



Kick On Manifesto

England's historic win at the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 created a lasting legacy, with women and girls' interest and participation in football increasing considerably.

But women and girls' teams are still frequently denied opportunities to train and play, with male teams given priority access to pitches.

According to research carried out by Starling Bank in February 2024, more than half of women's football players (56%) have booked a football pitch, only to have it reallocated to a men's team. Nearly a third (28%) say it happens frequently, triple the number of men (9%) who often lose booked pitches to other men's teams.

The pitches women can access often come with safety concerns. Women are often allocated pitch slots late in the evening, and they're more likely to feel unsafe travelling to their pitch in the dark or in a different location.

Women and girls are quitting the game as a result of this inequality. Any one of them could be a future football star. Every one of them is losing an opportunity to build their mental, physical and social skills.

This needs to change

It's imperative that women and girls get equal pitch access. How can we level the playing field for women and girls if they can't access it in the first place?

Following Karen Carney MBE's [review](#) into UK women's football, which called for the Government, local authorities, the FA and Premier League to increase meaningful access for women and girls to play sport, we now need to see the results of this review in action for grassroots teams. The Kick On Manifesto asks that local councils, pitch providers, schools and clubs consider the following when creating training opportunities for teams:

- 1 Make pitch access equal.**
Commit to providing the same number of training slots to all genders. Don't bump slots at the last minute for teams with more fans or experienced players. Consider the opportunity training slots offer aspiring teams.
- 2 An equal game needs equal conditions.**
Pitch access isn't equal if some teams can't access the top spec pitch on offer, only get slots at inconvenient times, or have to play after other teams have reduced the quality of pitch conditions. Commit to offering higher-quality pitches and slots to all players.
- 3 Consider facilities that girls and women need.**
Create inclusive spaces for women and girls' teams, such as separate changing and bathroom facilities. Commit to making an environment where they feel safe to train and welcome on the pitch.

If you are receiving this manifesto, it is from a team that needs your support. We hope that you can.

Signed,

Jill Scott MBE

Beth Mead MBE



Starling Bank