



Law 4 (8 & 9)



U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Grade 8 Referee Course
Competitive Youth Training



Requirements

There are 5 required pieces of equipment that each player must wear.





Requirements

- **Shoes** ... must be worn and must be considered safe.
- **Shin Guards** ... must be made of a suitable material and provide a reasonable amount of protection for the player.
- **Socks** ... that completely cover the shin guards
- **Shorts** ... which is the same color as their teammates.
- **Shirt** ... which is the same color as their teammates.





Requirements

Goalkeepers are required to have the same equipment, but their jersey must be a different color from that of the other players (both teams) and the match officials.

Referees should check the local rules of competition for any other specific uniform requirements.

If small-sided and recreational youth players are wearing additional clothing or equipment, referees should make sure its safe for play and be lenient if the colors don't match the rest of the uniform.



Safety



SAFETY should be the top priority for referees at all levels, so players can not use equipment or wear anything that is considered dangerous to that player or any other player.



Responsibility

The referee is responsible for checking in the players and making sure the equipment worn is safe for themselves and their opponents.



If during check in, an official finds a player whose equipment does not meet the requirements of safety, the player must correct the problem before they can play in the game.



Responsibility

If during the game, the referee notices a player with unsafe equipment, the referee should tell the player to fix or remove the equipment.

If the player has not fixed or removed the unsafe equipment by the next stoppage, the referee should order the player to leave the field to correct the issue.

A player that has been ordered from the field because of illegal equipment cannot return until the correction has been checked and confirmed by either the referee or an assistant referee.



Other Items

Safety should be the top priority for referees at all levels, so players can not use equipment or wear anything that is considered dangerous to that player or any other player.



This includes any kind of jewelry or any other item the referee deems unsafe.



Other Items

Under the Laws of the Game, jewelry is not permitted and this is typically reinforced by the local rules of competition.

- **Rings**
- **Necklaces**
- **Earrings**
- **Hair clips**

Covering jewelry with tape does not mean that it is safe for play.



Other Items

Exceptions can be made for items that are medical in nature, so long as the items are securely taped down with the medical information still visible, but even they must be deemed safe for play by the referee.

Identifications items, such as a medical alert bracelet , which could be taped to the player's wrist leaving just the emblem exposed, or a medical alert necklace, taped to the inside of the player's uniform.



Other Items

It is common to inspect equipment while checking player passes against a team's roster.

Referees should check the local rules of competition regarding player equipment and safety.

When such rules exist, they must be enforced by the referee.



Casts

There is nothing in the Laws of the Game that specifically prevents a player from playing with a cast, so long as it is deemed safe by the referee and not prohibited by the local rules of competition.



Typically, casts are wrapped with a soft material to be made safe and players are informed not to use the cast in an dangerous manner.



Colors

Each team must wear colors that distinguish them from each other, and the match officials.



Typically the home team changes its uniforms in the event of a color conflict, but this may not always be possible.

Each goalkeeper must wear colors that are distinguishable from the other players and match officials.



Colors

If an undershirt is worn, the color of the sleeve should be the same main color as the jersey.



Likewise, if undershorts or tights are worn, they should be of the same main color as the shorts.

If tape or similar material is applied externally it should be the same color as that part of the sock it is applied to.



Infringements

If a player has equipment that is not allowed during the game, the referee should ask the player to correct the equipment problem even if play is going on.

If, at the next stoppage, the player has not corrected the equipment issue, the referee must ask the player to leave the field to correct the issue.



Infringements

After the issue has been corrected the player can only return with the referee's permission at a stoppage in play, as the referee must ensure the correction did occur.

A player who has been required to leave the field of play because of an infringement of this Law and who re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission must be cautioned.



REVIEW QUESTIONS



Review Question

14. Which of the following are required pieces of equipment that all players must wear?

- A. Shoes
- B. Shin guards and socks
- C. Shorts and shirt
- D. All of the above



Review Question

15. Are goalkeepers required to wear the same equipment as other players?

A. Yes

B. No



Review Question

16. Are goalkeepers required to have a different color jersey from all of the other players?

- A. Yes
- B. No



Review Question

17. Are players allowed to wear earrings so long as they are completely taped over?

- A. Yes
- B. No



Review Question

18. Who is responsible for ensuring the players' equipment is safe for play?

- A. Referee
- B. Both team captains