NORTHERN NSW
FOOTBALL

Plaster Casts And Rigid Supports

Plaster casts or any rigid support or other type of cast is not permitted to be worn by players when training or playing.

This ruling is covered by FIFA Law 4 of the game.

If a player presents him/herself for a game wearing a plaster cast, the referee retains the right under Law 4 to prevent or remove any player from playing should the referee rule that they are wearing non approved equipment.

Where a player is fitted with a plaster cast or any rigid support, all coaches, team officials, clubs, associations and branches have a responsibility to ensure that their players are fit to play.

Team officials could be found to be negligent in their actions if they allow a player to play knowing that they are recovering or have sustained injury prior to the game.

The safety of all players should be a major concern of all coaches, managers and clubs and knowingly allowing a player to play when injured could result in legal action and/or a claim of negligence under the NSW Child Protection Act.

A plaster cast or hard support equipment when worn by a player can also pose a risk of injury to opposition players and match officials and therefore no player is permitted to wear a plaster cast when playing or training.

In addition, a coach or manager should also never allow a player to play where it is known that a player has him/herself intentionally removed their own plaster cast and may still be recovering from the relative injury.

In all cases it is safer to allow a player to only return to playing once the club has sighted a certificate of medical fitness from a doctor.