



To: State Referee Administrators
State Youth Administrators
State Directors of Instruction
State Directors of Assessment
National Instructors
National Assessors
State Directors of Coaching

From: Paul Tamberino
Director of Referee Development

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Subject: **Player Dress**

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According to Law 4, The Players' Equipment, a player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player. The basic compulsory equipment of a player is a jersey or shirt, shorts, stockings, shinguards, and footwear. There is no provision for a player to wear a skirt or similar clothing.

However, in an analogous situation, in respect of certain religions that require members to wear headcoverings, the Secretary General of the United States Soccer Federation has given permission to those bound by religious law to wear those headcoverings, usually a turban or yarmulke, provided the referee finds that the headgear does not pose a danger to the player wearing it, or to the other players. This principle could be extended to other clothing required of members by their religion.

The exception for "other clothing required of members by their religion" does not include clothing that obscures, covers, or interferes with the compulsory player uniform. For example, any clothing that totally covers the jersey is not acceptable, nor is clothing that interferes with the ability of the players and referee to distinguish between teams or obscures the uniqueness of the goalkeeper jersey.

Since the referee may not know all the various religious rules, players must request the variance well enough ahead of game time by notifying the league. The league will notify the state association, which will pass the information on to the state referee committee.

The state referee committee will make sure that the referees working that league's matches are informed.

The referee is still bound by the requirements of Law 4 that no player use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player, or use this equipment or

clothing to circumvent the Laws of the Game. An example would be the use of the equipment or garment to trap the ball or to distract an opponent.

April 16, 2010

cc: State Association Presidents