
POLICY – EYE SAFETY FOR PLAYERS WITH VISION CORRECTIONS

The concept of safety extends to the wearing of vision correction glasses by players.

Provided the corrective lenses are safe which means unbreakable lenses and soft frames.

Any player wearing spectacles must have them secured by means of a sports band or adjustable strap. These articles are readily available at optical outlets.

Another viable and safe alternative is properly and firmly fitting curled ends on the arms of the spectacles. These are designed for active use and can be achieve the same result as the sports bands.

The safest option for players involved in any active sports are protective sports spectacles. These are constructed of plastic with rubberised cushioning and no metallic parts. They are virtually indestructible and with polycarbonate safety prescription lenses offer complete eye protection. There is a range of frames and polycarbonate prescription lenses available.

For children that are mature enough soft contact lenses offer excellent sports vision alternative. A consultation with the child's optometrist would be necessary to determine if there was suitability.

Players may need to produce a letter from their optometrist, which states that the corrective lenses that they intend to wear have unbreakable lenses, soft frames and are safe to wear for sporting events.

In accordance with FIFA regulations that no player shall wear any article that may cause injury to any other player, all Zones Councils and Clubs should insist on one of the above options to ensure the safety of the soccer player concerned and the other players who may make contact with the player.

As the majority of spectacles for general use are made with metal frames, there is the potential for cuts and facial damage in the event of head clashes etc.