

Fan perspectives of change in Australia's A-League

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Abstract

Football in Australia has undergone pronounced changes since 2003. Significant changes to national league competition structure have been made in an attempt to separate the sport from its socio-historical links with expressive ethnicity. This paper employs a qualitative methodology to analyse members of foundation A-League club Sydney FC to examine two specific research interests. Firstly, the paper examines the extent fans perceive the A-League to represent a change from the NSL. Secondly, in a league that appears to have shed ethnic linkages, how do individuals identify with a specific A-League club?