  
[Subscriber Services](#)  
**PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS**  
[Subscriber Services](#)

**philly.com**  
 THE REGION'S HOME PAGE

 **Current: 52°**  
 55° / 46°  
[Complete Forecast](#)

[Click here to start saving!](#)  


 **Save up to 70% on Life Insurance!**  
 **Click here for a FREE QUOTE!**

10 Year Level	age	male
Term Life Insurance	45	\$35.63
\$500,000 Policy	50	\$46.55
(Monthly Premiums)	55	\$80.91
	60	\$130.07

**Search** ☒ Recent News ☐ Archives ☐ Web for

Welcome **Chris**  
[My Classifieds](#) | [My Account](#) | [Sign Out](#)

Friday, Oct 21, 2005

**Philly.com**

[Back to Home](#) > [Sports](#) >

[Today's Inquirer](#)

[Today's Daily News](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Cars](#)

[Real Estate](#)

[Apartments](#)

[Local Shopping](#)

- Find Sales & Deals
- Shop Local Stores

[All Classifieds](#)

- Create an Ad
- Find an Ad


[Dating](#)

**News**

**Sports**

- Eagles
- Sixers
  - NBA
- Phillies
- Flyers
- Columnists
- Colleges
- High school
- Horse racing
- Outdoors
- Golf
- Auto racing
- Fantasy sports
- Phantoms
- Kixx
- Soul

## Philadelphia 76ers

 [email this](#)  [print this](#)  [reprint or license this](#)

Posted on Thu, Oct. 20, 2005

### Dress code doesn't suit A.I., but he'll oblige

By PHIL JASNER  
[jasnerp@phillynews.com](mailto:jasnerp@phillynews.com)

THE NBA, hoping for a regular season of close games, suddenly finds itself immersed in clothes games.



Essentially, coaches have always been able to dress down players, but now players must dress up. Rosters can be threadbare, but players' threads can't be. Coaches finding a crease in an opponent's zone will be as important as the crease in players' slacks.

Effective Opening Day, Nov. 1, business casual will be the standard. A memo to the players states that is any time they "are engaged in team or league business."

It's not exactly onerous, but neither is it being totally accepted by the players. Basically, guys who have worn sleeves on their knees or elbows must have them on their shirts, too. They know commissioner David Stern doesn't play things close to his vest, nor has he mandated that they wear one, either.

Know what  
your Credit Score is?  
Find out FREE!

150 250 350 450 550 650 750 850 950  
 lowest highest

RELATED CONTENT

- Other sports

**Entertainment****Business****PhillyWomen****Home & Design****Health****Travel****Education****ONLINE EXTRAS****Past articles****Maps & directions****Newsletters****Traffic reports****Weather****Yellow Pages****Discussion boards****Freebies****Special sections****View print ads****Reader reviews****SITE SERVICES****Help/Contact us****Buy photos****Online store****Advertise****Subscribe/Services****RSS****PARTNERS**

- Tribe.net
- NBC10.com
- Bucks Midweek
- Montco Midweek
- Northeast Times
- Taste of Phila.
- Franklin Institute
- Homes and Living
- Beach and Bay Homes
- Active Adult Housing
- My Wedding

Shorts? Gone. Headgear while on the bench or in the stands at a game? Out. Chains, pendants, medallions worn over the players' clothes? Nope. Sunglasses indoors? Nada. Headphones? Only in the locker room, on the team bus or plane.

On the bench or in the stands but not in uniform? Sport coat, dress shoes or boots, and socks. Leaving the arena? It's still OK to wear a team-issued warmup suit. Collared shirts? Sure, but turtlenecks or sweaters are also cool.

The memo goes on for two pages. After practice yesterday, the 76ers' Allen Iverson went on for slightly longer. He didn't like the idea on Media Day, before the team left for training camp. He still doesn't like it.

"I just don't think it's right, and basically that's it," Iverson said. "There's nothing I can do about it. I haven't found out what's the penalty for not abiding by it."

The intimation is, fines and even suspensions could be meted out.

"If the speed limit says 65 and you go 70, you're testing it, and if you get caught, you get a ticket," Sixers president/general manager Billy King said. "It's a rule. There are rules in life, and people test them and penalties come with it. I don't think it's something that's going to be a major issue."

Still, Iverson didn't sound like a guy about to openly challenge the dress code.

"Honestly, I really think I will [abide by it]," he said. "Once they start talking about suspending me, then I don't have a choice. I don't want them to take my money, either. I don't want to give my money away; that's just like taking it and burning it. When they talk about suspending me and hurting what we're trying to do as a basketball team, then I don't have [any] choice but to abide by it."

Iverson firmly believes the league has gone "way overboard." But he was leaning in the same direction when he said: "I feel if they want us to dress a certain way, they should pay for our clothes. It's just tough, man, just knowing that all of a sudden, you have to have a dress code out of nowhere."

"But I don't think that's going to help the image of the league at all," he said. "If you're going to act like a bleep, they're going to look at them as bleeps, whether they have on a suit or not."

Iverson knows the code isn't about him per se, but thinks it is about "my generation."

"And, actually, I don't think it's good for the league," he said, "because it kind of makes it fake; the whole thing is fake. You've got all these guys with these personalities and different games: Tracy McGrady is different from Kobe [Bryant]. Kevin Garnett is different from Tim Duncan. I'm different from those guys, and that's what makes the league what it is. Everyone has their own personality; everyone has their own style, and I just think it's unfair when you take that away from people."



File photo

Allen Iverson wore a Donovan McNabb jersey to a 2003 news conference.

**RELATED LINKS**

- [Poll: Will dress code matter to fans?](#)

**MORE NEWS FROM TOPIX.NET**

- [Sports](#)
- [NBA](#)
- [Kobe Bryant Trial](#)
- [Philadelphia 76ers](#)

Iverson doesn't understand what the league wants to accomplish.

"No, because you're telling me basically, 'Don't dress hip-hop,' " he said. "What does a chain have to do with your outfit? A lot of guys wear chains for personal reasons; a lot of guys wear chains with their religion on them, or personal things. I have chains with my mom's name on it, my kids' names on it, with my [friend] that passed away on it. I don't think that's right for people to say I can't wear that and I can't express it. It's just not right. I think they went way overboard with it."

There is, of course, the old-school perspective offered by Sonny Hill, the Sixers' senior adviser.

"I don't think it's any different than in the old days with entertainers," Hill said. "When they came on, they presented themselves in some type of dress - a tuxedo, a suit, whatever. In this day and age, it's the same kind of thing. You have to be able to let people know this is a business, as opposed to maybe the image we as a basketball entity have presented over the last 10 years."

Maybe someone will file a suit before wearing one, or before a league observer collars a violator. Maybe someone will suggest the game is in the players' genes, not their designer jeans. Here's what we know for now: Iverson can still undress an opponent with a killer crossover, but he'll have to dress up afterward.

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY**

 Enjoy the convenience  
of home delivery.

[email this](#)[print this](#)[reprint or license this](#)

#### Ads by Google

##### [Men's Dress shoes](#)

Free Shipping on men's dress shoes at ShoeMall.

[www.ShoeMall.com](http://www.ShoeMall.com)

##### [Men's Dress Shoes](#)

Shop Polo footwear and more! Shop the Official Polo.com Site.

[www.polo.com](http://www.polo.com)

##### [Chinese Clothing](#)

Buy Chinese Clothing at AsianIdeas.Com.

[www.asianideas.com](http://www.asianideas.com)