

To Play, or not to Play? That is the question.

SCHOOL REPORT
NEWS



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England Men are ranked 9th in the world.

England women are ranked 5th. Everyone knows about the England men's football team due to sponsorship, advertising and excessive pay. Despite the fact they're consistently boring us with underwhelming performances, they still manage to grab the headlines.

On the other hand the 'lionesses' earned their highest ever ranking in a world cup and have achieved the highest finish in a world cup by any England football team for 25 years (including men's football). Yet they're consistently compared to the men's game.

Now ask yourself this. How much do you really know about women's football?

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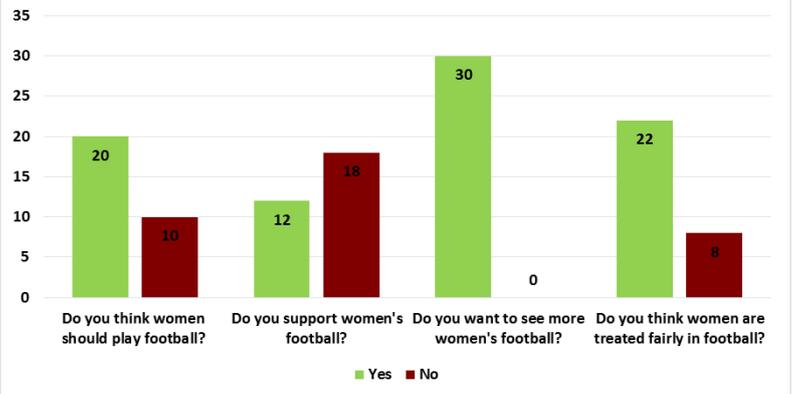
In 2012 some professional football players were locked out of training grounds for being a woman — but it's not recognised as a problem.

So when Casey Stoney, England international, was at her first spell at Arsenal Ladies she remembers washing the men's kit. As well as seeing Faye White lugging boxes around Arsenal's training ground before the club's manager Arsène Wenger gave his Friday lunchtime press conference. Despite the fact that this is a woman who has won over 90 caps for her country, there is still a problem with inequality and money.

Female England internationals only earn around £16,000 a year. It takes Yaya Toure, the male Manchester City and Ivory Coast midfielder, just over 13 hours to earn the same amount. It is discrimination, pure and simple.

The Premier League earned a staggering £1.8 billion from TV rights for three seasons of matches in the UK alone. Just 2% of mainstream sports coverage is dedicated to women's sport, which rarely includes any WSL (Women's Super League), or Women's FA cup games. The simple truth is there is less money in women's sports, and this needs to change!

The Public's Opinion on Women's Football



This bar chart shows public opinion on the issues of Women's football.

We asked around 30 anonymous people who all expressed their personal opinion. This information clearly shows how uneducated people are today, with only 12 out of the 30 people asked supporting women's football. But all hope is not lost, as all 30 asked agreed with the fact that they want to see more women's football.

Yet, without so much of a flicker in the news of women's football, not many of us see the differences between the male and female game. The women's game is generally less aggressive than its male counterparts, as it is much more focused on agility and the technical ability of the players. The fact that most of these women play simply because they love it is also overlooked.

In a recent survey, asking what people know about women's football, a common response said 'Not much really, as I feel they don't get the recognition they deserve'. Also when asked if they would like to see women's football on television another regular response was, 'I think that may be a good way forward for the women's team to be recognised'. When asked do they think more Premier League Clubs such as Manchester United should make a women's team? The response was positive 'yes I think they should, as it would bring more fans to the games.

Our hope for the future is that the rise of women's football continues following the making of a new women's tournament 'SheBelieves Cup'. This will hopefully increase the publicity of the game and show the public that women can play football and give the males a run for their money!



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