

# Why Australia Will Win The World Cup

## Executive Summary

What is the biggest reason Australia is going to win the world cup? The Matildas have been preparing for this event since June 23th 2020 when they were announced as the hosts. The preparation they have put into their squad is bearing fruit in this tournament.

Australia has put their focus on developing a core group of young players over the past years, and giving them the tools to succeed in this world cup. Australia has started only 12 players during the tournament, while 5 key players have played every minute of the world cup. Despite the squad having 9 players with over 100 international caps, and having the joint highest number of caps on the field across each of their games, the age of the players on the field is second youngest of the semi-finalists. This is a cohort with the experience to succeed in a major tournament, while still having the youth required to manage so many matches in such little time.

To deal with the high number of minutes the players are required to play, preparation is also evident from before the tournament. Australia has the fewest number of players with a "high" or "very high" number of minutes in the 12 months preceding the tournament. The players have been well managed prior to the tournament to peak at the right time and enough freshness to get through seven tournament games. Being one of two Australian based sides going into the semi final can surely only help here also, with no travel or time-zone adjustment being required between the semi finals and the final.

Home field advantage can be huge in football, and Australia is showing this to its fullest effect. They are outperforming their current FIFA ranking by a greater margin than any other team left in the tournament. With the added home field advantage, according to the FIFA world rankings they should have leapfrogged Spain in terms of expectation, and be within touching distance of an underperforming England and third ranked Sweden. Over 80,000 passionate fans packed into Stadium Australia can be sure to amplify this advantage in

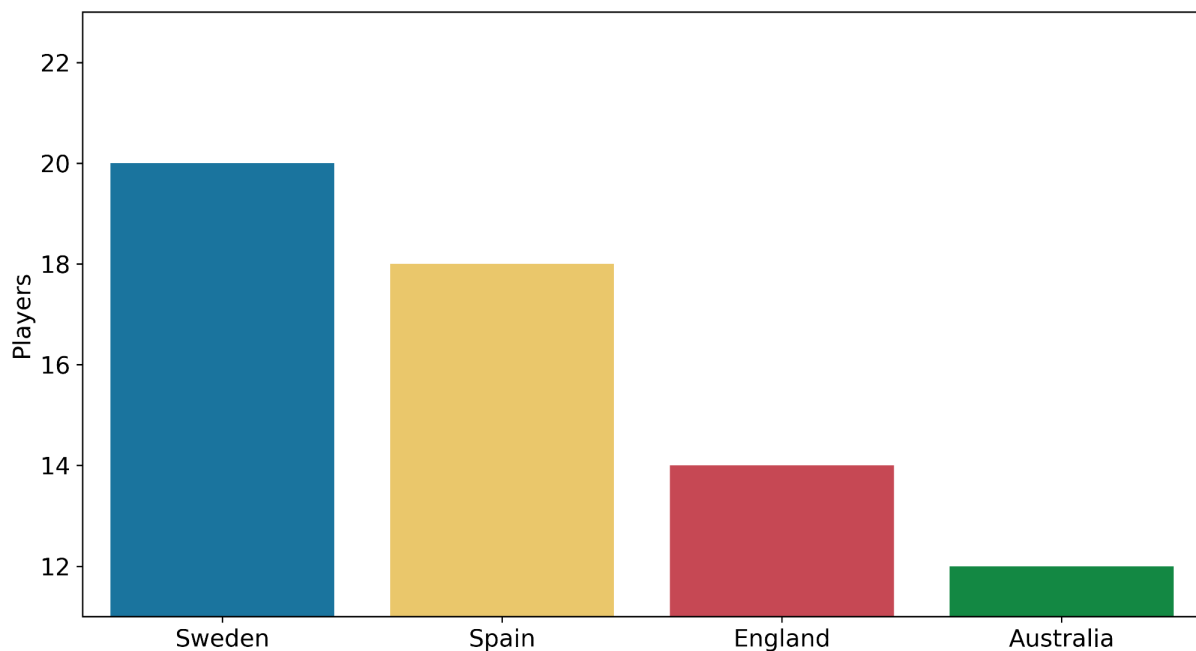


both the Semis and Final. Being one of two Australian based sides going into the final is a major advantage also - their eventual opponents, Spain or Sweden, will have travelled 2,000km and over two time zones on their way to that fixture.

Despite this being the Matilda's first world cup semi final, there can be no doubt of their credentials to be here. They have faced off against the strongest opposition of any of the remaining sides and have gotten through. They have found a way through when dominating the ball or when chasing the game. They have proven the ability to succeed in a variety of circumstances and against the quality of opposition they are facing from this point onwards - something that can't be claimed of all the other semi finalists who to this point remain unproven.

## Proven Formula

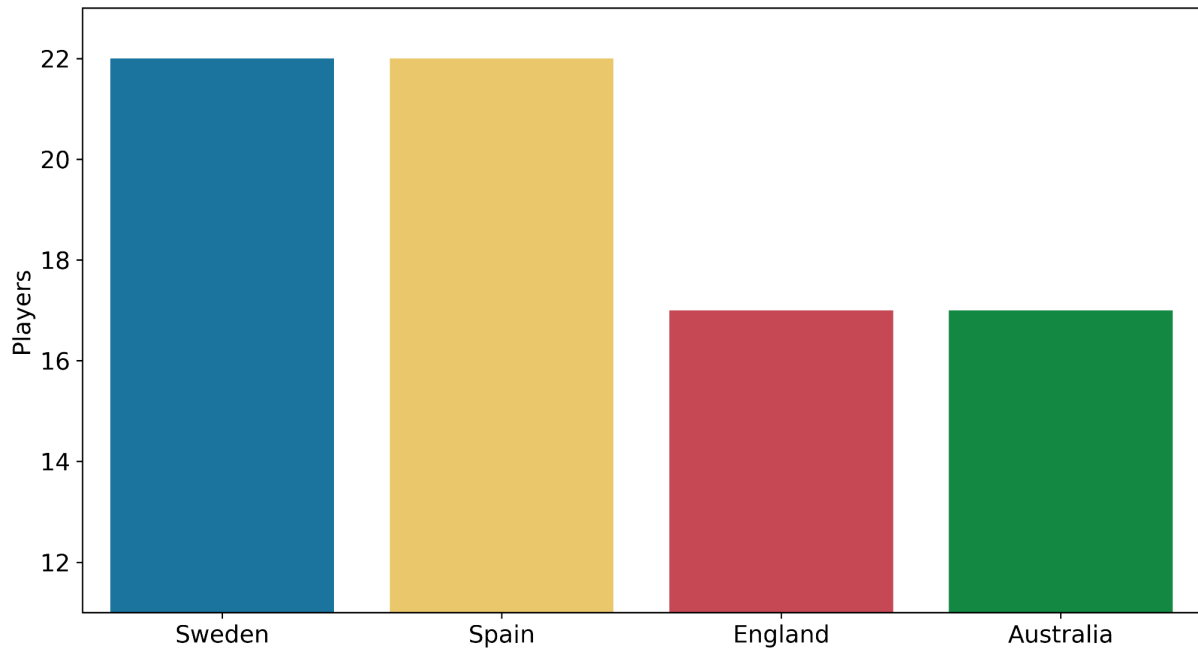
2023 World Cup Starters



- ▶ Australia has started just 12 players through the quarter finals of the world cup

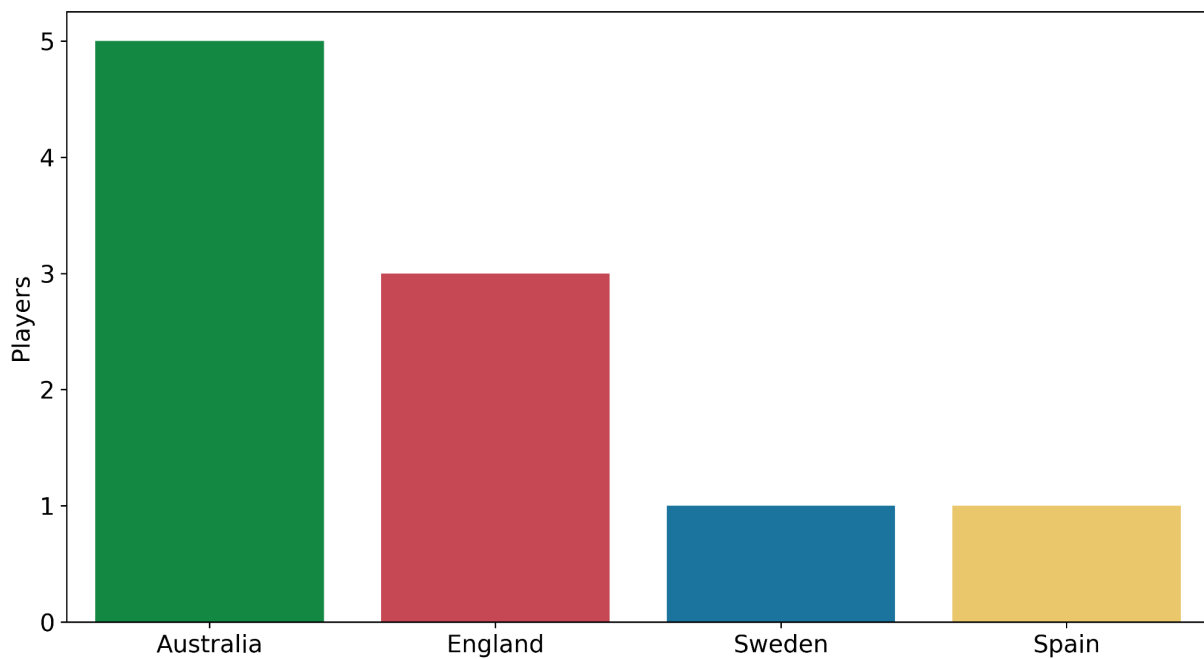


### 2023 World Cup Players Used



- ▶ Australia have only used 16 players from their squad of 23 during the world cup.

### 2023 World Cup - Played Every Minute

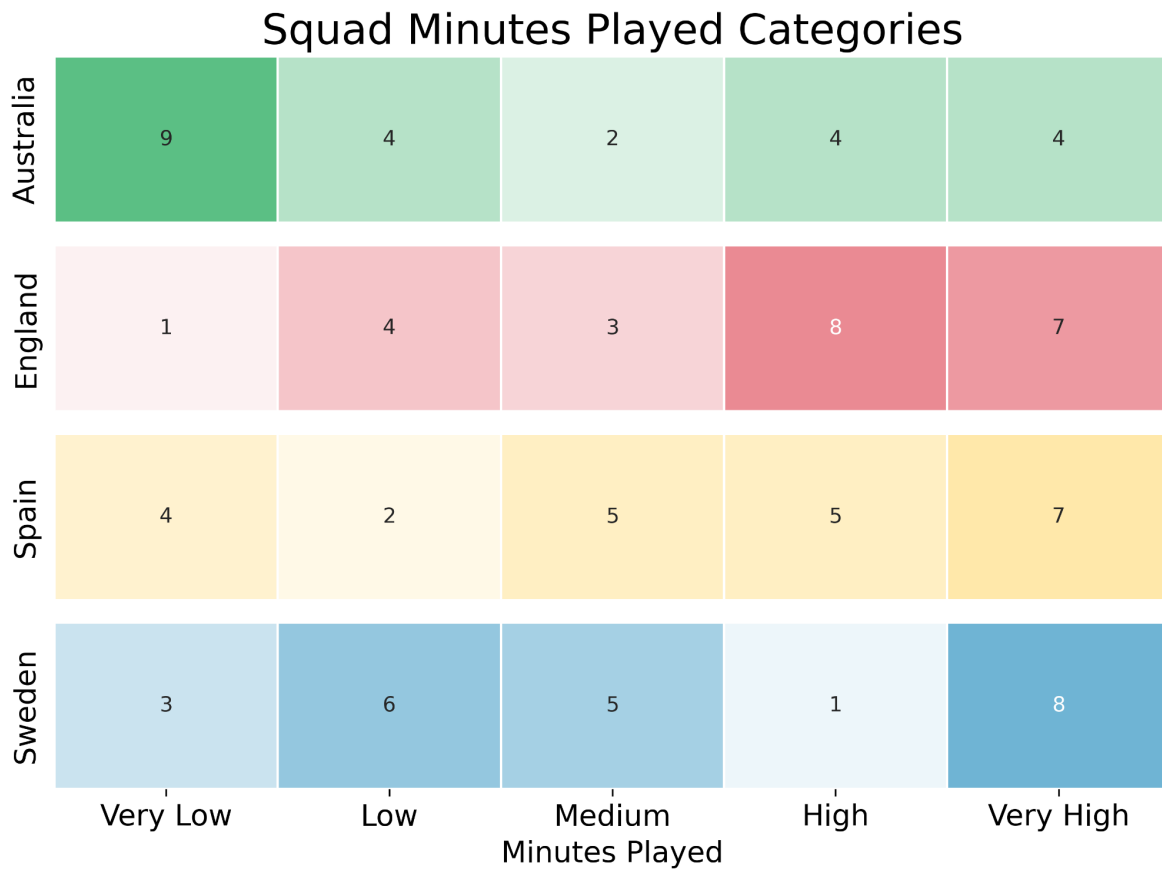


- ▶ 5 of these players have played in every single minute of the world cup



# Load Management

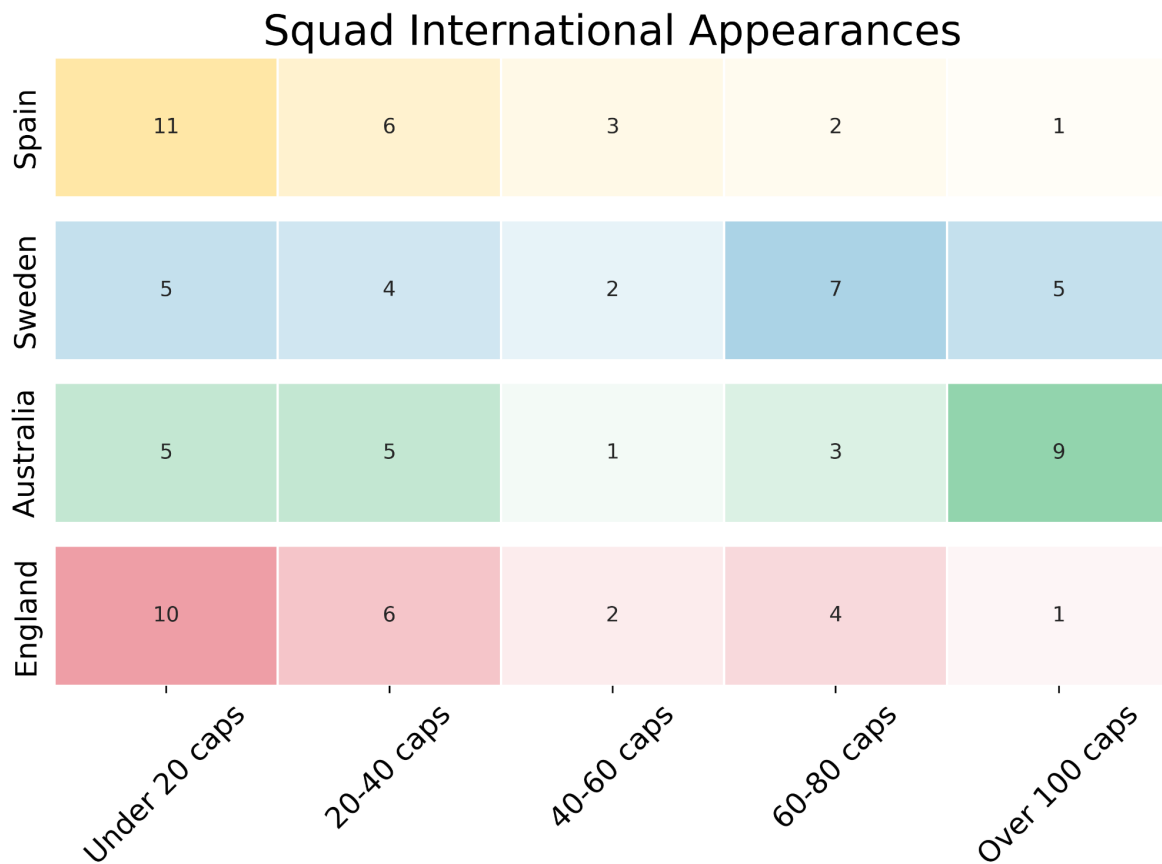
- ▶ The high number of minutes could be a potential issue in terms of load management. Players may be fatigued after playing such a large number of minutes.



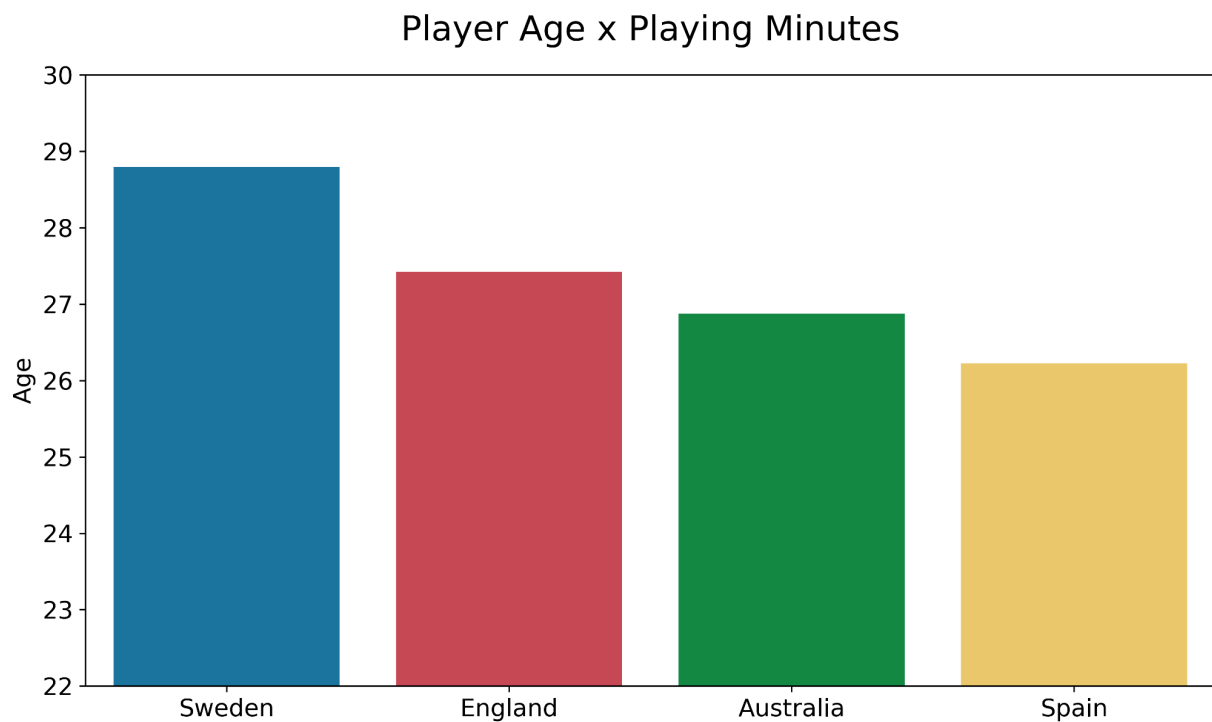
- ▶ Australia may be in the best position to deal with such a problem. They have the fewest players in the tournament that played a “High” or “Very High” number of minutes going into the world cup. Well prepped.



## Experienced Youth



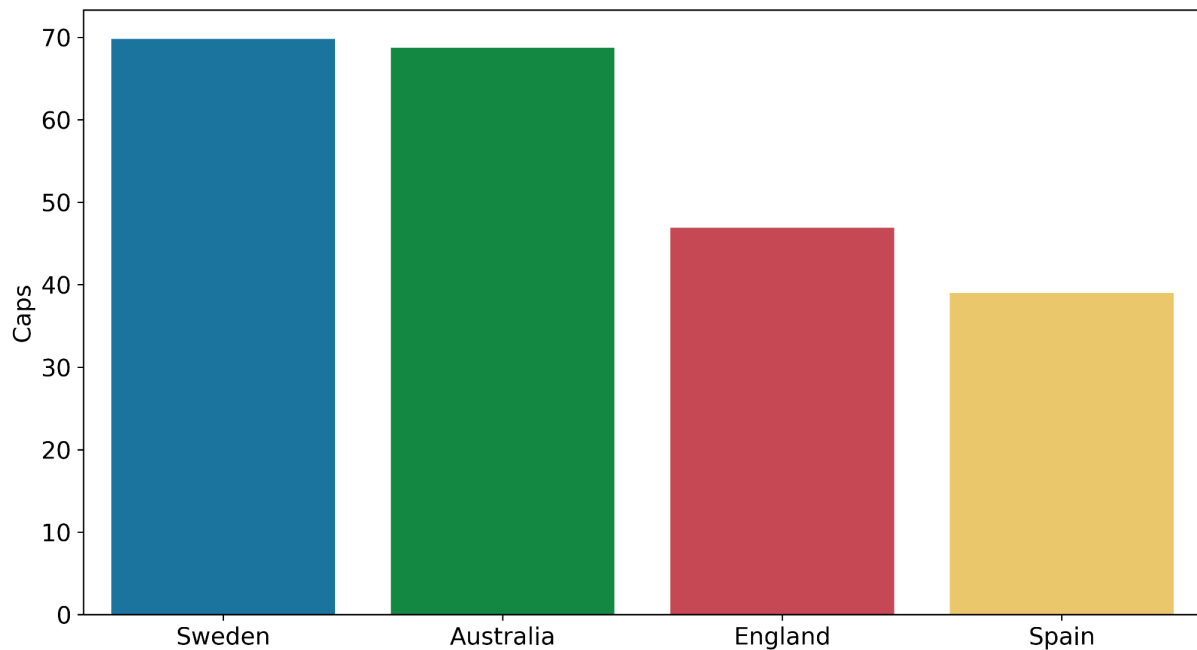
- ▶ Australia has 9 players in their squad that have over 100 international caps





- ▶ The average age of the team on the pitch is the second youngest of the remaining sides.

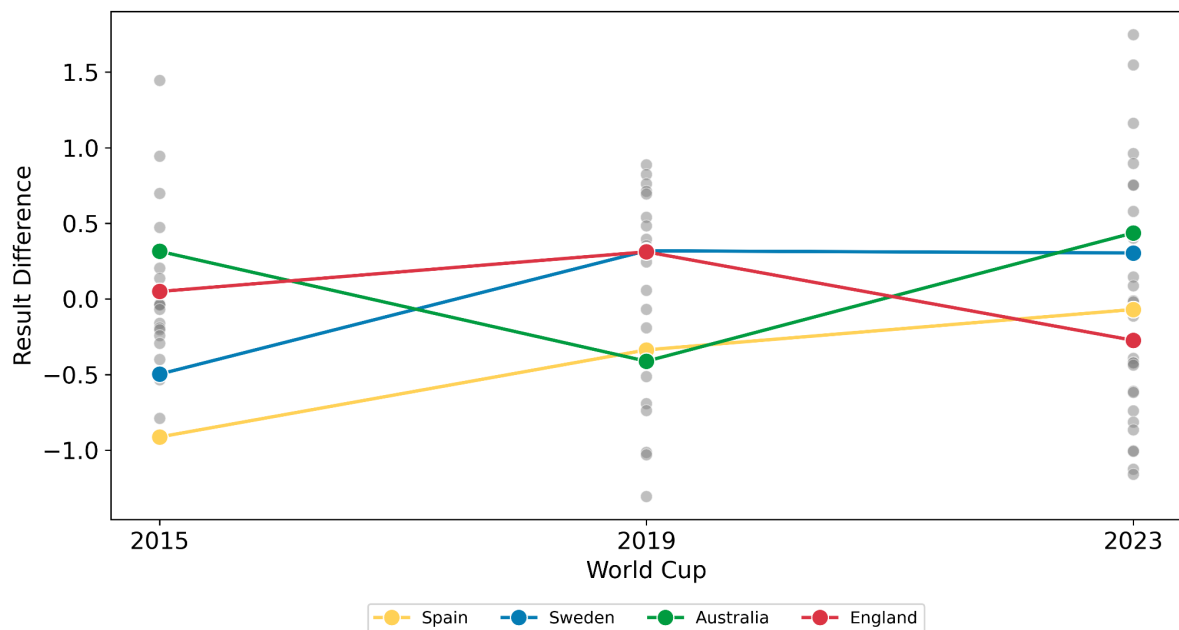
International Appearances x Playing Minutes



- ▶ Those same players have the joint highest caps of any side in the tournament.
- ▶ This shows that Australia has relied on a core group of players for a significant amount of time, and that squad is likely to be very cohesive.

# Home Field Advantage

## 2023 World Cup Over/Underperformance

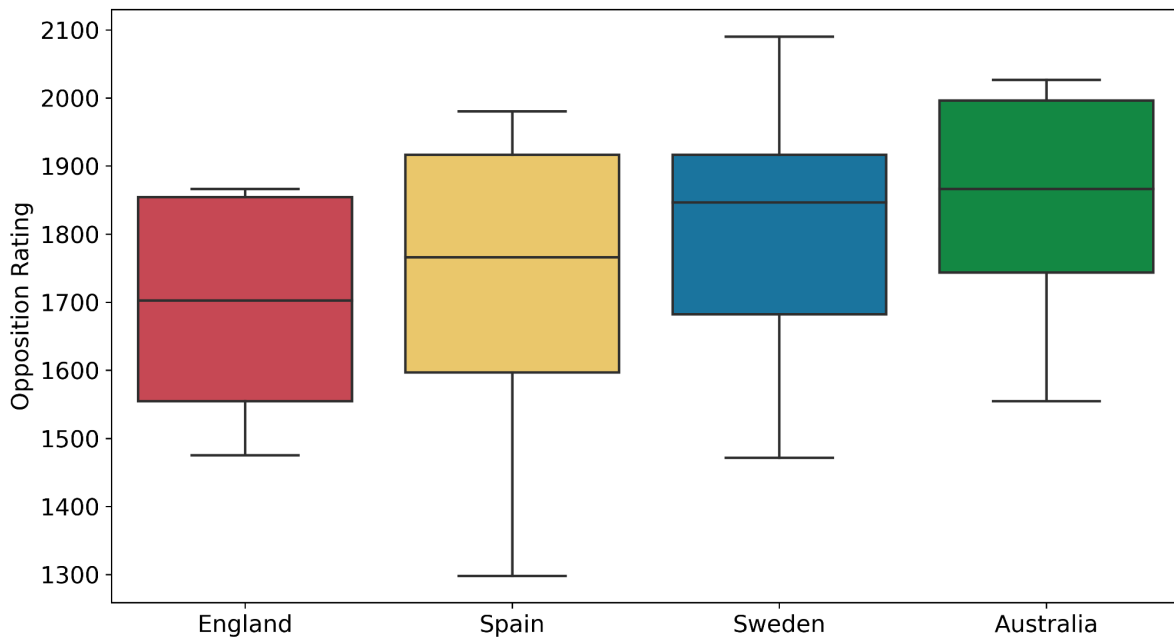


- ▶ Australia is overperforming their ranking more than any of the remaining teams in the competition, showing that Home Field Advantage is holding in this world cup.
- ▶ Home field advantage is expected to add 100 points to a team's rating, this would take Australia from a distant 4th in terms of ranking and elevate them above Spain and within touching distance of England (who are underperforming their ranking) and Sweden.



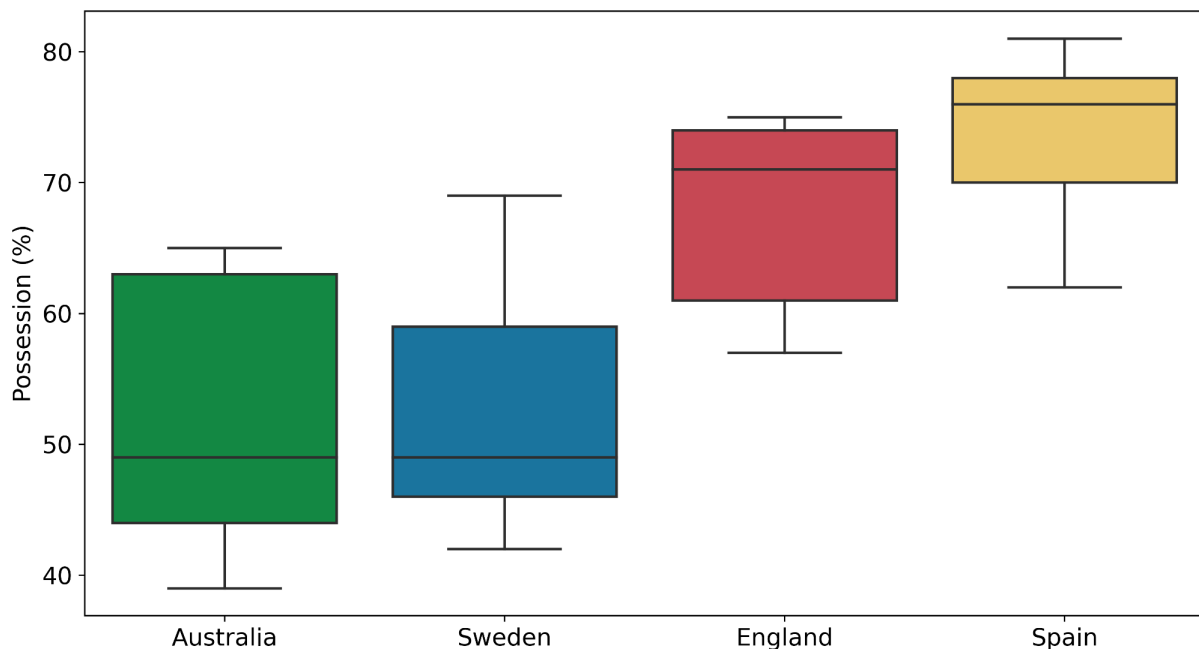
# Battle Hardened

## World Cup 2023 Opposition FIFA Rating



- ▶ Australia has faced the toughest opposition (in terms of FIFA ranking) of any of the remaining sides. We don't need to question whether they are ready for the level of the teams in the Semi Final, they have already proven it.

## 2023 World Cup Possession



- ▶ In terms of possession, Australia has both dominated opposition and had to content themselves with little of the ball. They are capable of getting through in a variety of ways.