

LAW IV – PLAYER’S EQUIPMENT

1. Prior to any game the referee shall inspect the players’ equipment and prevent any player whose equipment does not conform to the requirements of this Law from playing until such time as it does comply.
2. A player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to another player or to himself or herself.
3. The basic compulsory equipment of a player shall consist of a shirt, shorts, socks, shinguards and shoes.
4. Uniforms
 - A. All players on a team must wear shirts of the same color.
 - B. The goalkeeper must wear a color different than that of either team and the referee
 - C. It is the responsibility of the home team to change to a different color if the two teams normally wear the same color.
 - D. Numbers on shirts are required, and must be different for each player. However, when a team must wear alternate shirts, because of a color conflict, such shirts need not be numbered.
 - E. For an unresolved color conflict, the referees may permit the game to proceed.
5. Shinguards, which must be covered entirely by socks, shall be made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic, polyurethane or similar substance) and shall afford a reasonable degree of protection.
6. Shoes made by well-known manufacturers and designated as soccer footwear are legal, as are gym shoes.
7. Personal Equipment
 - A. Illegal equipment: The following shall be considered examples of illegal equipment, and shall not be worn by any player.
 - (1) shinguards with exposed sharp edges;
 - (2) jewelry or watches;
 - (3) face or spectacle guards;
 - (4) helmets of hard material;
 - (5) any type of cast or splint (other than so-called inflated “air” casts or splints), even though covered with soft padding;
 - (6) knee brace(s) – unless wrapped and covered with soft padding and approved by the referee;
 - (7) cleats with sharp edges;
 - (8) foreign objects in the mouth (such as gum or ice), other than internal orthodontic devices.

NOTE: The foregoing examples are not intended to be all-inclusive. The referee may determine other equipment to be illegal or dangerous. However, the items listed in 7-A. are to be considered illegal equipment (except as

noted) at all times. Use of these items shall not be permitted at any time, even by agreement between the coaches and the referee.

B. Legal Equipment: The following shall be considered examples of legal equipment, and as such may (except as noted) be worn by any player:

- (1) soft headwear such as knit caps;
- (2) goalkeepers may wear gloves
- (3) a soft-billed cap or a properly fitted and fastened safety helmet, made of foam or other soft material;
- (4) hearing aids;
- (5) eyeglasses, with or without strap;
- (6) contact lenses;
- (7) soft gloves;
- (8) warm-up suits, hooded sweatshirts, sweat pants and similar soft apparel – but only if worn under the player's uniform.

PUNISHMENT: For any infringement of Law IV:

1. The player shall be instructed by the referee to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play to adjust his (or her) equipment or to obtain missing equipment – unless by then the player has already corrected his (or her) equipment.
2. A player who has been instructed to leave the field of play shall not return without first reporting to the referee, who shall determine that the player's equipment is in order.
3. The player shall only re-enter the game at a moment when the ball has ceased to be in play and only with the referee's permission.