

## **WN Guidance on Netball Player and Officials Uniforms at international Events<sup>1</sup>**

Today's international netball players (and female match officials) wear dresses, skirts or skorts or body suits made of a lycra-based light, durable material that keeps the player cool and is easy to wash. Uniforms may be one or two piece i.e. a separate skirt/skort and top.



In line with WN's Equality and Diversity Policy, WN is sensitive to the needs of those from cultures and religions where the traditional netball dress or officials uniform would not be considered appropriate for players or other participants, and may discourage or prevent them from taking part in the sport.

### **Can a netball player wear a head covering?**

It is perfectly acceptable for players (or match officials) to wear head coverings for religious reasons, for example Muslim women may choose to wear a Hijab.

In these circumstances consider Rule 5.1.1 (Rules of Netball 2018):

#### **5.1.1**

*(i) During a match players must wear:*

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<sup>1</sup>International Event means a duly-sanctioned match, competition or event contested by national representative teams or by teams under the jurisdiction of different National Associations or by teams representing different Regional Federations.

*(a) Registered playing uniform and suitable sports footwear*

Where teams include head scarves as a part of their playing uniform, teams must ensure they notify WN in accordance with the event regulations.

Wearing of headscarves is optional and not all players in the team have to wear them.

Head Scarves – must be made of soft material and tied on, with no use of metal pins or anything else that could constitute a danger. Flowing/flapping edges must be held securely around the neck or tucked into the shirt collar. The scarf should be as neat and secure as possible. Ideally the colour of the scarf will be as close to the colour of the netball or officials uniform as possible.

Also consider rule 5.1.1 (iv)

*(iv) Players may not wear anything that could endanger themselves or other players, specifically:*

- (a) No adornment or jewellery may be worn other than a wedding ring which must be covered with tape*
- (b) A medical alert bracelet may be worn provided it is covered with tape*
- (c) Fingernails must be short and smooth*
- (d) Hair must be suitably tied back.*

It is part of the match officials' (umpires') responsibility to check that players are not wearing Jewellery and meet uniform requirements. This is in Rule 5.2.

## **5.2 Match Officials**

*(i)*

*(c) Before play starts, check the players off the court to **ensure** they meet the requirements of Rule 5.1.1 (i) and (iv)*

There are issues of liability and safety of other players. The match official (umpire) may ask a player wearing a head scarf to demonstrate that she is not wearing jewellery.

### **Can a player wear religious articles such as jewellery?**

It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they comply with the WN Rule 5.1.1 (iv). Dermal piercings (that are located below the skin and cannot be easily removed) and flat religious bracelets (which are not to be removed for religious and / or cultural reasons) are to be suitably covered with padding / tape as necessary to prevent injury to others.

### **Can a player or match official wear long-sleeved top, long tights, leggings or trousers to play or officiate netball?**

These are permitted for religious reasons provided that if they are worn the colour will be close to the main colour as the netball dress or top. Leggings can be of any length but must not be excessively loose.

In these circumstances consider Rule 5.1.1 (Rules of Netball 2018)

*(i) During a match players must wear: (a) Registered playing uniform and suitable sports footwear (spiked soles are not allowed)*

and

*(iv) Players may not wear anything that could endanger themselves or other players*

Where teams include long-sleeved tops, long tights, leggings or trousers as a part of their playing uniform, teams must ensure they notify WN in accordance with the event regulations.

Wearing of long sleeved tops, long tights, leggings or trousers is optional and not all players in the team have to wear them.

Here is an example of an approved uniform including long sleeved top, leggings and headgear. This is the Malaysian team in action against Singapore.



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