



To: U.S. Soccer Referees
National Referee Coaches
Referee Coaches
Referee Mentors
State Referee Committees

From: Rick Eddy
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Subject: Law 4, Players' Equipment (Jewelry)

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Law 4 (The Players' Equipment) states clearly that "A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous. All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and **must** be removed. **Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted.**"

Players must be inspected before the start of the match and substitutes before they enter the field of play. If a player is wearing or using unauthorized/dangerous equipment or jewelry, the referee must order the player to:

- Remove the item
- leave the field at the next stoppage if the player is unable or unwilling to comply

A player who refuses to comply or wears the item again must be cautioned.

Referees officiating in professional matches must ensure that this clear restriction is properly enforced.

USSF offers this advice to referees that jewelry worn solely for medical purposes may be permitted but only if, in the opinion of the referee, the item is not dangerous. Such items can often be worn safely if appropriately taped. Additionally, for married players, a wedding ring may also be permitted if it does not include any dangerous projections. An item of jewelry permitted by the referee under these provisions **must** have been carefully inspected prior to the commencement of the match.

The match must not be allowed to start with any player wearing illegal equipment or apparel, including jewelry. Players who insist on retaining such items will not be permitted to participate in the match. Any player who, having been instructed to correct illegal equipment, still attempts to participate in play without having made the correction is subject to being cautioned for dissent. All match officials share the responsibility to enforce Law 4.

