



# Columbia Soccer Referee Association

Serving the Clark County / Vancouver, Washington Area



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September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002

TO: CSRA Members

Subject: Law 4 – The Player’s Equipment

There was a long winded (worded) letter sent to the association’s assignor complaining about enforcement of Law 4 – The Player’s Equipment with respect to conflicting colors of the player’s socks. The two teams were wearing the identical colored socks and the home team was requested to change. The referee crew was correct in their application of the law.

One needs to only read item number 4.1 in the ADVICE TO REFEREES ON THE LAWS OF THE GAME for guidance.

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## Law 4 — Players' Equipment

### 4.1 WEARING UNIFORMS

It is implicit in the Law that each side wear a distinctively colored jersey, that shorts and socks be uniform for each team, and that the uniforms be distinguishable from the uniforms worn by the other team. The referee shall ensure that each player wears his uniform and equipment properly. Players' jerseys must remain tucked inside their shorts, socks must remain pulled up, and each player must wear shinguards under the socks. Slide pants or similar undergarments must be the same main color as the shorts.

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History and tradition has the home team changing their uniform if there is a color conflict. This is also stated in the Washington State Youth Soccer Association handbook for their WSYL & WSYDL matches. District 5 league matches are played under WSYL rules – not the local youth rules.

**Advice to CSRA members:** In competitive league matches – Law 4 should be enforced. This is not an issue with youth recreational matches as their rules do not require teams to purchase alternative uniforms.