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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** All Basketball Victoria Affiliated Associations and VBRA Branches

**FROM:** State Rules Interpreter

**SUBJECT:** Hair Clips and Head scarves

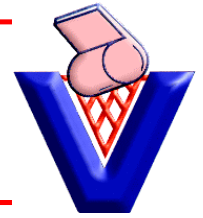
**DATE:** 22 June 2004

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Please find attached a Rule Interpretation from the State Rules Interpreter, Ron Burgess, concerning players wearing hair clips and head scarves.

Please assist the referees in your branch or association in applying this interpretation correctly. Apply common sense as to what items pose a threat of injury to players, and try to promote people playing, rather than trying to find reasons for them not to play.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please refer them to the Basketball Victoria office on 9927 6666.



20 June 2004

## **RULE INTERPRETATION – Art 13.2.5**

In recent weeks there have been many questions raised with regards to Article 13.2.5, in particular the point that “headgear, hair accessories and jewellery” are not permitted to be worn on court.

“Headgear” and “jewellery” are reasonably self explanatory items, however there has been some discussion surrounding what constitutes acceptable “hair accessories”.

To clarify what is considered acceptable, players **are permitted** to take the court wearing “bobby pins” and/or “one touch” or “snap” clips to hold their hair back. These items pose no threat of injury to any player on the court (see attached photo).

Players will not be permitted to wear barrettes, headbands made of metal, or clips larger than a bobby pin or snap clip – especially those that are present for decorative purposes only. These items do pose a threat of injury, due to their increased size (see attached photo).

If items in a player’s hair are made from a non-abrasive, pliable material, they may be permitted to be worn, as (by rule) they pose no threat of injury. This includes head scarves or other fabric articles worn for religious purposes held in place by bobby pins or snap clips.

Referees and competition administrators cannot prevent a player taking the court if the religious clothing that he/she is wearing poses no threat of danger to another player. Common sense must be used in these situations. Any person preventing a player from taking the court due to the clothing that they are wearing for religious purposes may leave themselves open to legal action.

### **RON BURGESS**

State Rules Interpreter

### **GERRY GLENNEN**

Basketball Victoria Services Manager



The items above are examples of what **are** permitted to be worn. The headband is made of soft, pliable material and has no sharp ends. Inside are two different style snap clips and a bobby pin. A 20c piece is included to give an indication of size.



The items above are examples of what is not permitted to be worn. A 20c piece is photographed with them to give an indication of size. There are many more items that fall in this category. They are far larger than the items in the top picture and most are made of metal or hard plastic with sharp ends.