

## MHVGBGO Rule Clarification Players Equipment

We've had a few questions asked recently by officials and coaches about players wearing special needs equipment. As a rule if it's not in the rule book it's not allowed unless a waiver has been granted by the NYSPHSSA. **The waiver must accompany the team to be shown to the official's before each contest.** When players don't comply with these rules, the officials are not to tell players to remove anything, but are to instruct them along with their coach that they are not permitted to play until they comply with this rule.

### **(Rule Book) Section 26. Players' Equipment**

**Art. 1.** The referee shall not permit any player to wear equipment that in his or her judgment is dangerous to other players.

**Art. 2.** Elbow, hand, finger, wrist or forearm guards, casts, or braces made of fiberglass, plaster, metal or any other non-pliable substance, shall be prohibited **unless covered completely with slow-rebounding foam** as described in Rule 1-26.4.

**Art. 3.** The prohibition of the use of hard substance material **does not apply to the upper arm, shoulder, or leg** when the material is padded so as not to create a hazard for other players.

**Art. 4.** Pliable (flexible or easily bent) material, covered on all exterior sides and edges with **not less than 1/2-inch thickness of a slow-rebounding foam**, may be used to immobilize and protect an injury.

**Art. 5.** Equipment that could cut or cause an injury to another player shall be prohibited, without respect to whether the equipment is hard. Excessively long fingernails shall be prohibited.

**Art. 6.** Equipment used shall be appropriate for basketball. Basketball knee braces may be worn when they are covered properly. **A protector for any injured facial bone, even though made of hard material, shall be permissible** when it does not endanger other players. Eyeglass and mouth guard protectors are appropriate equipment when they meet the qualifications outlined in this rule.

**Art. 7.** Head decorations, head wear, helmets, and jewelry are illegal. *\*(If a player is wearing a concussion helmet or headband they must have a NYSPHSAA approved waiver for special accommodation. The AD would need to send a letter to the NYSPHSSA with the request and student's name and sport.)*

**Art. 8.** Any equipment or substance that is unnatural and designed to increase a player's height or reach, or to gain an unfair advantage, shall be prohibited.

**Art. 9.** Players and team members are not permitted to wear a microphone or any other equipment which enables sound transmission from a player or a team member to an off-court receiver. *\*(If a player has some type of hearing device and the coach is using a microphone to communicate with her, they must have a NYSPHSAA approved waiver for special accommodation. The AD would need to send a letter to the NYSPHSSA with the request and student's name and sport.)*

### **(Case Book Examples) Players' Equipment**

**A.R. 17.** A1 is wearing pre-wrap which has been “rolled up” and is tied just underneath her knee cap to stabilize the knee.

*RULING: When pre-wrap is worn in this fashion, it serves as a brace to keep the knee cap in place, the same way a commercially-produced patellar-tendon strap is worn. Since it functions as a brace, the pre-wrap may be any color and need not match the color of knee/leg sleeves worn by team members. (Rule 1-26.2)*

**A.R. 18.** Substitute A6 attempts to enter the playing court wearing jewelry, an illegal headpiece, headgear, or hat.

*RULING: Substitute A6 shall not be permitted to enter before removing the jewelry, illegal headpiece, headgear, or hat. A6 cannot “buy” her way into the game and the right to wear the illegal jewelry, illegal headpiece, headgear, or hat by being charged with a technical foul. (Rule 1-26.7)*

**A.R. 19.** Player A5 is found to be wearing jewelry.

*RULING: At the first dead ball, A5 shall be required to remove the jewelry immediately or be required to leave the game and not return until after removing the jewelry. A5 cannot “buy” the right to wear the jewelry by being charged with a technical foul. (Rule 1-26.7)*

**QUESTION:** What should we do if a student-athlete is wearing a daith piercing? (For migraines) Would they not be allowed to participate under Rule 1-26.7 or would they be allowed to participate if they cover it?

*ANSWER: If a student-athlete that needs to wear a daith piercing while participating, her institution must request a waiver of Rule 1-26.7. The parameters for the wearing of the daith would be spelled out in the waiver, which the institution must make the game officials and opposing coach aware of prior to the start of the game.*

**A.R. 20.** A1 is using a plastic “plug” to prevent a piercing hole from closing. Is this permitted?

*RULING: Yes. The clear, pliable piercing retainers used by players to prevent closure are legal in NCAA only. (Rule 1-26.7) (\*\*\*) Plug are not allowed in NYS high school basketball)*

**A.R. 21.** A1 uses an ointment, salve, gloves, or any other similar substance or material to increase her ability to grip or control the ball.

*RULING: Illegal, as a player is prohibited from using any equipment or substance which provides the player with an unfair advantage. (Rule 1-26.8)*

**A.R. 22.** A (1) player, (2) team member, or (3) head coach is wearing a microphone to provide audio sounds from the game.

*RULING: In (1) and (2), this is prohibited. In (3), a head coach may wear a microphone in order to provide a media entity with the coach’s comments; however, the head coach may not wear an earwig or other device that permits the coach to receive audio transmissions from outside the bench area. (Rule 1-26.9)*

**A.R. 16.** Before the start of the game, the officials notice that A1 is wearing white knee pads, A3 is wearing a black knee sleeve and A5 is wearing a blue knee brace.

*RULING: Knee/leg sleeves may be white, black, beige or any color contained in the game jersey and teammates are to wear the same color. This rule applies to anything that is worn on the leg except a knee brace. Typically, a knee brace contains hinges and/or straps and/ or an opening*

over the kneecap, or raised material within the brace intended to support the joint. Knee braces, by this general definition, do not have to comply with this color rule. However, any other sleeve like apparel (covers part of the leg) worn on the knee/leg does have to comply with this color rule and teammates not wearing knee braces must wear the same color. The sleeve worn under the knee brace can be either the same color as the knee brace or the same color of the knee/leg sleeves worn by teammates.

When players do not comply with this rule, officials are not to tell players to remove anything, but are to instruct them/their coach that they are not permitted to play until they comply with this rule. (Rule 1-24.4)

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