# West Ham Women’s quest for London Stadium dreams faces financial and political hurdles



The ongoing dispute between West Ham United and their landlords at the London Stadium has escalated, centring on the costs and terms associated with hosting West Ham Women’s matches at the venue. The women’s team has not played a match at the London Stadium since 2019, making them the only Women's Super League (WSL) side from last season unable to use their men’s team’s larger home ground for any 2024-25 campaign fixtures. Instead, West Ham Women have been playing at Victoria Road, the home of Dagenham & Redbridge, a smaller stadium in East London.

West Ham claims that their existing agreement with the London Stadium, signed prior to their move in 2016, allows them to hold up to 25 ‘competitive fixtures’ per season at the Olympic Park stadium. However, the point of contention is whether WSL matches fall under this definition of competitive fixtures. The club insists it has proposed paying the same fee for WSL matches that it pays for men’s first-team games, despite operating costs for women’s matches being significantly lower. According to a West Ham spokesperson, the London Stadium authorities have rejected this and are instead demanding more than double the fee for a women’s game compared to a men’s fixture.

In response, a London Stadium spokesman said the current agreement does not cover the women’s team and that separate arrangements are necessary. The spokesman acknowledged the stadium’s enthusiasm for hosting women’s football but maintained that it would be unfair to ask London taxpayers to subsidise the costs. Despite this, the stadium claims to have made a very generous offer to West Ham and remains open to further discussions.

This dispute has caused frustration among fans and unease within the club’s boardroom. West Ham’s vice-chairman, Baroness Karren Brady, has reportedly raised the issue with London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who has publicly championed the growth of women’s football in the capital. However, a spokesperson for the Mayor’s office stated that it would be unrealistic and unfair to expect taxpayers to subsidise events at the stadium and noted that the London Stadium had made a very good offer to West Ham.

West Ham supporters have also voiced their support for the women’s team playing at the London Stadium. The West Ham United Fan Advisory Board urged the Mayor to back the women’s side playing matches at the venue, citing a fan survey where just over half of respondents expressed a desire to see the women’s team play at least one match per season at the stadium. The fan group criticised the financial expectations placed on clubs to host women’s matches as ‘unrealistic and unfair’.

On the pitch, West Ham Women’s manager Rehanne Skinner has reiterated that playing at the London Stadium remains "a big priority" for the club. At present, the women's team plays home games at the Chigwell Construction Stadium in Dagenham, which has a capacity of just over 6,000, contrasting sharply with the London Stadium’s much larger capacity. The situation has drawn public criticism from West Ham players, including defender Lucy Parker, who questioned the club’s commitment to the women’s team by highlighting that they are the only WSL side not to have played at their men’s stadium since 2019. Parker expressed her disappointment on social media following the announcement that the men’s under-18 team would play their FA Youth Cup semi-final at the London Stadium, underscoring the perceived neglect of the women’s team in this respect.

The standoff between West Ham and the London Stadium remains unresolved, with significant implications for the visibility and status of women’s football in London. The club continues to assert that hosting WSL matches at the London Stadium is a key priority, hoping that continued dialogue, alongside political support, will lead to a more equitable arrangement that recognises the women’s team as an integral part of West Ham United.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-15070641/West-Ham-row-London-Stadium.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/68593237), [[6]](https://www.90min.com/every-wsl-stadium-2024-25-season-01j5dkpzfj8g), [[7]](https://tdpelmedia.com/west-ham-accuse-london-stadium-of-demanding-double-fees-as-row-over-hosting-womens-super-league-matches-in-east-london-escalates/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-15070641/West-Ham-row-London-Stadium.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://tdpelmedia.com/west-ham-accuse-london-stadium-of-demanding-double-fees-as-row-over-hosting-womens-super-league-matches-in-east-london-escalates/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-15070641/West-Ham-row-London-Stadium.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-15070641/West-Ham-row-London-Stadium.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.whust.org/news/west-ham-fan-advisory-board-calls-on-mayor-of-london-to-back-womens-football-at-london-stadium)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/68593237), [[6]](https://www.90min.com/every-wsl-stadium-2024-25-season-01j5dkpzfj8g), [[4]](https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11095/12845020/west-ham-women-lucy-parker-criticices-own-club-over-lack-of-london-stadium-fixture), [[5]](https://www.theguardian.com/football/2023/mar/29/west-ham-lucy-parker-criticises-club-london-stadium-snub-women)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-15070641/West-Ham-row-London-Stadium.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://tdpelmedia.com/west-ham-accuse-london-stadium-of-demanding-double-fees-as-row-over-hosting-womens-super-league-matches-in-east-london-escalates/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-15070641/West-Ham-row-London-Stadium.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.whust.org/news/west-ham-fan-advisory-board-calls-on-mayor-of-london-to-back-womens-football-at-london-stadium> - The West Ham United Fan Advisory Board (FAB) has urged Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to support West Ham United Women's team playing matches at the London Stadium. A supporter-led survey revealed that 52.44% of respondents want to see the team play at least one match per season at the venue. The FAB emphasised the importance of equality and opportunity in sport, calling current financial expectations placed on clubs to host women’s matches 'unrealistic and unfair'.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/68593237> - West Ham United Women have not played at the London Stadium since 2019, making them the only Women's Super League side not to have played at their men's stadium this season. Manager Rehanne Skinner stated that hosting a women's game at the London Stadium is still 'a big priority' for the club, and they are working towards making it happen. The team currently plays at the Chigwell Construction Stadium, which has a capacity of 6,078.
4. <https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11095/12845020/west-ham-women-lucy-parker-criticices-own-club-over-lack-of-london-stadium-fixture> - West Ham defender Lucy Parker has publicly criticised the club for failing to facilitate a match for their women’s team at the London Stadium. Parker responded to the announcement that the men's under-18s team will play their FA Youth Cup semi-final at the stadium, expressing disappointment that the women's team has not had the same opportunity since 2019.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2023/mar/29/west-ham-lucy-parker-criticises-club-london-stadium-snub-women> - Lucy Parker has questioned West Ham’s commitment to their women’s team in a social media post. She criticised the club for failing to facilitate a match for the women’s team at the London Stadium, highlighting that they are the only Women's Super League side not to have played at their men's stadium since 2019.
6. <https://www.90min.com/every-wsl-stadium-2024-25-season-01j5dkpzfj8g> - The Chigwell Construction Stadium, located in Dagenham, Greater London, is the home ground of West Ham United Women. The stadium has a capacity of 6,078 and is situated just over 11 miles from the London Stadium, where the men's team plays their home games. West Ham Women have not played at the London Stadium since 2019.
7. <https://tdpelmedia.com/west-ham-accuse-london-stadium-of-demanding-double-fees-as-row-over-hosting-womens-super-league-matches-in-east-london-escalates/> - West Ham United have accused the London Stadium of demanding more than double the cost of hosting a men's game to bring their women's team to the venue. The club has not played a women's match at the stadium since 2019, instead hosting games at Victoria Road, the ground of Dagenham & Redbridge. The dispute centres on whether women's league games fall within the existing agreement for hosting 'competitive fixtures'.