

To the national associations of FIFA

Circular no. 863

Zurich, 25 August 2003

GS/hus-sbu

Players wearing non-compulsory equipment

Dear Sir or Madam,

FIFA has received correspondence from a number of national associations concerning the legality of players wearing non-compulsory equipment.

In the light of discussions by the International FA Board, the following guidelines have been issued to clarify this matter.

Under the Powers and Duties of the referee in Law 5 – The Referee, he or she has the authority to ensure that the players' equipment meets the requirements of Law 4, which states that a player must not wear anything that is dangerous.

Modern protective equipment such as headgear, facemasks, knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight, padded material are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted.

FIFA also wishes to strongly endorse the statement on the use of sports spectacles made by the International FA Board on 10 March 2001 and subsequently in FIFA circular no. 750, dated 10 April 2001. New technology has made sports spectacles much safer, both for the player himself or herself and for other players. This applies particularly to younger players.

We expect referees to take full account of this fact and it would be considered extremely unusual for a referee to prevent a player taking part in a match because he or she was wearing modern sports spectacles.

It is hoped that this circular will give clear guidelines to referees concerning the correct application of Law 4.

Thank you for your attention to the above.

Yours faithfully,

Urs Linsi
General Secretary

Copies: FIFA Executive Committee
 FIFA Referees' Committee
 Confederations