

# Pro League Cup

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season 2021- 2022

## Al Ain

A Brilliant  
Adventure  
Towards the  
Second Title

## Shabab Al Ahli

A Winning  
Run for a  
Record Sixth  
Title



## Rebrov

Attacking  
Towards a  
Second Title



## Mahdi

Eyes on  
Title  
Number Six



Mohammed bin  
Zayed Stadium

كأس رابطة المحترفين  
PRO LEAGUE CUP

19:30



May 4th, 2022

*The Eid shines on with you*



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## The Eid Shines On With You

The Pro League Cup culminates with the final on an evening we look forward to presenting as a very special event. Not just a 90-minute football match, but a celebration that brings together the people of this country together at the Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium as we mark Eid Al Fitr; an occasion to celebrate joy, gathering, tolerance, and love.

The UAE Pro League chose the slogan "The Eid shines on with you", as the theme for the final, which brings down the curtain on a Pro League Cup season that was highly competitive and popular as the competition continues to contribute to the development efforts of the UAE football year after year.

The fact that the final will bring together two sides as successful as Al Ain and Shabab Al Ahli, both eager for more silverware, adds to the anticipation for a memorable final in front packed stands not only for fans of both teams

but also for all fans of Emirati football. This also confers upon us an enormous responsibility to provide a perfect organization of the final to follow on the footsteps of successes achieved in the past years.

The UAE Pro League work team has worked tirelessly through continuous preparation and arrangements to make the match an important milestone in the history of the UAE Pro League, which always endeavours to maintain high-level quality and creativity in all its competitions.

Our best wishes to the two teams, and we are confident that Al Ain, the inaugural champions of the Pro League Cup, and Shabab Al Ahli, the most successful team in the competition's history, will present a match worthy of this great occasion and remain in our minds as a reflection for the competitiveness manifested in the spirit of sportsmanship.

Abdulla Naser Al Jneibi

Chairman of the UAE Pro League



أدنونوك  
ADNOC



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# 47

## Matches Wrap up the 14th edition of the Pro League Cup

The Pro League Cup celebrates its 14th edition with Al Ain who claimed the first Pro League Cup title in 2008-09, facing five-time Pro League Cup champions Shabab Al Ahli, the reigning champions. Since the beginning of the current edition, 46 matches



have been played with the final rounding off the 47-match adventure.

The number of Pro League Cup matches varied in previous seasons, following changes to the competition format.

The 2008-09, and 2009-10 editions saw 41 matches each, which then grew to 63 games in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

The number of matches dropped to 55 in the 2012-13 season. The competition settled on 45 matches starting from the 2013-14 season, until 2016-17. The matches were reduced once again to 43 in the 2017-18 season, compared to 49 matches in the 2018-2019 and 2019-20 seasons, while the ongoing 2021-22 season ends with 47 games in total.

12 teams participated in the preliminary round of this season, while defending champions Shabab Al Ahli and 2020-21 league winners Al Jazira received a bye to the quarter-finals.

As per the regulations of the competition, all 12 teams played two-legged fixtures with six sides proceeding to the quarter-finals along with the league winners and the defending champions. Teams that failed to advance to the quarterfinals played each other in a league to determine places from 9th to 14th.

Teams failed to qualify for the semifinals competed for places from 5th to 8th, whereas losing semi-finalists faced-off to determine third place.



# مبادرات

رئيس الدولة

## MUBADARAT

The President's Initiatives



## Pro League Cup Fixtures 2021-22

**12** matches in the two-legged preliminary round.

**15** matches to determine places from 9th to 14th.

**08** matches in the two-legged quarter-finals.

**06** matches to decide places from 5th to 8th.

**04** matches in the two-legged semi-finals.

**01** match in the third-place play-off.

**01** match in the final.

# Al Ain.. A Brilliant Adventure Towards the Second Title

Al Ain had a great Pro League Cup campaign as they marched towards the final in pursuit of their second title. The campaign started against Emirates FC in the preliminary round. Sergiy Rebrov's men claimed a 2-0 home win thanks to goals from Cristian Guanca and Soufiane Rahimi which proved enough to take them to the quarter-finals despite their 0-1 away loss at Emirates Club Stadium in the second leg.

Awaiting at the quarter-final were Al Wasl, and the two teams produced



a thrilling 3-3 draw in the first leg as Togolese forward Laba Kodjo bagged a brace and Caio Canedo added his name to the scoresheet. The return fixture was just as exciting with Al Ain settling a seven-goal thriller after sealing a 4-3 win over Al Wasl in the second leg thanks to Guanca's double and goals from Jonatas Santos, and Kodjo.

Al Ain continued their march in the semi-final with a 1-1 draw against Al Jazira in the first leg at Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium before a goalless draw at home secured a berth at the final for Al Ain on away goals. Rebrov's men tally going into the final counts ten goals scored and eight conceded.

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Al Ain's route  
to the final



2:0



1:0



3:3



3:4



1:1



0:0

AL AIN FC



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## Shabab Al Ahli .. A Winning Run for a Record Sixth Title

Title holders Shabab Al Ahli look to extend their unbeaten run in the Pro League Cup, targeting a record-extending sixth Pro League Cup title.

As they are the reigning champions, Mahdi Ali's men avoided playing in the preliminary round and kicked off their campaign with Ajman's encounter in the quarter-finals. They snatched a 2-1 home win in the first leg thanks to Hamdan Al Kamali and Omar Abdulrahman's goals before securing a 1-0 away victory in the second leg thanks to Mehdi Ghayedi's goal.



The Dubai-based side clashed against Al Wahda in the semi-final with the five-time Pro League Cup champions snatching a 1-0 home win in the first leg thanks to Gustavo Oliveira's goal. They secured a 3-1 away win over Al Wahda in the second leg thanks to goals from Thomas Olsen, who bagged a brace, and Oliveira to set up a final clash against Al Ain. Shabab Al Ahli scored seven goals in the tournament and conceded just two.

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Shabab  
Al Ahli's  
route  
towards  
the final:



2:0



1:0



0:1



1:3



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# Significant Stats for Al Ain in the Pro League Cup

Al Ain will enter the Pro League Cup final against Shabab Al Ahli high on confidence thanks to their remarkable stats in this competition. They were the inaugural winners of the Pro League Cup and aspire to add the second title in the highly-anticipated final.

## 01

Al Ain managed to score in all of their Pro League Cup final appearances. They beat Al Wahda 1-0 in 2009 and lost 3-2 to Al Shabab in 2011.

## 02

Enroute to the final, Al Ain scored 10 goals, nine of which were scored by foreign players while only one goal was scored by Emirati player Caio Canedo against Al Wasl.



## 03

Al Ain kept three clean sheets in their last 10 matches in the competition.

## 04

Al Ain are looking forward to achieving their first victory over Shabab Al Ahli in the Pro League Cup, with their last encounter ending in a draw in the 2019-20 group stage.

## 05

The two teams will meet in a final match for the first time since the 2013-14 UAE President's Cup final, which ended with a 1-0 victory for Al Ain; an Asamoah Gyan goal at Zayed Sports City Stadium.

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# Al Ain FC

**Al Ain have never failed to  
score in a Pro League Cup final**

**2009 Win 1-0**

**2011 Lose 2-3**

# Prominent Stats for Shabab Al Ahli in the Pro League Cup

01

Shabab Al Ahli play their seventh final in the Pro League Cup, and the fourth in a row. They also hold the record for most titles with five.

02

Shabab Al Ahli played more matches in the Pro League Cup than any other team (109), winning 51 times. Al Ain played 101 matches and won 47.

03

Shabab Al Ahli scored seven goals before reaching the final this year; the first two of which were scored by Emirati players Hamdan Al Kamali and Omar Abdulrahman against Ajman, while the subsequent five goals were scored by foreign players.



04

Shabab Al Ahli kept six clean sheets in their last 10 matches in the competition.

05

Out of their six previous appearances in the final, Shabab Al Ahli only failed to score in the most recent one against Al Nasr last season, but ended up winning on penalty shootouts following a goalless draw.

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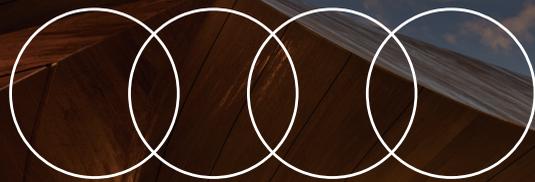
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# شباب الأهلي Shabab Al Ahli شباب الأهلي

Since losing to Al Nasr in 2019-20 final, Shabab Al Ahli have gone unbeaten in their last 11 matches

**Won 9 - Drew 2**



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# Rebrov

## Attacking Towards a Second Title

Al Ain achieved great results since the start of the current season, with the players excelling while playing a brand of attractive football which impressed fans across the UAE.

Manager Sergiy Rebrov was able to find the perfect formula through which the team delivered solid performances, both technically and tactically performances that helped them remain at the top of the ADNOC Pro League, while the Ukrainian coach won the best manager monthly award for seven consecutive times.

The League leaders carried their red-hot form into the Pro League Cup under Rebrov to set a highly-anticipated date against Shabab Al Ahli in the final.

Rebrov prefers to maintain balance between defence and attack, and always relies on attacking from the flank to destabilise opponents' defences. The report presents the key stats of Rebrov's Al Ain in the Pro League Cup:

Al Ain played six matches in the Pro League Cup, winning two matches, drawing three and suffering one defeat. They scored 10 goals, conceded eight and kept two clean sheets. Al Ain players took 22 shots on target and completed 895 passes in opposition half, with a success rate of 76%. The total number of Al Ain's completed passes reached 2159, and they had 51% average ball possession.



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# Mahdi Ali

## Eyes on Title Number Six

Shabab Al Ahli manager Mahdi Ali faced many difficulties in the ADNOC Pro League which saw his side drift off the pace, but things were different in the Pro League Cup as they cruised to the final against Al Ain. Ali hopes to compensate the fans for slipping to fifth in the ADNOC Pro League by winning the Pro League Cup title for the sixth time in the club's history.

Ali's men started the campaign at the quarter-final as the reigning champions. The report presents the most prominent stats of Shabab Al Ahli in the Pro League Cup:

Shabab Al Ahli won all four of their matches, scoring seven goals and conceding two. They kept clean sheets in two matches. The players took 19 shots on target, and 1,530 passes were completed, with a success rate of 84%. The number of completed passes in opposition half reached 611 passes and they had a 53% ball possession on average throughout the campaign.





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# Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium

Mohammed bin Zayed stadium hosted the Pro League Cup final for the third time after hosting the finals of the first edition in the 2008-09 season and 2010-11 edition.

The stadium has been inaugurated in 1980 under the name of Al Jazira Stadium. It was renewed in 2006 and 2009 to be named Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium. Its capacity has reached 37,000 seats after its 2021 renovation.

The stadium is a distinctive and exceptional architectural landmark in the UAE and the whole region because of its unique and multi-story design that is

fully air-conditioned, equipped with the latest means and smart design for the fans' stands, guaranteeing a seamless watching experience for matches and all the events hosted by the stadium from the closest possible angle.

The stadium hosted many tournaments and competitions, most notably the 2003 FIFA U-17 World Championship, the FIFA Club World Cup matches the 2009, 2010, and 2021, as well as, the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, several official matches for the various UAE national teams and Al Jazira games in the AFC Champions League and the Arab Club Championship.



### Team stats in 2021-22 Pro League Cup



06	Matches	04
02	win	04
03	Draw	0
01	Defeat	0
10	Goals	07
08	Goals Conceded	02
02	Clean Sheets	02
22	Shots on Target	19
2159	Accurate passes	1530
%51	Possession	%53



# sarwa



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## Pro League Cup Trophy

Coated with gold  
Made in Singapore

Height

70

cm

Weight

12

Kg

Combining modern and the traditional elements of design, the trophy features a football model, which is the main part of the UAE Pro League's identity in addition to palm tree branches, symbolizing the UAE's ancient history.

# Past Winners



Al Ain 2008-2009



Al Jazira 2009-2010



Al Shabab 2010-2011



Shabab Al Ahli 2011-2012



Ajman 2012-2013



Shabab Al Ahli 2013-2014



Al Nasr 2014-2015



Al Wahda 2015-2016



Shabab Al Ahli 2016-2017



Al Wahda 2017-2018



Shabab Al Ahli 2018-2019



Al Nasr 2019-2020



Shabab Al Ahli 2020-2021



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