



FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT POLICY

Effective Date: January 1, 2025

Facilities

Prior to each training session or game, team personnel and/or designated volunteer should develop the habit of a safety check. The grounds and facilities need to be appropriate and the equipment needs to be in good condition for the well-being and safety of the participants.

Portable Goal Safety

- Test that portable goalposts are secured by appropriate anchor weights to prevent them from toppling over. Test: exert significant force downward on the crossbar, backward and forward on both the upright posts
- Netting is secured by plastic hooks or tape.
- Under no circumstances allow children or adults to climb, swing on, or play with the structures of the goalposts.

Field and Area Safety

- Inspect for foreign objects, holes, depressions or torn sections.
- Make sure sprinkler heads are seated.
- Make sure water drains beyond the touch line are marked for player awareness
- Review fencing. No climbing to retrieve balls
- Check bleachers and parking lots for any obvious hazards.

Make everyone aware of any hazardous conditions and notify the Club of any unsafe conditions in writing as soon as practical. Keep a copy for your records.

Equipment - Players

According to Canada Soccer's guidelines: "A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player."

The Canadian Soccer Association issued a memorandum (2005) pertaining to Law 4, Players Equipment, which clarifies the use of non-essential equipment that may or may not be worn by players. This document elaborates on the CSA document for games under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Soccer Association.

Jewelry

- No item of jewelry of any sort will be allowed on the field of play, even if it is 'taped'.
- This includes but not limited to necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather or rubber bands or visible body piercings. 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.
- Medic Alert Bracelets are allowed but must be taped. The taping should be such that the description of the medical problem is clearly visible.

Head Covers

- Where head covers (excluding goalkeeper's caps) are worn, they must:
- Be of same colour as the jersey or black (all players should match)
- Be in keeping with the professional appearance of the players' equipment
- Not be attached to the jersey
- Not pose any danger 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)
- Wearing of turbans/patkas/keski are permitted
- The head covering must be safe and must not pose danger to the wearer or other participants.

Exceptions to this interpretation are:

- The goalkeeper may wear a hat, or
- A 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 OSA.
- As guidance:
 - 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
- Head protectors: only those permitted by FIFA are allowed.
- Eyeglasses: are allowed if they are sports spectacles and are safe for the players themselves and for other 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 principles 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. -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

Players wearing a soft cast will be permitted to play if the cast does not present a danger to him/herself or any other player. – All casts must be adequately padded by suitable material such as foam or “bubble wrap”.

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.

Blood

An athlete who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person, shall be directed to leave the game until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to competition.