

The use of spectacles by players during games has been on the increase over the past several seasons.



For clarity and consistency, the Laws of the Game states the following:

Law 4 – Players Equipment

OTHER EQUIPMENT

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.

If you have concerns over the spectacles being worn by players referees are to follow the following steps:

1. Seek evidence from the participant proving the spectacles are in fact sports spectacles, this should be done prior to the match commencing,
2. If participants can provide evidence that the spectacles they are wearing are sports specific we are to accept that documentation as fact and allow the participant to take part in the game with the spectacles regardless of the materials used or the style of spectacles.

3. If you are still concerned, allow the participant to play and report the situation to Football South Australia for further investigation.
4. Referees have raised the concern regarding liability for injury due to the decision to allow spectacles to be worn during their matches.

The Laws of the Game states the following:

Law 5 – The Referee

LIABILITY OF MATCH OFFICIALS

A referee or other match official is not held liable for:

- any kind of injury suffered by a player, official or spectator
- any damage to property of any kind
- any other loss suffered by any individual, club, company, association or other body, which is due, or which may be due to any decision taken under the terms of the Laws of the Game or in respect of the normal procedures required to hold, play and control a match.

Such decisions may include a decision:

- that the condition of the field of play or its surrounds or that the weather conditions are such as to allow or not to allow a match to take place
- to abandon a match for whatever reason as to the suitability of the field equipment and ball used during a match
- to stop or not to stop a match due to spectator interference or any problem in spectator areas
- to stop or not to stop play to allow an injured player to be removed from the field of play for treatment
- to require an injured player to be removed from the field of play for treatment
- to allow or not to allow a player to wear certain clothing or equipment