



REFEREES CIRCULAR

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FNSW JEWELLERY POLICY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

This policy, in its entirety, is to be strictly adhered to and enforced by ALL match officials controlling matches played under the auspices of Football NSW regardless of the grade or level of competition they are officiating.

Introduction:

Despite Law 4 being quite specific about the wearing of jewellery, it is obvious that there are still a number of match officials who either do not understand the requirements or choose to ignore them. In order to gain greater consistency the following is a summary of the requirements when applying Law 4.

Law4:

This Law states that:

- Nothing dangerous is to be worn.
- No jewellery is to be worn.

These directions are also restated in the 'Additional Instructions to Referees' section of the Law Book. These two statements are related, but not dependent upon each other.

The Law is quite specific, however, about **no jewellery being worn.**

Instructions to Match Officials

The following is now National Policy, and became effective 1 January 2006.

Earrings:

- No form of earrings or studs are acceptable
- **The practice of taping earrings/studs or piercings is unacceptable**

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Facial Rings/Piercings:

- Any kind of jewellery around the eyes must be removed
- Jewellery in any other part of the face must also be removed
- **The practice of taping facial rings or piercings is unacceptable**

Necklaces:

- All necklaces including metal, rope, fabric, or such other material must be removed.
- Medical alert necklaces **only** may be worn but they must be taped securely to the chest.

Bracelets:

- All bracelets including metal, rope, fabric, or other such material must be removed.
- Medical alert bracelets **only** may be worn but must be taped securely to the wrist.

Body Piercing:

Any piercing not visible to the referee is not of concern.

Should the piercing become visible then the referee will require that the player remove it before being permitted to enter or re enter the field of play.

Rings:

- All rings must be removed
- This includes flat wedding rings
- **Taping or otherwise covering rings will not permitted under any circumstances**

Watches:

- Players must remove all watches. Match officials are excluded from this directive as a watch is a necessary part of the referee's equipment.

Beaded Hair:

- If a player is wearing hair beads the hair must be tied in a bun or covered by a hair net
- Loose beaded hair will not be permitted

Hair Clips:

- Any hard rigid hair anchor e.g.: Metal or plastic hair clips, bobby pins, headbands, etc are not permitted. The use of fabric or elastic type hair restraints will be permitted providing they do not constitute a danger to either the player or an opponent

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Spectacles:

- Refer to the 'Additional Instructions for Referees' section of Law Book for National Policy.
- This instruction is fairly open ended and allows for the referee to make a final decision.
- This is offered as a guide to members of the St. George Football Referees Association Inc. when attempting to make a determination as to whether a player's spectacles are safe or not.
- Basically the risk is assessed as the frames of the spectacles and not the lenses themselves
- Spectacles consisting of metal frames should be considered unsuitable and not permitted to be worn.
- Spectacles made of flexible plastic or other similar material such as 'sports spectacles' would be acceptable.

Casts/Splints:

Casts, splints, joint or limb supports will not be permitted regardless of the material they are manufactured from.

- Padding, bandaging or otherwise disguising of casts etc. is also not permitted.
- Players will be permitted to wear elastic type muscle supports providing they are close fitting and in the opinion of the referee do not constitute a danger.
- Referees should be vigilant when inspecting such equipment that players are not concealing such apparatus under medical bandaging etc.

Referees:

- In keeping within the spirit of these guidelines, referees are required to conform to the identical standards set for the players, with the exception of the need to wear watches
- Referees need to be diligent in carrying out these instructions and be aware of players trying to circumvent the policy
- Players who are found to have breached the jewellery policy are to be asked to rectify the problem prior to the commencement of the game or are to be asked to leave the field at the next stoppage in play. Where a player has disregarded an instruction from a match official to remove an article of jewellery that player is to be cautioned and shown the yellow card
- The game is not to be delayed in any way whilst a player corrects their equipment/jewellery