Hi. I'm Jess Wood, but you can call me Woody.

Thanks for reading my book. It shows you've got good taste! This all started out as a Year 9 topic at school. Mr Lee, our teacher, said we could choose the thing we liked best. For me, that was a no-brainer. Girls' football.

I play it.

I watch it.

I live it.

I love it.



And now I'm writing about it. Get in!

Just so you know:

- When I say girls' football, I mean 8 to 17 year olds. After that, it's women's or ladies' football. (Although my dad says I'll never be a lady the way I clomp round the house. Ha, ha.)
- Girls' football follows the same FA rules as boys' football.
- **TA** Stands for Football Association.
- Every country has its own FA. I live in North Wales, so my FA is FAW. What's yours?
- FIFA is the body that governs all the FAs in different countries of the world.



Vixens.

Born kicking

I thought I'd start by telling you how I got into football. Basically, I didn't have much choice. My family are all football fanatics. Mum is Welsh, so I support Wales. Dad is English, so I follow his club, Everton. We follow Everton Ladies, too. We go to as many matches as we can.

I started playing at junior school. It was a mixed team, boys and girls. I was the goalie. Wahoo!



I was gutted when I got to high school and found I couldn't carry on. There wasn't a girls' team and I couldn't join the boys' one because in Wales you can only play mixed football until you are 12.

England isn't much better – their age limit is 13. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, I could have played until I was 15. In fact, in Northern Ireland they encourage mixed football for as long as possible.



Check out this mixed game in Northern Ireland!





