



Singapore Lions in Group A: What to Expect at the ASEAN Hyundai Cup 2026

Description

The wait is nearly over. When the ASEAN Hyundai Cup 2026 gets under way later this month, Singapore's Lions will face the region's finest sides in a Group A that is both competitive and full of intrigue. Head coach Gavin Lee has named his squad, the draw has been made, and the fixtures are locked in. Here is everything Singapore football fans need to know about the Lions' campaign ahead.



Group A ??? A Formidable Challenge

Singapore have been drawn in Group A alongside Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Timor-Leste. The headline name is Vietnam ??? the defending ASEAN Championship champions ??? who arrive as

heavy favourites to top the group. They are well-organised, technically accomplished, and deeply motivated to retain the regional crown they won in their most recent campaign.

Indonesia are the second major challenge. The Garuda have made significant strides as a footballing nation in recent years and will be approaching this tournament with genuine ambitions of their own. Finishing above Indonesia or Vietnam – or ideally both – would represent a major statement for the Lions. Cambodia and Timor-Leste provide different tests, but no match in a tournament group stage should be treated as a foregone conclusion. Results against the lower-ranked sides could prove pivotal in the final group standings.

The Fixtures

Singapore's group stage campaign begins away from home. Their opener on 24 July takes them to face Cambodia – a match they will be expected to win but must approach with the right professionalism. Then comes the most demanding test of the group stage: on 31 July, they travel to face defending champions Vietnam. It is the kind of fixture that can define a campaign. A positive result – a win or even a determined draw – would put Singapore in an excellent position heading into the final group game.

That final group fixture, on 7 August, brings Indonesia to Singapore. A home match against a strong Indonesian side, with the full support of the Jalan Besar crowd, could be the match that determines qualification. The schedule is demanding but manageable – and the Lions will know that how they perform in the away fixtures will set the tone for everything that follows.



Squad News and Preparations

Gavin Lee had initially named a 24-man squad for the centralised training camp, but suffered a setback on 3 July when Irfan Najeeb was ruled out through injury. The preparation process has been thorough:

the Lions recently departed for a training camp in Okinawa, Japan, as part of their [pre-tournament build-up in Japan](#). The camp is designed to sharpen fitness, build team cohesion, and ensure the squad arrives at the tournament in peak condition.

The June international friendlies provided Gavin Lee with valuable preparation data. The Lions showed genuine character in holding their own against China PR – a nation ranked many places above them – before completing their warm-up programme with a match against Mongolia. Those games will have given the coaching staff important insights into their best starting XI and tactical shape heading into the tournament.

What Singapore Need to Do

The Lions' priority is clear: qualify from Group A. With Vietnam the likely group winners, Singapore need to secure a top-two or top-three finish – the exact qualification criteria will determine the precise target. Against Cambodia, anything other than a win would be a setback. Against Vietnam, a draw would be a genuinely strong result. And the home match against Indonesia, in front of a passionate Singapore crowd, is both the greatest opportunity and the greatest pressure point of the group stage.

This is a genuinely exciting period for Singapore football at large. Between the Lions' campaign and the [activity at club level with the Lion City Sailors](#), there is plenty of reason for optimism. The ASEAN Hyundai Cup 2026 is the Lions' biggest stage this year – and Group A awaits with every reason to believe they can make Singapore proud.

- **24 July 2026** – Singapore vs Cambodia (Away)
- **31 July 2026** – Singapore vs Vietnam (Away)
- **7 August 2026** – Singapore vs Indonesia (Home, Jalan Besar Stadium)

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