

NGS PLAYER SAFETY POLICY

Players may not wear ornamental jewelry during practices or games. This includes, but is not limited to bracelets, necklaces, earrings, rings, beads, barrettes and other hard or sharp items. Newly pierced ears may not be taped; earrings must be removed.

Players may not participate in practices or games with a plaster / fiberglass cast or a hard splint, even if it is padded. Soft orthopedic braces may be permitted but may not have any exposed metal parts or sharp edges.

If a player refuses or is unable to remove a prohibited item upon request by a coach or referee, she will be asked to sit on the sidelines and may not participate in the soccer activity. Parental or medical permission does not supersede this safety policy. There are no exceptions to this rule for the safety of all our players.

Special Circumstances:

- **Medical Devices** - Players may wear any essential assistive device - such as prescription glasses, cochlear implant processors, hearing aids, or an insulin pump. The device must be properly secured (for example, taped down, covered, or wrapped). Players are asked to consult a medical professional prior to playing, as all risk is assumed by the participant.
- **Medical IDs** – A medical-alert bracelet or necklace may be worn during soccer activities. It must be securely taped to the body in a way that still allows the safety information to be visible.
- **ADA Accommodations** - Players with a physical disability (such as a prosthetic limb) may obtain league approval to play while wearing their assistive equipment with any necessary accommodation to make the activity safe for all participants. Please contact NGS to discuss the specifics.
- **Religious Apparel / Wearable Items** – There may be items that a player and their family deem necessary to wear, even during soccer activities, for religious or cultural reasons. Players may participate while wearing apparel – such as a hijab - that is mandated by their faith. Apparel must be non-abrasive and fit securely, so as not to interfere with the players' safety. Other religious articles mandated by a player's faith may be worn during soccer activities if the item is securely taped to the body, well-padded, and worn under the uniform.

It is the player's and parent's responsibility to alert their coach and NGS before the start of the season about any special circumstances.

It is the coach's responsibility to point the specific equipment out to the referee before the game, so that if there is an issue—such as the assistive device coming off the player during the game—the referee is aware of the need to stop the play to help.

It is the referee's responsibility to ensure that the players' equipment and other items are safe. Referees inspect players for dangerous or unauthorized equipment and jewelry before every match. All participants, coaches, and spectators shall respect and support the official's decision about what is or isn't allowed. Any dispute of the referee's authority on this matter will be considered a violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy.

The NGS Policy is based on the International Futbol Association Board (IFAB) [Laws of the Game](#), Law 4.

EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED AND ALLOWED ITEMS

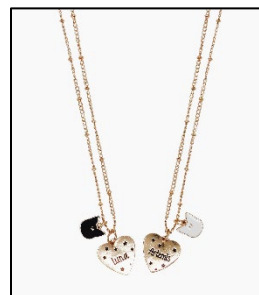
Jewelry

- Ornamental jewelry is **always** prohibited by the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- All jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, nose rings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted.
- Wearing jewelry on the field is considered dangerous to both the player wearing the object and the other players on the field.
- Medical-alert bracelets and necklaces are not considered ornamental jewelry.

ALLOWED



NOT ALLOWED



Protective Equipment / Medical Devices

- Some protective equipment is allowed under the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- Non-dangerous protective equipment (for example, headgear, facemasks, and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material) is permitted, as are sports spectacles. Protective equipment such as orthopedic braces may not have any exposed metal parts or sharp edges.
- Players may wear essential medical assistive devices - such as prescription glasses, cochlear implant processors, hearing aids, or an insulin pump. The device must be properly secured.

ALLOWED



NOT ALLOWED



Headcovers

- Some headcovers including cloth headbands, religious headscarves, and soft beanies are allowed under the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- Goalkeepers may wear caps or protective head gear.
- Field players in the NGS Juniors and City programs may wear a soft cap for sun protection if it is approved in advance by NGS officials and deemed to pose no threat to other players.
- When head covers are worn, they must:
 - not be attached to the shirt
 - not be dangerous to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g., opening / closing mechanism around the neck)
 - not have any part(s) extending out from the surface (protruding elements)
 - be properly secured

ALLOWED

