



**ATHLETES  
UNLIMITED**

**Athletes Unlimited**

**Policy on Religious Headwear**

**Women's Sports  
April 2023**

## Introduction

Athletes Unlimited is committed to creating safe and inclusive spaces while maintaining competitive equity in professional sports.

## Purpose

Athletes Unlimited recognizes and respects religious observance, practice, and belief. Therefore, Athletes Unlimited supports athletes' religious dress practices and observes their respective religious prohibition against wearing certain garments. Athletes Unlimited will use the eligibility guidelines set out in this policy in order to ensure a fair and level playing field for all participants.

## Guiding Principles

Athletes Unlimited will use the following principles to determine eligibility for try-outs and play in accordance with this policy:

- A. This policy exists to reassure athletes of the religious protections and support they have, both within law and within the Athletes Unlimited policies and protocols.
- B. This policy exists to balance inclusion with professional-level competition.
- C. The implementation and administration of this policy will be respectful of a person's privacy and human rights.
- D. This policy may be modified, updated, or otherwise changed as updated expert research and information becomes available.

## Eligibility Guidelines

For athletes that choose to wear religious headwear, the equipment must be pursuant to the below guidelines:

- it is black, white, or gray or of the same dominant color as that of the uniform;
- it is one same color for all players on the team;
- it must not have any obvious branding unless it is Nike;
- it must be made of soft, non-abrasive material;
- it is not dangerous to the player wearing it and/or to other players;
- it has no parts extruding from its surface.

If religious head coverings become noncompliant during play, the officials should let the athlete fix the situation on the court or field of play, and if they can't immediately correct, the athlete should go to the bench to fix the improper equipment.