



Maryland State Laws

State Government Article 20-101(f), Annotated Code of Maryland - Provides protection from discrimination against one's hairstyle.

House Bill 515 (2022 General Assembly) - allows a student athlete to modify the athletic uniform in a manner that makes the student athlete's attire more modest to conform to religious and cultural preferences.

- **These modifications may include:**
 - Head coverings worn for religious reasons
 - An undershirt
 - Or leggings



Official's Responsibility

In order to ensure compliance with state laws, high school sport officials should not determine participation related to a students' hairstyle and adornments.

Officials are only requested to receive verbal verification from the head coach that their students are properly equipped to compete.

It is the Coaches Responsibility to ensure all students comply with uniform and equipment regulations per Maryland State Law and the playing rules for the contest.



Sport Officials Do's and Don't's for handling uniform, hair adornments, and hairstyles

DO

- **Head officials prior to the contest shall request verbal verification from the head coach that their students are properly equipped to compete.**
- **Officials are only required to ensure, as it relates to student hairstyles and hair adornments, that the head coach of each team has authorized that all participants on their respective teams are properly equipped.**
- **Officials, if requested for rule interpretation on hair adornments, shall refer the coach to the applicable rule for the head coach's discretion.**
- **After the contest, the official may contact their local association, who will notify the local school system, only if they believe a student's hair adornment potentially poses a risk of injury to the athlete or others.**



Sport Officials Do's and Don't's for handling uniform, hair adornments, and hairstyles

DON'T

- **Officials shall not address any student directly related to their concerns on uniform compliance.**
- **Officials shall not make determinations or comments about whether or not a hair adornment shall be removed or whether or not a student may participate with such hair adornment.**
- **Officials may not touch any student's hair to check hair adornments(s).**
- **Officials may not remove a hair adornment from the student's hair**