

# Ontario Player Equipment (Law 4)

Law 4 – Players Equipment: Application of the CSA Guidelines in Ontario

Application of the CSA Guidelines in Ontario

“A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any type of Jewellery)” (Law 4).

Introduction:

This document clarifies the use of non-essential equipment that may or may not be worn by players for games under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Soccer Association.

For games played outside of the OSA Rules and Regulations (e.g. USL, PDL, W League, Super Y) please consult the appropriate referee manual.

## JEWELLERY

All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands etc.) are strictly forbidden and must be removed.

Using tape to cover jewellery is not acceptable.

Loose beaded hair is also not permitted unless tied back or covered by a net.

Exceptions to this interpretation are:

- Smooth wedding bands, which, when the referee is convinced cannot be removed may be taped. (not the CSA position but understand in recreational soccer it would be accepted)
- Medic Alert Bracelets are allowed. Where possible they should be the soft Velcro style which does not present any danger. If the medical alert bracelet is the normal metal type it should be either covered by a sweat band or taped. If taped the taping should be such that the description of the medical problem is clearly visible.

## PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Modern protective equipment such as headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted.

Hats: No hats are allowed on the field of play. Exceptions to this are: the goalkeeper may wear a hat, or an outfield player may be permitted for medical reasons on the presentation of a letter signed by a medical professional and validated by the District Association and a copy to the Ontario Soccer. In this circumstance: the hat may not be a baseball cap, and if cap has a peak it must face forwards and have a soft peak. and contains no metal or plastic parts.

Bandanas: no bandanas are allowed. (this is not a CSA position but if you wish to keep it in then we would not object)

Head protectors: Are allowed provided that its sole purpose is to protect the player physically and it poses no danger to the individual or any other player. They must be made of soft, lightweight padded material.

Eyeglasses: are allowed if they are sports spectacles and are safe for the players themselves and for other players. Referees should show tolerance when authorizing their use, particularly for younger players. Materials such as metal or glass are not acceptable. In recreational and house league games referees are expected to show common sense and allow spectacles as long as the basic principals of Law 4 are met.

#### ORTHOPAEDIC SUPPORTS, E.G. KNEE BRACES

FIFA Circular 863 states that the vast majority of commercially manufactured supports are safe to use. Knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material are not considered dangerous. The major concern is not the 'hardness' of the equipment alone, rather that any part of it can cut or wound another player. Any support must be safe for all players, and adequately padded and covered if necessary.

#### CASTS

Hard plaster casts are considered to pose a danger to both the wearer and other players and are not permitted to be worn. The practice of padding a hard plaster cast does not reduce the element of danger. Players wearing a soft, lightweight, cast will be permitted to play if the cast does not present a danger to the individual or any other player. Any player who uses a cast to intimidate or injure an opponent shall be cautioned or sent off depending on the nature of the player's action.

#### PROSTHETICS

A player wearing a prosthetic device should be allowed to play providing the basic principles of Law 4 are met.

#### FOOTWEAR

Referees are encouraged to incorporate a footwear inspection in the pre-match safety check of players' equipment. Poorly maintained studs or blades on the sole of the boot can constitute a danger. When inspecting footwear, referees are to be alert to the possibility of the edge of the blades or studs developing rough areas on either the plastic or metal used in their construction. These burrs can become very sharp and have been the cause of lacerations to opponents. A referee who is concerned over the condition of blades or studs should refuse their use until such time as the unsafe condition has been removed.

#### JERSEYS

All jerseys must have sleeves. The players may not roll the sleeves up or tie them at the shoulder level.

#### QUESTIONS?

The referee or Supervisor of Officials (if one has been appointed to the match/tournament) will make the final decision as to the acceptability of any non-basic item of equipment.

If you have any questions relating to this document, please send to [referee@soccer.on.ca](mailto:referee@soccer.on.ca) – a response will be provided within 7 working days.