

Sexism in German football

Level 3 • Advanced

1 Warmer

In your country, which of these jobs are usually done by men (M) and which by women (W)? Which are done by equal numbers of men and women (M/W)?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| a. football referee | f. lorry driver |
| b. teacher | g. secretary |
| c. doctor | h. scientist |
| d. nurse | i. lawyer |
| e. engineer | j. fitness instructor |

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

columnist
referee

chancellor
breakthrough

inspired
celebrity

insider
patronizing

milestone
setback

- A _____ is someone whose job is to make sure that players in a game obey the rules.
- A _____ is an achievement that comes after a lot of hard work.
- A _____ is an event or achievement that marks an important stage in a process.
- A _____ is a famous person, especially in entertainment or sport.
- A _____ is a journalist who writes a regular series of articles for a particular newspaper or magazine.
- The _____ is the head of the government in some countries, for example Germany and Austria.
- A _____ is a problem that delays or stops progress or makes a situation worse.
- If you are _____ by someone or something, you feel enthusiastic and motivated.
- An _____ is someone within an organization or group who knows about all the things happening in it.
- _____ behaviour shows that you think you are more important or more intelligent than someone else.

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

- When did the Olympic Games last take place in London?
- What is Bibiana Steinhaus's nickname?
- When was she first recognized as a referee by FIFA?
- When were women banned from playing football in Germany?
- When did Steinhaus take charge of her first match as referee?
- When did Germany get its first female chancellor?

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'Bibi' of the Bundesliga blows whistle on sexism in German football

Bibiana Steinhaus's appointment as a top-flight referee has been likened to Angela Merkel becoming chancellor in 2005

Kate Connolly

22 May, 2017

- 1 The appointment of a woman as a referee in the highest football league in Germany, the Bundesliga, has been described as a breakthrough for equality domestically and a milestone for football. Bibiana Steinhaus has become an overnight celebrity since the announcement by the German football federation's referee commission that she will take charge of games in the Bundesliga in the 2017–18 season. The same organization banned women from playing football as recently as the 1950s.
- 2 Writing in *Die Welt*, columnist Oskar Beck said that, until now, almost every element of the game was male, even the definite article "der", which is used to describe everything from kick-off to goalpost, counter-attack and corner kick. Fittingly, he said, the word for "whistle" is feminine in German. Steinhaus would change the tone of the game for the better, Beck added.
- 3 Another columnist said Steinhaus's appointment ranked in importance with the country getting its first female chancellor in 2005. The 38-year-old, from northern Germany, works as a police officer in Hannover and is known as "Bibi". She said the job "has always been my dream. That it should come true has obviously made me extremely happy."
- 4 Steinhaus told the German football federation website: "For any referee, whether man or woman, it is their biggest ambition to be able to blow the whistle in the Bundesliga. I've spent many years working towards that and faced several setbacks, which is why I'm very happy about the trust the referee commission has placed in me, which proves that even in refereeing, it's performance that counts."
- 5 Inspired by her father, who was also a football referee, Steinhaus took charge of her first match in 1995. She was promoted to the women's Bundesliga in 1999 and to the men's regional league in 2001. In 2005, she was recognized by the international football body, FIFA, becoming a referee for the second tier of the Bundesliga in 2007. She refereed key women's football matches at the London Olympics in 2012.
- 6 Her partner, the ex-Premier League and World Cup referee Howard Webb, said he was "absolutely thrilled to bits" by Steinhaus's appointment. Webb told the BBC he thought it might inspire more women to aim for high positions in the game and could pave the way for the Premier League to put women in charge of matches.
- 7 "We have some good female officials in England. More and more are coming through and if they have the ability, it shouldn't make any difference if they are male or female," he said. Until now, the leading woman in German football was Sylvia Neid, the former player and coach of Germany's highly successful women's team. Martina Voss, who won seven national titles as a player and trains the Swiss women's team, has suggested it might not be long before a woman takes over as a Bundesliga coach.
- 8 Steinhaus is the oldest of four new referees appointed for the coming season. Insiders said it was her last chance to be promoted to the Bundesliga. In 2014, while serving as the fourth official in a match between Bayern Munich and Borussia Mönchengladbach, the Bayern Munich coach, Pep Guardiola, stormed up to her and put his arm around her shoulder as he argued about a refereeing decision. She angrily shrugged him off and it was he who faced criticism for his patronizing behaviour.
- 9 Steinhaus was at the heart of another media storm in 2015, when Fortuna Düsseldorf's midfielder Kerem Demirbay received a five-game ban for saying "women have no place in men's football" after Steinhaus showed him a red card.

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4 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer according to the text.

1. How was the appointment of Bibiana Steinhaus as a Bundesliga described by one journalist?
 - a. almost as important as the appointment of Germany's first female chancellor
 - b. as important as the appointment of Germany's first female chancellor
 - c. more important than the appointment of Germany's first female chancellor
2. Where did Steinhaus get the inspiration to become a referee?
 - a. from her father, who was also a referee
 - b. from her partner, who was also a referee
 - c. from watching the World Cup on television
3. What happened when the Bayern Munich coach, Pep Guardiola, argued with Steinhaus about a decision?
 - a. She was criticized for her behaviour.
 - b. He was criticized for his behaviour.
 - c. They were both criticized for their behaviour.
4. What was her partner's reaction to her appointment as a Bundesliga referee?
 - a. He was incredibly surprised.
 - b. He was very disappointed.
 - c. He was very pleased and excited.

5 Find the word

Find the following words and expressions in the text.

1. an adjective (used only before a noun) meaning *happening after a very short time* (para 1)
2. an adverb meaning *in a way that is suitable or appropriate under the circumstances* (para 2)
3. a noun meaning *one of several levels in an organization or system* (para 5)
4. a three-word adjectival phrase meaning *extremely pleased and excited* (para 6)
5. a three-word verb phrase meaning *create a situation that makes it possible or easier for something to happen* (para 6)
6. an adverb (used before certain adjectives) meaning *very* (para 7)
7. a three-word phrasal verb meaning *approach someone very quickly because you are angry with them* (para 8)
8. a two-word phrasal verb meaning *shake your shoulders to make someone stop touching you* (para 8)

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6 Verb + noun collocations

Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the nouns or noun phrases in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1. take | a. the tone of something |
| 2. change | b. the way |
| 3. face | c. charge |
| 4. make | d. an overnight celebrity |
| 5. pave | e. setbacks |
| 6. become | f. a difference |

7 Word-building

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the word in brackets at the end of each sentence.

- Many people have welcomed the _____ of the Bundesliga's first female referee. [APPOINT]
- They see it as a breakthrough for _____. [EQUAL]
- Steinhaus believes that, in refereeing, it is _____ that counts. [PERFORM]
- She got her _____ from her father. [INSPIRE]
- Pep Guardiola faced criticism for his patronizing _____. [BEHAVE]
- Steinhaus shrugged Guardiola off _____. [ANGRY]

8 Discussion

Discuss the statements.

- If you are good enough for the job, it shouldn't matter what sex you are.
- In your country, is there greater gender equality now than 50 years ago? What exactly has changed?
- Apart from refereeing, in what other areas are there still gender inequalities? What can be done about it?

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KEY

2 Key words

1. referee
2. breakthrough
3. milestone
4. celebrity
5. columnist
6. chancellor
7. setback
8. inspired
9. insider
10. patronizing

3 Find the information

1. 2012
2. Bibi
3. 2005
4. the 1950s
5. 1995
6. 2005

4 Comprehension check

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. c

5 Find the word

1. overnight
2. fittingly
3. tier
4. thrilled to bits
5. pave the way
6. highly
7. storm up to
8. shrug off

6 Verb + noun collocations

1. c
2. a
3. e
4. f
5. b
6. d

7 Word-building

1. appointment
2. equality
3. performance
4. inspiration
5. behaviour
6. angrily