

Referees:

Although we cover this topic in our clinics, I need to reiterate the USAV rules regarding jewelry being worn by junior players, as well as the proper way to handle this situation:

#1 - Jewelry is ILLEGAL. Period. A player may NOT tape or cover the jewelry to make it legal. It doesn't matter if the coach/player say that they've "been doing it all year," or "no other refs have said anything." It is ILLEGAL.

#2 - EXCEPTION to #1 above: a "Daith" piercing for migraine treatment PROVIDED THEY HAVE A WAIVER FROM USAV OR THE OVR. If the coach does not present a waiver from Bill Stanley (USAV) or Bob Price (OVR), the player may NOT participate while wearing it -- even if they are carrying a doctor's note or a note from a parent/guardian. Neither of those fulfill the waiver requirement.

#3 - Religious pendants or jewelry must be taped or sewn beneath the jersey.

#4 - When a player is noticed wearing athletic tape, a band-aid, or similar covering over an earlobe, brow, nose, etc., remind the COACH that the player cannot tape/cover jewelry. USE THIS SPECIFIC VERBIAGE with the coach, "Player #12 has tape over her [eyebrow]. If this is covering a piercing, she cannot participate in warm-ups or the match while wearing it." No more discussion is needed.

#5 - If the coach or player respond that there is NO jewelry beneath the covering, that will suffice. BUT... you may also remind them that if it is discovered at any point during the match or a subsequent match that there IS jewelry beneath the covering, a RED CARD PENALTY will be assessed for rude conduct per Rule 21.2.1.

#6 - NEVER TOUCH A PLAYER, including to determine whether there is jewelry beneath a piercing -- even if the player says, "Check it for yourself." NEVER TOUCH A PLAYER.

#7 - DO NOT ask a player to remove the tape/covering to prove their is no jewelry. We take their word for it. If we later discover they lied, see #5 above.

#8 - DO NOT tell a player they must remove the jewelry/piercing. Instead, use the verbiage in #4 above. Basically, they don't have to remove the jewelry, but they can't play while wearing it. They need to decide what they want to do -- wear it & not play, or remove it & play.

#9 - PLEASE DO NOT be concerned with jewelry or piercings that are not visible. People pierce other parts of the body - navel, for example. It is beyond the scope of our responsibility to be concerned with this. DON'T GO THERE!

Although it is our responsibility to address this appropriately with teams during each tournament, I will also share this with club directors.

Thanks!

Brian Hemelgarn
OVR Referees' Chair