# Asia Cup 2025 Schedule History

The Asia Cup, established in 1983 by the Asian Cricket Council, returns for its 17th edition in 2025 as a Twenty20 tournament featuring eight teams competing in the United Arab Emirates from September 9-28. According to multiple reports, defending champions India will face their arch-rivals Pakistan on September 14 in what promises to be one of the tournament's most anticipated matches, with the competition following a group stage format leading to Super Four playoffs and culminating in the final on September 28.



## India vs Pakistan September 14

The marquee clash between India and Pakistan is scheduled for September 14, 2025, at 7:30 PM IST at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, marking a crucial Group A encounter that could potentially be the first of three meetings between the arch-rivals in

this tournament. Both teams have been placed in Group A alongside Oman and the UAE, setting up the possibility of additional encounters in the Super Four stage beginning September 20 and potentially the final on September 28.

Despite recent tensions following India Champions' refusal to participate in World Championship of Legends matches against Pakistan Champions, Emirates Cricket Board COO Subhan Ahmed has provided assurance that the Asia Cup fixture will proceed as planned, emphasizing that "there is no risk of Pakistan and India not playing" in this official tournament. Former Pakistan batter Basit Ali has made headlines with his bold prediction about the outcome, suggesting that "ek mazaak abhi aur hoga jab September 14 ko India vs Pakistan match hoga" (one more joke will happen when India faces Pakistan on September 14), reflecting the high stakes and emotions surrounding this encounter.

#### **UAE Dubai Abu Dhabi Venues**

The tournament will be staged across two premier cricket venues in the Emirates, with Dubai International Cricket Stadium hosting 11 matches while Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi will stage 8 matches. Both venues have established themselves as world-class cricket facilities, having successfully hosted major international tournaments including the 2021 T20 World Cup and 2018 Asia Cup.

All matches will commence at 6:00 PM UAE time (7:30 PM IST), ensuring prime-time viewing for Indian audiences while maintaining optimal playing conditions in the desert climate. The venue selection reflects the UAE's proven track record as a neutral host, with its "excellent logistical back-up" and three international stadiums making it increasingly recognized as cricket's new home away from traditional venues. The Gulf nation's significant diaspora from all participating Asian Cricket Council member

countries further strengthens its case as an ideal host location for continental competitions.

## **Super Four Stage Format**

The Super Four stage serves as the knockout phase of the Asia Cup 2025, bringing together the top two teams from each group to compete in a high-stakes round-robin format where every match carries elimination consequences. Unlike traditional semi-final structures, this single group of four teams will each play three matches against the other qualifiers, with the top two teams based on points and net run rate advancing to the final.

This format creates a "knockout-like environment where every match matters," as teams cannot afford poor performances with no second chances available. The Super Four matches are scheduled from September 20-26, with fixtures rotating between both Dubai and Abu Dhabi venues. The points system remains consistent with the group stage - two points for a win, one for no result or tie, and zero for losses - making net run rate crucial when teams are tied on points. This structure ensures maximum drama and intensity, as even defending champions or tournament favorites can be eliminated through a single poor showing during this critical phase.

### **Dubai International Cricket Stadium**

The Dubai International Cricket Stadium, nicknamed the "Ring of Fire" due to its distinctive 350-floodlight system installed around the circumference of its round roof, stands as a 25,000-capacity venue with the capability to expand to 30,000 spectators. Located within Dubai Sports City and designed by Canadian architect Awsam Matloob,

the stadium features a grass pitch with a diameter of 148 meters and is equipped with end names Emirates Road End and Dubai Sports City End.

Since hosting its first ODI between Australia and Pakistan in April 2009, the venue has accumulated impressive statistics across formats, with teams batting first holding a slight advantage in Tests (6 wins vs 4) but bowlers dominating in limited-overs cricket - particularly in T20s where teams bowling first have won 58 matches compared to 51 batting first. The stadium's track record includes hosting major ICC events like the 2021 T20 World Cup semi-final and final, multiple IPL seasons during COVID-19, and the 2018 Asia Cup final, establishing it as one of cricket's premier neutral venues alongside Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Stadium and Sharjah Cricket Stadium.