| **Rule** | **Parameter** | **Description** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **required** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element is empty. |  |
| **matches** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element does not match the one in the parameter. | matches[form\_item] |
| **regex\_match** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element does not match the regular expression. | regex\_match[/regex/] |
| **differs** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element does not differ from the one in the parameter. | differs[form\_item] |
| **is\_unique** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element is not unique to the table and field name in the parameter. Note: This rule requires [*Query Builder*](https://www.codeigniter.com/userguide3/database/query_builder.html) to be enabled in order to work. | is\_unique[table.field] |
| **min\_length** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element is shorter than the parameter value. | min\_length[3] |
| **max\_length** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element is longer than the parameter value. | max\_length[12] |
| **exact\_length** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element is not exactly the parameter value. | exact\_length[8] |
| **greater\_than** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element is less than or equal to the parameter value or not numeric. | greater\_than[8] |
| **greater\_than\_equal\_to** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element is less than the parameter value, or not numeric. | greater\_than\_equal\_to[8] |
| **less\_than** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element is greater than or equal to the parameter value or not numeric. | less\_than[8] |
| **less\_than\_equal\_to** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element is greater than the parameter value, or not numeric. | less\_than\_equal\_to[8] |
| **in\_list** | Yes | Returns FALSE if the form element is not within a predetermined list. | in\_list[red,blue,green] |
| **alpha** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element contains anything other than alphabetical characters. |  |
| **alpha\_numeric** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element contains anything other than alpha-numeric characters. |  |
| **alpha\_numeric\_spaces** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element contains anything other than alpha-numeric characters or spaces. Should be used after trim to avoid spaces at the beginning or end. |  |
| **alpha\_dash** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element contains anything other than alpha-numeric characters, underscores or dashes. |  |
| **numeric** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element contains anything other than numeric characters. |  |
| **integer** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element contains anything other than an integer. |  |
| **decimal** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element contains anything other than a decimal number. |  |
| **is\_natural** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element contains anything other than a natural number: 0, 1, 2, 3, etc. |  |
| **is\_natural\_no\_zero** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element contains anything other than a natural number, but not zero: 1, 2, 3, etc. |  |
| **valid\_url** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element does not contain a valid URL. |  |
| **valid\_email** | No | Returns FALSE if the form element does not contain a valid email address. |  |
| **valid\_emails** | No | Returns FALSE if any value provided in a comma separated list is not a valid email. |  |
| **valid\_ip** | No | Returns FALSE if the supplied IP is not valid. Accepts an optional parameter of ‘ipv4’ or ‘ipv6’ to specify an IP format. |  |
| **valid\_base64** | No | Returns FALSE if the supplied string contains anything other than valid Base64 characters. |  |