

SWIMWEAR RULES 2014

Masters Swimming Australia (MSA) has adopted the FINA rules for swimwear.

The basic requirements for swimsuits are:

- 1) A competitor may wear only one swimsuit in one piece for men and one or two pieces for women.
- 2) All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials with no application of surface treatment closing the open mesh structure.
- 3) For pool swimming, swimwear for men shall not extend above the navel nor below the knee, and for women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder or extend below the knee.
- 4) For Open Water Swimming, swimwear for both men and women shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder or extend below the ankle.
- 5) Items other than caps, goggles and swimsuits, covering the body and not part of the swimsuit are prohibited.

Note: *This prohibits taping of the body (except where approved by the Meet Referee) and the wearing of readily removable additional items, like arm bands or leg bands including wristwatches.*

- 6) No zippers or fastening systems are allowed.
- 7) Swimsuits must be of a design approved by FINA and marked accordingly (see old swimsuits, below).

List of Approved FINA Swimsuits

Approved swimsuits must carry either on the product or on a non-removable label the words "FINA approved" together with the approval time e.g. 11/09.

- A full list of approved suits is available from the FINA web site.

Old swimsuits

Swimwear that is obviously compliant, e.g. briefs or traditional shape women's swimsuits in full textile and full permeable material such as polyester suits, are not subject to any review or challenge and do not need formal approval (*for example the Speedo Endurance series of swimsuits*).

Suits not carrying a label with the words "FINA approved" together with the approval time e.g. 11/09 which otherwise meet the restrictions described above may be worn

in MSA competitions.

World Records

- The World Record Form now requires an official signoff that the swim suit which was worn by each swimmer was legal.

The basic requirements for caps and goggles are:

- 1) Caps and goggles cannot be attached to one another nor to the swimsuit (no “hood” or “mask” effect). This means the old goggle cap can no longer be worn in competition.
- 2) Cap shape must follow the natural shape of the head and not include any artificial shaping. This means that shaped novelty caps are not allowed.
- 3) Hard helmets are not allowed.
- 4) It is permissible to wear two (2) caps.

The full wording of the FINA rules are on their website at General Rule GR 5 and By Law - BL 8 FINA By Law - BL 8 has a link to “FINA requirements for swimwear approval”.