

# FFA Cup 2014-16 Analysis

Trends from the first three years



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## Professional Footballers Australia

Supporting the Players, Building the Game



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## About this Report

This report identifies and analyses trends from the first three editions of the FFA Cup.

The FFA Cup has captured Australia's imagination by creating a footprint that is truly national in its breadth and uniquely inclusive in its depth.

This competition provides exclusive insights into the competitiveness between different tiers and the impacts of Australia's unique logistical demands, among others.

The PFA believes a better informed game leads to more impactful football education, analysis and decision-making.



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Images: Getty Images

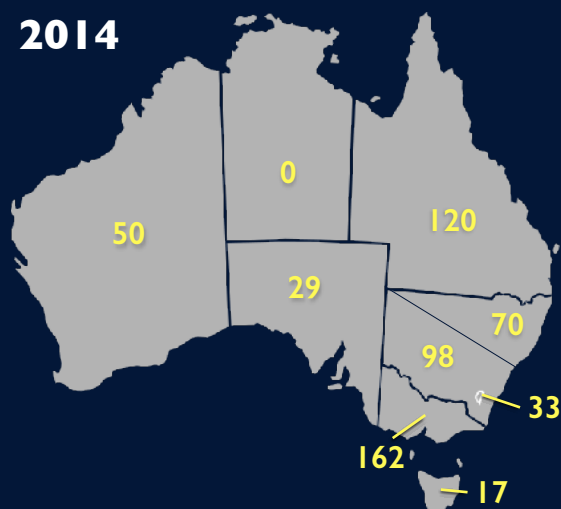


# FFA CUP 2014-16 SUMMARY

Trends from the first three years / PFA Report

## Footprint

2014



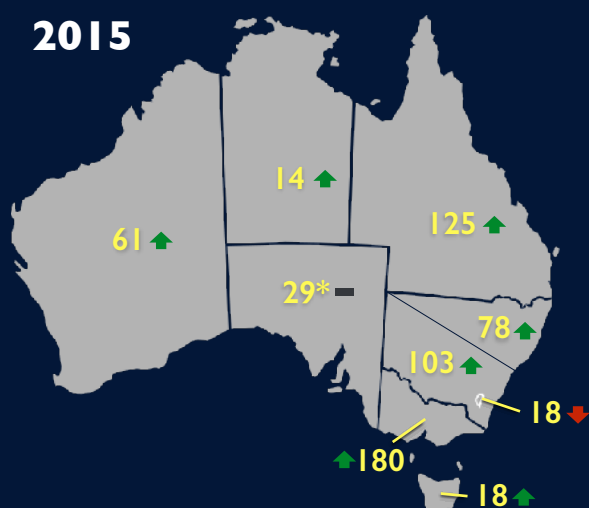
+



10

**589**  
teams

2015



+



10

+

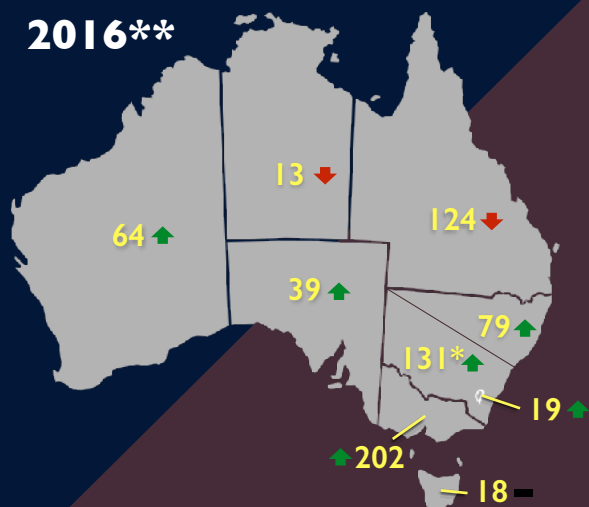


1

(2014 Champion)

**636**  
teams

2016\*\*



+



10

+



1

(2015 Champion)

**700**  
teams

\*Member Federation totals in 2015 and 2016 include NPL champion

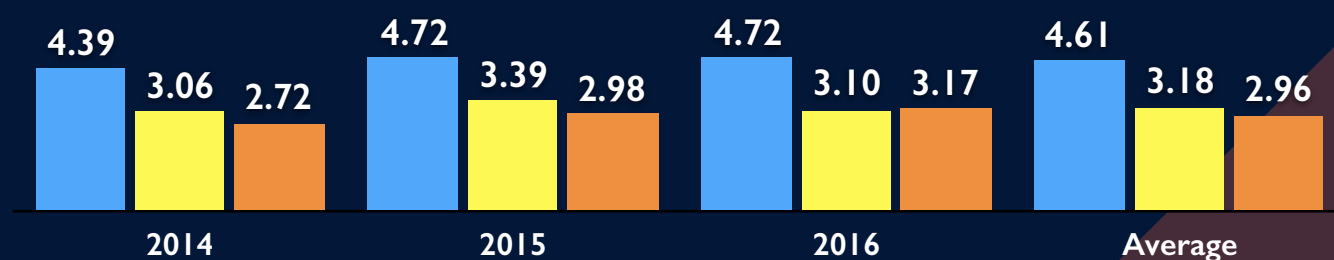
\*\*2016 data provided by FFA



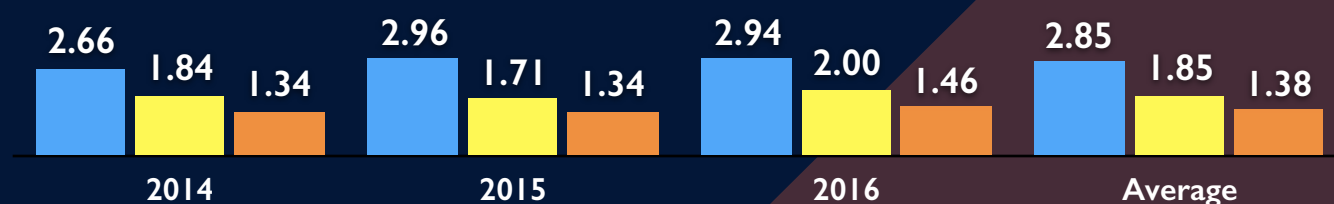
## Goal-scoring & Competitiveness

■ FFA Cup All Games ■ Round of 32 onwards ■ A-League\*

### Goals per game



### Average score differential



When the preliminary rounds are included, the FFA Cup is a far less balanced and much higher scoring competition than the A-League. This reflects the assumption that amateur teams are more tactically open than professional teams, while unbalanced matches between teams from different tiers could also contribute.

The 'tournament proper' from the Round of 32 through to the final is much tighter, though still more open than the A-League, partly due to mismatches between professional and semi-professional teams.

The possibility of extra time also allows for more goals per game.

\*Full A-League seasons concluding in those years





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## Member Federation Performance

	P	W	D	L	W%
Football Federation Victoria	30	14	5	11	47%
Capital Football	7	3	1	3	43%
Football Federation South Australia	7	3	1	3	43%
Football Queensland	20	7	2	11	35%
Football NSW	26	7	2	17	27%
Football Federation Tasmania	4	1	2	1	25%
Northern NSW Football	7	1	1	5	14%
Football Federation Northern Territory	2	0	0	2	0%
Football West	6	0	0	6	0%

Round of 32 onwards, including matches against A-League clubs

### ‘Cupsets’

In 29 matches against A-League sides, Member Federation teams have won on three occasions:

2014

Round of 32

Adelaide City (SA) 1-0

Western Sydney Wanderers



2016

Round of 32

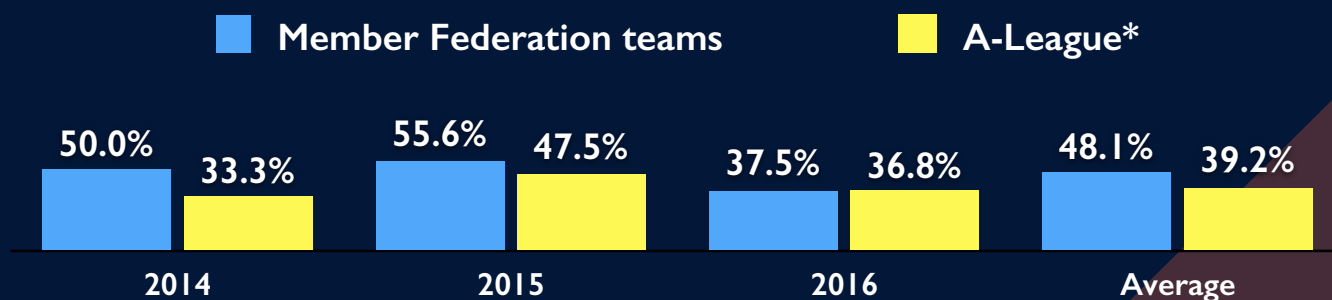
Redlands Utd (QLD) 2-1 (a.e.t.) Adelaide United

Green Gully (VIC) 2-1 Central Coast Mariners



## Effect of Travel

### Away Team Win %



Despite lacking the fully professional logistical support of A-League teams, Member Federation clubs traveling interstate in the FFA Cup actually outperform A-League away teams.

Perhaps the novelty and camaraderie of traveling away together has elevated the performance of these teams for one-off matches.

## 121,700kms

Total distance traveled in all matches from Round of 32 onwards



## 653.3kms

Average distance traveled by away team for all matches from Round of 32 onwards

\*Full A-League seasons concluding in those years



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## Effect of 'Cup Runs' on A-League

### League position after Round 9

#### 2014-15



# 3rd

W6 D2 L1 Pts 20

Champions



Runners-up

# 1st

W7 D1 L1 Pts 22



Semi-Finalists

# 8th

W1 D3 L5 Pts 6

#### 2015-16



# 2nd\*

W5 D1 L2 Pts 16

Champions



Runners-up

# 10th\*

W1 D1 L6 Pts 4



Semi-Finalists

# 5th

W4 D2 L3 Pts 14

#### 2016-17



# 2nd

W5 D2 L2 Pts 17

Champions



Runners-up

# 1st

W7 D2 L0 Pts 23



Semi-Finalists

# 3rd\*

W4 D2 L2 Pts 14

The unique timing of the FFA Cup presents a challenge to A-League clubs, who enter the Round of 32 during pre-season, yet the evidence shows that an FFA Cup run correlates with a good start to the season.

All but two of the nine teams to play in the FFA Cup semi-finals have been placed in the top half of the A-League after one third of that season, and five of the six finalists have been placed in the top three.



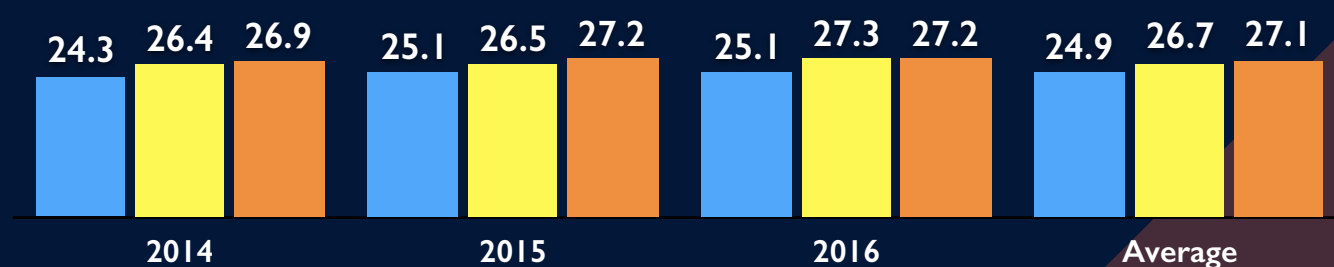
\*One game in hand after Round 9



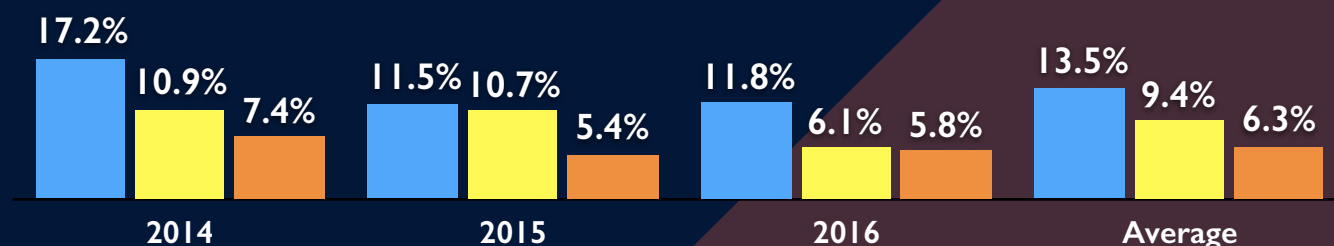
## Player Analysis

■ Member Fed. teams ■ A-League teams ■ A-League season\*

### Average Age



### % of appearances by teenagers



Member Federation clubs are more than twice as likely to field teenagers in the FFA Cup than A-League teams do during the regular season.

A-League clubs do use more youth in the FFA Cup than in the regular season, however this figure dropped sharply from over 10% of appearances by teenagers to 6.1% in the latest edition.



## 1,099

Total players who have played in the FFA Cup

All figures relate to Round of 32 onwards

\*Season commencing that year, 2016-17 current up to Round 12





## PFA Member Survey

76 players took part in a survey regarding the facilities at Member Federation club stadia they played at during the 2016 FFA Cup plus their preferred date for the final.

Very Poor Poor Satisfactory Good Very Good



Overall Facilities

Playing Surface

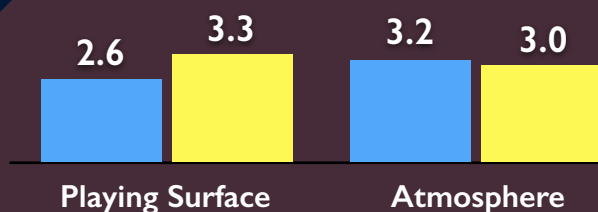
Atmosphere

## A-League comparison

When compared with the PFA's 2015-16 A-League Stadium Ratings findings, the results showed the smaller FFA Cup grounds made for a slightly better atmosphere but suffered a large drop in pitch quality.

FFA Cup A-League

Scores out of 5

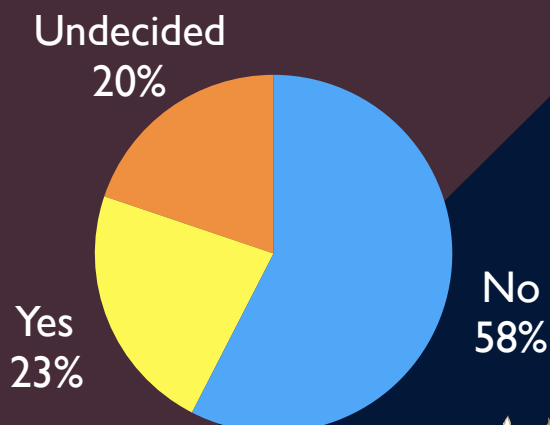


Playing Surface

Atmosphere

## Timing of Final

When asked the question: "Do you believe the FFA Cup should finish prior to the start of the A-League season?" just over half of players said the final should remain during the A-League, as is the current format.



★★★★★

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