

UNIFORM / HEADGEAR ADORNMENT

Q - What is the uniform adornment rule as set forth by the WIAA?

A - As written on page 44 of the winter season regulations; 'Schools are required to follow the clean uniform rule. Along with school names and/or mascots, all uniforms may be allowed to include the first and/or last name(s) of the athlete one time on the uniform. Names must be displayed in a sportsmanlike manner and location. In addition, no sayings, clichés, advertisements, etc., of any kind will be allowed on the uniform. Manufacturer's logos and commemorative patches will be allowed as described by Rule 4-1-2 in the NFHS Wrestling Rule Book. All commemorative patches must be approved by the WIAA and meet appropriate size restrictions."

Q - How does the above rule specifically apply to the adornment of headgear?

A - The headgear is considered part of the required uniform. Therefore it may not contain any words, sayings, symbols, advertisements or pictures that are not the manufacturers and/or the school's name or mascot. The headgear may have one American flag that meets the dimensions stated in the rule book. The headgear may not reference in any way an outside organization, club, academy, event or award.

Q - Why is the NFHS so picky when it comes to not allowing club reference / organizations / academies, etc.?

A - It is illegal regardless what special interest groups are trying to promote. This also includes non-profit organizations. The rule allows for minimal disruption of the sanctity of the wrestling uniform and attempts to prevent the exploitation of the student athlete.

Q - Cliff Keen and Brute and probably other types of headgear have a manufacturer's label/ logo on each side of the headgear. Is this legal?

A - By rule it is not. However, it would not be wise to travel down that road. Very few headgears would be legal if that were the case. If they comply with the size limitations described by the NFHS, then it should be considered legal.

Q - Some headgears are manufactured with pictured logos that have nothing to do with the name of the manufacturer. Are these legal?

A - Just because a logo is built into the headgear by the manufacturer, this does not make it a manufacturer's logo. Let's say that the manufacturer has built an eagle into the headgear, and the school mascot is an eagle. Then it is legal (may appear one time). Otherwise it is not.

Q - May small stickers that represent takedowns, falls, wins etc. be displayed on the headgear?

A - Yes, as long as they are issued by the school and are displayed in a sportsmanlike manner.

Q - Is it acceptable for an athlete / team to wear a commemorative or memorial patch on any uniform apparel / special equipment?

A - No, unless you have written approval by the WIAA.

Q - What is the penalty associated with reporting to the mat with illegal promotional reference(s) on the uniform/headgear?

A - This is considered a technical violation – "reporting to the scorer's table not properly equipped". The athlete will be charged an injury time out and will have 1.5 minutes to correct the situation. Either the promotional reference will have to be removed or they must obtain another head gear. Because of its abrasive qualities, covering it with tape is not allowed. The time to remedy the situation will be recorded as injury time. If not corrected in the allotted time, the contestant will lose by default.

Q - Is any tape allowed on the headgear?

A - In a perfect world absolutely no tape would be allowed on headgear. However, some wrestlers need to use tape to secure protective coverings for a cauliflower ear. This would be acceptable if the meet official had previously approved it. Also, over the years we have allowed a small amount of tape to secure the headgear straps on the top of the headgear. This practice is highly discouraged due to the abrasive qualities of tape. In addition, it creates an ideal environment for the growth of microorganisms that cause a variety of health concerns. Again, this would have to be inspected and approved by the meet official at each event. If the official feels that the tape is too bulky / thick or filthy it should be removed or replaced.