HAIR ACCESSORIES & JEWELLERY POLICY

Melbourne Central Basketball Association (MCBA) is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all participants.

FIBA Rule, Article 4.4.2, states:

Players shall not wear equipment that may cause injury to other players. The following are not permitted:

- Finger, hand, wrist, elbow or forearm guards, casts or braces made of leather, plastic, pliable (soft) plastic, metal or any other hard substance, even if covered with soft padding.
- Objects that could cut or cause abrasions (fingernails must be closely cut).
- Hair accessories and jewellery."

In addition to this FIBA rule Basketball Australia and Basketball Victoria have recommended the following by-laws as a guideline for the safety of players which MCBA have adopted:

MEDICAL WRIST BANDS

Medical information wrist bands may be worn by players as long as they are:

- In no way dangerous to other players
- Covered using medical strapping tape
- Covered using an athletic sweat band

HAIR ACCESSORIES

To clarify what is considered acceptable, players are permitted to take to the court wearing "bobby pins" and/or "one touch" or "snap" clips to hold their hair back, braids, plaits, or any other variation of interwoven hair style. These items pose no threat of injury to any player on the court.

Players will not be permitted to wear barrettes, bandanas, headbands made of metal, clips larger than a bobby pin or snap clip - especially those that are present for decorative purposes and any hard material that swings freely with/in their hair e.g., beads. These items do pose a threat of injury due to their increased size. If items in a player's hair are made from a non-abrasive, pliable material, they may be permitted to be worn, as (by rule) they pose no threat of injury. This includes headscarves or other fabric articles worn for religious purposes held in place by bobby pins or snap clips.

Referees and competition administrators cannot prevent a player taking the court if the religious clothing that the player is wearing poses no threat of danger to another player. Common sense must be used in these situations. Any person preventing a player from taking the court due to the clothing that they are wearing for religious purposes may leave themselves open to legal action.

PROTECTIVE HELMETS

If a player is required to wear a protective helmet for their own health and safety, then their health is potentially at very high risk for the sport of basketball. However, an exemption may be granted where a player provides medical evidence to wear a helmet for their self-protection. A player is permitted to wear a helmet whilst playing if it is:

- Sufficiently padded.
- Does not cover any or all of their eyes, lips, nose.
- Does not possess any hard or abrasive elements.

- Does not in any other way give an unfair advantage to the wearer.
- Is in no way dangerous to other players.

JEWELLERY

Referees should monitor all players' appearance prior to the commencement of the game; in particular, look out for rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, and obvious body piercing jewellery.

Players, who wear jewellery which is visible and could cause injury to themselves or to other players, shall be instructed as follows:

Any player wearing an object which might cause injury (such as those objects listed above) must be politely told of the existence of the rule (referees should not presume that a player is aware of the rule) and be asked to remove the object prior to taking the court.

If a player claims that a particular item cannot be removed, the referee should instruct the player that they must cover the object with a suitably protective device such as medical tape. The player may not participate until such time that the referee is satisfied that the object is appropriately covered.

Where the protective device (e.g. tape) falls off during a game the referee must immediately stop play at the next opportunity and direct the player to remedy the cover. If this occurs more than twice then the referee should instruct the player that they can no longer participate in the game unless they remove the jewellery.

The referee should prohibit the player from participating in the game in the following circumstances:

- A referee is not convinced that such a protective measure will adequately overcome the risk of injury
- Suitable protective measures are not available
- The player refuses to remove or cover the offending object

Any player who seeks to participate in defiance of any of the above directions by a referee should be disciplined as per the association's rules.

APPROVAL / VERSION CONTROL	
Original Policy Implementation Date:	15 June 2023
Approved by:	MCBA Board
Updated:	October 2026
Next Review Date:	October 2028