

SLAP!

Sounds like a plan

SPEAKING PRACTICE

1 Read the headline of the article. What do you think happened?

2 Read the text and try to retell the story.

NORWAY'S BEACH HANDBALL TEAM FINED £1,300

Norway's beach handball team has been fined £1,300 for wearing shorts instead of bikini bottoms at a European Championship match.

The women were **fined** the equivalent of £130 (150 euros) each for the outfits they chose for their game against Spain in Bulgaria.

European Handball Federation officials said it was a case of "**improper** clothing" that was "not according to the Athlete Uniform Regulations defined in the IHF beach handball rules of the game".

Norwegian sports minister Abid Raja described the **penalty** as "completely **ridiculous**", while the Norwegian Handball Federation praised the players for trying to change attitudes.

"We at NHF stand behind you and support you. Together we will continue to fight to change the rules for clothing, so that players can play in the clothes they are comfortable with," they said.

Global beach handball rules state that female players must wear bikinis and male players vest tops and shorts.

"Female athletes must wear bikini bottoms...with a close fit and cut on an upward angle toward the top of the leg."

It comes after Team GB Paralympic long jumper Olivia Breen was told her briefs were "too short and inappropriate".

A female official **made the remark** after Breen took part at the English Championships in Bedford. Breen said she didn't think the outfit was "**objectionable**" and that she was "disappointed" by the comment. She said she hopes to wear the same briefs when she competes at the Paralympics in Tokyo next month.

An England Athletics spokesperson said: "We are aware of the post and will be investigating as a **matter of urgency**."

"The **wellbeing** of all participants in athletics is of the utmost importance and everyone should feel comfortable to compete and participate in the sport."

Adapted from: <https://news.sky.com/story/norways-beach-handball-team-fined-1-300-for-wearing-shorts-not-bikini-bottoms-12360215>

SLAP!

Sounds like a plan

SPEAKING PRACTICE

NEW VOCABULARY

outrageous infuriating scandalous heinous unbearable nauseating
intolerable ridiculous absurd ludicrous unreasonable
it makes one's blood boil it makes someone lose it

SPEAKING PRACTICE

Try to use the words and phrases to discuss the following questions:

- 1** Was it a good decision to issue a fine against the team?
- 2** What might be the response of people having a different opinion than yours? How would they justify it?
- 3** If you were responsible for making the call, how would you approach this matter?
- 4** What would happen if a male team was made to wear revealing clothes?
- 5** What do you think about dress codes at different workplaces? Should the employer have the right to decide what is appropriate and what is not? To what extent?
- 6** What other signs of inequality can one notice in contemporary world?
- 7** How can we solve the problem of inequality when it comes to:
 - 0 sport
 - 0 work / business
 - 0 school