



THE 20¹⁶₁₇ PFA W-LEAGUE REPORT

Supporting the Players
Building the Game



FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



The 9th season of the W-League - 2016/17 - will be remembered for many reasons.

Firstly, Melbourne City became the first team to win back to back Championships. Secondly, the Grand Final hosted by Perth Glory was the highest attended match in W-League Grand Final history as well as the most watched, with over 440,000 viewers tuning in. Thirdly, it will be the final season of players not being remunerated as professional footballers; the new Collective Bargaining Agreement which kicks in for season 2017/18 ensures that from this season on, every W-League player is paid as a professional.

Historically, this document will be a valuable sign-post in measuring and tracking the transition from an amateur or semi-professional framework into a new world of striving for professionalism within the W-League.

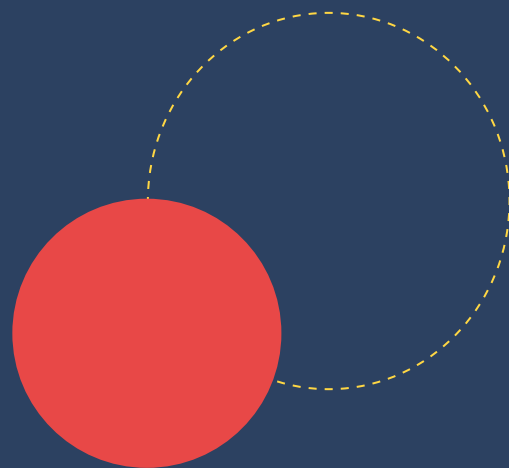
The inaugural W-League Report has tracked areas that we believe are hugely relevant in building the W-League into the best possible competition, both as a domestic sporting proposition and on the global stage. These areas include: player payments, player match minutes, competitiveness of the competition, technical components of the game, injury reporting and the quality of the match day.

As this is the first season of the W-League Report, we can only guess as to whether the W-League is improving in these critical areas.

As a snapshot, it is fascinating to compare and contrast the style being developed within the W-League to, for example, the A-League. The data indicates that the W-League is developing a distinctive character, for example:

- It is a far more direct competition, with just over 15% fewer passes per match but with 15% more of its passes being forward and 20% more of its passes played long
- There were more goals per match and far fewer scoreless draws than in men's professional football. For example, 12% of last season's J-League matches and 5% of A-League matches finished in a scoreless draw whilst only 1.75% of W-League matches did last season
- There were also far fewer disciplinary matters, with significantly less fouls, yellow cards and red cards within the W-League as compared within the A-League last season.

Tracking these numbers as the professionalism of the W-League evolves will be a fascinating exercise and hopefully enhance all components of what is a wonderful competition.



CONTENTS

Employment Framework	6
Economics	8
Player Findings	10
Match Minutes	14
Competitiveness	16
Coaching Stability	18
Performance Standards	20
Technical Report	22
Injury Report	32
Stadium Ratings	42

EMPLOYMENT FRAMEWORK

SNAPSHOT



18–20
players in
each squad

29%
of players were in their
first W-League season

5.7
average number
of matches played
per player

187
total number of
contracted players

23.6
average age
league wide

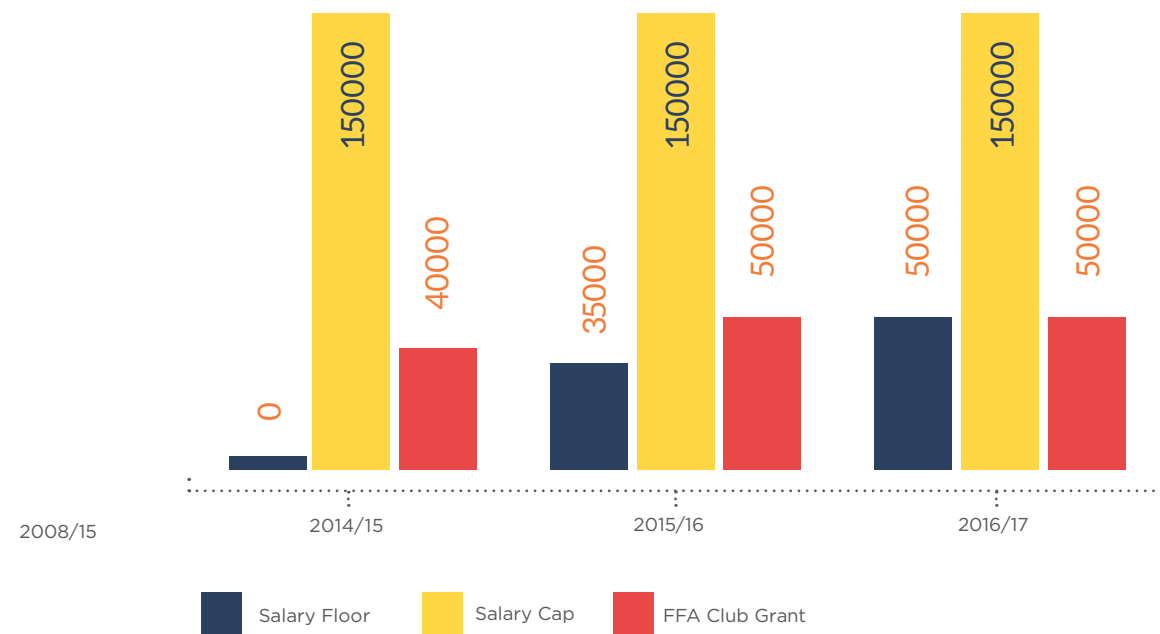
39%
of foreign
players were
internationally
capped

\$50,000
minimum total player
payments spend

The W-League remains one of the least lucrative sports for players on a national level and boasts the least number of professional players and matches when compared to international competitors.

ECONOMICS

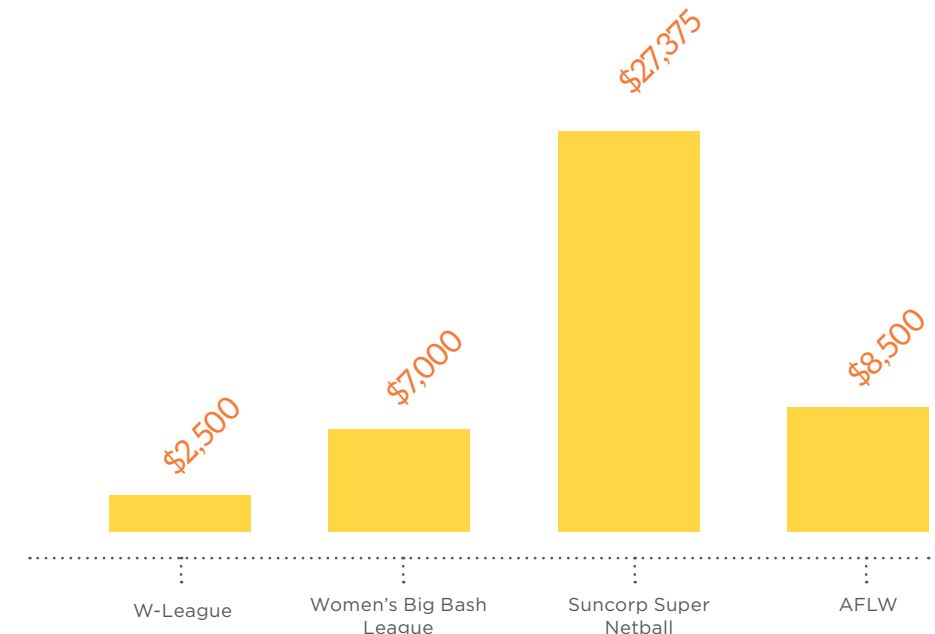
W-League total player payments



2016/17 was the first season that the clubs were required to spend their entire \$50,000 FFA grant on player payments. Amateur allowance of \$60-\$115 per week was also introduced.

MINIMUM SALARY: A NATIONAL COMPARISON

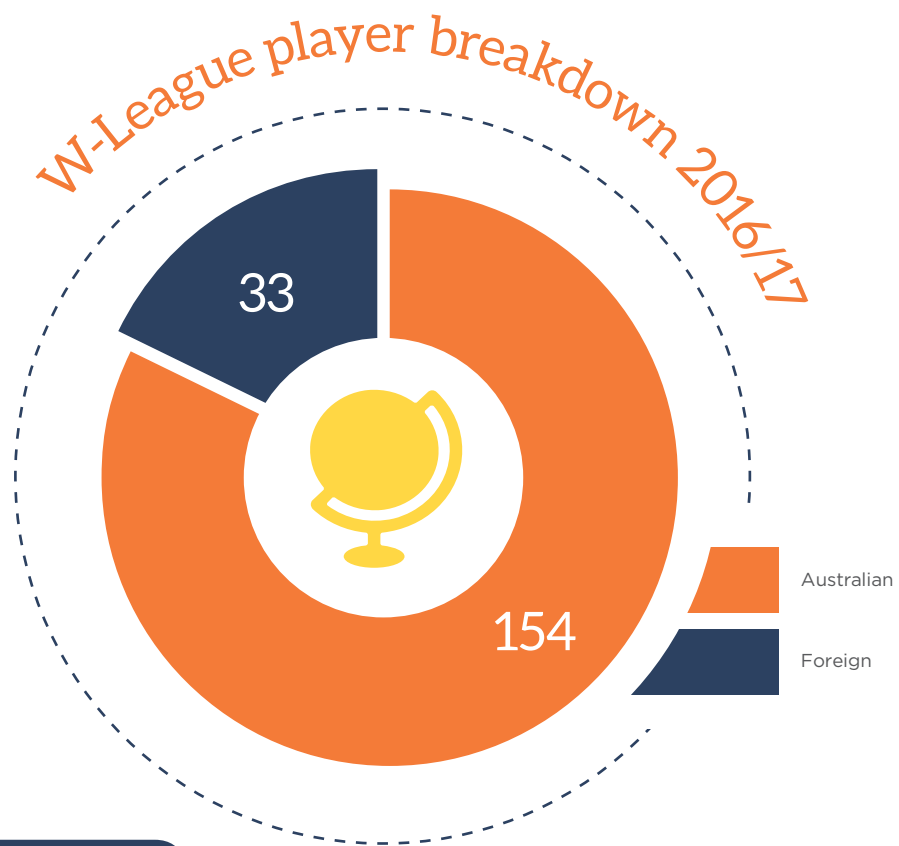
Minimum salary compared across local competitions 2016/17



The W-League has the lowest Minimum Remuneration of the sports analysed.



PLAYER FINDINGS

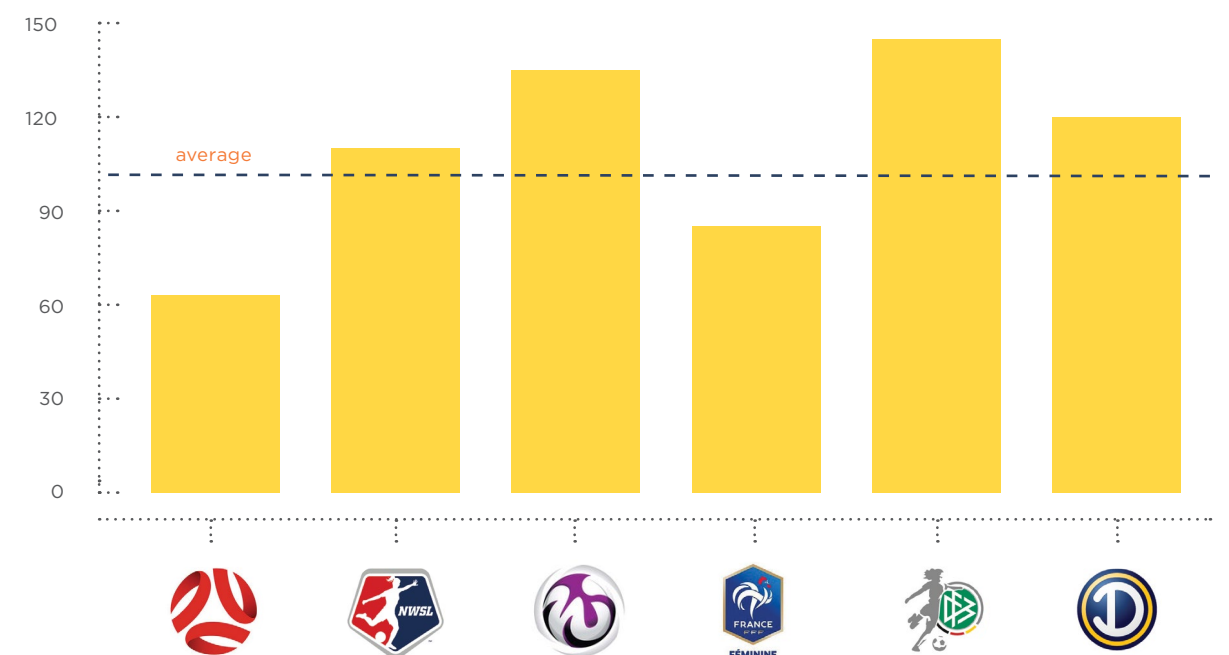


187 players
were contracted
in the 2016/17
W-League
season



PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS: AN INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON

Number of professionals in
international leagues 2016/17



To improve its standing, the W-League
needs **more professional players**

Professional players includes foreign players and national team players in each of the respective leagues

PLAYERS CONTRACTED PER CLUB

THE 2016/17 SEASON PLAYERS USED PER CLUB



20.7

Average number of players used per club

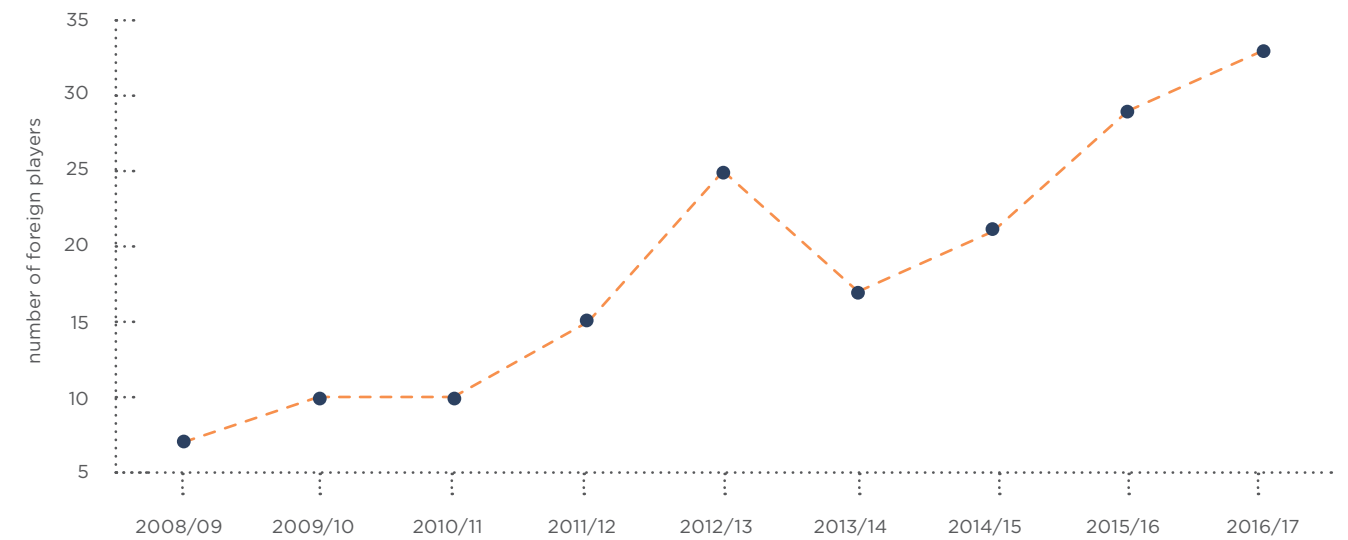
29%

of players were in their first W-League season

40%

of players were in their first year at their 2016/17 club

Number of foreign players in the W-League



2016/17 W-League season, 33 foreign players from 9 different countries



MATCH MINUTES

Match minutes played in 2016/17, by age

Age	No. of players who made an appearance	Total minutes played	Total appearances	Average minutes per player
<17	23	10,442	179	454
18-24	98	58,283	806	595
25-29	42	33,348	419	794
30+	8	5,013	62	627
Total	171	107,086	1,466	618



The average player played **5.7** matches



Players who played every minute in 2016/17



29 players played every minute (1,080 minutes) of all 12 games in the 2016/17 W-League regular season. 49 players played in all 12 regular season games.

COMPETITIVENESS

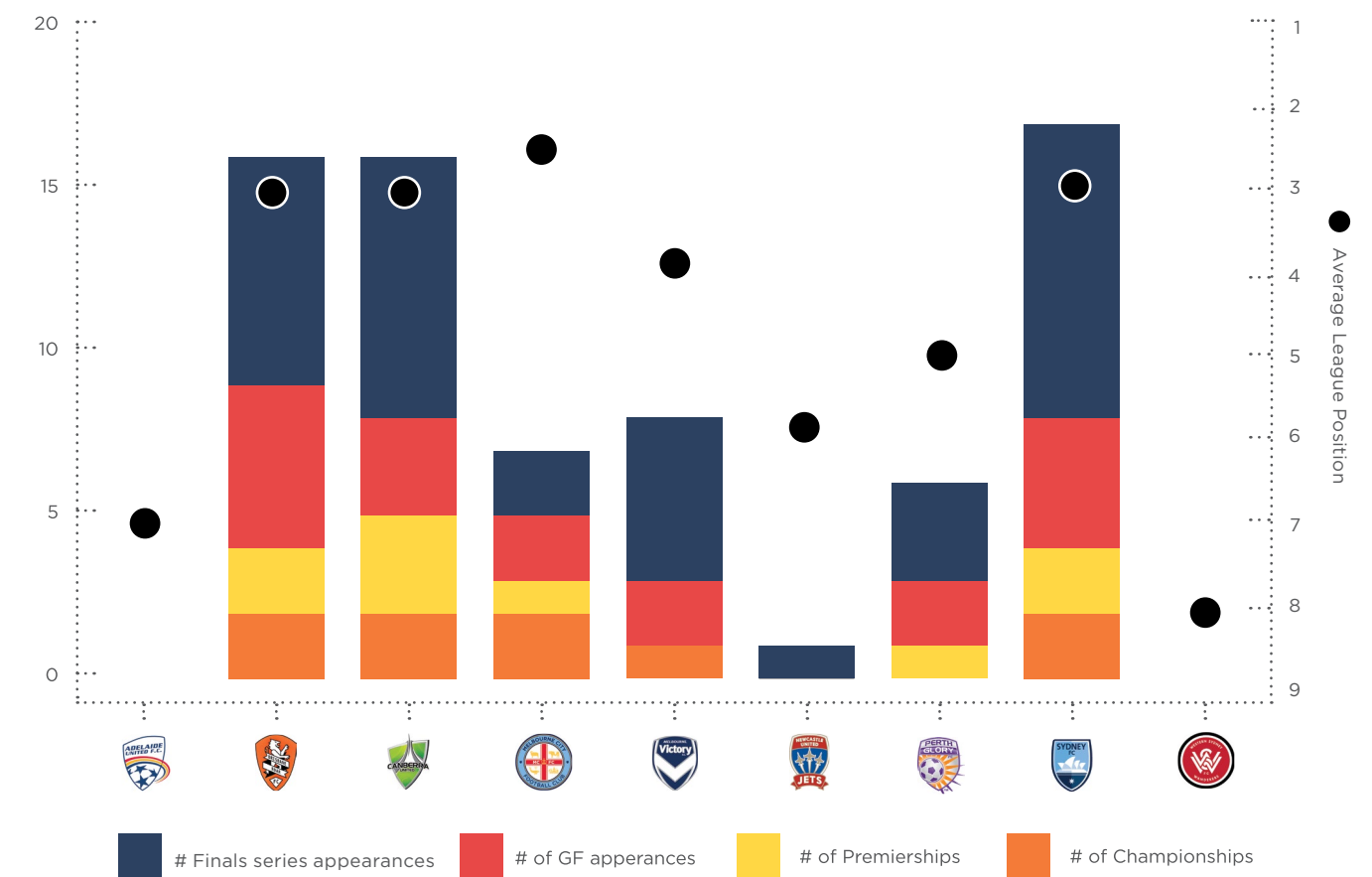
International comparison of clubs, seasons & matches across professional leagues 2016/17



The W-League has the shortest season and number of matches of the professional football leagues analysed.



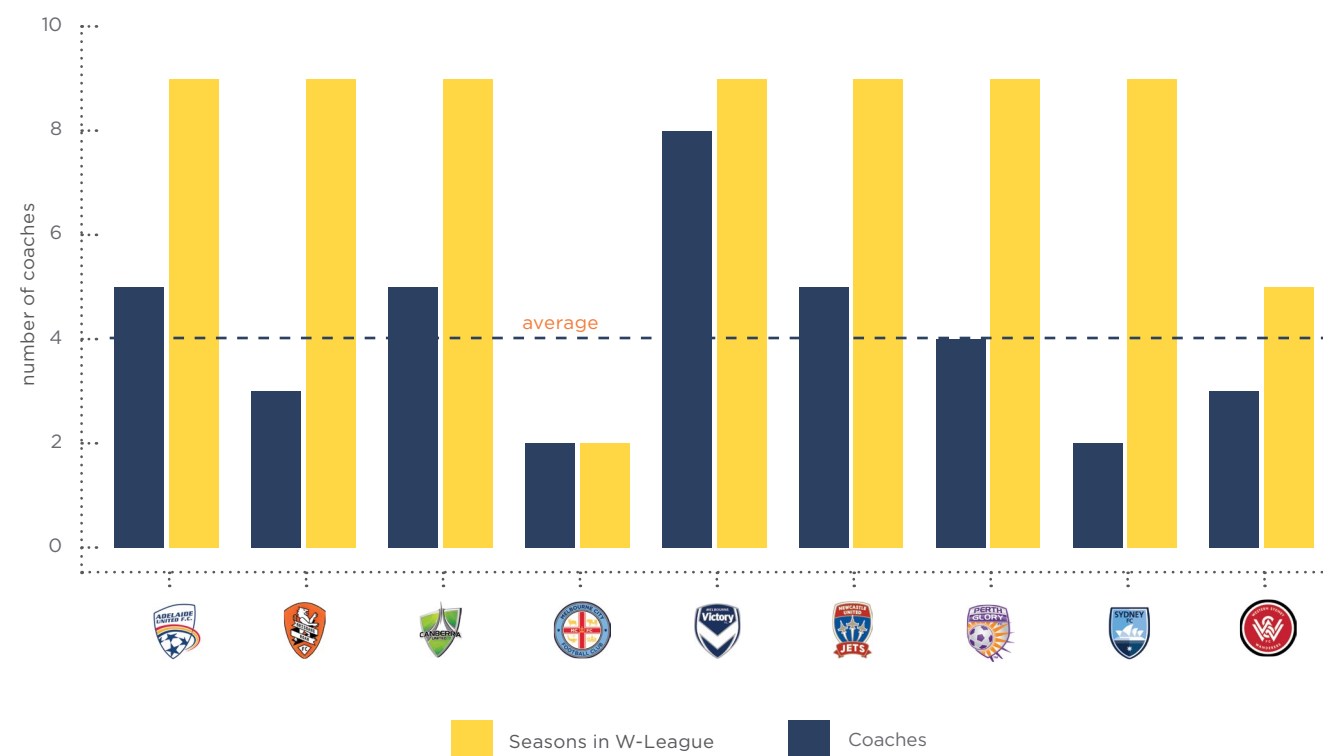
Average league position, Championships, Premierships, Grand Final and Finals Series appearances



Three clubs have won seven out of the nine Premierships in the W-League. Those clubs have qualified for the Grand Final 12 times out of possible 18 places.

COACHING STABILITY

Number of W-League coaches per club since 2008



There is a high degree of churn amongst W-League coaches, with an average number of four coaches at each club since the start of the W-League.



PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

SNAPSHOT



130
matches missed
due to injury

1.4

players missing due
to injury on average
each match per club



27%
of matches missed
as a result of knee
injuries

3.8

average injuries per club
in 2016/17



Melbourne City
were the W-League's
most dominant
team in terms of
ball possession,
averaging **59%** per
match

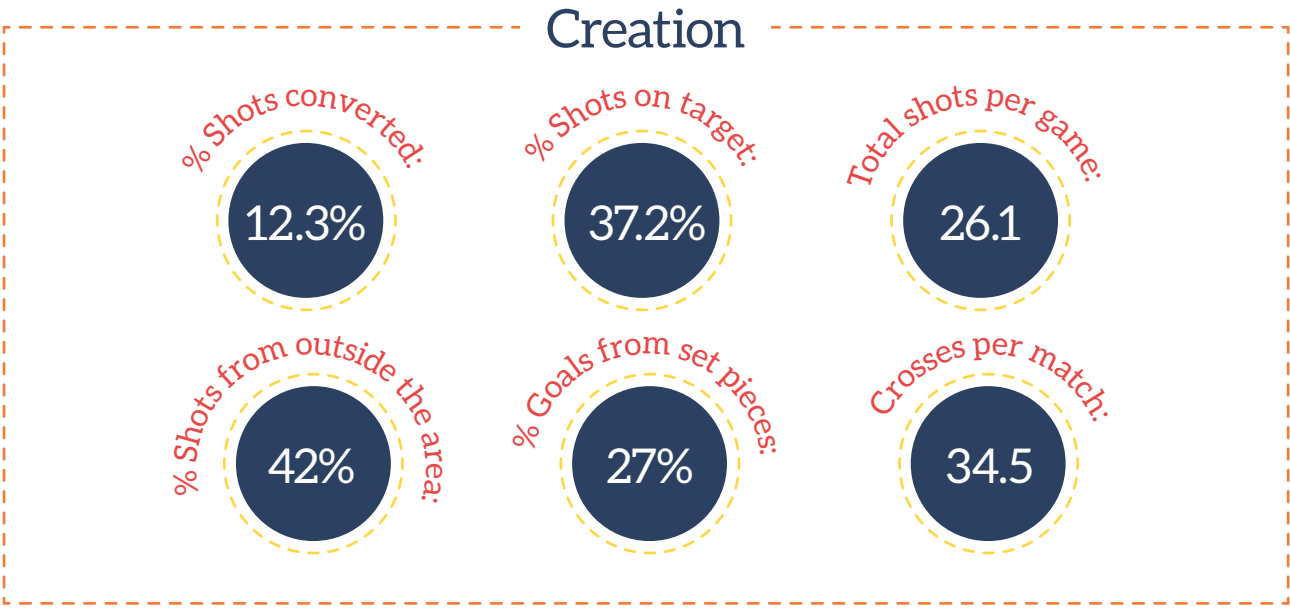
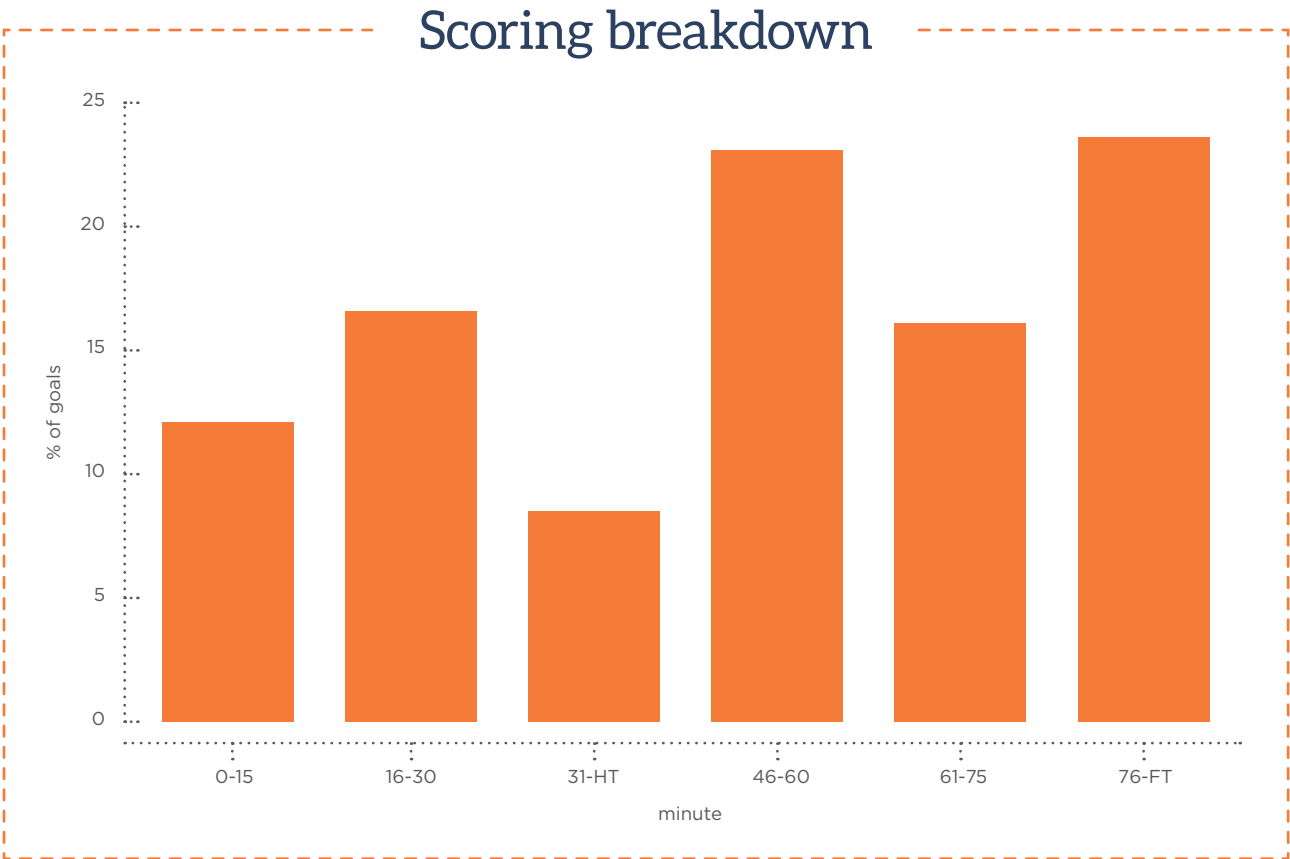


The W-League
averaged **3.49** goals
per match. Adelaide
United averaged the
highest with **2.58**
goals per match.

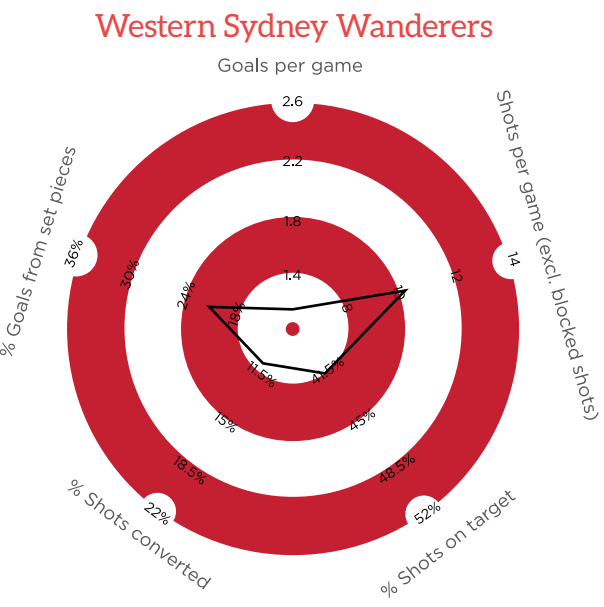
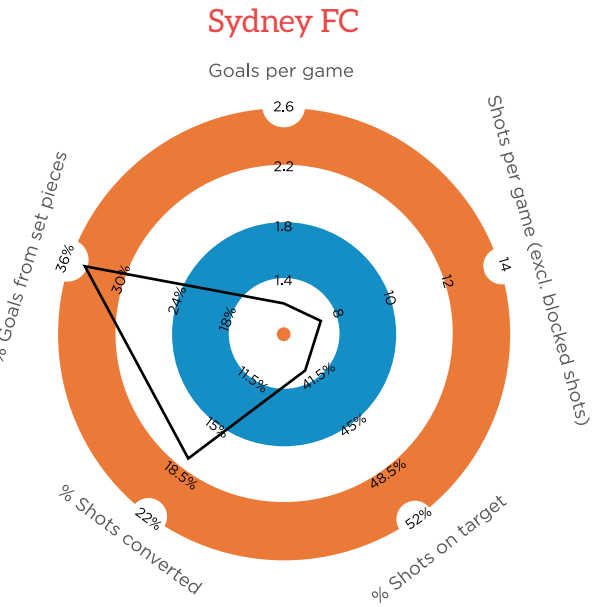
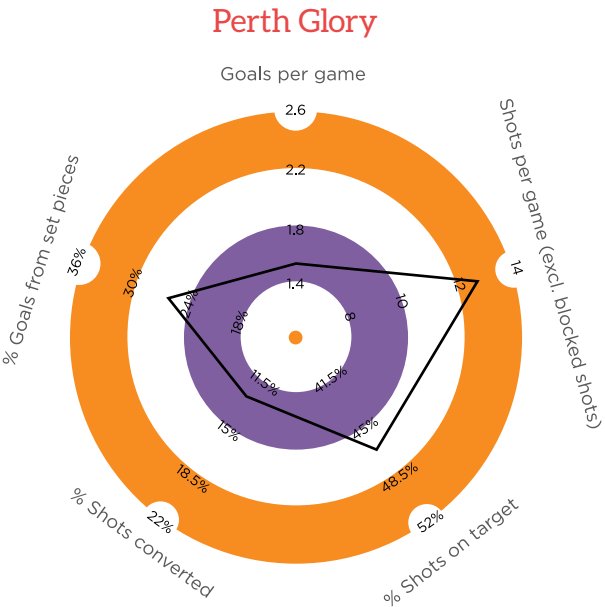
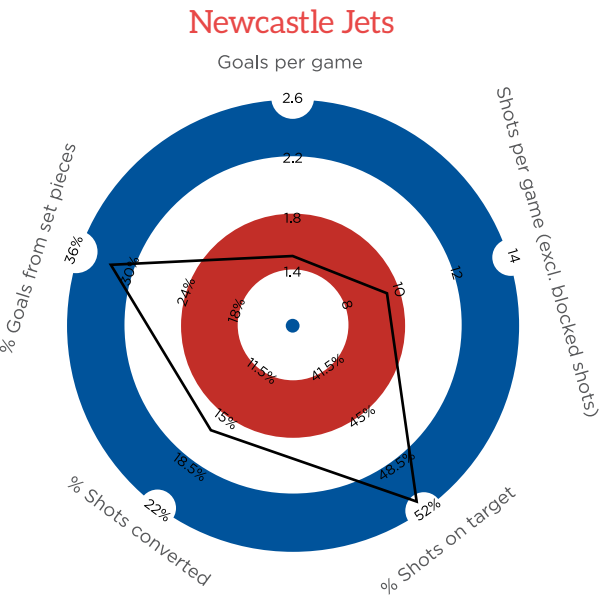
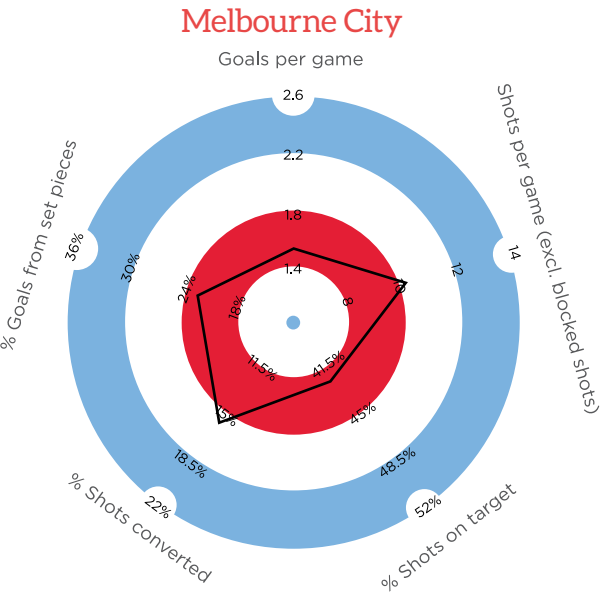
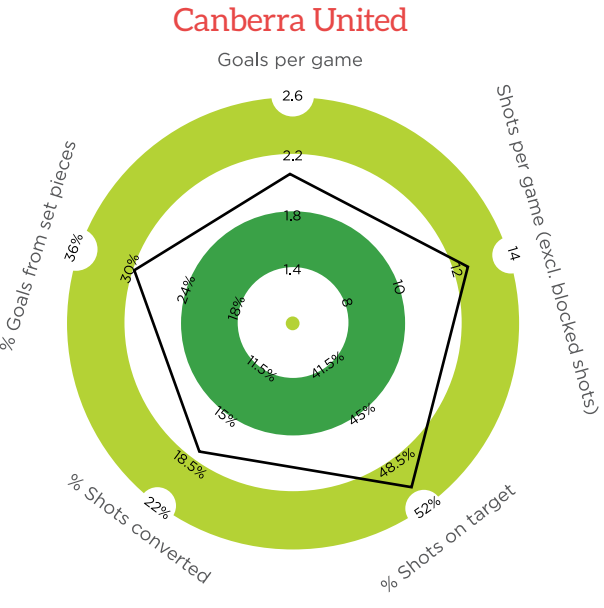
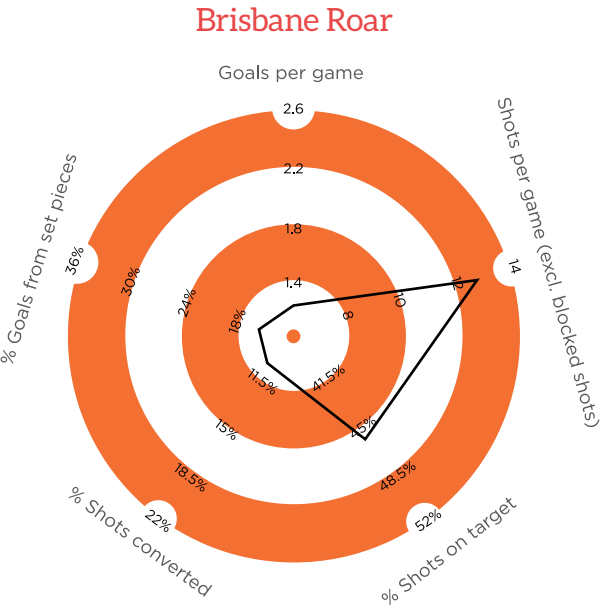
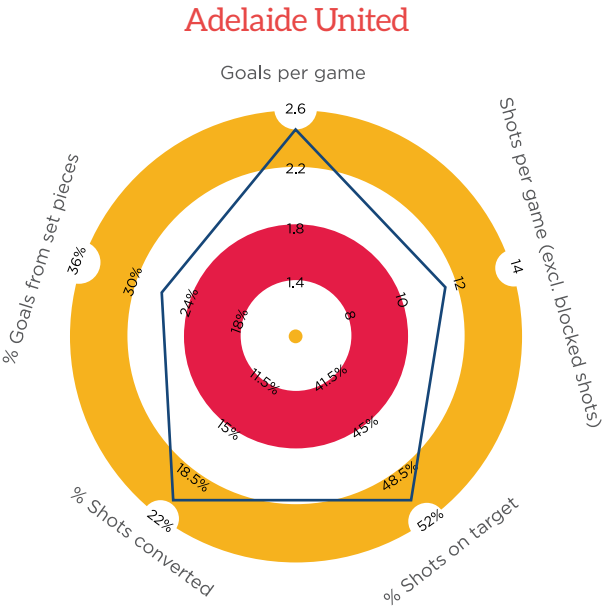
TECHNICAL REPORT

ABOUT THE PFA W-LEAGUE TECHNICAL REPORT

This report identifies tactical, technical and statistical trends for the 2016/17 W-League season, which is the first season covered by Opta data. The PFA believes a better informed game leads to more impactful football education, analysis and decision-making.



Scoring | club by club



Passing and possession league averages

Total passes per match:

745.14



% Passes completed:

69.1%



% Passes long:

17.8%



% Passes forward:

42.4%

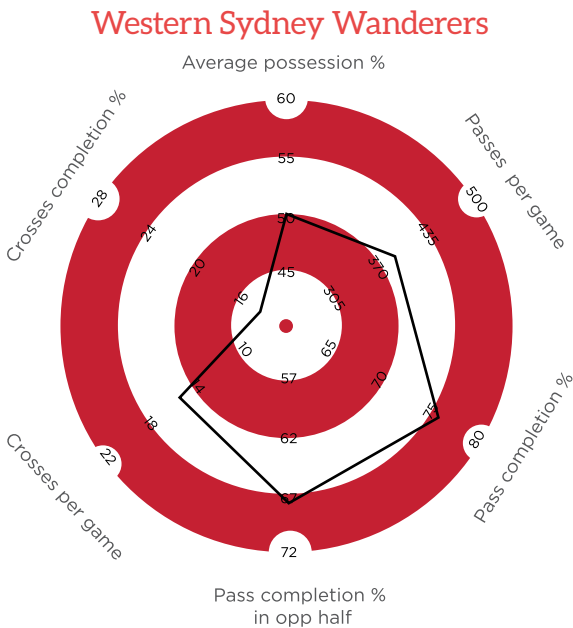
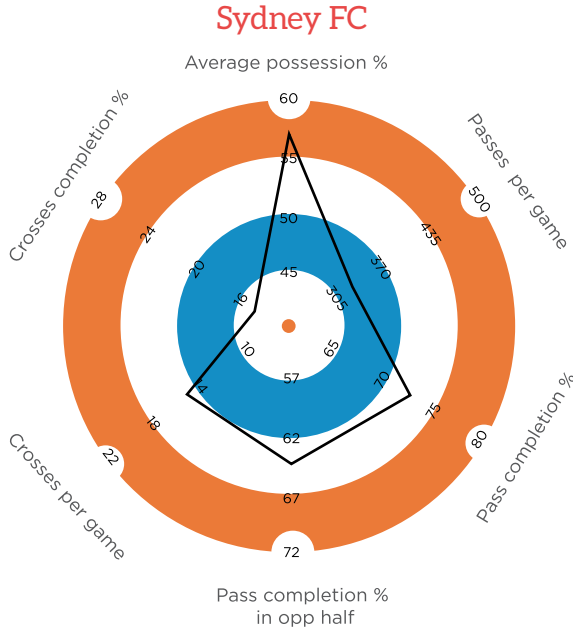
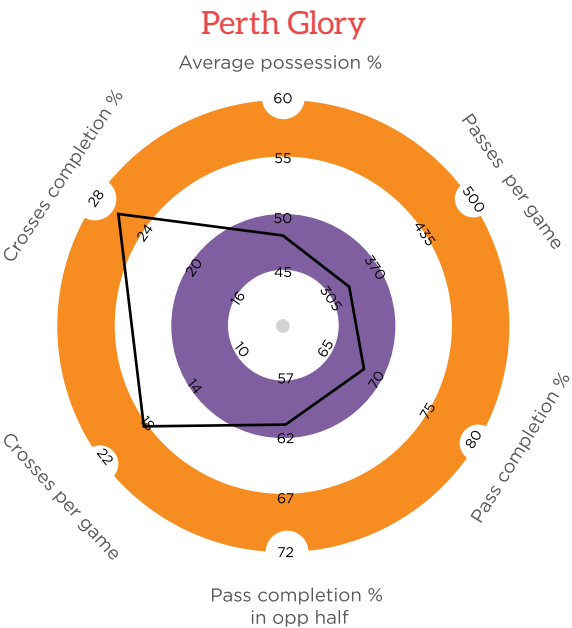
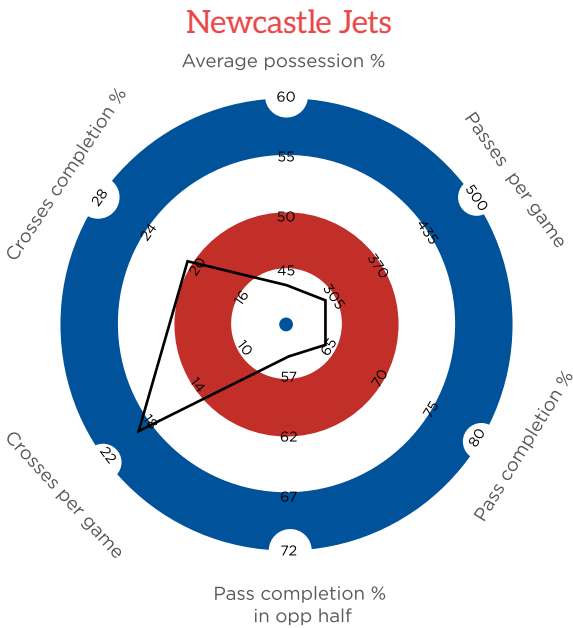
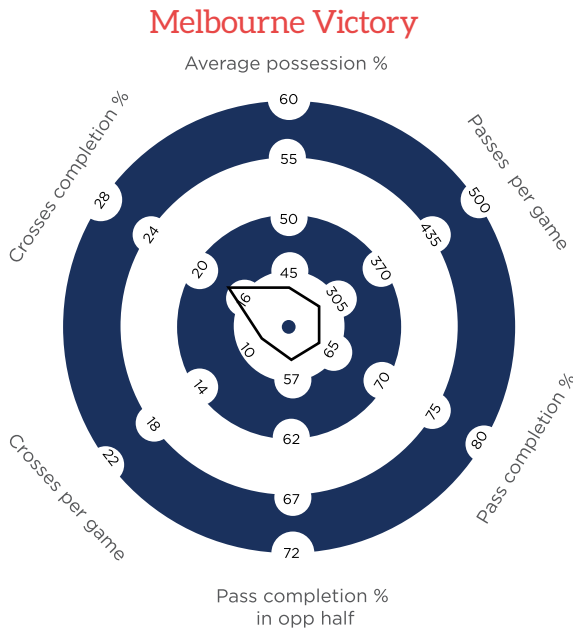
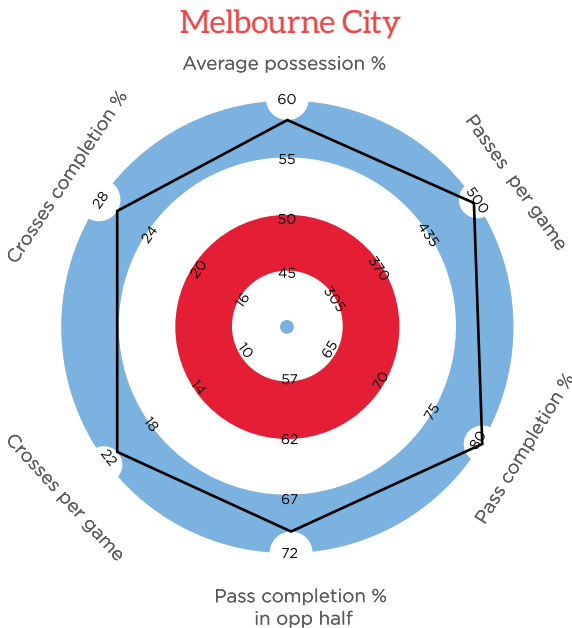
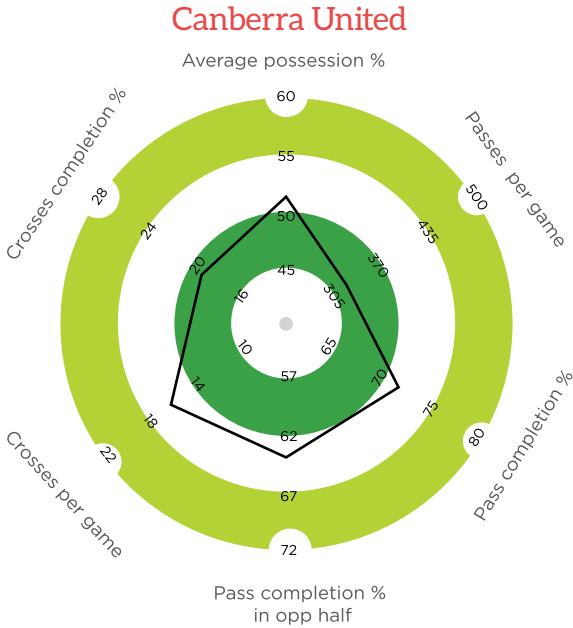
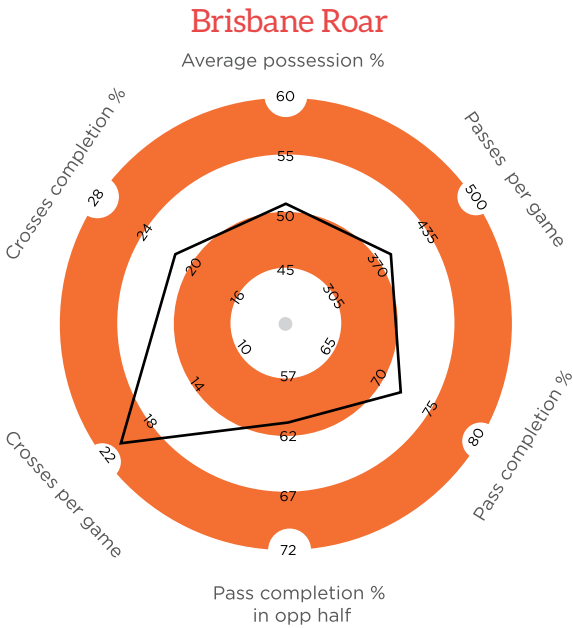
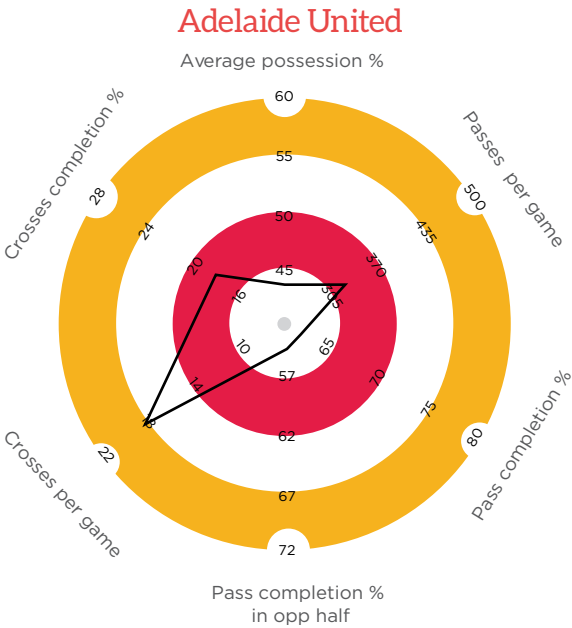


% Passes in opposition half:

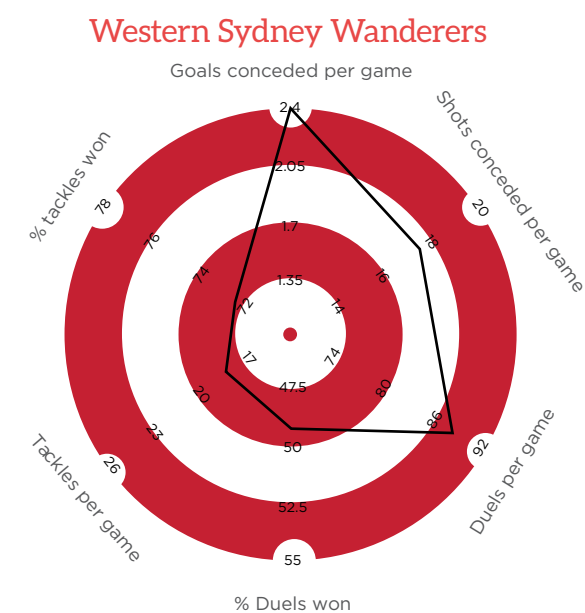
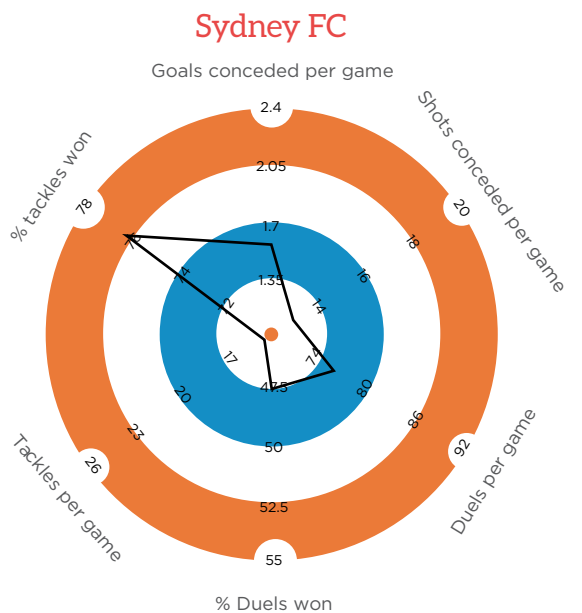
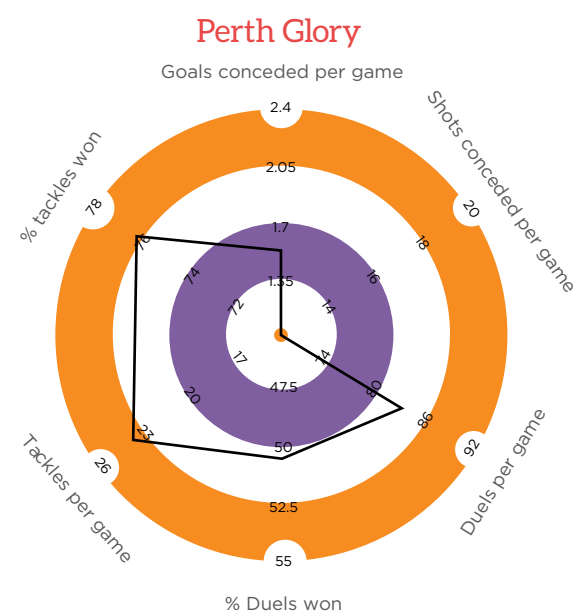
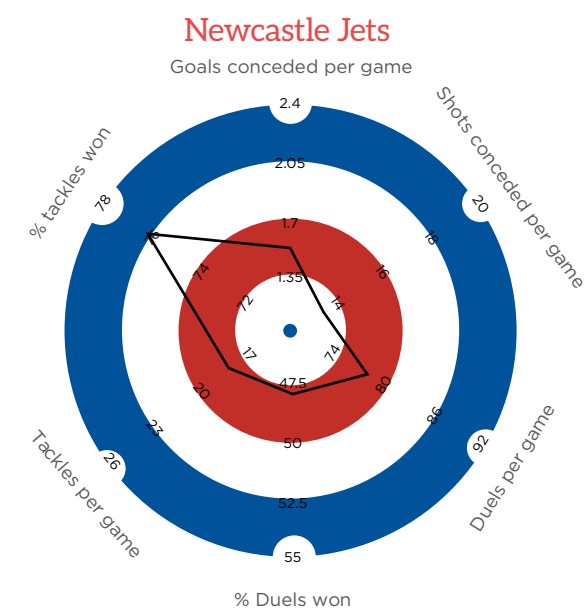
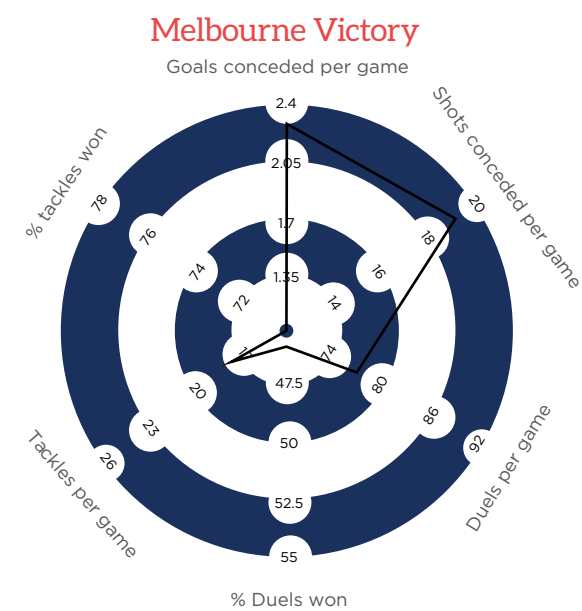
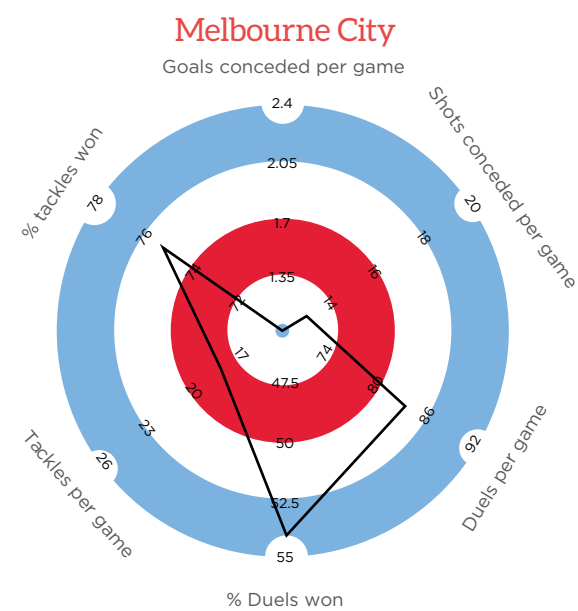
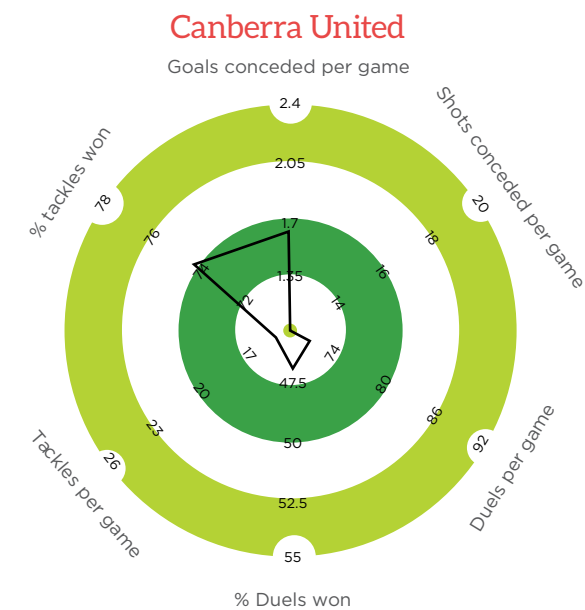
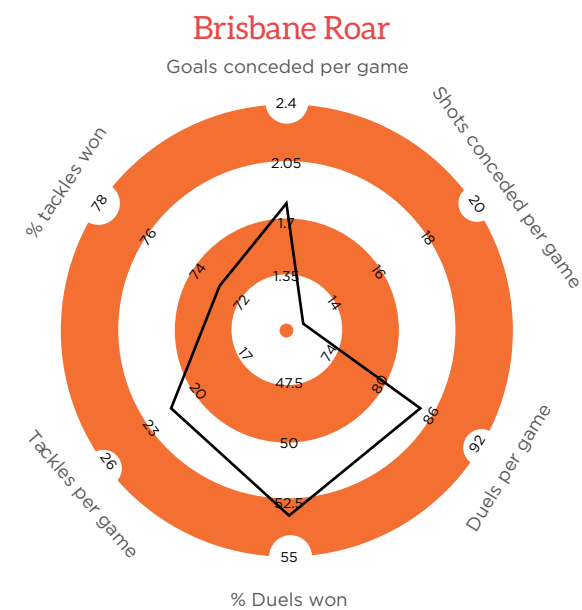
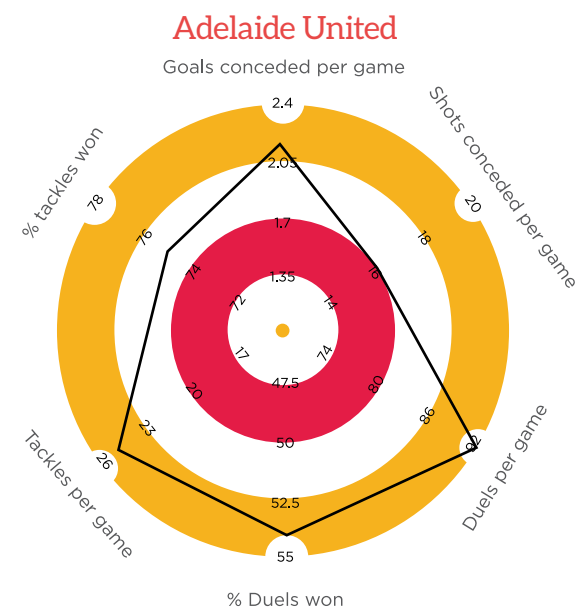
50.9%



Passing and possession | club by club



Defending | club by club



Refereeing – league averages



19.2

Fouls per match



0.4

Penalties per match



3.33

Yellows cards per match



8.44










Fouls per yellow card



0.09

Reds per match

Discipline

									
Fouls per game	11.3	11.7	8.2	7.5	9.8	10	10.4	9	8.1
Yellow Cards	7	17	12	10	15	12	17	16	17
Red Cards	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0



INJURY REPORT

ABOUT THE PFA W-LEAGUE INJURY REPORT

Established in 2013, and now in its 4th edition, the PFA W-League Injury Report is a fundamental tool in the PFA's efforts to ensure the health and safety of its members through the constant monitoring of the occurrence of injury. The information contained within this report describes the latest trends of injury occurrence in the W-League and identifies potential injury patterns. The findings of the report are utilised to inform the PFA's discussions with the game's stakeholders regarding the measures and regulations necessary to ensure the health and safety of the players.

The report will play a significant role in forming the foundations for the implementation of the Minimum Medical Standards, to be incorporated into a W-League Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the PFA and Football Federation Australia (FFA).

Methodology

During the 2016/17 W-League season, the PFA collected and recorded the occurrence of all injuries causing players to miss matches.

The PFA Injury Report was formulated from publicly available injury data accessible through the following key sources:



During the 2016/17 W-League Season (excluding the W-League Finals Series), the PFA monitored all players (N = 187) of all clubs.

The collection of the data included:



in a player being unable to take part in, at a minimum, the player's next official W-League game." Based on the data collected about injury occurrence and related games missed, descriptive analyses were conducted.

Important Note: The accuracy of the PFA W-League Injury Report's results and analysis is dependent upon the accuracy of the sources of information from which it is derived. Accordingly, the PFA does not warrant that the results are an exact and complete record of player injuries. They are, however, an accurate summation of the publicly available information provided by FFA and club sources.

In this report, injury is defined as "any physical complaint sustained during a competitive game or training that resulted

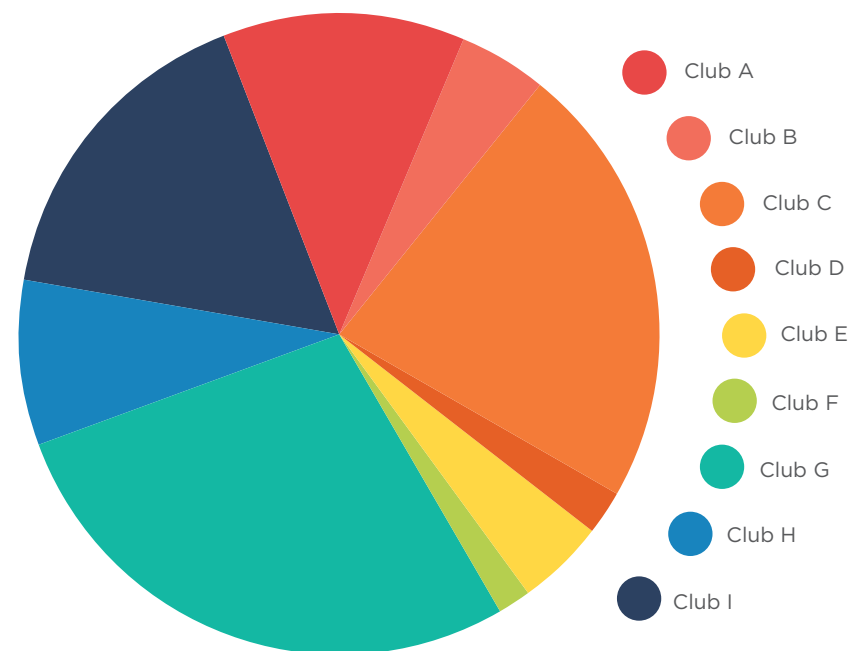
This report does not include injuries players received while playing for the Australian National Women's Team.

INJURY REPORT CONTINUED...

2016/17 W-League season overview



Club-by-club breakdown of matches missed through injury



Location of injuries

Total

130 matches missed
35 injuries



Games missed as a result of quadricep and hamstring injuries **have risen by 43%** compared to the previous season

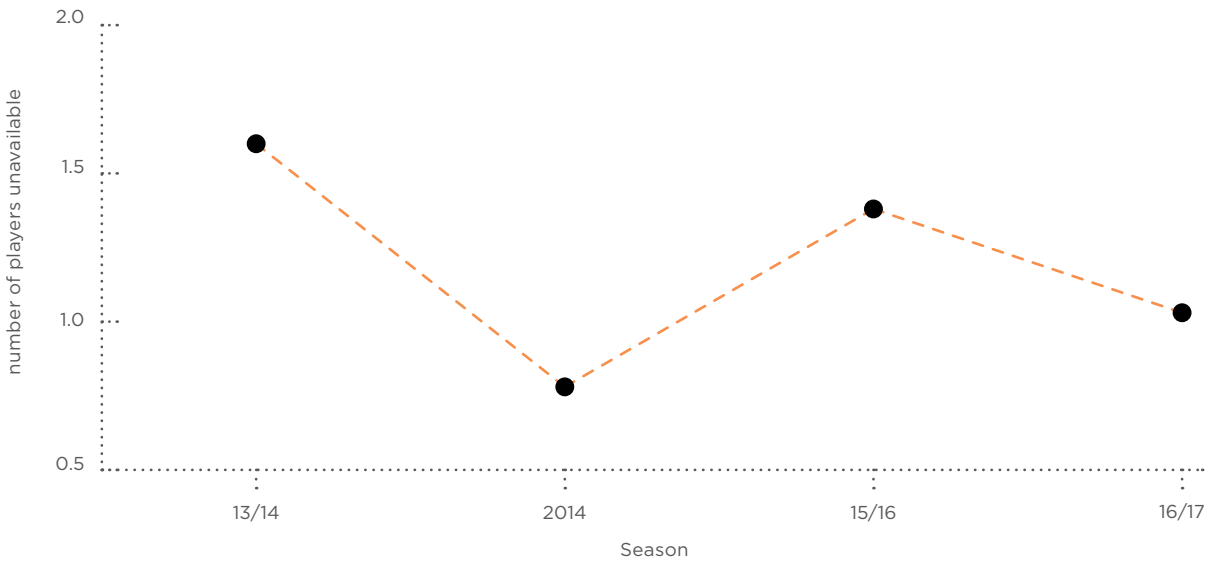
INJURY REPORT CONTINUED...

Number of injuries
comparison to previous seasons

W-League Season	Number of Injuries
13/14	42
2014	29
15/16	46
16/17	35

Note: *13/14 & 2014 W-League Season calculations based on 8 teams and 12 games
*15/16 & 16/17 W-League Season calculations based on 9 teams and 12 games

Average number of players unavailable each
match per club due to injury



Note: *13/14 & 2014 W-League Season calculations based on 8 teams and 12 games
*15/16 & 16/17 W-League Season calculations based on 9 teams and 12 games

Comparison of the W-League to the A-League

League	Average number of matches missed per injury	Average number of players used per team	Average % of players unavailable each week per club due to injury	% of matches missed due to knee injuries	% of matches missed due to hamstring injuries
A-League 2016/17	4.29	25.9	9.65%	30.19%	16.03%
W-League 2015/16	3.7	20.7	1.03%	14.4%	14.4%
W-League 2016/17	3.8	20.1	1.38%	19.6%	10.9%





RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the past three editions of the PFA W-League Injury Report, scientific knowledge and the PFA's experience gathered through a decade of A-League injury reporting, several recommendations must be considered in order to protect players' health and safety in future W-League seasons:

- A healthy and safe working (training and competition) environment should be prioritised in all Clubs, especially those where Players are not exposed to a consistent standard/type of training and playing surfaces;
- Introduction of Minimum Medical Standards through a W-League collective bargaining agreement, which has been shown effective in the A-League for the reduction of musculoskeletal injuries;
- Introduction of a pre and post-competition medical assessment for all Players. Assessments should be the same from one club to another;
- A more consistent approach to the number of pitches the Players are required to perform on; and
- A proper balance between the domestic competition schedule and the international competition schedule in order to avoid game congestion and overload.

Recommendations made by FIFPro, the world players' association, Chief Medical Officer Vincent Goutteborge.

PROPOSED W-LEAGUE MINIMUM MEDICAL STANDARDS

The PFA proposes the introduction of the following W-League Minimum Medical Standards.



Medical testing

Prior to the commencement and after the completion of each season, each Club shall complete a Medical Assessment (incorporating the Lausanne Recommendations or equivalent) on all Players in their squad.



Club physician

Each Club will have a certified specialist sports physician.



Club physiotherapist

Each Club shall have a registered physiotherapist available to Players immediately prior to and after training and at all matches.



Club trainers

All trainers shall hold a Sports Trainer Level 2 certification from Sports Medicine Australia or a tertiary qualification in Sports Conditioning.



Club medical records

Club doctors, physiotherapists, and trainers shall keep accurate records of Players' injuries, illnesses, physical complaints, diagnostic tests, medical advice provided and treatment.



Player's right to a surgeon of her choice

A Player will have the right to choose the surgeon who will perform surgery provided that: (a) if possible, the Player will consult with the Club physician, and (b) the Player will give due consideration to the Club physician's recommendations.



Player's right to a second opinion.

A Player will have the right to a second medical opinion by a medical practitioner of her choosing.



STADIUM RATINGS

ABOUT THE PFA W-LEAGUE STADIUM RATINGS

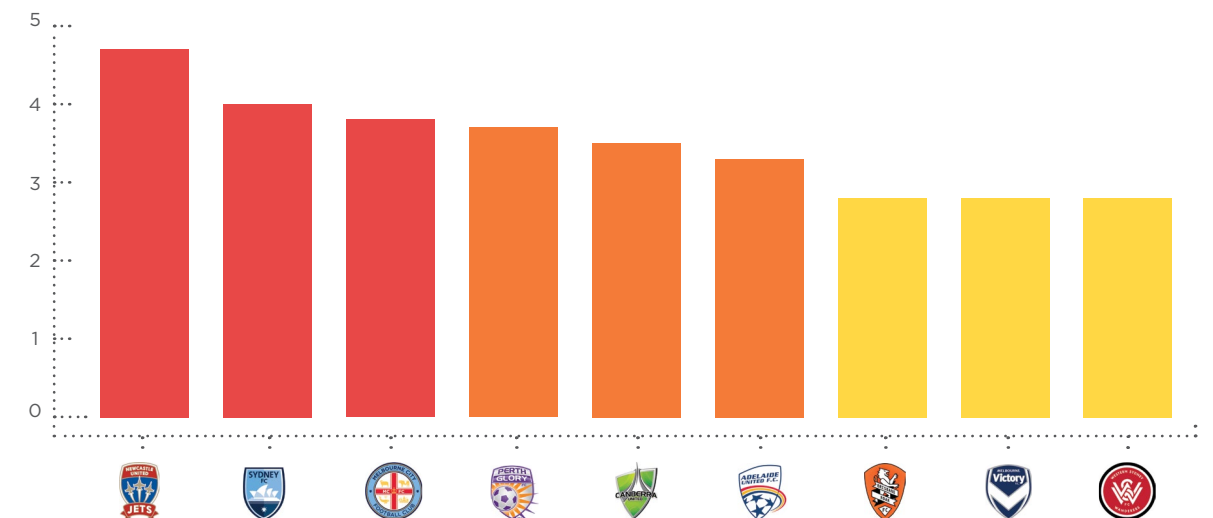
In 2014 the PFA introduced the PFA W-League Stadium Ratings System. Designed to measure the quality of football pitches on match day across the W-League, it measures four key criteria of the playing surface: overall quality, hardness, pace and smoothness. Additionally, it recognises fans as a key pillar for the growth of the W-League. The facilities provided to the players are also recognised as an integral part of the players' match day experience.

The PFA W-League Stadium Ratings are voted on by selected players at the end of each match, who rate each criteria from one to five, with five being the highest.

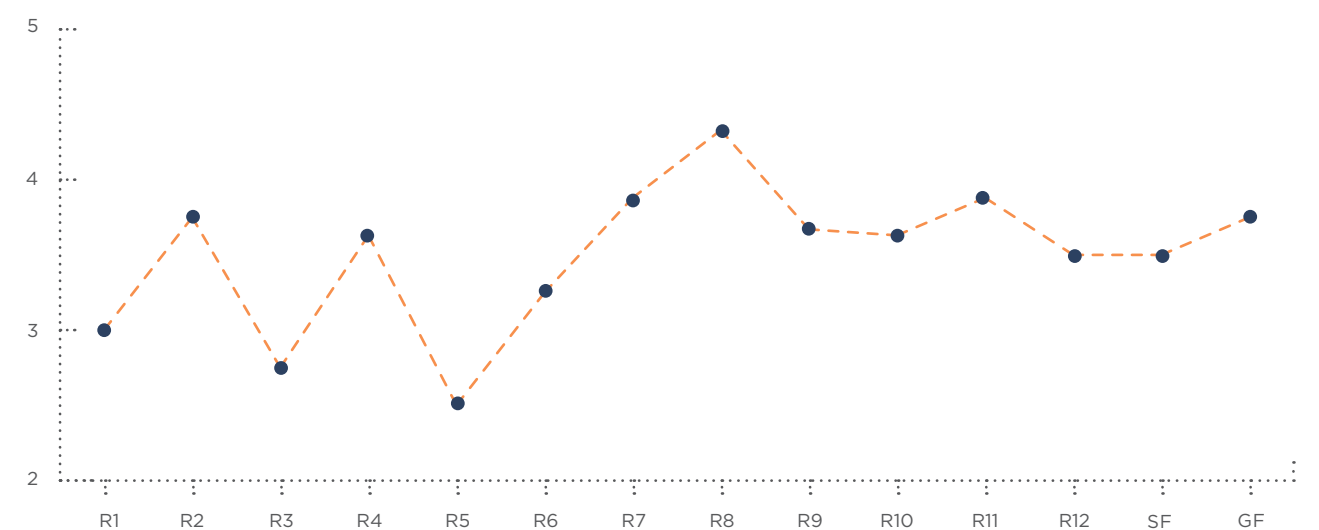
Due to Clubs having numerous home pitches, the data has been averaged to provide a Club rating for pitch quality, atmosphere, player facilities and overall rating.

PFA W-LEAGUE PITCH RATINGS

Club averages 2016/17



Weekly average pitch rating 2016/17

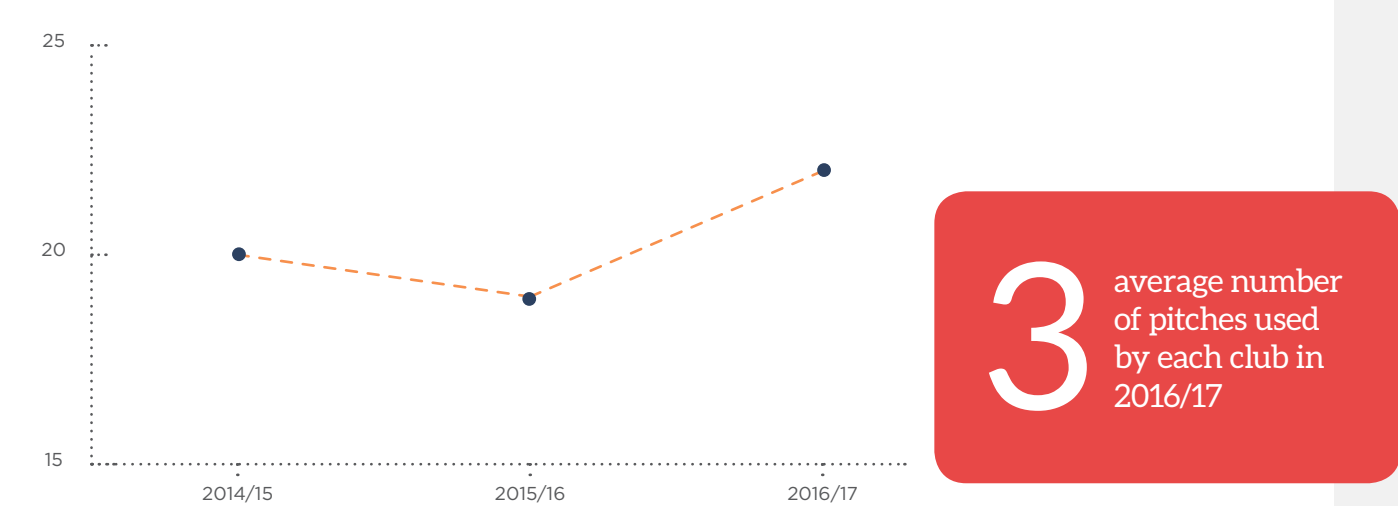


R5 - Lakeside Stadium and A. J. Kelly Field rating: 2
R12 - McDonald Jones Stadium rating: 5



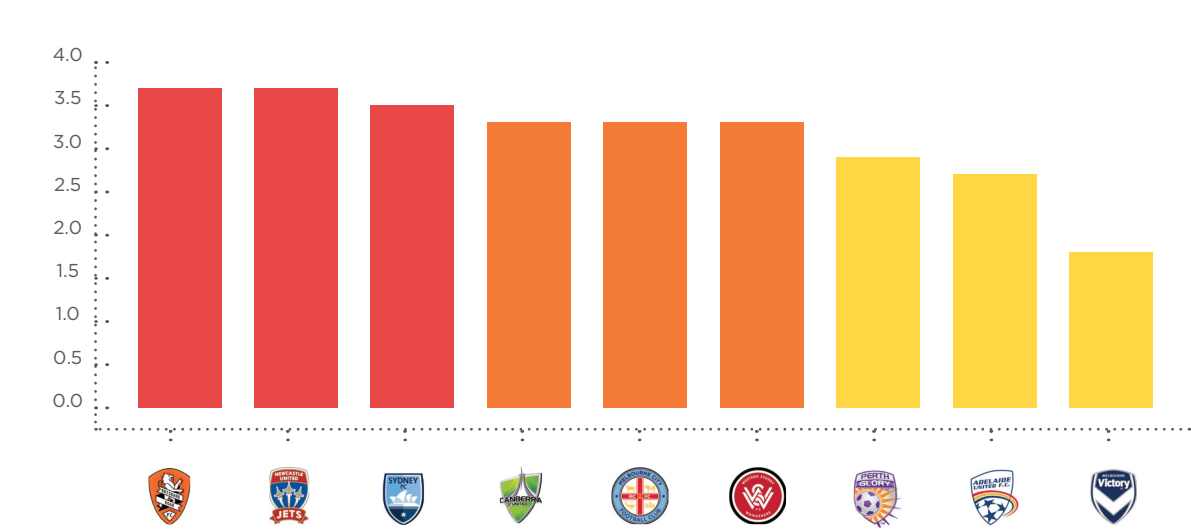
PFA W-LEAGUE PITCH RATINGS

Number of pitches used season by season comparison



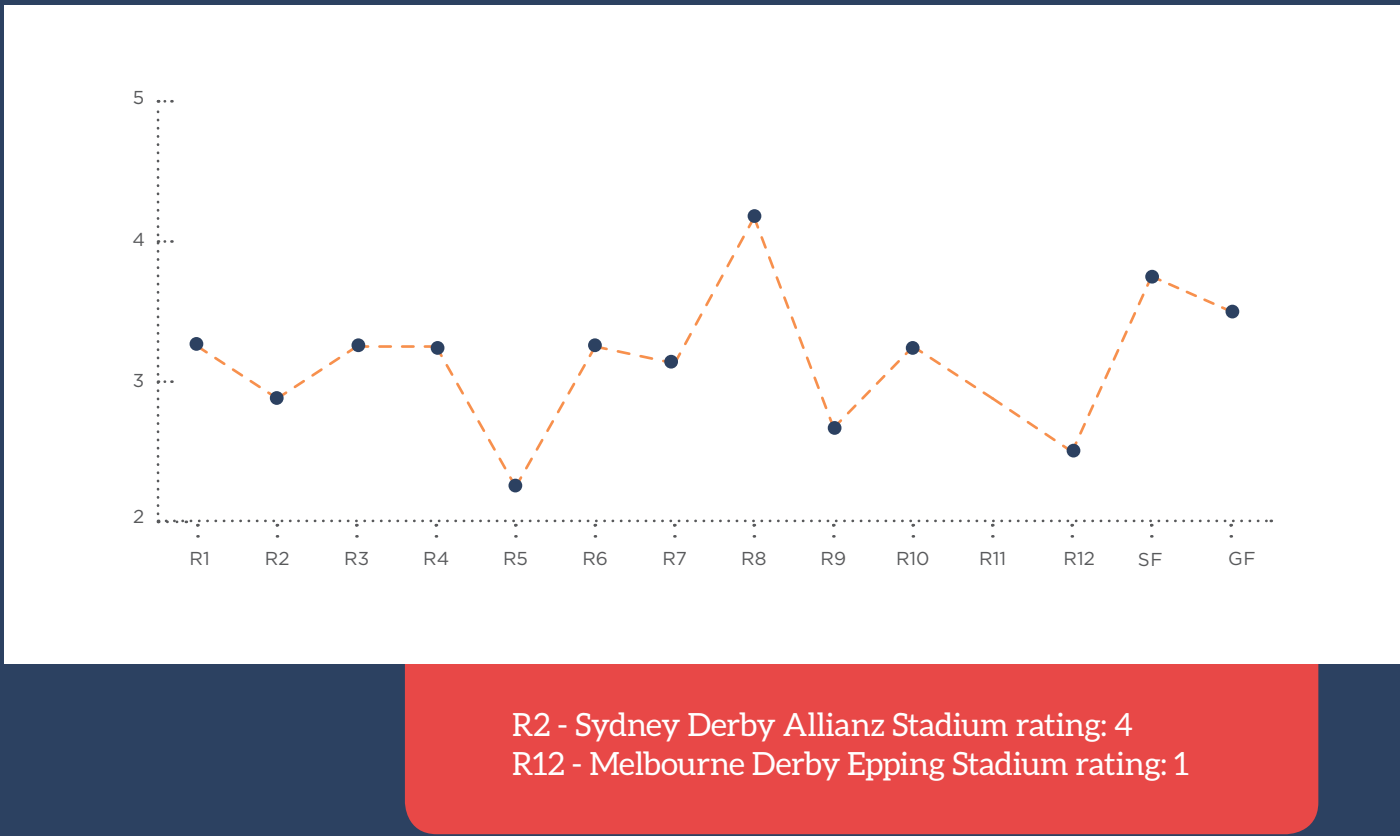
PFA W-LEAGUE ATMOSPHERE RATINGS

Overall average 2016/17

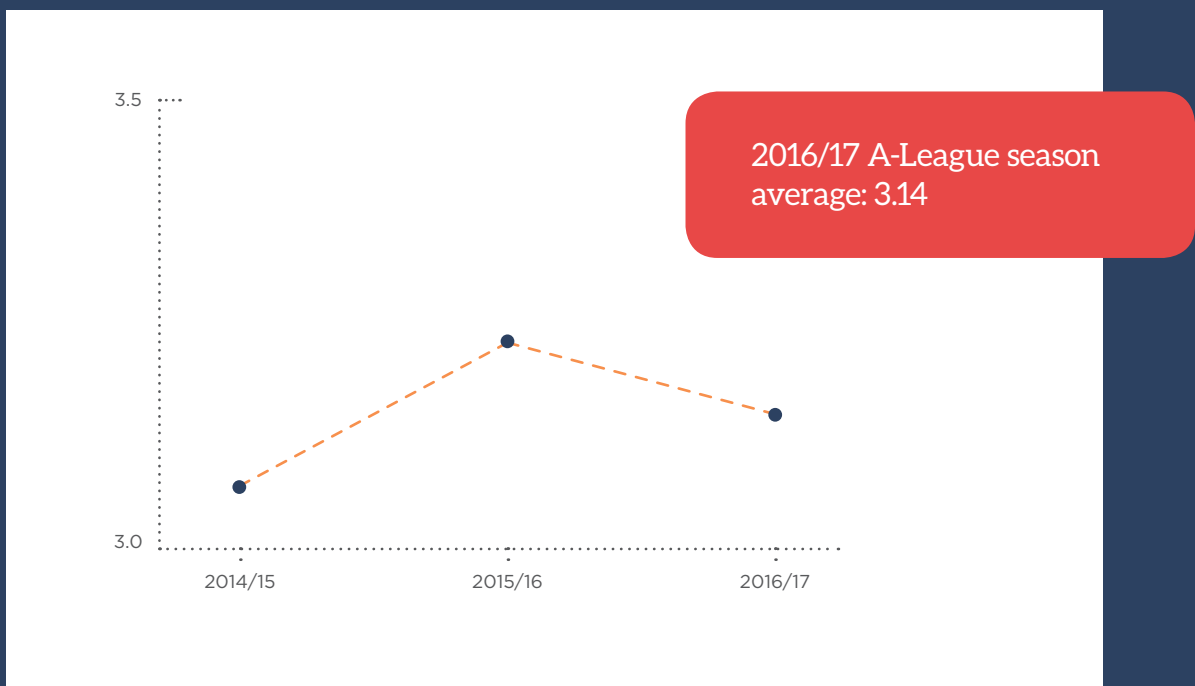


PFA W-LEAGUE ATMOSPHERE RATINGS

Weekly average atmosphere rating for 2016/17

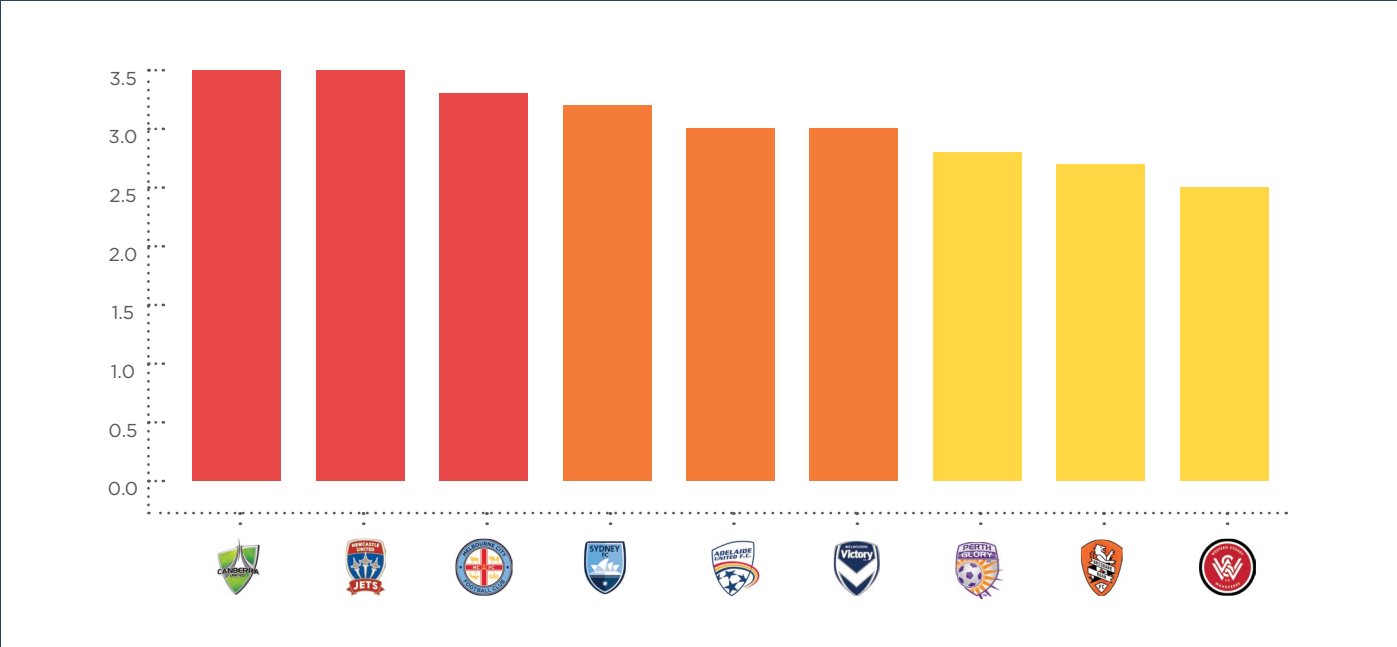


Atmosphere rating season by season comparison



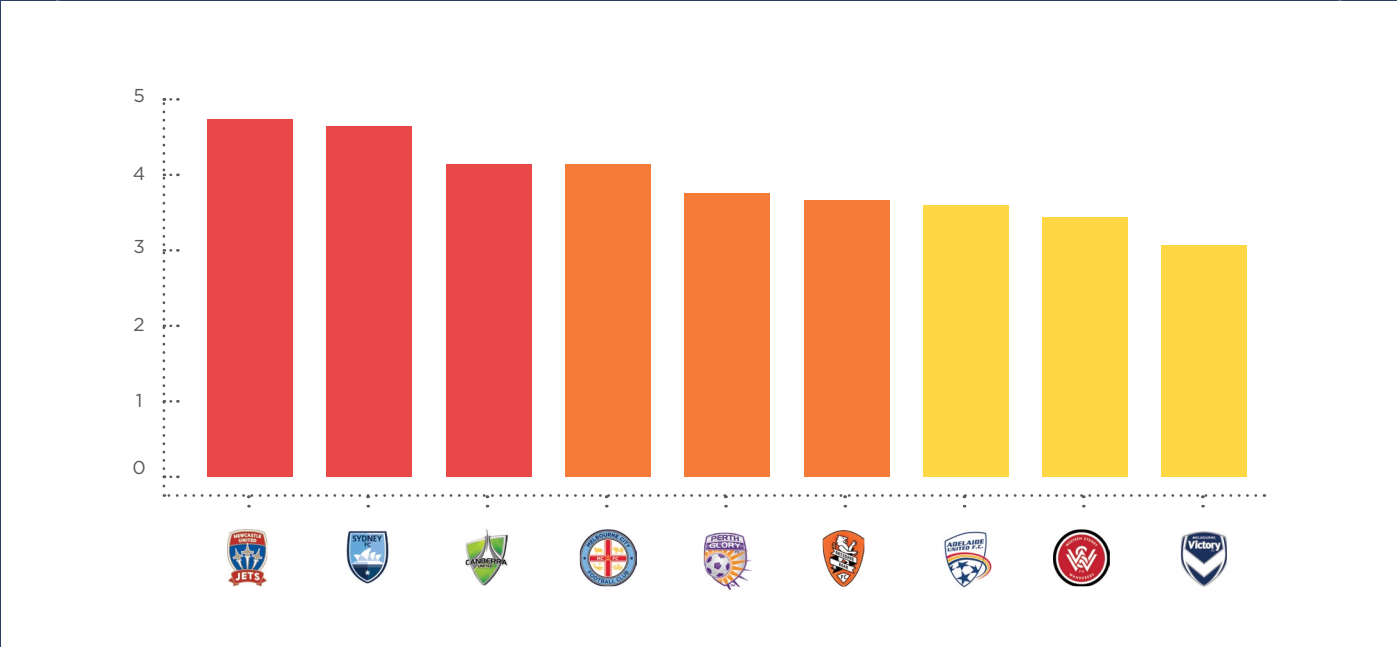
PFA W-LEAGUE FACILITY RATINGS

Club averages 2016/17



PFA W-LEAGUE OVERALL CLUB RATINGS

Club averages 2016/17





C O U R A G E
W O R L D C L A S S
I N T E L L I G E N C E
T R U S T
R E S P E C T



Professional Footballers Australia Inc.

221/757 Bourke Street, Docklands, Victoria, 3008,

Email: info@pfa.net.au

Tel: 1300 650 497

