



1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO
80909-5770

o 719.866.4578
f 719.866.4669

usaswimming.org

Bruce W. Stratton
398 S. 9th Street, Suite 290
Boise, ID 83702-6066

o 208-336.4953
f 208-342.8962

bruce@strattoncpa.com

September 21, 2009

To: All members of USA Swimming
From: Bruce W. Stratton, Chair, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee
Subject: Important new rules regarding swimsuits

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of important rule changes relating to swimsuits worn in all USA Swimming sanctioned and approved competition, or in any observed swim. These new rules, which are effective October 1, 2009, significantly change the types of swimsuits which may be worn in competition.

In July, 2009, FINA, the international governing body for the sport of swimming, adopted new rules effective January 1, 2010, which specify the design and construction of swimsuits which may be used in competition. USA Swimming, as the national governing body for the sport of swimming in the United States, has a long standing policy of following rules established by FINA. Accordingly, the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee changed USA Swimming's rules to conform to those of FINA. However, the USA Swimming House of Delegates subsequently passed a motion making these new swimsuit rules effective on October 1, 2009, three months earlier than the FINA effective date.

Attached are the amended rules relating to swimwear. Also attached is a copy of the FINA press release which lists in detail the specifications required for the approval of swimsuits. It will be necessary to reference this press release as to what constitutes an approved suit.

The new swimsuit requirements are very specific and technical in nature, but the most obvious restrictions/rules are as follows:

1. Swimsuits for men may not extend above the navel or below the knee and for women may not cover the neck or extend past the shoulders or below the knee;
2. Material used for swimsuits can be only textile fabric which is defined as materials consisting of natural and/or synthetic, individual and non-consolidated yarns used to constitute a fabric by weaving, knitting, and/or braiding; and
3. No zippers or other fastening devices are allowed except for a waist tie on a brief or jammer.

Many of the swimsuits currently being used by swimmers will no longer be allowable under the new rules and care should be taken when purchasing a suit to ensure it does meet the new requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the application of these new rules, please feel free to contact me (bruce@strattoncpa.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce W. Stratton', written over a horizontal line.

Bruce W. Stratton
Chair, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee