0 - 3

The team also represented Singapore at the AFC U-19 Championship 2012 Qualifiers held in Kuala Lumpur from 31<sup>st</sup> Oct to 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011. The team was placed in Group G together with top Asian teams such as Australia and China PR as well as Indonesia and Macau.

The results of the matches were as follows:

31<sup>st</sup> October  
vs Macau drew 0 - 0

2<sup>nd</sup> November  
vs Australia lost 0 - 1

4<sup>th</sup> November  
vs China PR lost 0 - 11

8<sup>th</sup> November  
vs Indonesia lost 0 - 3

The NFA U-18 performed well especially against an experienced Australian team, despite going down 0-1. Having played 3 matches in 5 days, the players unfortunately had insufficient time to recover and therefore could not put up a similar performance against a far superior China PR in their 3<sup>rd</sup> match of the tournament due to fatigue.

### **2012 NFA (Jan – Mar 2012)**

The 2012 NFA comprises of the following NFA squads and the following FAS staff coaches were appointed as Head Coaches respectively:

|            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| NFA U-18 - | Saswadimata Dasuki |
| NFA U-17 - | Takuma Koga        |
| NFA U-16 - | Dejan Gluscevic    |
| NFA U-15 - | Nazri Nasir        |



## NFA U-15

The 2012 NFA U-15 team comprises of predominantly players who are 13 and 14 years old in order to prepare the team to compete in the AFC U-16 Qualification Competition in 2013.

FAS are preparing the team with structured NFA training programmes and competitions. In this regard, the team participated in the International U-14 Youth Football Invitational Tournament in Hong Kong from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

The results of the matches played were as follows:

27<sup>th</sup> January  
vs Thailand lost 0 – 2

28<sup>th</sup> January  
vs Hong Kong won 3 – 0

29<sup>th</sup> January  
vs Qingdao won 18 – 0

The NFA U-15 team will compete in this year's edition of the Lion City Cup in June and will also participate in the Centre of Excellence Under-16 League.

## NFA U-16

The 2012 NFA U-16 team embarked on a training tour to Melbourne, Australia from 9<sup>th</sup> March to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The team won all of their four training matches.

The results of the matches were as follows:

11<sup>th</sup> March  
vs Victoria State U-17 won 3 – 1

13<sup>th</sup> March  
vs Southern Region U-17 won 7 – 1

15<sup>th</sup> March  
vs Dandenong City FC U-18 won 6 – 0

17<sup>th</sup> March  
vs White Eagles FC U-16 won 11 – 0

The team will also be competing in this year's edition of the Lion City Cup in June and will also participate in the Centre of Excellence Under-18 League.

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### NFA U-17

The 2012 NFA U-17 team players have been together since the 2009 Asian Youth Games, 2010 Youth Olympic Games and the 2011 Lion City Cup.

As part of the Strategic Plan to expose the team to more international matches, the U-17 team took part in an older age group regional competition, the U-18 International Youth Football Invitational tournament, in Hong Kong from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

The results are as follows:-

27<sup>th</sup> January  
vs Macau drew 0 – 0

28<sup>th</sup> January  
vs Hong Kong lost 1 – 5

29<sup>th</sup> January  
vs Indonesia lost 1 – 3

As part of the team's pre-season preparation prior to competing in the 2012 Prime League, the team also went for a training tour to Melbourne from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and played four games and the results were as follows:

2<sup>nd</sup> February  
vs Heidelberg United lost 0 – 2

4<sup>th</sup> February  
vs Richmond SC U-21 drew 0 – 0

6<sup>th</sup> February  
vs Dandenong Thunder U-21 lost 2 – 3

8<sup>th</sup> February  
vs South East Piranhas won 3 – 2

This team is currently participating in the 2012 Great Eastern Yeo's Prime League which is an U-23 competition. The participation of the NFA U-17 team in the Prime League is also to prepare the players for the AFC U-19 Qualification Tournament which will be held in 2013.

### NFA U-18

The 2012 NFA U-18 team went on a training tour to Melbourne, Australia from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012 to play a series of friendly matches, as part of the team's pre-season preparation prior to competing in the 2012 Prime League.

The results were as follows:-



2<sup>nd</sup> February  
vs Witlesea Zebras FC lost 0 – 1

4<sup>th</sup> February  
vs Richmond SC lost 0 – 1

6<sup>th</sup> February  
vs Dandenong Thunder lost 0 – 6

8<sup>th</sup> February  
vs Southern Stars SC lost 0 – 1

Similar to the NFA U-17 team, the NFA U-18 team is also currently participating in the 2012 Great Eastern Yeo's Prime League as part of their development process.

## **E) NATIONAL TEAMS**

### Olympic Team (U-23)

The Olympic team participated in the 2012 Olympic Football Tournament Preliminary Competition Asian Qualifiers in 2011. The team was led by Head Coach Radojko Avramovic and assisted by Coach V Sundramoorthy.

As part of the team's preparation for the 2012 Olympic Football Tournament Preliminary Competition Asian Qualifiers, the team played a friendly match against Malaysia Olympic Team. The result is as follows:

24th January 2011 (Away)  
vs Malaysia Olympic Team lost 0—2

The team were drawn to meet Yemen in the two legged Preliminary Round 1 matches. However due to the safety and security issues in Yemen, and with FAS agreement FIFA decided that both legs be played at in a neutral venue at Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates. The results of the matches played are as follows:

19th March 2011 (1st Leg)  
vs Yemen Olympic Team lost 0—2

21st March 2011 (2nd Leg)  
vs Yemen Olympic Team lost 0—1

The team also participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Youth Newspaper Cup which was held in Gai Lai, Vietnam from 25 to 27 September 2011 in-order to gain international match exposure. The team was led by Head Coach V Sundram Moorthy. The results of the matches played are as follows:

25th September 2011  
vs Thailand U21 lost 1—3

27th September 2011  
vs Iran U-19 lost 0—3

## Courts Young Lions (Under-23)

The 2011 Young Lions squad formed the bulk of our 2011 South East Asian Games team. The majority of the players also participated in the 2012 Olympic Football tournament Preliminary Competition Asian Qualifiers.

Under the guidance of National Coach, Radojko Avramovic, Technical Director Slobodan Pavkovic and Head Coach Robin Chitrakar, assisted by Lee Bee Seng and Aleksandar Pavkovic, the team participated in the S.League to fast track the players' development as well as gain valuable match experience in preparation for the 2011 SEA Games.



The S.League schedule of matches played and the results are as follows:-

| DATE   | DETAILS                    | RESULT |
|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| 12 Feb | CYL v SAFFC                | 0—2    |
| 28 Feb | Balestier Khalsa v CYL     | 0—0    |
| 3 Mar  | CYL v Geylang United (H)   | 3—2    |
| 14 Mar | Hougang United v CYL       | 1—0    |
| 26 Mar | CYL v Albirex Niigata      | 0—5    |
| 31 Mar | Tanjong Pagar v CYL        | 0—0    |
| 17 Apr | Tampines Rovers v CYL      | 1—0    |
| 20 Apr | CYL v Home United          | 0—1    |
| 23 Apr | CYL v Gombak United        | 0—2    |
| 9 May  | CYL v Geylang United       | 3—3    |
| 14 May | CYL v Woodlands Wellington | 1—2    |
| 20 May | CYL v Balestier Khalsa     | 2—0    |
| 24 May | Gombak United v CYL        | 1—2    |
| 31 May | Albirex Niigata v CYL      | 4—2    |
| 19 Jun | CYL v Tanjong Pagar        | 0—1    |
| 23 Jun | Etoile v CYL               | 1—2    |
| 7 Jul  | Woodlands Wellington v CYL | 0—4    |
| 12 Jul | CYL v Tampines Rovers      | 0—1    |
| 2 Aug  | CYL v Hougang United       | 2—0    |
| 7 Aug  | SAFFC v CYL                | 3—0    |
| 10 Aug | CYL v Etoile               | 1—1    |
| 13 Aug | Geylang United v CYL       | 1—0    |
| 9 Sep  | CYL v Gombak United        | 0—1    |
| 14 Sep | CYL v Albirex Niigata      | 1—1    |

| DATE   | DETAILS                    | RESULT |
|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| 17 Sep | Hougang United v CYL       | 1—1    |
| 28 Sep | Home United v CYL          | 2—0    |
| 3 Oct  | Tanjong Pagar v CYL        | 3—1    |
| 6 Oct  | Balestier Khalsa v CYL     | 1—0    |
| 15 Oct | CYL v Woodlands Wellington | 5—1    |
| 22 Oct | Tampines Rovers v CYL      | 4—1    |
| 25 Oct | SAFFC v CYL                | 3—0    |
| 29 Oct | CYL v Home United          | 0—2    |
| 28 Nov | Etoile v CYL               | 3—2    |

## SOUTH EAST ASIAN GAMES' TEAM (U-23)

As part of the team's preparations for the 2011 SEA Games, the team went on an overseas training tour to New South Wales, Sydney from 8 June to 16 June 2011 and played a friendly match against the Australian Olympic Team on 14 June 2011. The team also played friendly matches against Myanmar and Thailand and the results of the said matches are as follows:

14th June (Away)  
vs Australia Olympic Team lost 0-6

27th July (Home)  
vs Myanmar U-23 won 1-0

10th October (Home)  
vs Thailand U-23 won 3-2

The team also took part in the Eximbank HCM City Cup 2011 held at Ho Chin Min City, Vietnam from 20 to 24 September 2011. The results of the matches played are as follows:

20th September  
vs Aspire U-23 lost 0-2

22nd September  
vs Korea University lost 0-3

24th September  
vs Vietnam U-23 lost 1-2

The team participated in the 26<sup>th</sup> SEA Games that was held in Palembang, Indonesia from 7 to 22 November 2011.

Led by Technical Director Slobodan Pavkovic and assisted by Robin Chitrakar, the 20 man squad consisted of 17 players from the Courts Young Lions and another three players from S.League Clubs, namely Home United, Tampines Rovers and Tanjong Pagar United.

The team also consisted of national players such as Hariss Harun, Izwan Mahbud, Safuwan Baharudin and Shahdan Sulaiman who were released from their senior national team duties to participate in the 2011 SEA Games.

The team was drawn into Group A together with 2009 SEA Games winner Malaysia, host Indonesia, regional powerhouse Thailand and Cambodia.

Despite not having the services of a number of eligible players due to national service commitments, the team started off really well with a 0-0 draw against 2009 SEA Games gold medallist Malaysia, who subsequently went on to win the 2011 SEA Games edition as well.

The team showed their potential by playing attacking football and despite winning 2 of the next 3 matches, which included a win over tournament favourites Thailand, the team unfortunately failed to qualify for the semi-finals.

The SEA Games schedule of matches played and the results are as follows:-

7th November  
vs Malaysia drew 0-0

9th November  
vs Cambodia won 2-1

11th November  
vs Indonesia lost 0-2

17th November  
vs Thailand won 2-0

## NATIONAL 'A' TEAM

Our National 'A' Team participated in the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil Asian Qualifying campaign. The matches were played in 2011 and 2012.

The Lions achieved the target set by FAS which is to qualify for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of this competition when the Lions defeated the reigning AFF Champions, Malaysia 6-4 on aggregate in Round 2 of this competition.

Unfortunately, the Lions were not able to progress further in this competition. The details of the results of our matches played are as follows:

23rd July 2011 (Home) -  
2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Round 2  
vs Malaysia won 5-3

28th July 2011 (Away) -  
2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Round 2  
vs Malaysia drew 1-1

2nd September 2011 (Away)  
2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Round 3  
vs China PR lost 1-2

6th September 2011 (Home)  
2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Round 3  
vs Iraq lost 0-2

11th October 2011 (Home)  
2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Round 3  
vs Jordan lost 0-3





11th November 2011 (Away)  
2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Round 3  
vs Jordan lost 0-2

15th November 2011 (Home)  
2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Round 3  
vs China PR lost 0-4

29th February 2012 (Away)  
2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Round 3  
vs Iraq lost 1-7

As part of preparations for Round 3 of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil™ Asian Qualifiers, our Lions played the following international friendly matches and the results are as follows:

7th June 2011 (Home)  
vs Maldives won 4-0

13th June 2011 (Home)  
vs Kuwait Olympic lost 1-2

18th July 2011 (Home)  
vs Chinese Taipei won 3-2

24th August 2011 (Away)  
vs Thailand drew 0-0

1st October 2011 (Away)  
vs Selangor Selection won 1-0

7th October 2011 (Home)  
vs Philippines won 2-0

24th February 2012 (Away)  
vs Azerbaijan drew 2-2

## FIFA TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT MISSION TO SINGAPORE

FAS invited FIFA to conduct a technical assessment on our various Football Development Programmes. The FIFA's Technical Director, Mr Jean-Michel Benezet and FIFA Development Officer, Mr Domeka Garamendi, were sent by FIFA to Singapore from 8th to 12th September 2011 to conduct the assessment.

After reviewing the various football development programmes including the National Football Syllabus, viewing DVDs of the performance of the NFA teams in the 2011 Lion City Cup, as well as visiting the JCOE, the FIFA Technical Director described FAS youth development set-up and programmes as ***“among the best in the region”***.

He also added ***“I am particularly impressed with your focus on the various age groups from U-8 to U-18. I believe the success of Singapore’s U-16 and U-15 squads in the Lion City Cup can be attributed to your commitment in the area of youth development over the past few years. I should however add that FAS must continue to support these youngsters and provide them the relevant resources and support in order to enhance their development and progress.”***

The following are the general observations made by the FIFA Technical Director when he gave his assessment at the end of his mission to Singapore:

- Well-drafted FAS Strategic Plan (2010-2015)
- It is ambitious but attainable and realistic
- Determined, competent, passionate and professional officials
- Organisational Chart – clear and well-structured
- Sound implementation of AFC Coaching Certification
- Ideal establishment of U-14 for S.League Clubs
- NFA – Ideal programme
- National Syllabus – Very good
- Women’s Football level – more advanced than expected
- FIFA to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan

The FIFA Technical Director also made the following recommendations:

### JCOEs

- To increase the number of JCOEs from 3 to 6

### Update on implementation:

FAS have since increased the number of JCOE Centres from 3 in 2011 to 10 Centres in 2012

- To increase JCOEs training session from one time per week to three times per week
- To focus on skill development of U-12 players and to increase number of training sessions during holidays/vacation

## **Update on implementation:**

FAS will increase the number of training sessions during the June 2012 school holidays.

- Organise once a month a 7x7 competition between the 10 JCOEs (to compare the development and progress of each centre)

## **Update on implementation:**

FAS will be organising Inter-JCOEs fiestas in 2012

## **NFA**

- To implement at least minimum of 4 training session a week

## **Update on implementation:**

This was implemented in February 2012

## **Coach Education**

- D Certification: focus on Grassroots (U12, U10, U8) for volunteers, parents, teachers, coaches, beginners

## **Update on implementation:**

FAS are awaiting the AFC Syllabus and approval to implement D Certification in Singapore.

## **Women's Football**

- Senior and U23 teams should be merged with 18 years as cut-off (ideal number of clubs is 12)

## **Update on implementation:**

FAS are conducting a feasibility study.

- Youth League: 3 groups of U-18 (11x11) U-15 (9x9 or 7x7) and U-12 (7x7)

## **Update on implementation:**

FAS are conducting a feasibility study

FAS will continue to work hard to maintain and enhance the development of our elite talents. In this regard, FAS will continue to work with FIFA and other top International Football Associations to adopt the best practices to enhance and add-value to the various FAS football development programmes.

## MALAYSIAN SUPER LEAGUE (MSL) & FA CUP MATCHES

The Memorandum of Understanding signed in July 2011 between FAS and the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM), facilitated the return of a Singapore team into FAM's senior domestic competition, after an absence of 17 years.

The Lions XII comprising of players with an average age of 23, made their debut in the MSL on 10th January 2012 when they played against defending MSL champions Kelantan at the Jalan Besar Stadium.



The following MSL & FA Cup matches were played in the first quarter of 2012 and the results of these matches are as follows:

| DATE         | OPPONENT               | VENUE         | SCORE     |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 10 Jan 2012  | Kelantan FA            | Jalan Besar   | 1 – 2 (L) |
| 14 Jan 2012  | Kedah FA               | Alor Setar    | 0 – 0 (D) |
| 17 Jan 2012  | Kuala Lumpur FA        | Jalan Besar   | 2 – 1 (W) |
| 21 Jan 2012  | Sabah FA               | Kota Kinabalu | 1 – 0 (W) |
| 28 Jan 2012  | Terengganu FA          | Jalan Besar   | 0 – 1 (L) |
| 8 Feb 2012   | Selangor FA            | Bukit Jalil   | 1 – 1 (D) |
| 11 Feb 2012  | Negeri Sembilan FA     | Jalan Besar   | 3 – 1 (W) |
| 14 Feb 2012  | Perak FA               | Ipoh          | 2 – 1 (W) |
| 6 Mar 2012   | KL Felda United FC     | Jalan Besar   | 3 – 1 (W) |
| 10 Mar 2012* | NS Betaria (FA Cup)    | Jalan Besar   | 2 – 0 (W) |
| 17 Mar 2012  | Sarawak FA             | Kuching       | 1 – 0 (W) |
| 20 Mar 2012  | Selangor FA            | Jalan Besar   | 1 – 1 (D) |
| 24 Mar 2012* | Terengganu FA (FA Cup) | K. Terengganu | 0 – 1 (L) |
| 27 Mar 2012* | Terengganu FA (FA Cup) | Jalan Besar   | 0 – 0 (D) |
| 31 Mar 2012  | Terengganu T-Team      | Jalan Besar   | 2 – 1 (W) |

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