

Tech Suit Guidance for Meet Referee
Wisconsin Officials' Committee, February 15, 2021

102.8 SWIMWEAR

.1 Design

1. No Technical Suit may be worn by any 12 & Under USA Swimming athlete member in competition at any Sanctioned, Approved or Observed meet.
 - 1) Exceptions to the foregoing restriction are only for Junior Nationals, US Open, National Championships, and Olympic Trials.
 - 2) A Technical Suit is one that has the following components:
 - a. Any suit with any bonded or taped seams regardless of its fabric or silhouette;
or
 - b. Any suit with woven fabric extending past the hips.
(Note: WOVEN FABRIC-A suit with woven fabric and sewn seams that does not extend below the hips is permitted.)
(Note: KNIT FABRIC-A suit with knit fabric and sewn seams not extending below the knees is permitted.)

Resource on the USA Swimming Website:

<https://www.usaswimming.org/news/2019/09/12/tech-suit-restriction-for-12-and-under-swimmers>

Wearing a legal suit is the responsibility of coaches, parents and athletes!

How do you address illegal suits?

1. This is akin to a Code of Conduct violation (like deck changing) and should you notice or suspect an illegal suit, then you should first approach the Coach.
2. If it is found to be illegal then the Coach should handle the first communication with the athlete.
3. If you see a swimmer with an illegal suit on behind the blocks, and no time exists to talk to a Coach, let the athlete swim. You can then disqualify the athlete while the athlete is swimming and has not finished the race and talk to the Coach about it. If you are wrong, then you can simply overturn the DQ, if you are right then it can stand. Much easier than re-swimming an athlete later, and talking to an athlete behind the blocks and finding you are wrong messes with them. Remember – swimmers/athletes are there to enjoy the experience and we want to keep the meet moving!
4. If a coach comes and alleges that a swimmer from a competing team wore an illegal suit, there is no ground for a retrospective disqualification.
5. What if we notice an illegal suit AFTER the race - while the swimmer is still in the water – the race is finished so can there be a DQ?
 - It depends on whether you observed the swimmer while the race was in progress or after it was finished and whether you raised your hand to indicate a potential disqualification. This rule is no different than an illegal touch. Would you call an illegal touch at the finish AFTER the swimmer exited the pool? As they walk away? There has to be a point where you say, “too late.” The race is over when the touch is made. Calling an infraction AFTER the race would result in over-officiating.

6. Please, DO NOT start inspect suits. It is really “on the line” of safe sport issues. This is why the Officials Committee feels better working through a Coach. It’s also likely that we will have Coaches approaching officials regarding suits – please send all inquiries directly to the Meet/Deck Referee.
7. The Officials Committee encourages all Meet/Deck Referee’s to have the list of suits readily available for reference. This may be printing them out and having in your rule book or having access on your cell phone that you can reference OFF DECK and away from.
8. If there is a dispute about a suit, every effort should be made to NOT inspect while the athlete/child is wearing it. The Coach should obtain the suit and bring to the Meet/Deck Referee for review. The suit inspection should be done on deck (Safe Sport!).
 - Deck officials must report to the Meet/Deck Referee who handles notification with the Coach.
 - Be proactive and make every attempt to “fix” before hand, if noticed and confirmed.
 - If you’re holding a Coaches meeting via Zoom or you’re able to add to the meet communication with timelines and procedures, make sure to remind Coaches and parents of the September 1st regulations for 12 & under’s.
 - During your Officials meeting – make sure to review the notification procedures.
 - Overall, let the kid swim and DQ after.