

Law 4 – Policy on Jewelry

There seems to be a large variance of opinions concerning Law 4, specifically, the wearing of Jewelry. Law 4 states in the first paragraph:

“A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry)”.

The Laws of the Game are very specific concerning jewelry - namely, that jewelry is not allowed. Other than the two exceptions mentioned below referees may not alter this law in any arbitrary way. Jewelry must be removed, not just covered up (as with tape on earrings). Friendship bracelets or the “Lance Armstrong” type of bracelets provide a potential danger to other players and must be removed. Rings of any kind are not allowed. All visible body piercings which contain earring-like devices are also not allowed.

There are exceptions to the Law. Religious or medical necklaces or bracelets may be worn if properly protected. Necklaces must be tucked inside the jersey and taped to the inside of the jersey. Medical alert bracelets are the only bracelets allowed and they must be completely taped to the wrist.

Since safety is the number one concern of referees it is imperative that Law 4 be strictly enforced. FIFA, USSF and CYSA want Law 4 to be enforced. The Laws of the Game state it, the parents expect it, and the players deserve it.

Coaches have the first opportunity to bring the subject of Jewelry to their players. Referees have the last opportunity and must enforce the Law.