

SYSA'S UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT INSPECTION CHECKLIST

ADVICE TO REFEREES

- **SAFETY FIRST:** The referee has the final say on all matters of safety at game time. The referee is not obligated to make decisions on safety based on what another referee may have decided at a prior game.
- **SHIN GUARDS:** All players are required to have shin guards, completely covered by socks. Players U6-U10 are permitted to wear "sockguards" (soccer socks with shin-guard inserts) provided that no portion of the shin guard itself is exposed. However, the referee may not allow its use if, in his or her opinion, it does not provide adequate protection.
- **FOOTWEAR:** Players should be wearing proper soccer footwear. No metal cleats or toe cleats are permitted because they are dangerous to other players. The only way for you to observe the cleats is to have the players lift their feet and for you to look closely at them. If you detect a shoe with metal or toe cleats, politely inform the coach that this shoe is in violation of SYSA's safety rules, and that player will not be able to play with those shoes. (Sometimes the toe cleats can be cut off, so suggest that possibility to the coach.)
- **NO JEWELRY IS PERMITTED. PERIOD.** Check for wrist watches, bracelets, earrings, necklaces, etc. No player can play until these items are removed. No one is allowed to simply tape over jewelry, especially earrings. Do not allow any objects around the wrists, including rubber or plastic bands. (Only exception: Medic Alert bracelets or necklaces may be taped down.)
- **HAIR AND HEAD COVERINGS.** Hair can be tied back with something soft, like a scrunchie, or pushed back with a soft head band. Head coverings should be avoided. Where allowed, such as in the case of religious headwear, check that there are no sharp or otherwise dangerous parts associated with it that could possibly harm the wearer or other player.
- **CASTS:** If a player has an arm or hand in a cast, it is up to the referee to decide if that player will be allowed to play. Casts must be properly wrapped with foam or bubble wrap, with the edges securely taped down. However, if you determine, even after wrapping, that the cast may be unsafe to other players on the field, you have the right to tell the coach that this player cannot play.

Updated May 9, 2007