

# FIFA and the LGBT Rainbow: 5 Questions



*Today some soccer teams - national, professional, and amateur - require players to wear an LGBT rainbow on the kit for some games. But not all want to wear this.*

What do soccer's Laws of the Game say about special messages or images on player equipment?

1

"Equipment must not have any political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images." Law 04.5

Are teams allowed to force players to wear symbols players disagree with, or threaten them if they refuse to do so?

2

"Personal and Mental Integrity:...Persons bound by this Code shall protect, respect and safeguard the integrity and personal dignity of others.... Threats, the promise of advantages and coercion are particularly prohibited." FIFA Statutes, Article 23,1/5

Are teams allowed to discriminate based on religion or opinions?

3

"Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion." FIFA Statutes, Article 4

How many different colours may a team put on equipment? Rainbows have six.

4

"...no Playing Equipment item worn by an outfield player or goalkeeper may consist of more than four Colours." FIFA Equipment Regulations 5.2

How should FIFA counter degradation of people due to sexuality?

5

Adding the LGBT rainbow to equipment is not necessary for this purpose. FIFA already has multiple anti-discrimination mechanisms. It is good that FIFA exercises these. To learn more see page 21 of the 2019 report "[Let All Play: Yes to Soccer, No to Politics](#)" at:

**[LetAllPlay.org/fifa](http://LetAllPlay.org/fifa)**

