

MEDIA RELEASE
3 FEBRUARY, 2011

BRAD HASSELL APPOINTED SKILLS ACQUISITION COACH

Former Australian Youth representative Perth Glory player Brad Hassall has been appointed to be the FFA Skills Acquisition Coach in Western Australia as part of the continued progress towards implementing the National Curriculum.

Most recently the coach of local All Flags State Premier League Club Armadale, Hassell also represented Australia seven times at the Under 23 Olyroo level as well as playing for the Australian Schoolboys in 1991.

He is almost a 300 game veteran of the A-League's predecessor, the National Soccer League (NSL), and was a member of three NSL Championship winning teams - Adelaide City in 1992/94 and Perth Glory (2002/03 and 2003/04). Locally he won the State Premier League in 2006 playing for Sorrento.

The Skill Acquisition Program (SAP) is a nationwide joint initiative of the FFA and member federations, such as Football West, and is supported by the Johnny Warren Football Foundation - named after Captain Socceroo, the late great Johnny Warren.

The objective of the SAP is to identify and assemble the most talented 9-13 year old boys and girls in Australia in order to teach them perfect functional game skills, and to provide them with the necessary technical tools to be able to play the game at the high possible level in years to come.

In presenting the Skill Acquisition Program to member federations recently, National Technical Director Han Berger stated: "The SAP initiative will be decisive for the future development of football in Australia."

"It is easy to produce big statements like 'becoming a world leader of the world game', but if we are really serious about achieving these lofty objectives, we must start implementing the SAP today in order to produce the necessary changes and improvements in time."

Football West Chief Executive Peter Hugg commented: "Football West is committed to supporting and implementing the National Curriculum and commends the FFA on their choice of Brad - a former Perth Glory and State League player who has gone on to be part of the All Flags State League coaching network and now finds himself part of the national network of FFA coaches charged with developing our future Socceroos and Matildas. It goes without saying that we congratulate Brad on his appointment."

Hassell will commence with Football West in mid-February and one of his first tasks will be to travel to Sydney and join his other SAP colleagues from other member federations, where they will all be briefed on the roll out and implementation of the program nationwide.

-ENDS-

