

Wearing a Plaster Cast

Law 4 – Players Equipment

Law 4 states that a player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous.

All items of clothing or equipment other than the basic equipment must be inspected by the referee and determined not to be dangerous.

The Laws of the Game state in 'Other equipment' that is non-dangerous protective equipment, for example headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material is permitted, as are goalkeepers' caps and sports spectacles.



Implementation

Players wearing a soft cast or a 'soft protection guard' will be permitted to play if the cast does not present a danger to the individual or any other player. This is usually made of soft, lightweight padded material.

The rule the referee should apply here is 'does it feel like an Arm? For example is it generally 'soft'. Remember, the elbow is generally hard and has nothing protecting it, so use common sense!

However, the referee will make the final decision as to the acceptability of any cast.

Hard plaster casts are considered to pose a danger to both the wearer and other players and are not permitted to be worn. In some cases the practice of padding a hard plaster cast does not reduce the element of danger and this includes 'fibreglass casts'.

In junior games where a parents and coaches insist on playing a player with a broken limb, then the referee should apply this protection with greater care.