



AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION

a nonprofit corporation dedicated to youth soccer

everyone plays[®]

Are players permitted to wear hats for medical or religious reasons?

The *Laws of the Game* specify that “A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player.” The referee is the sole judge of whether or not the individual item in question is permissible to wear in the game. The referee has the obligation and the right to allow or disallow players wearing additional equipment depending upon the referee’s best judgment.

Players are generally not permitted to wear hats, but items used to secure hair such as sweatbands, bandanas, scarves, etc., are sometimes permitted. Players may be allowed to wear soft hats or caps without hard brims if the weather is inclement. Goalkeepers may wear a soft brimmed hat or cap. In addition to the above requirements the brim must also be made of a soft material and must be approved by the referee. Baseball-style caps with hard brims are not acceptable even if worn backwards. These items should be a neutral color free of inappropriate design, logo or meaning. They must not constitute a danger to the player or to other players and must be approved by the referee.

Referees may allow a player to wear a hat with a soft brim and otherwise not dangerous to the player or other players if, indeed, the player is known to be unusually susceptible to skin cancer from exposure to the sun or the head garment is required by the players religion.