

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210729-pink.html>

Singer-songwriter Pink has got involved in a sexism row in the sport of beach handball. She has come to the aid of the Norwegian women's team after they were fined for not wearing bikini bottoms during the 2021 European Beach Handball Championships. The singer has offered to pay the fines handed out to Norway's competitors for wearing "improper clothing". Male competitors were allowed to wear shorts, but the women were required to wear bikinis. The European Handball Federation (EHF) fined the team \$1,765 for not complying with the regulations. Pink took to Twitter and offered to pay the fine. She added that the EHF should be fined "for sexism".

The Norwegian Handball Federation president said the bikinis were "not appropriate clothing for the activity when the women are playing in the sand". The team's request to wear shorts during the championships was turned down. Male players were allowed to play in sports shirts and shorts no longer than 10cm above the knee; while women were expected to wear midriff-baring tops and bikini bottoms "with a close fit and cut on an upward angle toward the top of the leg". Norway's Minister of Culture called the discriminatory dress rule "antiquated" and "completely ridiculous". It questioned: "How many attitude changes are needed in the old-fashioned international patriarchy of sports?"

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/07/26/sport/pink-norwegian-handball-fine-intl-scli-spt/index.html>
<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2021/jul/26/pink-offers-to-pay-fines-for-norwegian-womens-beach-handball-team-sexist>
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/sports/olympics/pink-offers-to-cover-norwegian-women-s-beach-handball-team-fine-for-not-playing-in-bikinis/ar-AAMzF1L>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. involved | a. Acting in accordance with a wish or command. |
| 2. handed out | b. Not in accordance with accepted rules or standards, especially of morality or honesty. |
| 3. improper | c. Given. |
| 4. federation | d. Prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination, typically against women, on the basis of sex. |
| 5. complying | e. Caused a person or group to experience or participate in an activity or situation. |
| 6. regulation | f. An organization or group within which smaller divisions have some degree of internal autonomy. |
| 7. sexism | g. A rule or directive made and kept by an authority. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 8. appropriate | h. Rejected or refused. |
| 9. turned down | i. Making or showing an unfair or prejudicial distinction between different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex. |
| 10. midriff | j. A part of society or government in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it. |
| 11. baring | k. The area of the front of the body between the chest and the waist. |
| 12. discriminatory | l. Old-fashioned or outdated. |
| 13. antiquated | m. Uncovering a part of the body or other thing and exposing it to view. |
| 14. patriarchy | n. Suitable or proper in the circumstances. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210729-pink.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The singer Pink is in trouble after she wore a bikini in a handball game. **T / F**
2. Norwegian beach handball players were fined at the Tokyo Olympics. **T / F**
3. The European Handball Federation fined the Norwegian team. **T / F**
4. Pink said the European Handball Federation should be fined for sexism. **T / F**
5. Norway's handball federation said bikinis were appropriate clothing. **T / F**
6. Male handball players can wear shorts 10cm below the knee. **T / F**
7. Female handball players are expected to expose their stomachs. **T / F**
8. Norway's Ministry of Culture suggested sport is too male dominated. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. row | a. suitable |
| 2. aid | b. permitted |
| 3. fined | c. absurd |
| 4. allowed | d. assistance |
| 5. complying with | e. call |
| 6. appropriate | f. outdated |
| 7. request | g. argument |
| 8. discriminatory | h. observing |
| 9. antiquated | i. chauvinistic |
| 10. ridiculous | j. penalised |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Singer-songwriter Pink has got involved | a. clothing |
| 2. She has come to the aid of the | b. rule |
| 3. improper | c. fined for sexism |
| 4. fined the team \$1,765 for not complying | d. of sports |
| 5. She added that the EHF should be | e. baring tops |
| 6. not appropriate clothing | f. in a sexism row |
| 7. The team's request | g. for the activity |
| 8. women were expected to wear midriff- | h. to wear shorts |
| 9. the discriminatory dress | i. with the regulations |
| 10. the old-fashioned international patriarchy | j. Norwegian women's team |

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210729-pink.html>

- 1) What kind of row does the article say pink got involved in?
 - a) a financial row
 - b) a sexism row
 - c) a handball rules row
 - d) a bikini colour row
- 2) When was the handball team fined for not wearing bikini bottoms?
 - a) 2019
 - b) 2020
 - c) earlier this week
 - d) 2021
- 3) What was the team fined for wearing?
 - a) shorts
 - b) leggings
 - c) body suits
 - d) long T-shirts
- 4) How much was the handball team fined?
 - a) \$1,756
 - b) \$1,567
 - c) \$1,765
 - d) \$1,675
- 5) What did Pink say the European Handball Federation should be fined for?
 - a) stupidity
 - b) sexism
 - c) being antiquated
 - d) ridiculousness
- 6) What did the Norwegian Handball Federation say bikinis were not good for?
 - a) winning
 - b) spectators
 - c) playing in the sand
 - d) mental health
- 7) What happened to the team's request to wear shorts?
 - a) it got lost
 - b) it was successful
 - c) it is being considered
 - d) it was turned down
- 8) How much above the knee should men's shorts be?
 - a) 10cm
 - b) 12cm
 - c) 8cm
 - d) 14cm
- 9) Who called the bikini bottoms discriminatory?
 - a) Norway's Minister of Culture
 - b) the team captain
 - c) the head of the Olympics
 - d) the men's team
- 10) What did Norway's Minister of Culture say was old fashioned?
 - a) bikini bottoms
 - b) the international patriarchy of sports
 - c) single-sex sports teams
 - d) dress rules

BEACH HANDBALL DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'pink'?
3. What do you know about the singer Pink?
4. What do you think about beach handball?
5. What are the best things to wear when playing beach handball?
6. How sexist is it to for female athletes to have to wear bikinis?
7. What do you think of Pink for offering to pay the fines?
8. What do you think of the handball players for disregarding the rules?
9. How much fun do you think beach handball is?
10. What advice do you have for the handball players?

Pink offers to pay Norway's handball bikini fine – 29th July, 2021
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BEACH HANDBALL DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'handball'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about beach handball?
15. Should the handball players have been fined?
16. Why are there different rules for what men and women can wear?
17. Which is more fun, beach handball or regular handball?
18. What is your favourite beach activity?
19. Why do you think Pink intervened in this situation?
20. What questions would you like to ask Pink?