

Players say racism and homophobia common in football

20th March, 2014



Players from England's professional football leagues have told a campaign group that racism and homophobia are common in the game. Over 200 professionals playing in the Premier League, and the three divisions below it, took part in a survey

conducted by the campaigners Kick It Out. The organization said both racism and homophobia were everywhere in English football. Over half of those who answered the survey said they regularly see racism and homophobia. A quarter said they have had racist or homophobic comments from fans or other players. One in five said they have seen it from their own teammates. Many players said there should be better policing at football matches.

Kick It Out said things were improving but progress was too slow. It said many players complained about the slow progress. Its website said: "During the 2012/13 season, a number of players publicly displayed their discontent at what they believed to be a lack of progress in tackling racism and discrimination across the game." Former Premier League player Paul Mortimer said there was less racism and homophobia now than there was in the 1980s and 1990s. He said: "If you pick any club in the country, any stadium or any training ground, everything in a club has moved on. But some of the discriminatory vocabulary used is from a bygone era. This kind of mentality is still in the dark ages. It has to move on."

Sources: *Kick It Out.org* / *Daily Mail* / *The Guardian*

Writing

Players who make discriminatory comments should never play again. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

football / campaign group / racism / homophobia / survey / teammates / policing / progress / discontent / training ground / vocabulary / mentality / the dark ages

True / False

- Players from leagues all over the world spoke about discrimination. T / F
- Over 200 players participated in a survey. T / F
- More than half of those who participated regularly see discrimination. T / F
- Players said they never see their teammates making bad comments. T / F
- Players complained that the fight against discrimination was too slow. T / F
- A player said there was less discrimination than 30 years ago. T / F
- The player said it was rare to see discrimination at training grounds. T / F
- The player said people's mentality was from the 19th century. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. common | a. steps forward |
| 2. took part | b. replied to |
| 3. survey | c. remarks |
| 4. answered | d. widespread |
| 5. comments | e. choose |
| 6. improving | f. questionnaire |
| 7. progress | g. challenging |
| 8. tackling | h. way of thinking |
| 9. pick | i. participated |
| 10. mentality | j. getting better |

Discussion – Student A

- Why is there discrimination in sport?
- Why do people think skin colour is important?
- Should the Premier League get fined for discrimination?
- When will racism and homophobia disappear from sport?
- Should more gay sports stars say they are gay?
- What should happen to fans who make racist or homophobic comments?
- What should happen to racist or homophobic players?
- Would better policing at football matches help?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. England's professional | a. who answered |
| 2. took part | b. vocabulary |
| 3. Over half of those | c. at football matches |
| 4. they have had racist or homophobic | d. improving |
| 5. there should be better policing | e. their discontent |
| 6. things were | f. comments from fans |
| 7. a number of players publicly displayed | g. football leagues |
| 8. a lack | h. in the dark ages |
| 9. discriminatory | i. in a survey |
| 10. This kind of mentality is still | j. of progress |

Discussion – Student B

- What can players do to kick discrimination out of the game?
- What do you think of the name "Kick It Out"?
- Why don't some people like a player who is gay or lesbian?
- Is there racism and homophobia in sport in your country?
- What do you do if you hear racist or homophobic comments?
- Should players walk off the pitch (field) if they get comments?
- Should football clubs be fined if fans make discriminatory comments?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of Kick It Out?

Spelling

- England's afneosriopsl football leagues
- mgapnaic group
- took part in a uvrsye
- they yelluagr see racism and homophobia
- racist or homophobic mtosmenc from fans
- there should be better nlcgiopi
- things were oimnipgrv
- complained about the slow peogsr
- racism and ioiinidsnctram
- any itsmuda or any training ground
- discriminatory yorabvlacu
- This kind of aetinmylt

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. i	3. f	4. b	5. c
6. j	7. a	8. g	9. e	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Elementary school

You think elementary school is the best place to educate people about discrimination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them some problems with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the Internet, the workplace or sports grounds.

Role B – Internet

You think the Internet is the best place to educate people about discrimination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them some problems with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): elementary school, the workplace or sports grounds.

Role C – At work

You think the workplace is the best place to educate people about discrimination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them some problems with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the Internet, elementary school or sports grounds.

Role D – Sports grounds

You think sports grounds are the best places to educate people about discrimination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them some problems with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the Internet, the workplace or elementary school.

Speaking – Discrimination

Rank these with your partner. Put the most hurtful or damaging ways to discriminate against someone at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- online comments
- "jokes" from sports chiefs
- not taking action
- remarks from teammates
- comments from players
- banners at football games
- not selecting a player
- comments from home fans

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.