



Singapore Lions Friendlies: Mongolia And China PR At Jalan Besar

Description

Singapore Lions friendlies are back on the calendar with confirmation that Gavin Lee's side will host Mongolia and China PR in two international fixtures at the Jalan Besar Stadium. The Football Association of Singapore made the announcement on 6 May 2026, with tickets going on general sale at 11am on Monday 11 May 2026. Both matches form part of the Lions' Road to Riyadh - their preparation for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 finals in Saudi Arabia.

Source: Football Association of Singapore official website (fas.org.sg)

Singapore Lions Friendlies: Two Tests At Jalan Besar

The fixtures pit the Lions against opponents from very different points of the FIFA ranking ladder. Singapore are currently 147th in the world, with Mongolia 187th and China PR a far loftier 94th. The first match against Mongolia serves as a lead-in to the June FIFA international window. The second, against China PR, falls inside the window itself and offers a far stiffer challenge against a top-100 nation.

Head coach Gavin Lee guided Singapore to qualification for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 finals at the start of this year on the back of an unbeaten qualifying campaign - a remarkable achievement for a side that has not played at the continent's top table since 1984. The two friendlies will be his first chance to fine-tune the squad ahead of the next round of competitive action later in 2026.

What The Schedule Means

For Lee, the timing is deliberate. Mongolia, sitting below Singapore in the rankings, is the kind of opposition where the Lions should expect to be on the front foot for long stretches. That is exactly the scenario Singapore have struggled to impose themselves in historically. China PR, by contrast, will likely come to Jalan Besar with the ball, putting Singapore's defensive shape and counter-attacking discipline to the test.

Players to watch include captain Hariss Harun, the ever-reliable Hassan Sunny in goal, prolific striker Ikhsan Fandi and rising Lion City Sailors midfielder Hami Syahin. The squad will likely also include Albirex Niigata (S) prospects who have impressed in the Singapore Premier League this season.



Source: Football Association of Singapore official website (fas.org.sg)

Tickets, Venue And Fan Information

The FAS confirmed that tickets for both Singapore Lions friendlies will go on sale to the general public from 11am on Monday 11 May 2026. Pricing tiers and exact match dates will be released through the FAS's official channels and ticket partner Sistic. Jalan Besar Stadium has a capacity of around 6,000 – supporters who want to be there in person are likely to need to act quickly given how strongly attendances have rebounded post-Asian Cup qualification.

The choice of Jalan Besar over the National Stadium is, according to FAS sources, deliberate. Smaller venues create a more intense home atmosphere, and the Lions' recent run of results suggests the stadium effect is working. The home unbeaten run during qualifying went a long way towards securing that historic Asian Cup berth.

The Bigger Picture: Road To Riyadh

The AFC Asian Cup 2027 will be staged in Saudi Arabia and is the most prestigious continental tournament Singapore have qualified for in over four decades. Lee has spoken about wanting to use every available window between now and then for – controlled exposure – picking opponents that offer different tactical problems rather than easy results.

Mongolia represent a press-and-dominate test. China PR, with their improving Italian-coached structure under Vladimir Petkovic, will be a far more sophisticated counter-pressing side. Putting both back-to-back at Jalan Besar gives the Lions' coaching staff invaluable comparative data.

Singapore Lions Friendlies: What Success Looks Like

The numbers will matter, but they are not the only measure. Against Mongolia, Lee will want to see a performance that shows the Lions can break down a deep, organised low block – a recurring weakness in past years. Against China PR, the test is the opposite: can Singapore stay compact, soak up pressure for stretches and exploit transitions through Ikhsan Fandi and the wide men?

A win and a draw across the two fixtures would be an excellent return. A win and a narrow loss would still be acceptable, particularly if performance levels mirror the recent qualifying run. The bigger objective is squad development – getting minutes into players who will need to be ready for the bigger stage in early 2027.

Watch Out For New Faces

One of the more interesting subplots will be the inclusion of younger or naturalised players. The FAS has been working through its Project Heritage programme to identify Singapore-eligible talent abroad, and the friendlies window has historically been used to integrate new caps. Look out for fresh names in the squad list when it drops in the coming days.

For local fans, the Singapore Lions friendlies offer the kind of home-international experience that has been rare in recent years. With ticket sales opening Monday 11 May 2026 at 11am, securing a seat at Jalan Besar should be top of every Singapore football supporter's to-do list this week.

For more local football coverage, see our recent pieces on [Lion City Sailors's unbeaten chase](#) and [the SPL title retention](#). Catch all our Singapore sports coverage in the [Sports section](#).

Date Created

09/05/2026

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