



10 July 2014

Mr Theo van Seggelen  
Secretary General  
FIFPro

By email:       theo@fifpro.com

Dear Theo,

### **FIFA Womens World Cup 2015, Canada**

We are writing on behalf of our members, the Australian Women's Football team who recently qualified for the FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in Canada in 2015.

Our members have raised concerns with us in relation to the decision by FIFA to use artificial pitches at 5 of the 6 venues selected for the FIFA World Cup. While we understand from Dr. Vincent Goutteborge that there is no scientific evidence that the injury rate differs while using artificial turf, our members are concerned about:

- the effect of being required to switch between the 2 surfaces for training and playing;
- the competitive balance of the teams due to different surfaces being used during the tournament;
- the recovery time between matches. It is the experience of our members that it takes longer to recover from a match played on artificial turf as opposed to natural grass;

The most important issue raised however, is that of gender equity. We are certain that the Australian Men's Football Team would not be required to do the same at a FIFA sanctioned tournament.

Finally, we have attached to this letter the results of a FIFA Questionnaire (Nov 2013) "Elite Female Players Perceptions of Football Playing Surfaces" which concludes that:

*"there was strong agreement that all matches at a major tournament should be played on natural grass".*

We would be very interested in the opinions of other FIFPro member associations that are participating in the tournament and whether this is a matter which could be collectively addressed with FIFA.

Kind regards,



**Adam Vivian**  
**Chief Executive**



**Kate Gill**  
**Captain, Australian Womens Football Team**

cc. Brendan Schwab, Chairman FIFPro Division Asia  
Vincent Gouttebarga, Chief Medical Officer, FIFPro