

March 25, 2004

Caution for Removing Jersey to Celebrate a Goal

New Guidance regarding Law 12 becomes effective July 1st

Beginning July 1, 2004, a player who removes his or her jersey after scoring a goal must be cautioned for unsporting behavior.

We have a responsibility to make our players and volunteers aware of this change in order to avoid cautioning players who might be inclined to celebrate in this manner, but who are unaware of the new requirement.

It is recommended that:

- * SDs, SCAs & SRAs inform their Area counterparts of the change
- * ADs, ACAs & ARAs inform their Regional counterparts
- * Instructors (all levels) include this new guidance in their courses

It shouldn't take long before this becomes common knowledge, but until then it is further recommended that once the change becomes effective:

- * Coaches remind their players before each game
- * Referees, during player equipment inspection, also remind the players

Prior to July 1st, a player celebrating by removing his or her jersey is not to be cautioned for removing the jersey unless the celebration is provocative and intended to incite or ridicule opponents or opposing spectators.

Bill Mason, AYSO FIFA Law Interpreter