

Referees:

I have received a number of questions about players wearing (taped/covered) jewelry, specifically - ear piercings used to treat migraines, and ear piercings related to religious practices. Since jewelry may not be worn by junior players during competitions, including warm-ups, this is causing some concerns by players and their parents (and causing grief for some of you).

I have just sent an email to all OVR club directors to address this. Here's what you need to know:

The OVR and/or USA Volleyball may provide a written waiver in some cases, provided appropriate documentation has been provided to us.

This means if the parent/guardian or coach sends Bob Price and me the appropriate medical or religious documentation, we will provide the player with a waiver that permits her/him to participate while wearing the piercing.

If you encounter a player who claims a piercing is for medical or religious purposed, first ask if the player has a waiver from the OVR or USA Volleyball. If they do not have an OVR waiver, ALLOW that player to participate and notify me immediately at the end of the tournament. Provide the club/team name so that I can contact them. NOTE: A waiver or note from a medical professional does NOT meet this requirement. It MUST be an OVR or USAV waiver.

Since I just sent this note to club directors tonight, teams participating in the next couple of weekends may not have waivers yet. By mid-April, we hope to have issued all of them an appropriate waiver, signed by either Bob Price or me, or provided by USA Volleyball/Bill Stanley.

"Regular" piercings worn as jewelry are still ILLEGAL even if taped or covered. A medical or religious piercing may need to be covered.

Thank you for your diligence in enforcing jewelry rules! Keep doing what you're doing. Ask that the jewelry be removed, and if they claim it's for medical or religious purposes, there's no need to "battle" with a coach or parents. Allow them to play and then report it to me.

Thank you,

Brian Hemelgarn  
OVR Referees' Chair