

[Skip to main content](#)

Toggle navigation

coworker.ORG

Search

- [Donate](#)
- [Start a Campaign](#) [Start a Campaign](#)
- [Log in](#)

To: FIFA Women's World Cup Committee & Peter Montopoli, Chief Executive Officer for the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015

FIFA: The World Cup Should Be Played on Natural Grass

[Sign the petition](#)

[SV](#)



[Campaign created by Sophie Vick](#)

While we were not able to convince FIFA to change the playing surface for the 2015 World Cup, we did succeed in getting FIFA to commit to natural grass for all future Women's World Cups, and we showed the world how professional athletes can band together to demand that women have access to the same playing conditions as men. Thanks to this global effort, women in professional soccer around the world are demanding more -- and getting it. Let's keep fighting and winning!



We, the undersigned, are calling on FIFA to modify the venues for the women's 2015 World Cup games to fields with natural grass.

Why is this important?

----2015 UPDATE---

In an interview with Julie Foudy, Abby Wambach broke news that FIFA leaders assured her that the Women's World Cup would never again be played on turf. She said, “[Valcke] assured us that the Women’s World Cup would never be played on turf again. He gave me his word, which for me, that’s a win. For me, that’s progress.”

Original text:

In 2012, the Women’s Gold Medal soccer match for the London Olympics was the NBC Sports Network’s most watched event in the network's history with 4.35 million viewers. More people around the world livestreamed the women's final than any other sporting event during the Olympics.

And yet, still, professional women soccer players struggle to be given the respect they deserve. The latest insult to professional women soccer players comes with the decision by FIFA to hold the entire 2015 Women's World Cup tournament on artificial turf.

When Abby Wambach -- the 2012 FIFA Women's World Player of the Year -- heard of this news, she noted, "The men would strike playing on artificial turf." And Wambach, who is known for her physical style of play, should be especially worried. The American Academy of Neurology recently reported that concussions appear to be more prevalent for certain athletes playing on artificial turf, and that women athletes appear more likely to experience concussions in soccer than in other sports.

Artificial turf has been blamed for increased injuries on sporting fields, including more sprained ankles, concussions, turf burns, and an injury known as "turf toe." Overheating is also a health concern for athletes since temperatures can be hotter on artificial surfaces than on natural grass. Finally, turf is widely known to alter the speed and quality of play on the field. With all of this in mind, it's not hard to understand why many players feel that being forced to play their World Cup on artificial turf is gender discrimination.

I'm a huge fan of women's soccer. I love going to Washington Spirit games -- where the team plays on natural grass -- and I'm excited to attend the upcoming CONCACAF qualifiers for the Women's World Cup. These women deserve respect for their athleticism and that's why I'm standing up with professional players from national teams around the world who have spoken out and signed on to this campaign as well.

Some of the best soccer players in the world deserve to play the most competitive matches of their lives on real grass. FIFA has the power to modify the venues for the World Cup games to fields with real grass. Do the right thing, FIFA, and give professional women soccer players the respect they deserve.

----Signatures from Players----

More than 70 national team players from at least 17 different national teams have signed this petition to FIFA calling for natural grass in the 2015 Women's World Cup. Below is a list of professional players who've added their name to this public petition:

Abby Wambach - USA
Heather O'Reilly - USA
Carli Lloyd - USA
Shannon Boxx - USA
Ali Krieger - USA
Alex Morgan - USA
Whitney Engen - USA
Ashlyn Harris - USA
Christie Rampone - USA
安藤 梢 (Kozue Ando) - JPN
大儀見 優季 (Yūki Ōgimi) - JPN
Anja Mittag - GER
Nadine Angerer - GER
Annike Krahn - GER
Célia Okoyino da Mbabí - GER
Kim Kulig - GER
Almuth Schult - GER
Laura Benkarth - GER
Melanie Behringer - GER
Nadine Keßler - GER
Lena Goeßling - GER
Alexandra Popp - GER
Babett Peter - GER
Melissa Barbieri - AUS
Sam Kerr - AUS
Caitlin Foord - AUS
Natalia Gaitan - COL
Melissa Ortiz - COL
Nataly Arias - COL
Stefany Castaño - COL
Eugénie Le Sommer - FRA
Camille Abily - FRA
Wendie Renard - FRA
Sarah Bouhaddi - FRA
Élise Bussaglia - FRA
Louisa Nécib - FRA
Caroline Seger - SWE

Lotta Schelin - SWE
Kosavare Asllani - SWE
Olivia Schough - SWE
Sara Thunebro - SWE
Malin Levenstad - SWE
Sofia Lundgren - SWE
Emma Berglund - SWE
Charlotte Rohlin - SWE
Hedvig Lindahl - SWE
Nilla Fischer - SWE
Annica Svensson - SWE
Therese Sjoran - SWE
Caroline Jönsson - SWE
Anita Asante - ENG
Faye White - ENG
Nora Holstad - NOR
Ingvild Isaken - NOR
Maren Mjelde - NOR
Arianna Romero - MEX
Theresa 'Lupita' Worbis - MEX
Jackie Acevedo - MEX
Renaé Cuéllar - MEX
Ana-Maria Crnogorčević - SUI
Noëlle Maritz - SUI
Vanessa Bernauer - SUI
Sandra Betschart - SUI
Martina Moser - SUI
Rahel Kiwic - SUI
Fabienne Humm - SUI
Shannon Smyth - IRL
Ciara Grant (b. 1993) - IRL
Veronica Boquete - ESP
Erin Nayler - NZF
Stefanía Maggiolini - URY
Desire Oparanozie - NGA
Indira Ilić - SRB
Getter Laar - EST

Michelle Akers - USA (Retired)
Linda Hamilton - USA (Retired)
Sandra Smisek - GER (Retired)

Share on

Facebook
Twitter
LinkedIn

[This campaign was a Success!](#)

Category

22,954

of 25,000 signatures

[Health & safety](#)

[Flag this petition for review](#)

Sign the petition

Reasons for signing

First Name?

* Last Name

* Email Grass is much easier to play on.

* Postal code

Country John D. 11 months ago
United States

I'm a professional soccer player

it's not that hard for Fifa to break off a small portion of last years profit for the women's world cup to be played on grass.

That, and WOMEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE THE SAME PROVLEGES / OPTIONS AS MEN!!!!

Jordan J. 2 months ago

Peter S. 2 months ago

Courtney J. 2 months ago
Turf is not safe to be playing on. It is 10 degrees hotter then grass and it causes more injury because your always getting

Cora B. 2 months ago
caught in it

Cora B. 5 months ago

Stephanie L. 2 years ago

[Read more](#)

Updates

2 months ago

Petition is successful with 22,950 signatures

4 years ago

Four depressing stats about gender inequity in soccer:

<http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/four-depressing-stats-about-gender-inequity-soccer-world-cup>

4 years ago

Did England goalkeeper Karen Bardsley catch a turf pellet in her eye during last night's game?

<http://i.imgur.com/yIxAaBj.gif>

https://sports.vice.com/en_us/highlight/england-keeper-karen-bardsley-leaves-game-with-mysterious-eye-issue

4 years ago

The artificial turf continues to be an issue in this Women's World Cup. Michelle Heyman of the Australia women's team told reporters: "You wouldn't want to see the bottom of our feet after a game. They just turn white. The skin is all ripped off; it's pretty disgusting. It's like walking on hot coals with your skin ripping and slowly cracking, constantly." Read more about how players are attempting to manage turf-related injuries during this World Cup: <http://sports.yahoo.com/news/there-s-nothing-fake-about-issues-with-artificial-turf-at-women-s-world-cup-200746963.html>

4 years ago

Concerns are mounting as the artificial turf inside World Cup stadiums in Canada have already hit 120 degrees. Read the full story here:

<http://thinkprogress.org/sports/2015/06/08/3667111/concerns-mount-artificial-turf-hits-120-degrees-womens-world-cup/>

4 years ago

Abby Wambach broke news today that FIFA leaders assured her that the Women's World Cup would never again be played on turf. She said, "[Valcke] assured us that the Women's World Cup would never be played on turf again. He gave me his word, which for me, that's a win. For me, that's progress."

4 years ago

Abby Wambach says in a new interview that FIFA rejected an offer for free grass installation for 2015 Women's World Cup venues. Read it here:

<http://espn.go.com/espnw/news-commentary/article/12830073/abby-wambach-knows-why-fifa-opt-free-grass-fields>

4 years ago

The players have withdrawn their legal complaint on the use of artificial turf. Abby Wambach, one of the leaders of the complaint, told press "I am hopeful that the players' willingness to contest the unequal playing fields – and the tremendous public support we received during the effort – marks the start of even greater activism to ensure fair treatment when it comes to women's sports." Read more here:

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/01/21/sports/soccer/21reuters-soccer-women-turf.html>

4 years ago

The entire Australian women's national team has threatened to join the legal fight against the use of artificial turf in the 2015 Women's World Cup if a resolution cannot be reached. Read more, here:

<http://www.insideworldfootball.com/fifa/15948-aussie-women-join-calls-for-world-cup-2015-to-be-played-on-grass>

4 years ago

20,000 signatures reached

4 years ago

The U.S. National Soccer Team Players Association issued a statement Monday saying its members "fully support the women's national team players from around the world in their efforts to play on natural grass at the 2015 Women's World Cup." They continue, "To play the Women's World Cup on artificial turf would be a serious mistake."

<http://www.ussoccerplayers.com/2014/11/usnstpa-statement-on-womens-world-cup-turf-issue.html>

4 years ago

Twelve U.S. Senators have sent a letter asking FIFA to "reconsider [the] short-sighted and counterproductive decision" to host the 2015 Women's World Cup on artificial turf. Read the full letter here:

<http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/223343-read-senators-letter-to-fifa>

4 years ago

Lawyers say that FIFA has threatened retaliation against players fighting artificial turf: <http://womens.soccerly.com/2014/10/27/lawyers-fifa-threatens-retaliation-players-artificial-turf-world-cup-noyola-abily/>

4 years ago

Alex Morgan says in an interview that she is "very optimistic that we will get something settled" on the issue of artificial turf in the World Cup. More here: http://www.tulsaworld.com/blogs/sports/johnehoover/john-e-hoover-u-s-women-deeply-concerned-about-world/article_54fbdc1c-316e-5608-81a4-551299fd0868.html

4 years ago

On October 1st, attorneys representing 40 of the top female soccer players in the world filed a lawsuit in Canada. The lawsuit alleges that FIFA and CSA's decision to play the 2015 Women's World Cup on artificial turf is gender discrimination. More here: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/female-soccer-players-file-discrimination-suit-over-womens-world-cup/>

5 years ago

10,000 signatures reached

5 years ago

Major Canadian news outlet CBCNews reports that "gender discrimination allegations dog promotional efforts" for the upcoming World Cup. Former Canadian national team player Carrie Serwetnyk told reporters "They would never in a heartbeat think of putting anything less than grass for the men," she said. "They'd protest. It would be a scandal." Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/fifa-women-s-world-cup-gender-discrimination-allegations-dog-promotional-efforts-1.2756465>

5 years ago

Lawyers: FIFA 'misled players' about input on playing surfaces for 2015 Women's World Cup <http://womens.soccerly.com/2014/09/03/lawyers-fifa-misled-players-artificial-turf-2015-womens-world-cup/>

5 years ago

Reporter @Sarah_Gehrke looks at how the Women's Euro 2013 tournament in Norway converted FIFA 2 star synthetic pitches into an international standard natural grass pitch. Read more <http://thesoccerdesk.com/letting-the-turf-versus-grass-debate-take-root/>

5 years ago

5,000 signatures reached

5 years ago

Tom Hanks just announced his support for the women players on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/tomhanks/status/502864003685957633>

5 years ago

The Chair of the historic 1999 Women's World Cup says "The same standards should apply for both the Men's and Women's tournaments."

<https://twitter.com/devarona64/status/501867835421753346>

5 years ago

Players across the NWSL are participating in the #GreenUp challenge, wearing green pre-wrap at games to show they're against gender discrimination in soccer. <https://twitter.com/thesamegameorg>

5 years ago

The New York Times reports on this petition and the decision by players to retain legal counsel.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/13/sports/soccer/players-threaten-suing-fifa-ahead-of-womens-world-cup.html>

5 years ago

Many of the professional women soccer players who signed this petition urging FIFA to use natural grass in the 2015 Women's World Cup have now retained legal counsel. Read more:

<http://womens.soccerly.com/2014/08/05/players-retain-legal-counsel-fight-artificial-turf-2015-womens-world-cup/>

5 years ago

In an interview with SBNation.com, Megan Rapinoe says playing a World Cup on turf is 'bullshit'.

<http://www.sbnation.com/soccer/2014/7/28/5945031/megan-rapinoe-womens-world-cup-2015-turf>

6 years ago

INFOGRAPHIC:

WOMEN PLAYERS FIGHT

for Natural Grass in the World Cup

The 2015 Women's World Cup in Canada is to be played entirely on artificial turf – NOT grass – for the first time in the tournament's history. Women players from around the world are demanding a change.

COMMON ARTIFICIAL TURF INJURIES

turf toe

turf burn

other risks:

- concussion
- sprained ankle
- overheating

★ 42 WOMEN PLAYERS FROM 11 DIFFERENT NATIONS ★

HAVE SIGNED THE PETITION. NOW THEY NEED YOU!

Add your name at worldcup.coworker.org

SWEDEN Lotta Schelin	ENGLAND Anita Asante	AUSTRALIA Melissa Barbieri	COLUMBIA Natalia Gaitan
GERMANY Anja Mittag	SPAIN Verónica Boquete	JAPAN Yuki Ōgimi	SWITZERLAND Ana-Maria Crnogorčević
MEXICO Theresa "Lupita" Worbis	FRANCE Wendie Renard	USA Abby Wambach	

"[Turf] wrecks your body and changes the way the game is played."
Abby Wambach

SWEDEN Olivia Schough, Caroline Seger, Sara Thunebro, Malin Levenstad, Sofia Lundgren, Emma Berglund, Charlotte Rohlin, Nilla Fischer, Annica Svensson, Kosovare Asllani, Therese Sjoran, Caroline Jönsson, Hedvig Lindahl **USA** Abby Wambach, Michelle Akers (R), Carli Lloyd, Ali Krieger, Whitney Engen, Alex Morgan **AUSTRALIA** Sam Kerr, Sarah Walsh (R) **COLUMBIA** Melissa Ortiz, Nataly Arias **ENGLAND** Faye White **FRANCE** Camille Abily, Eugénie Le Sommer **GERMANY** Christian Schulz, Annke Krahn, Célla Okoyino da Mbabi, Kim Kulig, Melanie Behringer, Nadine Angerer **JAPAN** Yuki Ōgimi, Kojo Andoe

Source: "U.S. soccer star says World Cup on turf will hurt game," USA Today, March 2013 <http://usat.ly/1fAqcWW>

<http://worldcup.coworker.org>

6 years ago

During this week's USWNT game against Mexico, commentators JP Dellacamera and Kate Markgraf voiced their opposition to the use of

artificial turf in the women's World Cup. Listen:

<https://soundcloud.com/jess-kutch/jp-dellacamera-object-to-use>

6 years ago

USA Today: "U.S. soccer star says World Cup on turf will hurt game"

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/soccer/2013/03/27/abby-wambach-not-happy-world-cup-turf/2026421/>

6 years ago

<https://twitter.com/AbbyWambach/status/314882077399068672> The tweet that triggered a national movement of players and fans against artificial turf in the 2015 Women's World Cup.

[Terms & Conditions](#) [Privacy](#) [About Us](#) [Media](#)
[About](#) [Terms](#) [Privacy](#)



Share

