

MEDIA RELEASE
10 AUGUST, 2011

DUBAI'S AL-AHLI TO HOLD CAMP IN PERTH

United Arab Emirates' Football League giants Al-Ahli Club will be based in Perth over the next two weeks for their pre-season camp in preparation for the 2011/12 season.

The Dubai-based team will take on a number of All Flags State Premier League teams, Football West's National Training Centre team, as well as both Perth Glory's youth and senior squads during their stay.

Football West Chief Executive Peter Hugg said: "As always it is a pleasure to welcome visiting teams to our shores and we are pleased that Al-Ahli has seen fit to choose Perth as the base for their preparations."

In a meeting with club officials and their Director of Sport, former Celtic and Scottish great, Roy Aitken, the objectives of the preparatory camp were explained to Hugg.

"They essentially wanted a safe and comfortable environment where they would feel welcome, one that was in relatively close proximity in terms of flying time and where they could play some quality opposition," said Hugg.

"The other determining factor was that they wanted somewhere which was compatible with their Ramadan requirements, whereby players fast during daylight hours.

"Europe and the longer northern hemisphere days proved problematic and it is hoped that this tour is successful enough for other Middle Eastern teams to consider Perth and Western Australia as a potential training base in the future."

Al-Ahli's first match is against ECU Joondalup later tonight and coach Syd Amphlett is looking forward to the challenge.

"It's a great opportunity for us to play them on their pre-season training camp in WA," he said.

"Our club has a great reputation around the world, as we have had players playing in the top leagues in Europe who have come through our academy, and with the way things are going we expect the new Asian market will only get bigger for WA players."

All of the matches will be played at AK Reserve in Mount Claremont, and in respect of their dietary requirements, matches will kick off slightly later than normal at 8.15pm.

Al-Ahli Club Perth Camp Schedule – further updates will be made continually

Wednesday 10 August

Al-Ahli Club v ECU Joondalup – Entry is free

Sunday 14 August

Al-Ahli Club v NTC Select – Entry is free



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Wednesday 17 August

Al-Ahli Club v Balcatta Soccer Club – Entry is free

Sunday 21 August

Al-Ahli Club v Perth Glory Youth

Wednesday 24 August

Al-Ahli Club v Perth Glory

-ENDS-