

FAW GUIDELINES – WEARING HEARING AIDS IN FOOTBALL

Players are permitted to wear hearing technology during football matches provided they are comfortable and securely fitted.

The decision on whether to wear a hearing aid during a match is up to the player, not the referee. However, the referee has a responsibility under Law 4 of the Laws of the Game that if a device of this nature become loose when playing, then the referee will have to request that the player leave the field of play in order for it to be made secure.

WEARING HEARING AIDS DURING MATCHES

Hearing aids are sensitive pieces of electronic equipment and risk being broken if they fall out of the ear during vigorous activity. For this reason, some deaf people will choose to play without their hearing aids. However, others prefer to wear their hearing aids, particularly if they play in mainstream teams so that they can hear instructions or calls from teammates or the Match Official.

WEARING COCHLEAR IMPLANTS AND BONE ANCHORED HEARING AIDS DURING MATCHES

Having a cochlear implant involves having a receiver package implanted under the skin behind the ear and an external package that is worn similarly to a hearing aid. The main risk with sport is suffering a blow to the head on or around the site of the internal package, which risks damaging the package or the skin around the area. Although the risk is very small, this could mean that it becomes necessary to have repeat surgery to replace the package. Like hearing aids, the external equipment is sensitive and risks being broken if it falls off during a match.

Someone who has recently had cochlear implant or bone anchored hearing aid surgery are advised against playing football until the operation site has fully healed (approximately six weeks).

All of the above varies from person to person. Some may wish to wear their hearing aids, while others may not. Some will also wear protective headwear, such as a rugby scrum cap, to protect their hearing aid. It is important to recognise every person is different.

FURTHER INFORMATION

It is always advisable for a player to consult with an audiologist (hearing specialist) for further advice before wearing any hearing technology while playing football.

If you have any questions please contact:

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