

# KEY LEARNINGS FROM FIFPRO'S WOMEN'S WORLD CUP PLAYER SURVEY

The global players' union surveyed **260 internationals** from **26 nations** to get direct feedback on compensation, conditions, and workload at the 2023 Women's World Cup

**30**,000 from their club and national team in the last year

**60** sa

said post-tournament rest was not long enough, while two-thirds felt technical staff could be improved

Increased financial compensation and adjustments to workload are the biggest asks of Women's World Cup players, according to a FIFPRO survey. The global players' union surveyed 260 internationals from 26 teams after Australia-New Zealand 2023, with every continent represented, to hear their feedback on their Women's World Cup experience and a range of player-facing topics, including compensation, conditions, and workload. FIFPRO highlights three key findings from the player survey.

## **1. COMPENSATION**

#### HUGE DISPARITY IN INCOME LEVELS OF WOMEN'S WORLD CUP PLAYERS



49 percent of players said they earned less than \$50,000 from their club and national team in the last year



earned less than \$5,000

8 percent

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15 percent, meanwhile, had an income of over \$150,000 - the highest bracket in the survey

The income findings do not include the per-player prize money based on team performance at Australia-New Zealand 2023. The collective action of FIFPRO, its member unions and over 150 international players successfully pushed FIFA to implement the first ever per-player compensation. This meant that each player received a minimum of **\$30,000** for their participation in the tournament. FIFPRO remains committed to pay equity for the men's and Women's World Cup in 2026 and 2027.

## 2. WORKLOAD

#### PRE- AND POST-TOURNAMENT REST AN ACUTE CONCERN FOR PLAYERS

As two European nations contested the Women's World Cup final on 20 August, the continent's premier international club competition – the UEFA Women's Champions League – kicked off on 6 September. It left players with little time to recover physically and mentally from one season to another. One player commented that it was "mentally exhausting" going straight from an international tournament back into a club campaign with insufficient rest.

In the build-up to the Women's World Cup, there was also much discussion related to the pre-tournament release period: as the tournament began much later than previous editions, many club seasons ended approximately six weeks before the tournament began.

53%

of players felt that the pre-tournament rest period was not long enough 75% having between 0-13 days' rest

in total

2/3 of players indic

of players indicated that they **did not feel physically prepared** coming into the tournament **60**% of players at the

of players at the Women's World Cup felt that post-tournament rest was not long enough 86% having 0-13 days' rest in total

According to FIFPRO Chief Medical Officer Prof Dr Vincent Gouttebarge, "if players don't have that secure period of at least three weeks, or ideally five weeks, after a long campaign before going into pre-season, then it's not only dangerous from the physical and physiological point of view, but from a mental perspective as well".

# **3. CONDITIONS**

#### MORE SUPPORT NEEDED AT THE TOP OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S GAME

The results of a survey of FIFA Women's World Cup players published today underscores the need for further playercentric improvements in international women's football in key areas including conditions at the tournament to provide the platform for players to be at their competitive best.



one in three play

**one in three** players felt they did not have sufficient nutrition



#### SUBSTANTIAL MEDICAL IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED FOR WOMEN'S INTERNATIONALS

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**One in ten** players surveyed at the Women's World Cup did not have a pre-tournament medical while 22 percent did not receive an electrocardiogram (ECG) prior to participation at the tournament

FIFA mandates the undertaking of a pre-competition medical assessment in its competition regulations. Whilst this is a worrying indication of the deprioritising of players' health, it is nonetheless an increase compared to the number of ECGs conducted in qualification. During qualification for the Women's World Cup,

54 percent of players surveyed did not have a pre-tournament medical and 70 percent did not receive a pre-tournament ECG. FIFPRO has called for the Women's World Cup qualification pathway to have global standards implemented.