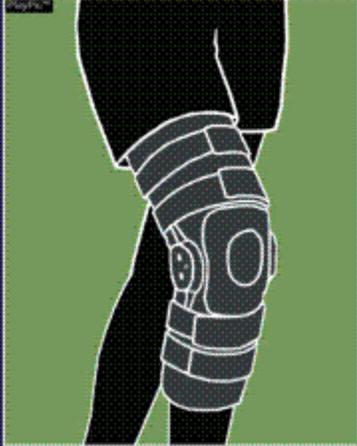




Other Equipment
Rule 4-2

Technological advances in joint braces have made them safer over the past decade. Here, a commercially manufactured knee brace does not need a protective sleeve. There are no exposed edges or projecting metal or other hard plates.

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Points of Emphasis:

Knee Braces – Technological advances in “joint” braces have made them safer over the past decade. A commercially manufactured knee brace does not need a protective sleeve as long as there is no exposed metal.

Re:

"This is in response to email I sent out last week re knee braces. Already some problems as to whether covering has to be used. It sounds like it is up to the ref that day. Please check all knee braces BEFORE the game and let player and coach know if it needs to be covered. Refs the past 3 or 4 games may say it is OK. But it is up to you and partner for this game. If opponent is hurt because of collision with knee brace, (no matter how unlikely that is) the refs from the previous games will not be the ones being sued. Cal seems to say that if in doubt, have it covered.

If a player starts the game and you haven't checked the brace beforehand, I do not think you can card the coach for illegal equipment since you did not do your job before the game.

Hope this covers the situation. Email me any questions and I will try and get an answer." — Pat Donovan

"Braces are a problem to describe. There are some that seem to be safe as they are - without a sleeve - and some that clearly need covering. It's the ones in between wherein we need to make decisions. In the case described below - there was a sleeve that the girl did not like to wear. Decision here is pretty straight forward; did she like to play more that she dislikes the covering? If the manufacturer suggested a cover, it seems reasonable that it should be worn. Are there some braces that can be worn uncovered - I think that there are! Be cautious out there, most of these kids are not even going to play in college and 1 or 2 in hundreds at a yet higher level. You need to protect the players!" — Cal Perry