

1. Background:

1.1 Masters Swimming Australia Inc. (MSA) is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive swimming environment for all competitive members. Our goals are that:

- All swimmers in Australia feel welcome, safe, valued and celebrated in swimming,
- All swimmers in Australia can participate in the role and at the level of their choice in swimming, &
- Australia's diversity is reflected in swimming.

1.2 It is acknowledged that for some swimmers the standard competitive swimsuit options defined by MSA General Rule 'GR 16.1' may not suit their individual needs. This may be attributed to a range

of factors including but not limited to a:

- Swimmers religious observations,
- Swimmers cultural and/or linguistic diverse background,
- Swimmers with disability,
- Transgender and gender diverse swimmers.

1.3 To accommodate and support swimmers' individual needs and encourage involvement in swimming competitions, MSA allows swimwear to be modified or alternative swimsuits to be worn in accordance with this Policy.

2. Purpose:

2.1 This Policy has been developed to clarify and supplement the effective application of General Rule GR 16.2 of the MSA General Rules which reads:

Notwithstanding the FINA rulings referred to in GR 16.1, swimsuits may be modified or alternative swimsuits may be worn to accommodate a swimmer's individual needs, including in respect of modesty, religious or cultural purposes, gender identity, physical disability or in connection with any other protected attribute under federal or state anti-discrimination legislation provided any modification or proposed alternative swimsuit is approved by the Referee prior to the swimmer's first event at the relevant competition.



Masters Swimming Australia Inclusive Swimwear Policy 2022

Adapted from Swimming Australia Inclusive Swimwear Policy April 2021
Approved at the MSA October General Meeting 2021

2.2 If there is any inconsistency between this MSA Inclusive Swimwear Policy and the MSA General Rules, the relevant MSA General Rules will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

3. Application:

3.1 This Policy applies to swimmers, except swimmers seeking to achieve a FINA Masters World Record, competing in all levels of domestic pool and open water swimming competition conducted by MSA, its affiliated Member Organisations and Clubs.

3.2 All swimmers are eligible for an **MSA National Record** if they wear modified or alternative swimwear for the relevant event at which they achieve that record provided the swimwear satisfies the requirements of this Policy.

3.3 To be eligible for official **FINA Masters World Records** swimmers must wear an approved swimsuit as required under MSA General Rule GW 16.1.

3.4 The swimwear of all swimmers shall be modest, in good taste and must not be transparent.

3.5 Swimwear must be of textile material (i.e., permeable textile open mesh materials such as cotton, nylon, lycra and the like) with no application of surface treatment closing the open mesh structure. Swimwear must not contain any non-textile material such as polyurethane or neoprene.

3.6 Swimsuits which the Referee believes would be capable of unfairly enhancing a swimmer's performance will not be permitted; this includes compression swimwear that may be tight-fitting and/or increase buoyancy. In accordance with FINA regulations, for open water swimming competitions in water with temperature below 20°C, men and women may use either swimsuit (3.5 above) or wetsuits.

3.7 Swimsuits which the Referee believes would present a genuine safety risk to the wearer or other swimmers will not be permitted, this includes swimwear that may cover the face, prohibit the body from moving freely and/or impedes buoyancy.

3.8 Swimmers wishing to swim in a modified or alternative swimsuit/s must (either themselves or their representative) present the suit/s to the Referee for inspection prior to the swimmers first event at the competition for approval.



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3.9 Swimmers are not required to justify their choice of swimsuit; however, swimmers may be required to provide information pertaining to items within this policy to assist with the Referee's decision.

3.10 The Referee may approve a modified or alternate swimsuit/s at their discretion and in accordance with this Policy, the MSA General Rules and competition rules to the extent they relate to swimwear. The Referee's decision shall be final.

3.11 In instances where the Referee is unsure whether the swimwear meets this Policy's requirements, the swimmer should be allowed to participate, however the Referee should contact MSA National office with details regarding the swimwear. MSA staff will work with the MSA National Technical Committee and associated Affiliate Member Organisation to review the case and provide further feedback on this request to wear alternate or modified swimwear. Swimmers should also be encouraged to contact MSA National office if they require any clarification or support on their request to wear modified or alternate swimwear.

4. Accommodating Modesty

4.1 Swimmers may choose a swimsuit style that covers additional body surface including the legs, arms and/or head, but not the face.













4.2 Swimmers may choose a relaxed fitting swimsuit style however, this must not be so loose as to cause a safety risk, this includes swimwear that prohibits the body from moving freely and/or swimwear that impedes buoyancy. Swimsuits must not cover the face as this is a drowning risk.

4.3 Swimmers may choose to wear a swim skirt as an additional layer over a standard swimsuit.

4.4 There is no limit to the number of pieces the swimwear may be made from, however as set out in 3.6 swimsuits which the Referee believes would be capable of unfairly enhancing a swimmer's performance will not be permitted; this includes compression swimwear that may be tight-fitting and/or increase buoyancy.







5. Examples

5.1 Examples of acceptable swimsuits

			
Full coverage with leggings	Full coverage with pant	Three-quarter length	Rash shirt or well-fitted t-shirt
			
Swim skirt	Swim shorts	Trunks	Briefs
			
Neoprene wetsuit (for open water swimming)	*Hygiene swimwear/underwear	Swimwear with ties	Swimwear with zippers/fasteners

**Note – Swimmers are not required to present hygiene swimwear to the Technical Manager/Meet Referee, however this swimwear is approved under the Policy.*

5.2 Examples of unacceptable swimsuits

		
Loose fitting t-shirts	Full body fast suit	Full leg fast suit
		
Loose fitting shorts	Street wear	Sportswear