

The Wearing of Undergarments

In order to avoid any doubt with undergarments make sure you use the following guideline on Undergarments – thermal or otherwise.

FIFA Laws of the Game - Law 4 - Players Equipment - states that:

- "shorts - if undershorts or full length undergarments are worn, they must be the same main colour of the shorts"
- "a jersey or shirt with sleeves - if undergarments are worn, the colour of the sleeves must be the same main colour as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt."
- "players must not reveal undergarments showing slogans or advertising".

As stated by the FIFA Guidelines for Referees on players equipment...

- If the jerseys of the two goalkeepers are the same colour and neither has another jersey to change into, the referee shall allow play to begin
- Goalkeepers may wear tracksuit bottoms as part of their basic equipment.
- A player may use equipment other than the basic equipment provided that its sole purpose is to protect him physically and it poses no danger to him or any other player for example sweatband or headband.

Note: there is a shinguard directive issued by the Victorian Referees Technical Committee (refer to Directive updated in 2012)

Protocol for check players' equipment

- If feasible, all three match officials should do the equipment check together. Senior AR start Left side and Junior AR start Right side.
- Complete the inspection properly, as this will be the first contact that you have with players therefore important to set a good example early.
- If there are no official Assistant Referees then the referee should check all players' equipment in the change room (or as they come out of their changing room, or gather in the race before entering the field of play).
- Never check player's equipment on the field or around the centre circle.
Note: In the case of junior fixtures, where match officials have consecutive games that provisions for proper checking of equipment be carried out pitch-side (such as next to the Technical Area) in team-groups, prior to kick-off.
- Check for correct equipment such as Jerseys, shorts, stockings, shinguards, undershorts, undershirts and any damaged studs.
Note: Two important things to remember players must NOT wear jewellery at all and the goalkeeper must wear colours to distinguish him from other players, the referee and the assistant referees.
- If a player's equipment does not conform to law then inform that player that he or she cannot take part in the game until his / her equipment has been adjusted.

- "Bandage coloured undershorts" often, incorrectly described as "skin coloured" are NOT permitted.
- Medical support bandages and elasticised "slip ons" are also not permitted if they are not the same colour as the shorts. However, a bandage normally white and providing the referee feels it is not dangerous would be permitted.
- Full length undergarments may be worn providing they comply with the same colour as the shorts, and do not display any visible advertising or slogans.
- Players who do not comply with the Law must be instructed to remove the undergarment before they are permitted to take part in the match.
- This compliance of this directive has also been mandated by FFA (Hyundai A League, NYL and WNL) and AFC (Champions League) to its clubs and match officials.
- All match officials are instructed to be diligent in ensuring compliance by all players in regard to this directive.
- Hijab, Burka or Headscarf maybe worn providing it is the same main colour as the shirt or jersey and must conform to the other requirements for Law 4.

