

## **Western Style Boots / Vibram Sole Interpretation – 5-15-26**

At a recent meeting of the CFDA Board of Territorial Governors, it was brought to the board's attention that there are an increasing number of western bootmakers now producing western-style boots with Vibram soles. We noticed that there is a trend in these new lines of western-style boots to add colored accent strips to the soles as some kind of marketing scheme, which makes them **“very noticeable”**.

On Page 5. **“Clothing”**, it states in paragraph two, forth sentence, “Western-style boots, themed shoes or moccasins are the accepted footwear.” Under **“Not Allowed Are”**, bullet #2, it states, “Modern hiking boots or shoes, or footwear that have large Vibram soles that are **“very noticeable”** from the side view or back are not considered western-style boots.”

The Board realizes and supports that CFDA Members are seeking comfortable footwear to spend long days on our feet at CFDA events.

The Board wishes everyone to know that **Vibram soles are allowed** as long as they are not to the level of that are normally seen and very noticeable on hiking boots. As for this new trend of bootmakers adding colored accent stripes to boots with Vibram soles, **please just black them out**. The Board feels that colored accent stripes on soles, no longer qualifies them as “western-style boots.”

Thank You,

Quick Cal, Chairman

CFDA Board of Territorial Governors