



Appendix B: Key Developments in the Singapore Premier League

AFC President's Development Initiatives

The FAS is working closely with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to improve service and function roles with FAS and SPL clubs in order to refine systems and processes so that we are better able to operate and develop the league.

The FAS has organised a workshop for match commissioners and a separate one for clubs' general coordinators, media officers and security officers. The objective of organising these workshops is to expose the participants to AFC and FIFA standards so that they are able to elevate the standard of match organisation.

In the pipeline are also workshops for clubs on clubs licensing and administration so that they will be able to enhance their capabilities.

The Singapore Premier League will be looking to continually deliver industry best practices to club administrators and to coaches so that there can be a strong ecosystem of football professionals who are able to carry out their roles proficiently.

Centralised ticketing platform

SPL will feature a centralised ticketing platform, to be launched in partnership with ATRACTix. Tickets for all matches under the FAS umbrella (SPL matches, international friendlies and all other FAS-hosted matches) will be available for advance ticket purchase.

Emphasis on players' fitness

This season, the Yo-Yo Intermittent Recovery test was used as the fitness test for all SPL players. The test is a more football-specific test that can better test players' fitness levels in relation to football and will be conducted three times a year.

The increase in frequency of tests will encourage players to upkeep their fitness levels throughout the season.

In addition, the FAS Football Science and Medicine department will be assisting the clubs in the selection of fitness coaches, design of fitness programmes and monitoring of players' fitness levels. They will also be conducting education sessions for clubs' sports trainers and physiotherapists to ensure that there is a standardised injury management protocol and that trainers are able to manage acute injuries on field.

Enhanced match day experience

Majority of the Singapore Premier League fixtures are played over the weekend, with matches largely kicking off at 5.30pm so that matches end earlier. The overarching idea is to organise match days such that they are family-centric and appealing to Singaporeans from all walks of life.

Clubs are also strongly encouraged to organise pre-match activities before their matches to create a more engaging experience for fans. Pre-match activities span from curtain raiser matches, football clinics to school performances.



Enhancement of youth programmes and grassroots outreach

At the Association level, the FAS has reached out to the Constituency Sports Clubs (CSC) Council through People's Association to share proposal and plans to use the Singapore Premier League (SPL) platform to run community activities.

The Centre of Excellence Leagues were reorganised from Under-15 and Under-17 to the current Under-16 and Under-19 model. This provides a more complete pathway to develop youth footballers to prepare them to play in a professional platform.

Clubs are also strongly encouraged to continue and intensify their efforts to engage with schools and the communities they are situated within to build football programmes and increase affinity.

Increased stakeholder engagement

FAS has been in constant discussions with clubs who are on board with the Association in the SPL taskforce. Fans, coaches, regulators and sponsors were all actively consulted and their views were taken on board in the development of the league revamp.

Transparency will be a key element as clubs will be constantly updated and engaged, and are invited to share their input on the proposed initiatives.

As the SPL belongs to all Singaporeans, the FAS will continue to take on board feedback to evolve and improve the league.

Live streaming SPL matches

Since 2017, the FAS has embarked on a pilot project with the support of AFC to live stream matches. This year, at least 50% of SPL matches will be streamed live on FAS platforms, making content more accessible to fans.

With more extensive coverage of matches, SPL matches will be delivered across more platforms, allowing for more sustained fan engagement and interest even on non-match days.

Revamped competition rules to increase pool of youth footballers

The 2018 season will be played with new competition rules: All local clubs will have to register a minimum squad of 19 players and a maximum of 25. Of this, in a squad of between 19-22 players, six of their players have to be Under-23, and eight have to be Under-30. Clubs are open to register any players to fill the remaining slots, which may include a maximum of two foreign players.

The average age of players in the local clubs has been significantly lowered, with several clubs making the move to sign more than six Under-23 players.

SPL Matches to be played at the Sports Hub

With the Memorandum of Understanding with the Singapore Sports Hub, the FAS will be organising a minimum of seven matches at the National Stadium.

In line with the Home of the Lions initiative to position the Sports Hub as the destination for Singapore football, all Singapore Premier League clubs will be given the opportunity to play at the National Stadium. In May, Hougang United FC, Warriors FC, Geylang International FC and the Young Lions play matches at the National Stadium, while Home United FC will get their turn in June.