



GLASSES & SPORTS GOGGLES

Regulations regarding the wearing of glasses or spectacles falls under the **Laws of the Game**
Refer: **Law 4 of the Game – The Players’ Equipment** which states *“A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewellery)”*.

Each match is controlled by a Referee (match official) who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he/she has been appointed and therefore the wearing of items such as glasses and goggles is subject to the decision of the match official.

Players are therefore permitted to wear sports goggles, sports glasses or sports sunglasses as long as, in the opinion of the match official, they pose no danger to the player or other players. The Optometrists Association of Australia recommends that children involved in sport, requiring assisted vision, should wear protective eyewear such as sports goggles or sports glasses with soft or flexible frames fitted with a plastic or polycarbonate lens.

Several years ago, FIFA endorsed a view of its IFAB Committee and stated following: *“New technology has made sports spectacles much safer, both for the player ... and other players. We expect referees to take full account of this fact and it would be considered extremely unusual for a referee to prevent a player taking part in a match because he or she was wearing modern sports spectacles.”*

While this statement endorses the wearing of modern sports spectacles for those requiring assisted vision, this does not stop an individual referee refusing permission. The decision to allow a player to wear or not wear particular glasses or goggles under FIFA directives is still up to the individual referee.

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