



Lion City Sailors Sign Farhan Zulkifli as Anderson Lopes Heads to Vissel Kobe

Description

The **Lion City Sailors** have announced a double transfer headline ahead of the new Singapore Premier League season: **Farhan Zulkifli** joins as a new signing, while prolific Brazilian striker Anderson Lopes departs for Japanese J-League side Vissel Kobe. The back-to-back moves signal a purposeful squad refresh as the Sailors look to defend their SPL title and push deeper into the AFC Cup.

Lion City Sailors Farhan Zulkifli: A Singapore International Comes Home

Farhan Zulkifli needs no introduction to Singaporean football supporters. The dynamic attacking midfielder has been one of the most consistent performers in the domestic game for several seasons, earning a string of national team call-ups and cementing himself as a core figure in the Singapore Lions setup. His technical quality on the ball, intelligent movement between the lines and ability to unlock compact defences make him an ideal fit for the Sailors's possession-based approach.

Landing Farhan represents a genuine statement of ambition from the club. The coaching staff have identified him as a player capable of elevating the team's creativity in the final third - someone who can combine the reliability of domestic experience with the imagination needed to unlock SPL defences at the highest level. For a club that has consistently backed Singaporean talent, this signing carries particular resonance with the fanbase.



Farhan Zulkifli pictured in his new Lion City Sailors kit after officially joining the SPL champions.

Anderson Lopes: Farewell to an SPL Legend

It is the end of a golden chapter at Mattar Road. Anderson Lopes, who became one of the most feared strikers in Southeast Asian club football during his time with the Sailors, has completed his move to Vissel Kobe. The Brazilian's goal return was extraordinary by any measure – few players in SPL history have combined his physicality, clever movement and clinical finishing instinct in quite the same way.

Lopes departs with the full gratitude of the club and its supporters. His contribution to the Sailors' trophy-winning campaigns was immense. The move to the J-League – where he will face international-calibre opposition week in, week out – is a richly deserved next chapter for one of the region's most compelling strikers. Vissel Kobe, a club with a strong tradition of attracting marquee talent, will be getting one of Southeast Asia's most reliable goalscorers.



The Lion City Sailors pay tribute to Anderson Lopes as the Brazilian striker heads to Vissel Kobe in Japan.

What These Moves Mean for the Season Ahead

The dual announcement sends a clear signal: the Lion City Sailors are building for the long term rather than standing still. Replacing a striker of Anderson Lopes' calibre is never simple, and the coaching staff will be mindful of the goalscoring burden now carried by the remaining forwards. Farhan's arrival adds a different dimension – his creativity and ability to play off the front allows the Sailors to press higher and construct attacks through a more fluid structure.

With the SPL season approaching and AFC Cup ambitions firmly on the radar, these moves point to a campaign on multiple fronts. Our [Singapore Premier League 2026-27 season preview](#) breaks down how the title race is shaping up across the division. Several Sailors players are also in contention for [Singapore Lions ASEAN Hyundai Cup duty](#) as international commitments build on the horizon.

Follow all the latest from the Lion City Sailors and the Singapore Premier League on the [Little Big Red Dot Sports](#) page.

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