



12&U Swimsuits

Effective September 1, 2020 Rule 102.8.1.F applies:

- No technical suit may be worn by any 12 & Under USA Swimming athlete member in competition at any Sanction, Approved or Observed Meet**



102.8.1.F

Exceptions

There is an **exception to this rule**. A 12 &U athlete can wear a tech suit if they are competing at:

- Junior Nationals
- US Open
- National Championship Meets
- Olympic Trials



102.8.1.F

Definition of a Technical Suit

- 1) Any suit with any bonded or taped seam regardless of its fabric or silhouette; or
- 2) Any suit with woven fabric extending past the hips

Note: A suit with woven fabric and sewn seams that does not extend past the hips is permitted.

Note: A suit with knit fabric and sewn seams not extending below the knees is permitted.



Knit vs Woven Suits

Simply put - knit suits will stretch,
woven fabric will barely stretch

Seams cannot be bonded regardless of
the fabric. They must be sewn.

If you are still not sure, go try each one
of them on!



For the Visual Learners “I Need a Picture!”



102.8.1.F

How do Officials identify legal suits for 12 &U?

Virtually all suits that fall within the definition of restricted suits (tech suits) and approved by FINA will bear their logo.



Therefore, if the suit solely has the **FINA Logo** it is **NOT** a **LEGAL SUIT**

If it has a FINA Logo and either one of the green checkmarks below, the **suit is also LEGAL.**



102.8.1.F

What is our Role?

Two items to keep in context:

- 1. We are NOT suit police!**
- 2. The burden of wearing a LEGAL suit is on the parent, coach and swimmer.**



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Situations and Answers



1. *If we see an illegal suit on a swimmer on the blocks, do we stop the meet and allow them to change?*

No, the burden is on the parent, coach and swimmer to know if a suit is LEGAL prior to competition.

2. *What if we notice an illegal suit **AFTER** the race - while the swimmer is still in the water. Can they still be a DQ?*

It depends on whether you observed the swimmer while the race was in progress or after it was finished AND 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? NOPE, it is too late. The race is over when the touch is made. Calling an infraction AFTER the race is over-officiating.

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Situations and Answers

3. *What if it is not noticed until they are finished but the official is positive, they swam that race in the suit?*

First question - Did the official raise their hand during that heat? If not, no call.

4. *Do we warn swimmers walking around in an illegal suit or during warm-ups?*

Absolutely N-O-T. It is ONLY illegal to wear a tech suit when competing. Again we are not the suit police.



102.8.1.F

Situations and Answers



5. *What happens if a suit is legal (a parent purchased older stock), but it does not have the green checkmark?*

There may instances, where a parent may have purchased older stock:

- 1. USA Swimming will have a list of these suits on the website. *Currently there are 12 that fit into this category.***
- 2. Swimmer or coach takes the suit to the MR prior to the start of the meet.**
- 3. The name & tag on the suit has to be legible for the MR to compare it with the list on the website.**



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Situations and Answers



5. *What happens if a suit is legal (a parent purchased an older stock), but it does not have the green checkmark? (Cont)*
4. **The MR, with a green Sharpie, places an “X” over the FINA approval logo.**
5. **It is up to the swimmer and/or coach to have this approved prior to swimming in their heat.**



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Situations and Answers



6. What if the swimmer arrives late?

Should a swimmer arrive late the swimmer must have the suit approved by the MR prior to their event.



102.8.1.F Summary



Only logo on the suit, 12&U athlete is swimming in a race. Observed by a S&T; they raised their hand = ILLEGAL



MR verified = LEGAL



Athlete swimming in race = LEGAL



Questions?