OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT PROGRAMME

5 DECEMBER 2021 - 1 JANUARY 2022
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It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020.

I am delighted that we are finally here together for the largest and most prestigious football tournament in Southeast Asia.

Last year, we took a considered decision to reschedule the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020 due to the impact of the pandemic in our region which has seized and humbled us in ways we have never experienced before.

I am extremely heartened by how the ASEAN football family has come together to respond to the extraordinary circumstances and that we have emerged stronger together as a region. This event is a demonstration of the strength and unity of the ASEAN football community which makes this year’s AFF Suzuki Cup feel even more special than ever. While we will face new challenges in our journey ahead, I am confident that in unity, we will overcome these difficulties.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Singapore government, Football Association of Singapore, the various agencies, our Member Associations, the AFF Secretariat and our commercial partner SPORTFIVE who have worked tirelessly to deliver a smooth and safe event in Singapore for the teams, players, officials, staff and fans.

On behalf of the AFF and our Member Associations, I would like to thank our fans, official sponsors and broadcast partners for their continuous support and understanding over the recent period of uncertainty.

We would also like to take this opportunity to salute the true heroes of the pandemic - our frontliners across the whole ASEAN region - who have worked relentlessly to keep our communities safe. Without their sacrifices, dedication and perseverance in the fight against COVID-19, we would not be here today. We owe them a debt of gratitude. To show our deep appreciation to them, we will be using the ASC2020 as a platform for the ASEAN football family to thank our frontliners as well as celebrate our unity and resilience with the theme “Emerging Stronger Together”.

As the health and safety of our communities remain our top priority, let us continue to be vigilant against the pandemic during the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020 and beyond.

I wish the best of luck to all the teams participating and I am sure this event will, as always, showcase the best of ASEAN football. May the best team win!

Major General Khiev Sameth
President of ASEAN Football Federation
Welcome to AFF Suzuki Cup 2020, the most highly awaited competition in Southeast Asia’s footballing calendar.

This year will be the second time Singapore will host the prestigious tournament in its entirety, an achievement that we are exceptionally proud of as it has allowed us to welcome our Asean neighbours into our home once more.

While the global pandemic has altered the way we compete and spectate, we promise to make football come alive again for the region as your “Home Away from Home”.

It is our utmost priority to ensure that the tournament is delivered in a safe and certain manner for all involved without any compromise for the competitive action taking place on the pitch.

I would like to thank the Asean Football Federation for entrusting Singapore as hosts. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that football returns as a platform for the region to connect and display their best in order to make this a tournament to remember.

I would like to thank the Asean Football Federation for entrusting Singapore as hosts. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that football returns as a platform for the region to connect and display their best in order to make this a tournament to remember.

At this point I would also need to convey my utmost gratitude to the relevant Singapore government authorities, the various Asean member associations, as well as our valued sponsors and partners for their cooperation and collective efforts in ensuring that we are able to deliver a world-class event.

Further, I salute our humble heroes – the frontliners – for their courage and dedication in combating the virus. Without them, our beautiful game of football for this tournament would not have been able to proceed. They are truly testament to the theme of this year’s tournament – Emerging Stronger Together.

Lastly, I would like to wish all participating teams all the very best at the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020!

Lim Kia Tong
President of Football Association Singapore
A very warm welcome to the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020 – the pinnacle of ASEAN football. This is a moment I am sure all of us have been looking forward to. The 13th edition of the AFF Suzuki Cup will be a unique one with Singapore hosting all teams at a centralized venue.

For an event of this scale and stature to take place successfully, we need to acknowledge and thank all the various different parties that are involved – it is only through the concerted efforts of everyone that the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020 has come to fruition this year.

SPORTFIVE is grateful to the ASEAN Football Federation and its Member Associations for their confidence and trust in us to overcome the diverse challenges in these unprecedented times and to deliver a tournament that we can all be very proud of.

We especially thank the Football Association of Singapore and Singapore Government who have gone the extra mile to put in place the event requirements and all health and safety protocols to allow the event to happen. We will all continue to prioritise a safety-first approach for all participants and stakeholders.

We know that fans in Southeast Asia have been eagerly awaiting the return of the AFF Suzuki Cup to experience the passion, excitement and spectacle that this tournament promises. Together with our loyal fans, we cannot wait to see the rivalries resurge and find out who will be crowned champions of the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020.

Last but not least, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all our official sponsors and broadcast partners for their understanding and unwavering support throughout this journey. The event would not have been possible without their commitment and collaboration every step of the way.

We are immensely excited and proud about creating another spectacular chapter in Southeast Asia’s flagship football event together with you and hope you will enjoy the upcoming AFF Suzuki Cup 2020.

Malcolm Thorpe
Managing Director, South East Asia
K. Sanbagamaran had the honour of scoring the tournament’s maiden goal as Malaysia took the lead but Singapore legend Fandi Ahmad sent the home fans into ecstasy by equalising in the 89th minute as the cross-border rivals shared the points.

Since then, regional rivalry has become synonymous with a competition that has gripped Southeast Asia for two and a half decades, with the high-octane action on the pitch matched by the passion, colour and atmosphere in the stands.

The Malaysians ultimately made the final but fell just short against Thailand as Kiatisuk ‘Zico’ Senamuang’s early goal was enough to ensure the War Elephants were crowned the inaugural AFF Suzuki Cup champions.

Two years later in Vietnam, the holders were stunned by the hosts in Hanoi as Vietnam stormed to a 3-0 semi-final win over Thailand to book a date with Singapore in the final.

It would end in heartbreak, however, as R. Sasikumar secured his place in Singaporean footballing history by scoring the only goal of the game to wrap up his country’s first-ever major piece of silverware.

Thailand then played host to the first edition of the new millennium and the War Elephants put on a show to remember for their adoring public to lift their second title.

With MVP Kiatisuk in his prime, the Thais rounded off a perfect five-game winning
IGNITING RIVALRIES; CREATING MEMORIES (CONT’D)

run by easing past Indonesia 4–1 in the final at Rajamangala Stadium in a game that saw Worrawoot Srimaka become the first player to net a hat-trick in the final. The 2002 edition would see the last of the first generation AFF Suzuki Cup teams with Thailand crowned champions for the third time as Indonesia and Singapore became the tournament’s first co-hosts.

Inspired by passionate home support at Jakarta’s Gelora Bung Karno Stadium, Indonesia advanced from the group stage and then edged past fierce rivals Malaysia 1–0 in the semi-finals but a final against the holders would prove a step too far.

In front of 100,000 in Jakarta, Indonesia fought from two down as second-half goals from Yaris Riyadi and Gendut Doni Christiania cancelled out first-half strikes by Chukiat Noosarung and Therdssak Chaiman, only for the Garuda to lose the penalty shootout as Thailand were crowned kings of ASEAN once more.

Two years later marked the end of an era as Thailand fell at the group stage, Myanmar advanced to the knockout rounds for the first time before taking Singapore to extra-time in the semi-finals only to fall just short.

Indonesia awaited in the competition’s first two-legged final but, in truth, it was a one-sided affair as Singapore won 3–1 in Jakarta before wrapping up their second title with a 3–1 aggregate win.

Both Singapore and Thailand reached the semi-finals again in 2008, but the holders’ chances of winning a third successive title were ended by a Vietnam side boasting young stars such as Le Cong Vinh and Pham Thanh Luong.

Portuguese head coach Henrique Calisto had opted for youth at the tournament, with just one player in the squad over the age of 30, and it was a bold move that paid dividends as a talented Golden Stars generation went up against Thailand in the grand finale.

Goals from Nguyen Vu Phong and Cong Vinh sealed an impressive 2–1 win in Bangkok as Cong Vinh sealed a historic first title for Vietnam, scoring deep into stoppage time in the second leg to send 40,000 fans at My Dinh Stadium into raptures.

While the Vietnamese did make it through the group stage two years later, the defence of their title ended in the last four as a Safee Sali brace in Kuala Lumpur’s Bukit Jalil Stadium was enough to see Malaysia past the holders and into their first final.

Rivals collided in the final as the Harimau Malaya faced Indonesia’s Garuda in front of an incredible 98,000 in the Malaysian capital, where another double from Safee helped the home side to a 3–0 win, and in doing so avenged a stunning 5–1 loss to the Indonesians in the group stage.

TOURNAMENT HISTORY
IGNITING RIVALRIES; CREATING MEMORIES (CONT’D)

TOURNAMENT HISTORY
IGNITING RIVALRIES; CREATING MEMORIES (CONT’D)

A further 88,000 turned up for the second leg at Gelora Bung Karno Stadium, but the majority left disappointed as Safee struck once more – taking him to a tournament-leading five goals – in a 2–1 loss for Malaysia that proved enough to seal a first title.

The Vietnamese and Malaysians may have broken the trend in the previous editions but familiar faces returned to the final in 2012 after Singapore edged the Philippines and Thailand overcame the holders in the two semi-finals.

That meant the three-time winners squared off for the right to become the first side to boast four AFF Suzuki Cup titles to their name.

With the first leg at Singapore’s Jalan Besar Stadium tied at 1–1 with half an hour to play, Amri gave the hosts the advantage before Bhaihaki Khaizan netted in added time to ensure the Singaporeans took a two-goal advantage to Bangkok.

It was a lead that proved enough as, despite Kirati Keawsombat giving Thailand hope on the stroke of half-time, Singapore held on to seal a historic title number four.

Chanathip Songkrasin rose to the fore in 2014 as he underlined his status as Southeast Asia’s most promising star with a string of standout displays to take Thailand to the final.

There they would meet the 2010 winners Malaysia but, having won the first leg 2–0 in Bangkok, the Thais found themselves three down in Kuala Lumpur with top scorer Safiq Rahim netting twice. However, goals from Charyl Chappuis and MVP Chanathip in a dramatic final 10 minutes stunned the hosts and saw Kiatisuk become the first person to win the AFF Suzuki Cup as player and manager.

Kiatisuk’s Thailand continued in the same vein of form two years later, with Teerasel Dangda among the goals as the War Elephants reached a third final on the bounce. They faced an Indonesian side in their fourth main event but still seeking a first title.

Indonesia came from a goal down in Bogor to win the first leg 2–1 but it was a familiar story in the return meeting, where Siroch Chattong bagged a brace to claim a 3–2 aggregate win as Thailand were crowned five-time champions and Chanathip became the only player to win back-to-back MVP awards.

If Chanathip was the star of 2014 and 2016, then Nguyen Quang Hai took over the mantle in 2018 as one of the most talked about players in the region displayed his talent on the biggest stage.

With Korean Park Hang-seo at the helm, the Golden Stars progressed to the semi-finals without conceding, before Quang Hai was among the goals as a 4–2 aggregate win over the Philippines booked their ticket to the final.

Up against a Malaysian side who had eliminated holders Thailand in the semi-finals, Vietnam raced into a 2–0 lead at Bukit Jalil Stadium but were pegged back as the game ended 2–2. However, veteran striker Nguyen Anh Duc’s early goal at My Dinh Stadium was enough to seal a 3–2 win as the Vietnamese won a second title a decade after their first.

Now, after Covid-19 initially halted the 2020 AFF Suzuki Cup, the competition returns to where it all started: Singapore. As rivalries get set to be reignited, the stage is set for yet another thrilling edition of one of the world’s most passionate and vibrant football tournaments.
# Home of the Best

1. Home Appliances
2. Main Sponsor
3. #1 ASEAN Football Tournament

## Roll of Honour

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner-up</th>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Malaysia &amp; Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>Malaysia &amp; Vietnam</td>
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Just 11 months earlier a young side featuring the likes of the prodigiously talented Nguyen Quang Hai, Nguyen Cong Phuong and Ha Duc Chinh had reached the final of the AFC U-23 Championship in China on the back of a string of performances that saw fans back home take to the streets in their tens of thousands to celebrate.

Under Korean head coach Park Hang-seo, who arrived in the role in 2017, Vietnam overcame Australia, Iraq and Qatar to reach the final, with Quang Hai in particular lighting up the competition with some exquisite goals as well as his masterful vision and technical ability.

While the Golden Stars ultimately lost to Uzbekistan in the final after a last-minute goal in extra-time, Quang Hai’s ‘Rainbow in the Snow’ free-kick that brought the sides level provided one of the most memorable moments in Vietnamese footballing history.

Vietnam’s performance in China came on the back of securing qualification for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates as Park, now 64, guided the side to the continental competition for the first time since co-hosting it in 2007.

Success at both senior and U-23 level – with a large number of the players involved in...
both sides – ensured the Golden Stars rode into the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup on the crest of a wave as they looked to emulate the class of 2008 by being crowned kings of ASEAN.

Optimism was high across the country ahead of their opening group game against Laos. A crowd of 15,000 turned out at the New Laos National Stadium in Vientiane, the majority of whom had made the short trip across the border to create a sea of red in the Laotian capital. Goals from Cong Phuong, Nguyen Anh Duc and Quang Hai ensured they left happy, a 3-0 win the perfect start to their campaign.

Cong Phuong and Anh Duc were again on the scoresheet in a 2-0 win over Malaysia in Hanoi before a scoreless draw away in Myanmar put Vietnam in a strong position with a match to go. And they had few problems seeing off Cambodia, with Nguyen Tien Linh, Quang Hai and Phan Van Duc all registering in a 3-0 win.

A semi-final against a Philippines side managed by Sven-Goran Eriksson offered Park the chance to test his wits against one of the most renowned coaches of the past three decades.

“They have an international coach and it’s an honour for me to play against him because I’ve watched him many times in other roles, but we don’t have to be afraid of the Philippines because we’ve prepared well and we are ready to do our best,” said the Vietnam head coach ahead of the match.

Prepared they were as Vietnam got the better of the highly respected Swede’s side in both legs. Anh Duc and Van Duc netted in a 2-1 win in Bacolod City before Quang Hai and Cong Phuong were on the scoresheet in a victory by the same scoreline in Hanoi as the Golden Stars returned to the final for the first time since winning the AFF Suzuki Cup a decade earlier.

And so to the main event, where Vietnam faced a rematch with Malaysia having earlier met in the group stage. The Malaysians booked their ticket to the final after beating defending champions Thailand in the last four.

The Vietnamese got off to the perfect start in the first leg at a packed Bukit Jalil Stadium as Nguyen Huy Hung opened the scoring midway through the first half before Pham Duc Huy fired home a second from outside the box just minutes later. The hosts fought back, though, and Vietnam had to settle with a 2-2 draw to take home to Hanoi.

Expectation engulfed My Dinh Stadium in the return meeting, but Vietnam eased any nerves in the sixth minute as Quang Hai’s dinked delivery from the left was met by a crisp volley from Anh Duc as the veteran striker opened the scoring with his fourth goal of the campaign.

Malaysia had chances but Dang Van Lam in the Vietnam goal remained firm as the hosts held on for the 1-0 win to claim title number two and ensure that a year that began with fans flocking to the streets in celebration – and some of Asia’s strongest sides, they took the lead against Saudi Arabia before losing after being reduced to 10 men, were a minute away from claiming a draw against China and lost by a solitary goal to an inform Australia.

The defending champions will now go into the 2020 AFF Suzuki Cup looking to defend their title and win the competition for a third time.

Park remains at the helm, and much of the squad from the victorious 2018 campaign is unchanged. Vietnam’s football fans will again look to Quang Hai to dazzle and make the difference, while Tien Linh has developed into one of the finest strikers in Southeast Asia and is now a mainstay in the starting 11.

Elsewhere, captain Que Ngoc Hai leads by example at the back alongside his defensive partner at Viettel FC, Bui Tien Dung, and the likes of Cong Phuong and Luong Xuan Truong – both still only 26 – are among the more experienced players in what remains a young squad.

When Park took over the head coach role more than four years ago, he placed his trust in youth. It was a decision that has paid dividends and then some, and the Golden Stars continue to benefit from his vision. Vietnam will start the 2020 AFF Suzuki Cup as many people’s favourites to retain their title.
Q&A WITH LEGEND

FANDI AHMAD

1. After the AFF Suzuki Cup was postponed last year due to Covid-19, how happy are you that ASEAN's biggest tournament is back?

I am of course delighted to see its return as it is a keenly anticipated event in the regional football calendar. It is also a long-awaited step for us to resume sporting events on a large scale and I am doubly happy to have it in my home country of Singapore.

2. It's a tournament with such big regional rivalry. Can you explain what it's like to represent your country in such an environment?

It is an honour for any player each time they are given the opportunity to be able to don the national team jersey to represent your country. The sporting rivalries that exist between the ASEAN countries are fierce and bound to stir emotions amongst the fans but that is what gives the tournament its unique identity. When you step onto the pitch and hear the roar of the crowd, it is literally an electric atmosphere that is hard to describe.

3. You were part of the first-ever AFF Suzuki Cup, which was also in Singapore. What are your recollections of that tournament and, of course, your last-minute goal against Malaysia?

It is one of my favourite memories, yet it is a bittersweet one as well. I was the first Singaporean player to score in the inaugural edition of the tournament but my goal could only earn the team a draw against Malaysia instead of all three points and that ultimately cost us the chance to progress to the semi-finals.

4. Back in 1996, did you ever expect the AFF Suzuki Cup would become the huge tournament that it is today – why/why not?

I had a feeling that it would grow from strength to strength thanks to the good bilateral relations that we share between the ASEAN countries. The competition not only provides an opportunity for us to strengthen these ties but also promotes tourism as well across the various markets.

5. Your country, Singapore, will host the 2020 AFF Suzuki Cup. How much of an advantage will it be for The Lions to play the tournament at home?

We should definitely make use of this opportunity as it is not every day that you get to have the home crowd advantage for such a tournament. The ‘12th man’ plays a key role in providing that much needed boost in morale especially during the final minutes of the game when the players are within touching distance of a narrow victory or are in need of a goal to come back from the brink of defeat. The players need to learn how to feed off the energy of the crowd and use it as added motivation.

6. Singapore will be in Group A with Thailand, the Philippines, Myanmar and Timor-Leste. What are your thoughts on that group, and what would you class as a good tournament for your country?

It is a challenging group but compared to Group B which I would classify as the Group of Death, it can be said to be the more manageable of the two. Singapore has a good chance to progress to the semi-finals provided we are able to overcome the main opposition in Thailand and the Philippines.

7. Singapore have won four AFF Suzuki Cup titles, but haven’t reached the knockout rounds since 2012. Why do you think that is and what can they do to return to past glories?

Our ASEAN compatriots have not stayed idle, and each nation has sought to improve their standard of football. A team that used to be considered as minnows in the past can no longer be brushed aside so easily now. It is very much a level playing field amongst the various teams and the difference between victory and defeat can be the slimmest of margins. Singapore will need to focus on one match at a time and treat every game like it is a final.

8. You were head coach of the team in the 2018 edition. What are the differences between playing and managing the team in the tournament, and how much pressure do you feel in such a situation?

As a player, your primary aim is to perform your role well no matter what position you play. As a coach, you have to consider how to best integrate the various characters and personalities in the team, how the team chemistry should be best managed and how to maintain the morale in the camp. The head coach is also the first one to acknowledge blame when the team does not perform so of course the pressure is immense in this case.

9. There are lots of great teams in Southeast Asia at present. Who do you think are the main contenders for the title and why?

Vietnam as reigning champions will once again be the favourite choice. However, Malaysia won’t be too far off especially if the squad is at full-strength. Singapore and Indonesia can be the dark horses of the tournament if they live up to their true potential. Having said that it will be interesting to see how the teams fare given that their preparation for this edition of the competition would have been less than ideal given the impact of the pandemic.

10. Finally, there are also some wonderfully talented players. Which three players should fans look out for in this tournament and why?

I would pick the Thai ‘Messi’ Chanatip Songkrasin, if he is able to make the final squad for his country. Second would be Vietnam’s Nguyen Hoang Duc who is at 23 is still relatively young but has shown that he has tremendous potential to join the ranks of the best in Asia.
SINGAPORE STADIUMS

BISHAN STADIUM
CAPACITY: 6,254

Home to the reigning Singapore Premier League champions, Lion City Sailors, Bishan Stadium is a multi-purpose sports complex in central Singapore. Opened in 1998, the stadium was among the host venues for the 2010 Summer Youth Olympics, while it also staged football at the 2015 Southeast Asian Games.

Although the AFF Suzuki Cup has been hosted by Singapore on a number of occasions, Bishan Stadium has rarely been used as a venue. However, in 2002 it was the setting for Malaysia’s 1-1 draw with Laos in the group stage. Nineteen years on, it is set to play a far bigger role, with all 10 Group B fixtures to take place in Bishan.

NATIONAL STADIUM
CAPACITY: 55,000

The centrepiece of the Singapore Sports Hub, National Stadium is one of the most iconic venues in Southeast Asia. Boasting the world’s largest retractable domed roof and with a capacity for 55,000 seated spectators, the stadium has become synonymous with sports in Singapore. The AFF Suzuki Cup, Singapore Rugby Sevens, International Champions Cup (ICC) and Southeast Asian Games are among the high-profile events to have been staged there over the years.

Built on the site of the old National Stadium in Kallang, the state-of-the-art venue was officially opened in June 2014, and has since hosted AFF Suzuki Cup group stage matches in 2014 and 2018. The 2020 edition will be the first time National Stadium has hosted the knockout round matches, and it will be the setting for the grand finale on January 1.
THEMES FOR AFF SUZUKI CUP 2020

A CELEBRATION OF THE STARS AND SUPERHEROES IN OUR LIVES

Taking centre stage at the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020 are our Stars and Superheroes – the teams, players, fans and most importantly our community’s frontliners who have been battling the pandemic.

OUR FRONTLINERS

The AFF Suzuki Cup 2020 will also be a platform for the ASEAN football family to come together and thank our real-life Superheroes – the frontliners that have been keeping our communities safe. Going by the tagline “Emerging Stronger Together”, this year’s event will shine the spotlight on these superheroes and pay tribute to all frontliners for their sacrifice, compassion and dedication over the past few years.

OUR TEAMS

Inspired by our teams who are every fan’s Stars, this year’s tournament sees a unique and vibrant new visual identity for the teams, in the form of masks that reimagine ASEAN nations as superheroes. Each superhero mask is visually crafted to personify the respective football federations. Playing up on the team rivalries, keep a lookout for these team masks across the AFF Suzuki Cup channels and social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Twitter, as they come to life in animated videos, pre-match head-to-head content and post-match stats. Fans can also interact with the masks as filters on Instagram.

OUR FANS

The exhilarating football action, passionate fanbase and intense rivalry amongst teams have always been a staple for the AFF Suzuki Cup with fans ever eager to prove their team’s superiority over their opposition. The fans lift their teams and cheer them all in victory and defeat. While the pandemic has caused some disruptions, the support and rivalries have not disappeared but merely went into hibernation. Fans are called upon to rise up once again to reignite the rivalries and demonstrate that #RivalriesNeverDie.
TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

GROUP A
- A1 THAILAND
- A2 MYANMAR
- A3 PHILIPPINES
- A4 SINGAPORE
- A5 TIMOR LESTE

GROUP B
- B1 VIETNAM
- B2 MALAYSIA
- B3 INDONESIA
- B4 CAMBODIA
- B5 LAOS

GROUP A
- MYANMAR vs SINGAPORE
- THAILAND vs TIMOR LESTE
- M1
- M2
- MYANMAR vs TIMOR LESTE
- PHILIPPINES vs SINGAPORE
- M5
- M6
- PHILIPPINES vs TIMOR LESTE
- THAILAND vs MYANMAR
- M9
- M10
- THAILAND vs SINGAPORE
- SINGAPORE vs TIMOR LESTE
- M13
- M14
- THAILAND vs SINGAPORE
- MYANMAR vs PHILIPPINES
- M17
- M18

GROUP B
- MALAYSIA vs CAMBODIA
- VIETNAM vs LAOS
- M3
- M4
- MALAYSIA vs LAOS
- INDONESIA vs CAMBODIA
- M7
- M8
- INDONESIA vs LAOS
- VIETNAM vs MALAYSIA
- M11
- M12
- INDONESIA vs VIETNAM
- CAMBODIA vs LAOS
- M15
- M16
- VIETNAM vs CAMBODIA
- MALAYSIA vs INDONESIA
- M19
- M20

SEMI-FINAL 1
- Runners-Up A vs Winner B
- M21
- Runners-Up B vs Winner A
- M22

SEMI-FINAL 2
- Winner B vs Runners-Up A
- M23
- Winner A vs Runners-Up B
- M24

FINAL 1
- Winner of 21/23 vs Winner of 22/24
- M25

FINAL 2
- Winner of 22/24 vs Winner of 21/23
- M26
In front of a mostly virtual audience made up of AFF member associations, sponsors and fans, the AFF Vice Presidents Dato’ Sri Francisco Kalbuadi Lay and Mr Lim Kia Tong conducted the draw on September 21.

Defending champions Vietnam were drawn in Group B alongside their opponents in the 2018 final, Malaysia, as well as Indonesia, Cambodia and Laos.

Hosts Singapore, meanwhile, have been placed in Group A, where they will face five-time champions Thailand, the Philippines, Myanmar and Timor-Leste.

“We are delighted to confirm the groupings for the upcoming AFF Suzuki Cup 2020. It will be exciting to see how the teams progress in their group matches and watch old rivalries be reignited in ASEAN’s most prestigious football tournament,” said AFF Vice President and Chairman of the AFF Competitions Committee, Dato’ Sri Francisco Kalbuadi Lay.

For the first time since being hosted by Thailand in 2000, the AFF Suzuki Cup will take place entirely in one country, with Singapore to stage all 20 matches of the group stage, the semi-finals and the final.

Initially scheduled to take place in late 2020, the tournament was postponed as a result of COVID-19, before the decision was taken to stage the competition in a centralised location.

The 2020 AFF Suzuki Cup will kick off on Sunday, December 5 when hosts Singapore take on Myanmar and Thailand face Timor-Leste at National Stadium. The following day, defending champions Vietnam will open their campaign against Laos at Bishan Stadium, while Malaysia go up against Cambodia.

This year marks the 13th edition of the AFF Suzuki Cup, which was first held in Singapore in 1996.
Cambodia created headlines before the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup with the appointment of Japanese legend Keisuke Honda as general manager of the national team, with Argentine Felix Dalmas in charge of the day-to-day commitments.

The news generated a buzz around Phnom Penh and across the country as a player that had appeared in three FIFA World Cups would be sharing his invaluable experience with the best talent in Cambodia.

History was then made in the opening game of the competition as Cambodia hosted its first-ever match in the AFF Suzuki Cup, with almost 35,000 fans descending on Phnom Penh's National Olympic Stadium to witness the hard-fought 1-0 defeat to Malaysia.

Honda then made his first appearance on the touchline in Mandalay, where Chan Vathanaka gave Cambodia a first-half lead over Myanmar, only for the hosts to storm back and claim a 4-1 win after the interval.

Back in the Cambodian capital, Vathanaka was again on the scoresheet while further goals from Prak Mony Udom and Keo Sokpheng secured a 3-1 victory over Laos with what was the side's first win in the competition since 2002.

Cambodia brought the curtain down on an exciting campaign with a 3-0 loss to Vietnam and, while Dalmas left his role earlier in 2021, Honda remains, ensuring stability within the camp.

Ryu Hirose has taken the position of Dalmas and life under the Japanese coach has begun well as a pair of wins over Guam in October ensured Cambodia advanced to the final round of 2023 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers.

With both legs played in Bahrain, Vathanaka was the hero of the first meeting with the striker scoring the only goal of the game, before Sos Suhana and Sokpheng both netted in a come-from-behind 2-1 victory in the return match to ensure their dream of a place in the AFC Asian Cup lives on.

The wins also ensure that optimism will be high heading into what will be their eighth appearance in the AFF Suzuki Cup and third in a row, as the Angkor Warriors look to build on a promising 2018 campaign.

Once again Cambodia have been drawn in a group with Vietnam, Malaysia and Laos, while they will also go up against Indonesia for the first time in the competition since 2008.
It is arguably one of the most surprising stories in the history of the AFF Suzuki Cup that Indonesia have yet to be crowned champions. No country has come so close without tasting glory.

Five times between the years of 2000 and 2016 the Garuda reached the final yet on each occasion they fell just short as a country renowned for its passionate support for the national team endured heartbreak time and again.

A 4-1 loss in Bangkok against Thailand in 2000 marked their first appearance in the final but, two years later, they returned to the showpiece event. Two down against the holders in front of 100,000 fans at Gelora Bung Karno Stadium, the Garuda stormed back to level at 2-2, only to lose out on penalties. Eight goals for Indonesian icon Bambang Pamungkas was, at least, enough for the Golden Boot award.

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Indonesia hosted the group stage in 2010 and, under Alfred Riedl, produced some memorable results, Bambang and Firman Utina – among others – shining in notable wins over Malaysia and Thailand before they edged past the Philippines in the semi-final. But despite having beaten the Malaysians 5-1 in the group stage they were undone 3-0 in the first leg of the final in Kuala Lumpur and never recovered as their campaign ended in bitter disappointment.

Group stage exits followed in the next two editions but 2016 saw a return to the final after Manahati Lestusen netted an extra-time penalty to defeat Vietnam in Hanoi. But, having beaten Thailand 2-1 in the first leg of the final in Bogor, the subsequent 2-0 loss in Bangkok meant the wait for an elusive first title went on.

Indonesia go into the 2020 edition under one of their most high-profile international coaches to date. Shin Tae-yong managed Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma to AFC Champions League glory in 2010 and masterminded Korea Republic’s famous 2-0 win over Germany at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

The 51-year-old, who is building a youthful squad that includes overseas-based stars such as Egy Maulana and Asnawi Mangkualam, recently steered Indonesia into the final round of 2023 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers after defeating Chinese Taipei.
Laos have been near ever-presents at the AFF Suzuki Cup over the years, having been part of all except one of the tournaments. The only year they missed out was in 2016, and they return this time round for their 12th appearance.

Their finest showing was in the inaugural AFF Suzuki Cup in 1996 when the Laotians came within five minutes of beating Vietnam, eventually drawing 1-1, and also claimed a 1-0 victory over Cambodia as they finished the group stage with what remains their best points tally of four.

In 2004, Laos managed their only other win in the competition when Chalana Luang-Amath scored a second-half double to see off the Cambodians 2-1.

Other notable results for the Laotians include draws with Malaysia in 1998 and 2002, while they were agonisingly close to defeating both Thailand (2010) and Indonesia (2012) only to concede in the last minute and draw 2-2 with both sides.

Having missed out on the 2016 edition, they returned in 2018, a year that saw the first-ever AFF Suzuki Cup matches to be played in Laos. With the home and away format introduced for the group stage, some 15,000 fans turned out at the New Laos National Stadium in Vientiane for the opener with Vietnam, with the hosts going down 3-0.

The Laotians took the lead away in Malaysia but lost 3-1 before again going in front at home to Myanmar, only to lose by the same scoreline. A third successive 3-1 defeat, this time to Cambodia, saw them end the campaign with four defeats from four.

While the majority of the Laos squad is made up of home-based players, a number of them also ply their trade overseas. Striker Billy Ketkeophomphone is in the French second tier with USL Dunkerque, while captain Soukaphone Vongchiengkham and Phoutthasay Khochalern are among several who play their club football over the border in Thailand.

It’s been more than two years since Laos last played a competitive match and they could hardly have been given a tougher opponent to open their AFF Suzuki Cup campaign against in defending champions Vietnam.

The Laotians will also face Malaysia, Indonesia and Cambodia in Group B, and will likely be looking at the fixture against the Cambodians as the best chance to pick up what would be their third win over their neighbours and first since 2004.
Malaysia enjoyed a fine campaign in 2018 as, under Tan Cheng Hoe, they reached the final for the fourth time before narrowly losing out 3-2 to Vietnam over two legs. The tournament proved a breakout edition for a 21-year-old Safawi Rasid, who was among the stars of the show, while Norshahrul Idlan was on red-hot scoring form and netted the goal that ousted defending champions Thailand in the semi-finals.

Defeat in the final meant the Harimau Malaya fell just short of matching their feat from 2010, when they were crowned champions for the first and, to date, only time after defeating fierce rivals Indonesia in the final.

Safee Sali proved the star of that show, netting both goals in the 2-0 semi-final win over Vietnam before scoring three goals over two legs in the final as Malaysia ended the Indonesians’ hopes of a first title.

The 2010 edition marked Malaysia’s first appearance in the final since the inaugural edition in 1996 when they were beaten 1-0 by Thailand, while they also achieved third-placed finishes in both 2000 and 2004.

Inspired by captain Safiq Rahim, the Harimau Malaya reached a third final in 2014 but lost in devastating fashion after surrendering a 3-0 second-leg lead against Thailand when they looked on course for a famous come-from-behind victory.

Having lost 2-0 in Bangkok, a Safiq brace and a goal from Indra Putra put Malaysia on course for their second title but the Thais struck back, netting twice in the final 10 minutes to claim a 4-3 aggregate win and break hearts at Bukit Jalil National Stadium.

After disappointing in 2016, Malaysia’s showing in 2018 offered real hope for the future for their passionate support, with young talent such as Safawi, Mohamadou Sumareh and Akhyar Rashid all shining.

A pair of victories over Thailand in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign, where they also twice beat Indonesia, was an indication that this is a side continuing its upward trajectory and they will now go into the 2020 AFF Suzuki Cup with their eyes firmly fixed on winning the top prize.

Drawn in a tough-looking Group B, Tan’s team will look to secure back-to-back wins over Cambodia and Laos before taking on the defending champions Vietnam and rounding off the group stage against Indonesia.
Myanmar have appeared in every edition of the AFF Suzuki Cup since its inception in 1996 when they marked their competition debut with a 5-0 win over Cambodia. Since then, the White Angels have twice reached the semi-finals, most recently in 2016 in a memorable edition for the nation.

For the first time in the tournament’s 20-year history, Myanmar was chosen as one of the hosts and the team responded in style. Having narrowly lost their opener to Vietnam at Yangon’s Thuwunna Stadium, the home side bounced back with a 3-1 win over Cambodia following goals from Zaw Min Tun and Aung Thu.

They then secured their ticket to the semi-finals when David Htan scored with just over a minute to play against Malaysia to spark jubilant scenes in the Myanmar capital. It was not to be, however, as Gerd Zeise’s team were well beaten by eventual winners Thailand as they fell in the last four.

Some 12 years earlier and inspired by striker Soe Myat Min, Myanmar also reached the semi-finals. They did so by topping their group with an unbeaten record that included a draw with defending champions Thailand as they fell in the last four.

The White Angels went down 4-3 in the first leg of the semi-final against Singapore but recovered to lead 2-1 in the return meeting and force extra-time after Soe Myat Min scored in both legs. However, three goals in the additional 30 minutes ended the Myanmar dream as they fell just short.

Former Schalke 04 and Fortuna Dusseldorf midfielder Antoine Hey took over ahead of the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup and began with a bang as a 4-1 win over Cambodia in Mandalay was followed by a 3-1 victory against Laos in Vientiane.

A scoreless draw with Vietnam in Yangon then saw them move within touching distance of a return to the semi-finals, but they then lost 3-0 to Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur and exited.

Hey, who has since guided Myanmar to the final round of 2023 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers, remains at the helm for the 2020 edition of the AFF Suzuki Cup.

A number of players, including Zaw Min Tun and Aung Thu, currently ply their trade in Thailand, while Maung Maung Lwin has developed into their star man and will be looking to inspire his side into the knockout rounds.
While the Philippines were a feature in the early years of the AFF Suzuki Cup, it is only in the past decade or so that they have become a team capable of challenging the region’s finest teams.

In their first six appearances, the Azkals claimed just one victory, but the move to blend local talent with the Filipino diaspora started to pay dividends in 2010. A squad featuring the likes of brothers James and Phil Younghusband and Chris Greatwich created history by defeating defending champions Vietnam to progress to the semi-finals for the first time.

Defeat to Indonesia followed but it was the start of an upward trajectory for football in the Philippines. Two years later, the island nation repeated the feat by again reaching the semi-finals before a narrow loss to Singapore saw them miss out on a place in the final.

By now a team to be reckoned with, the Philippines made it three semi-final appearances in a row in 2014, with a 4-0 group stage win over Indonesia a sign of how far they had come. For the second successive edition, however, it was defeat to the eventual champions – this time Thailand – that ended their run.

While 2016 proved to be a disappointment, the 2018 edition came during what was the most exciting and successful period in Philippines football history.

By now the squad boasted star power with Stephan Schröck and Kevin Ingreso regular features having relocated to the Philippines from Germany. Both Ingreso and Phil Younghusband had been on the scoresheet earlier in 2018 to claim a 2-1 win over Tajikistan and a historic qualification to the 2019 AFC Asian Cup.

That led to Sven-Goran Eriksson being named as head coach ahead of the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup and the Philippines rode in on the crest of a wave before sealing back-to-back wins over Singapore and Timor-Leste.

An impressive draw with defending champions Thailand and a stalemate against Indonesia ensured that the Philippines would again be part of the semi-finals. Again, it proved a step too far as this time they exited to Vietnam.

The Philippines return in 2020 with another exciting name in their ranks: the AFC Cup’s all-time leading scorer Bienvenido Marañón. The Spanish-born naturalised Filipino citizen, now 35, will look to show his considerable goalscoring talent at the AFF Suzuki Cup.
Only Thailand have won more AFF Suzuki Cup titles than Singapore, who have amassed a hugely impressive four titles over the years.

Singapore hosted the maiden edition of the tournament in 1996, and it was fitting that national team icon Fandi Ahmad scored their first-ever goal in the competition, with his late equaliser securing a draw against Malaysia. The veteran went on to score in two more games but the Lions fell at the group stage.

Two years later, and now without the retired Fandi, Singapore returned in fine form, securing a first title after defeating Vietnam 1-0 in the final in Hanoi. The victory did not start a period of success, however, as the Lions suffered back-to-back eliminations in the next two editions.

Having drawn their opening two games in the 2004 tournament, Singapore stormed back by winning six in a row to seal the title. A Noh Alam Shah treble in the second leg of the semi-final ended Myanmar’s challenge before Agu Casmir scored home and away against Indonesia as a 5-2 aggregate win saw them crowned champions.

Alam Shah then posted a record-breaking seven-goal haul against Laos in the 2007 group stage as the defending champions won 11-0. After defeating Malaysia on penalties in the semi-finals, Khairul Amri scored the decisive goal in the final to secure a 3-2 aggregate victory over Thailand.

Singapore were unable to defend their title in 2008, falling at the semi-finals in a tournament that saw Alam Shah net his final goals in the competition. The striker remains the all-time top scorer with 17 goals to his name.

A group stage elimination followed in 2010 but Shahril Ishak and Amri both shone two years later. The former was named MVP and the latter netted the decisive goal in the semi-final against the Philippines and another in the win over Thailand in the final as Singapore claimed a record-breaking fourth title.

The 2012 edition remains the last time Singapore reached their peak in the competition as group stage exits followed in 2014, 2016 and 2018 in what have been a lean few years.

Under Japanese head coach Tatsuma Yoshida, they will be hoping for a return to the AFF Suzuki Cup glory days, and can gain inspiration by the fact the tournament will be hosted solely in their homeland.
The most successful team in AFF Suzuki Cup history, Thailand have won an impressive five titles and appeared in the final a further three times, and, as ever, they will begin the 2020 edition as one of the favourites to lift the trophy.

Thailand wrote their name into the history books by being crowned inaugural champions back in 1998, when Kiatisuk ‘Zico’ Senamuang – who would later go on to coach the team to glory – scored the only goal of the final against Malaysia in Kallang.

While they failed to defend their title in 1998, the War Elephants won the tournament again in 2000 and 2002 as they developed into the dominant side in Southeast Asia. However, a barren run then ensued as – despite reaching three finals – Thailand went 12 years without lifting the trophy.

That unwanted run ended in 2014 when, now under Kiatisuk, and with a talented group of young stars breaking into the team, they were crowned kings of ASEAN once more.

Chanathip Songkrasin had been part of the 2012 squad but 2014 was when he truly rose to the fore, netting in both the semi-final victory over the Philippines and in the final against Malaysia as Thailand returned to the top of Southeast Asian football.

They went on to defend their title in 2016 by defeating Indonesia in the final, with Chanathip named MVP for the second successive campaign and Teerasil Dangda leading the scoring charts as they eclipsed Singapore’s four titles. But they were denied three in a row after losing to Malaysia in the 2018 semi-finals.

Since the last AFF Suzuki Cup, Thailand reached the knockout rounds of the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, although they were unable to make the final round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers after finishing below both Vietnam and Malaysia in their group.

Now under Brazilian Alexandre Pölkling, who took over after the departure of Japanese coach Akira Nishino in September, they will go into the tournament looking to re-establish themselves as the regional powerhouse.

Pölkling has years of experience working in Thailand, most notably with Bangkok United, where he was twice a Thai League 1 runner-up, while he also had a spell as assistant coach of the national team just under a decade ago.

Thailand will be expected to advance to the semi-finals once more, but their target will undoubtedly be a record-extending sixth title some 25 years after their first.

Timor-Leste are making their third appearance at the AFF Suzuki Cup, and their second in a row after also qualifying for the competition in 2018.

Timor-Leste’s appearance in the 2004 edition was significant given that they were, at the time, the world’s youngest nation. While they ultimately lost all four of their matches there were some memorable moments.

Januario do Rego scored their first-ever goal in the competition, putting them one up against the Philippines in their third game in Kuala Lumpur. But just as it looked that three points were on the cards, their opponents scored twice in stoppage time to take victory at the last.

The years between 2004 and 2018 saw the East Timorese fall short of returning to the competition after failing to make it beyond the qualification round on each occasion.

But there was joy in 2018 and, following a two-legged playoff win over Brunei Darussalam, Timor-Leste booked their place in the group stage for the first time in 14 years.

In truth, they got off to the worst possible start as, up against tournament heavyweights Thailand, they suffered a demoralising 7-0 loss in Bangkok, but the ensuing games saw a marked improvement in performances.

Up against Indonesia in Jakarta, Rufino Gama scored early in the second half to draw the sides level at 1-1 and, while they eventually went down 3-1, it was a sign that Timor-Leste could compete at the highest level of ASEAN football.

In their next game against the Philippines, the East Timorese found themselves three down but fought back to 3-2 after goals from Nataniel Reis and Joao Pedro to only just miss out on their first-ever point in the competition.

And although a heavy defeat against Singapore followed, there were signs that under Japanese head coach Norio Tsukitate things were moving in the right direction.

Three years on and Timor-Leste were again set to go up against Brunei for the final place in the 2020 AFF Suzuki Cup. However, after their opponents withdrew from the qualifying round, they advanced directly to the group stage.

The East Timorese have been placed in Group A, where they will first take on five-time champions Thailand, before match-ups against Myanmar, the Philippines and Singapore.
Vietnam's 3-2 aggregate win over Malaysia in the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup final saw the Golden Stars lift the trophy for the second time as an unbeaten campaign ensured they added to the title they won in 2008. That victory capped an excellent tournament for Park Hang-seo's side, who had topped their group with three wins and a draw, having not conceded, and then went on to beat the Philippines home and away in the semi-finals.

In front of more than 88,000 fans in the first leg of the final at Kuala Lumpur's Bukit Jalil National Stadium, Nguyen Huy Hung and Pham Duc Huy scored in a 2-2 draw, before Nguyen Anh Duc was the hero in Hanoi as his early strike was enough to claim a 1-0 victory in the return meeting at My Dinh National Stadium.

The title brought an end to a remarkable year for Park's team, many of whom had inspired the side to the AFC U23 Championship final in China earlier in 2018 before securing qualification to the 2019 AFC Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates. They went on to reach the quarter-finals in the UAE and have continued on an upward trajectory, having reached the final round of the FIFA World Cup qualifiers for the first time.

A mainstay of Vietnam's success at both senior and age-group levels has been Park, who was assistant to Dutchman Guus Hiddink in Korea Republic's run to the 2002 FIFA World Cup semi-finals. The 64-year-old has continually put his faith in a talented crop of youngsters that have generated a buzz around Vietnam, with the likes of Nguyen Quang Hai and Nguyen Tien Linh shining under his tutelage.

Prior to Park's arrival, the side's best moment in the AFF Suzuki Cup came under Portuguese coach Henrique Calisto in 2008 when Vietnamese legend Le Cong Vinh scored in both legs of the final to help the Golden Stars see off Thailand 3-2 on aggregate. That victory came a decade after their only previous appearance in the final when, in 1998, they were beaten by Singapore on home soil. In 12 editions of the tournament, meanwhile, they have reached at least the semi-finals 10 times.

Vietnam will go into the 2020 AFF Suzuki Cup as one of the favourites to lift the title. Just like in 2018, they share a group with Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos, while Indonesia make up Group B.