

U.S. women won soccer's World Cup; they want to be paid as much as men

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.04.16

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The United States Women's National Team celebrates with the trophy after they beat Japan 5-2 in the FIFA Women's World Cup soccer championship in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Sunday, July 5, 2015. Photo: AP/Elaine Thompson

Five women soccer players from the U.S. national team have accused the U.S. Soccer Federation of not paying them fairly.

World Champions Paid Much Less Than Men

Alex Morgan, Carli Lloyd, Megan Rapinoe, Becky Sauerbrunn and Hope Solo play on the national team. They say they were paid much less than what players on the men's national team made. The women's team have won championships. The men's team get paid more to "just show up," Solo said. They have not won the World Cup or the Olympics. The women's team has won both.

The players want to change how much they are paid by the Soccer Federation. The Soccer Federation said the plan they agreed to goes through the Rio Olympics this summer to Dec. 31. The players think the plan is not binding and they should be able to change how much they are paid now.

Women Want Equal Treatment

Jeffrey Kessler is one of the lawyers representing the players. He said the Soccer Federation did not behave fairly to the women. He said that the women's team is worth more than the men's. They could ask for more, but they are only asking for the same treatment.

The Soccer Federation said it is disappointed by what the women are saying. It said it is committed to building women's soccer. "We have been a world leader," the group said.

Men Get Extra Pay

The top players on the women's team are paid about \$72,000 a year by the Soccer Federation. They play 20 games or more a year. The women players say the men earn more and get extra pay. The women only get extra pay if they win.

The women complained to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. It is a government group that decides on disagreements about unfair treatment at work.

Getting Hurt On Artificial Grass

Many players are speaking out about the unfair treatment of women. A group of players led by Abby Wambach complained about World Cup's artificial turf. Artificial turf is not real grass. The men's World Cup is played on real grass. Artificial turf is harder to play on.

After the World Cup, the women had to stop another game in Hawaii. The artificial turf there was unsafe.

Women Say They Will Keep Fighting

The women said they would keep fighting for fair treatment. Solo said the problem is not just in sports. Women face problems "everywhere you look."

Morgan said pay was not the only reason the players decided to complain.

"It's the right step for us in moving forward with this team," she said.

Quiz

- 1 Read the following sentence.

Hope Solo said the problem is not just in sports.

Based on the sentence above, which of the following is TRUE?

- (A) Fair treatment happens everywhere.
 - (B) Women are treated well outside of soccer.
 - (C) The Soccer Federation has a lot of problems to fix.
 - (D) Women face unfair treatment in many different situations.
- 2 Which sentence from the article explains why the players on the women's team are filing a complaint?
- (A) The women players say the men earn more and get extra pay.
 - (B) The women complained to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
 - (C) Many players are speaking out about the unfair treatment of women.
 - (D) After the World Cup, the women had to stop another game in Hawaii.
- 3 What is the MAIN idea of the section "World Champions Paid Much Less Than Men"?
- (A) The women's team has won championships.
 - (B) A group of players on the women's team filed a complaint.
 - (C) The Soccer Federation does not want to pay the women more.
 - (D) The women's team is better than the men, but they are paid less.
- 4 Which sentence from the article is MOST important to include in its summary?
- (A) Alex Morgan, Carli Lloyd, Megan Rapinoe, Becky Sauerbrunn and Hope Solo play on the national team.
 - (B) The players want to change how much they are paid by the Soccer Federation.
 - (C) The Soccer Federation said it is disappointed by what the women are saying.
 - (D) The top players on the women's team are paid about \$72,000 a year by the Soccer Federation.

Answer Key

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