



WEARING OF JEWELLERY – COMPETITION FIXTURES

The Laws of the Game establish the framework within which the game is to be played. Law 4 – Players' Equipment list the items that must be worn and those that are precluded.

The opening paragraphs of Law 4 states:

“Safety

A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous. All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed.

Using tape to cover jewellery is not permitted. The players must be inspected before the start of the match and substitutes before they enter the field of play.

If a player is wearing or using unauthorised/ dangerous equipment or jewellery 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.”

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COMPULSORY EQUIPMENT

The compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following separate items:

- a shirt with sleeves
- shorts
- socks – tape or any material applied or worn externally must be the same colour as that part of the sock it is applied to or covers
- shinguards – these must be made of a suitable material to provide reasonable protection and covered by the socks
- footwear

Goalkeepers may wear tracksuit bottoms.

A player whose footwear or shinguard is lost accidentally must replace it as soon as possible and no later than when the ball next goes out of play; if before doing so the player plays the ball and/or scores a goal, the goal is awarded.



COLOURS

- The two teams must wear colours that distinguish them from each other and the match officials
- Each goalkeeper must wear colours that are distinguishable from the other players and the match officials
- If the two goalkeepers' shirts are the same colour and neither has another shirt, the referee allows the match to be played Undershirts must be the same colour as the main colour of the shirt sleeve; undershorts/tights must be the same colour as the main colour of the shorts or the lowest part of the shorts – players of the same team must wear the same colour.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

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

Head Covers

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)

FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE

Once again, the CDSFA is in receipt of complaints relating to the use of language that may be considered as being "foul or abusive", commonly known as "swearing". Complaints have been made by several Club Officials, but more importantly by **Members of the Public** attending matches and **Residents** next to some playing fields.

Most clubs would be aware that access to our sporting fields is contingent upon proper social conduct by participants. There is a collective obligation by football to ensure fixtures are conducted within the laws of the game.

Unfortunately, swearing (foul and abusive language) is regrettably common place within society, the use of such language within the football environment is unacceptable. The complaints in the main relate to adult male matches, however on the opening weekend there have been reports regarding parents in the Under 13 competition.



In terms of players, Match Officials have an authority (and are obliged to respond) under the Laws of the Game (Law 12) to any incident of a participant identified as “showing dissent by word or action” or the use of “offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures”. The referee’s interpretation of the seriousness of the words or actions will determine whether one of the two following actions occurs;

- Yellow Card issued (ie caution);
- Red Card issued (ie Send-Off)

Foul or abusive language uttered is NOT able to be defended based on reasons such as a claim that such language was “only uttered to myself, my team-mates or was unable to be heard by others.” Despite some expectations that ALL referees will make the SAME interpretation on DIFFERENT incidents, participants are advised that action taken by “any” referee in “any” match, will NOT set a precedent or provide immunity for any other incident where a referee determines that dissent was shown, or offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures was used.

The CRA has been instructed to inform its members to deal with any audible swearing; given there are families with children attending CDSFA fixtures.

Sanctions imposed by the CDSFA can be anticipated as being more severe when offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures is reported as being made against a match official.

The Football NSW Disciplinary Regulations (Table of Offences) defines a MINIMUM sanction to be imposed for an offence reported as; “Repeated use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against a match official” to be TEN (10) matches.

Our aim must be to change the culture where by the use of foul and abusive language (and/or actions), is not acceptable as part of local football activity. Member Clubs play a critical influential role in brokering the values that are required and the Association applaud efforts to promote appropriate behaviour, including respect for match officials.

The issue of sideline misconduct by parents may well be an emerging issue. It may require the Association eventually issuing a directive to the CRA to have its members terminate games early where parents and supporters direct abuse towards match officials and the opposition. *It would be prudent at this early stage of the competition for clubs to circulate to team managers the need to warn parents and supporters at junior fixtures in particular to be mindful of the FFA code of conduct that applies to spectators at games.*

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