PLAYER EQUIPMENT POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to elaborate on rules and regulations of FIFA, Football Australia (FA) and Football NSW Limited (FNSW) in relation to playing equipment during matches.

Scope of Policy

FNSW has the power under its By-Laws to create and issue Policies from time to time.

Safety

The overarching rules in respect of any playing equipment or any items worn are set out in Law 4 of FIFA's Laws of Game which are as follows:

> *"A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous. Accessories are permitted as long as they are not dangerous and are safely and securely covered. Dangerous items must be removed and not taped or covered."*

All items of clothing or equipment other than the basic equipment must be inspected by the referee and determined not to be dangerous.

If an item of clothing or equipment that has been inspected at the start of a match and determined not to be dangerous becomes dangerous or is used in a dangerous manner during the match, its use must no longer be allowed.

Usage of Equipment

Caps

Unless otherwise exempted or allowed by a referee, goal keepers are the only players who are permitted to wear caps as they may constitute a danger to opponents.

Glasses

Players are permitted to wear sports goggles, sports glasses or sports sunglasses as long as, in the opinion of the referee, they pose no danger to the player or other players. The Optometrists Association of Australia has stated that children involved in sport, requiring assisted vision, should wear protective eyewear such as sports goggles or sports glasses with soft or flexible frames fitted with a plastic or polycarbonate lens.

Head bands and wrist bands

The wearing of cloth head bands on the head and wrist sweat bands are permitted.

Hair ties

Material and elastic hair ties are permissible and must be worn in the hair. If they are worn on the wrist, they must be safely and securely covered.

Undershirts

Long sleeved undershirts must be the same tonal colour as the main colour of the shirt sleeve or a pattern/colour which exactly replicate(s) the shirt sleeve.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a player's shirt contains more than one colour (for example red and white) then the tonal colour of the undershirts must be the dominant colour of the player's shirt and that colour must be worn by all players that are wearing undershirts.

Moreover, if a player's shirt contains more than one colour and those colours are equal (for example red and white stripes) then the tonal colour of the undershirts must be one of the colours on the player's shirt and that colour must be worn by all players.

Undershorts

Undershorts must be the same tonal colour as the main colour of the player's shorts or the lowest part of the shorts – players of the same team must wear the same colour. Players are permitted to wear full-length undershorts provided it is the same tonal colour as the main colour of the shorts or the same tonal colour as the lowest part of the shorts.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a player's undershorts contain more than one colour (for example red and white) then the tonal colour of the undershorts must be the dominant colour of the player's undershorts or the colour of the lowest part of the shorts and that colour must be worn by all players that are wearing undershorts.

Moreover, if a player's undershorts contain more than one colour and those colours are equal (for example red and white stripes) then the tonal colour of the undershorts must be one of the colours on the player's undershorts and that colour must be worn by all players.

Accessories and Jewellery

As per IFAB:

The 2026/27 Laws of the Game changed the reference to 'jewellery' in the Laws of the Game as it was potentially confusing; some of the items previously listed in *Law 4: The Player's Equipment* did not constitute jewellery. Furthermore, the banning of jewellery**:**

- Created confrontation
- Had been inconsistently applied
- Overlooked cultural, religious, medical and personal reasons for wearing certain items

The focus is on "non-dangerous accessories" being allowed if safely and securely covered, while dangerous items remain forbidden.

Players and match officials are allowed to wear non-dangerous accessories as long as they are safely and securely covered.

This includes wedding rings, bracelets, necklaces and small stud or sleeper earrings. Medical bracelets or necklaces, or jewellery of religious/cultural/personal significance are permitted to be worn as long as they are not dangerous and are safely and securely covered.

Head Cover (including hijabs)

Where head covers (excluding goalkeepers' caps) are worn, they must:

- be black or the same main colour as the shirt (provided that the players of the same team wear the same colour)
- be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment
- not be attached to the shirt
- not be dangerous to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g. opening/ closing mechanism around neck)
- not have any part(s) extending out from the surface (protruding elements)

Shin Guards

Shin guards are a piece of compulsory equipment for all players. These must be made of a suitable material and be of an appropriate size to provide reasonable protection and be covered by the socks. As per the Laws of the Game, players are responsible for the size and suitability of their shin guards.

Other

Non-dangerous protective equipment, for example gloves, headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material are permitted, as are goalkeepers' caps and sports spectacles. Goalkeepers may wear tracksuit bottoms.

Players may also wear fitness or data trackers (not on the wrist).

In the interests of player safety and wellbeing, and the safety of all players and match officials, FNSW prohibits players from wearing plaster casts, fiberglass casts, or any hard, rigid brace or support while training or playing.

Responsibility for Compliance

The individual player, team coach and the club have the responsibility for player equipment and should be fully aware of the requirements set out in this Policy, other FNSW, FA and FIFA rules and regulations adopted from time to time.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Except for the inspection of the use of the hijab, the players are to be inspected by the referees before the match and substitutes before they enter the field of play.

If a player is wearing or using unauthorized / dangerous equipment or jewellery/accessories, the referee must order the player to:

- remove the item
- leave the field of play at the next stoppage if the player is unable or unwilling to comply

A player who refuses to comply or wears the item again must be cautioned.

Body Cameras for Match Officials

No match officials in FNSW are permitted to wear body cameras.

Review

This Policy is to be reviewed by FNSW as required.