

EDITION # 3

PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT

Law 4, in both the outdoor and indoor laws, outlines the basic compulsory equipment of the players participating in the game. This involves shirt, shorts, socks, shoes and shin guards. In addition to the Law, there is also Item # 23 - Player's Outfits of the FIFA Additional Instructions Regarding the Laws of the Game. This item states that referees shall ensure that players wear their clothes properly and check that the players conform to the requirements of Law 4. Shirts must be tucked into the shorts and socks must be pulled up, so they cover the shin guards.

SO WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT A PLAYER WITH AN UNTUCKED SHIRT OR SOCKS ROLLED DOWN??????

There is no question that this is a very minor, innocuous situation. However, let's look at it in a bit more detail...

By dealing with the situation and getting the player to comply with the Law, the following positive outcomes can develop:

- You have shown an "Attention to Detail" (something Assessor's always look for)
- You can use the situation to build rapport with the player(s)
- It establishes that the you are prepared to be in control of every game situation
- It can assist in maintaining your game control
- It demonstrates that you are aware of "things". And, if you are aware of the "little things", the player and coaches will know that you will look after the "bigger things"
- It shows that you are "In Charge"
- It shows that the you are prepared to deal with situations that arise and are not willing to shirk your responsibilities
- It shows that you know the "Letter of the Law"
- It shows professionalism on your part and that you also expect this from the players
- It is a sign that you know the value of "Preventative Refereeing". If you don't deal with one player, soon more players could have their shirts out.
- It shows that you can be assertive
- It shows that you are consistent with all players and both teams

What are the negative outcomes of you dealing with the situation??

- You are seen to be “picky”

You can weigh it up. The choice is yours, however, anytime your actions can lead to several positive outcomes, why not choose this option?