

Masters Swimming Australia - Swimwear Rules 2020

MSA General Rule

GR 16 SWIMWEAR

GR 16.1 - FINA rulings on Swimwear, FINA General Rule GR 5 and FINA By-Law BL 8 including FINA requirements for swimwear approval from 01.01.2010 shall apply to Masters Swimming Australia competitions. Note that swimwear includes caps and goggles.

Masters Swimming Australia uses the following current FINA rules with regards to swimwear.

FINA General Rule

GR 5 SWIMWEAR

GR 5.1 The swimwear (swimsuit, cap and goggles) of all competitors shall be in good moral taste and suitable for the individual sports disciplines and not to carry any symbol which may be considered offensive.

GR 5.2 All swimsuits shall be non-transparent. It is permissible to wear two (2) caps.

GR 5.3 The referee of a competition has the authority to exclude any competitor whose swimsuit or body symbols do not comply with this Rule.

GR 5.4 Before any swimwear of new design, construction or material is used in competition, the manufacturer of such swimwear must submit the swimwear to FINA and obtain approval of FINA.

FINA By-Law

BL 8 SWIMWEAR

BL 8.1 All swimwear used at Olympic Games and FINA Events (pool and open water swimming competitions) shall be swimwear approved by FINA in accordance with the rules and procedures set forth in the FINA Requirements for Swimwear Approval (FRSA) issued by the FINA Bureau and valid on the date of approval. Following an approval process conducted by the Swimwear Approval Commission, a list of approved swimwear is published by FINA (the Approved List) each year. The Approved List is published each year before December 31 and is valid starting from January 1 of the subsequent year.

BL 8.2 In pool and open water swimming competitions the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. No additional items, like arm bands or leg bands shall be regarded as parts of a swimsuit. All swimsuits (including wetsuits for open water competitions) shall comply with the requirements set forth in these By-Laws and the FRSA.

BL 8.3 For pool swimming competitions swimsuits for men shall not extend above the navel nor below the knee, and for women, shall not cover the neck, nor extend past the shoulder, nor below knee. The swimsuits shall be made from textile materials.

BL 8.4 For open water swimming competitions with water temperature from 20 C swimsuits for both men and women shall not cover the neck, nor extend past the shoulder, nor extend below the ankle. Subject to these specific shape specifications, swimsuits for open water swimming competitions shall further comply with all other requirements applicable to swimsuits for pool swimming competition.

BL 8.5 From January 1, 2017, for open water swimming competitions in water with temperature below 20 C, men and women may use either swimsuits (BL 8.4) or wetsuits. When the water temperature is below 18 C, the use of wetsuits is compulsory.

For the purpose of these rules, wetsuits are swimsuits made of material providing thermal insulation. Wetsuits for both men and women shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists and ankles.

BL 8.6 BL 8.1 to BL 8.5 apply also for the masters Open Water competitions.

[NOTE TO BL 8.6: It is clarified that swimsuits, respectively wetsuits which fulfil the shape requirement set forth in BL 8.3, respectively BL 8.4 and 8.5 (for open water swimming competitions) can be accepted even if they do not bear a valid FINA approval label provided they effectively and evidently fulfil the material requirements set forth in the current FINA Requirements for Swimwear Approval. This is notably the case for swimsuits made of traditional permeable textile (i.e. open mesh material) material (such as cotton, Nylon, Lycra and the like) with no application of surface treatment closing the open mesh structure and wetsuits which expressly fulfil the thickness requirement (for example wetsuit thickness provided by manufacturer). In case of doubt in this respect and when notably such doubt concerns a swimsuit or a wetsuit used at the occasion of a World record, an actual check of the swimsuit or a wetsuit can be required from the competitor or Certifying Official and the swimsuit or a wetsuit is to be forwarded to the FINA Office for submission to an actual control of all or parts of the requirements.]

BL 8.7 For team events in open water swimming, all swimmers from the same team must wear the same colour caps which shall also comply with the FINA rule BL 9.3.7.3.

FINA Requirements for swimwear approval

The full document is available on the FINA website: <https://www.fina.org/sites/default/files/frsa.pdf>

Following is Section 4 - Criteria from the document which sets out the criteria applicable to the respective categories of swimwear.

4. CRITERIA

The following criteria set forth below are applicable to the respective categories of swimwear (swimsuits, goggle and caps).

The FINA SAC may issue and update guidelines and clarifications in respect of the criteria and their application on an as-needed basis if issues of general relevance arise in the course of the effective conduct of the approval process. The clarifications and guidelines respectively become part of the

“FINA Requirements for swimwear approval”. The guidelines and clarifications in effect at the time of publication of this edition of the “FINA Requirements for swimwear approval” are attached hereto as exhibits. They will be updated on an as-needed basis.

4.1. Swimsuits for the pool and open water swimming competitions with temperature above 18C.

4.1.1. Design

Decency: the wearing of the swimsuit shall not offend morality and good taste (in particular, but not exclusively, because of the cut of the suit and body parts exposure whether covered or not).

Surface covered (shape);

For swimsuits used in pool swimming competitions:

Men’s swimsuits shall not extend above the navel or below the knee. Women’s swimsuits shall not cover the neck or extend past the shoulders, or below the knee.

For swimsuits used in open water swimming competitions:

Men’s and Women’s swimsuits shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, or extend below the ankle.

4.1.2. Composition/other items

Men’s swimsuits are in one piece. Subject to observance of the decency rule and limitations of the body surface covered, women’s swimsuits may be in one or two pieces. Other items covering the body that are not part of the swimsuit are prohibited.

4.1.3. Colours

To avoid any doubt, colours will not be considered as part of the design. Colours can vary freely. However, colour variations shall not affect compliance with any criteria and tested values.

4.1.4. Material (general)

Health: The material used must not put the health of the athletes at risk.

Type of material: the material used for swimsuits can be only "Textile Fabric(s)". For the purpose of these rules, this is defined as material consisting of, natural and/or synthetic individual and non-consolidated yarns used to constitute a fabric by weaving, knitting, and/or braiding.

Surface treatment of the textile fabric: any material added on to the surface of the textile fabric (any part thereof) or processing of the same (e.g. coating, printing, impregnation, heating, calendaring etc.) shall not close the overall open mesh structure of the base textile fabric. The treated material shall further comply with all requirements in particular in regard to thickness, permeability and flexibility which must be and remain complied with, both at production stage until finished product stage and when the swimsuits are in actual use. The rules regarding surface treatment do not apply to seams (sawn, welded, taped, glued, etc.), markings (manufacturer and/or sponsor logos as permitted by the applicable competition rules: printed or affixed on the base material) or labels⁷ (technical labels as permitted by the rules).

Flexibility: the material shall be flexible and soft folding.

Regular flat material: The material shall be regular and flat. The material shall not form outstanding shapes or structures, such as scales. A thickness variation of the material is permitted provided the thinnest point should not be less than 50% of the thickest point. The overall thickness limitation (0.8mm) shall in any event be respected at the thickest point(s).

Variation of colours: Variation of colours of the same material is possible as long as the colouring does not affect compliance with tested value limits. Manufacturers are fully responsible to ensure that requirements in respect of all tested values (permeability, thickness, etc.) are respected in any colour variation.

Outside application: No outside application shall be added on the material.

Variety of materials: Different materials may be used in one swimsuit provided all materials are textile fabrics as defined above and the swimsuit complies with all other criteria.

Combination/inside layer: A combination of maximum two layers of materials is permitted. The combination of layers shall not create outstanding shape(s) or structure(s). An inside layer of material can be used notably for comfort, protection of sensitive parts or decency. Permeability and thickness of layered materials shall be measured on both layers as combined and the combination of layers must thus comply with thickness and permeability requirements as set forth in these rules in all parts of the swimsuit.

4.1.5. Material (measured values)

Thickness: The total thickness of material/s used shall have a maximum value of 0.8mm. The thickness of layered materials is the total thickness of both layers measured together. It is clarified that this maximum thickness does not apply to seams as far as the seams are functional, and their thickness and width result from their natural functions. The measurement procedure for thickness is described in exhibit 1.

Buoyancy: The swimsuit shall not have a buoyancy effect above 0.5 Newton measured after application of vacuum. The measurement procedure for buoyancy is described in exhibit 2.

Permeability: material(s) used must have at any point (except on seams, logos or labels) a permeability value of more than 80 l/m²/second. Permeability values are measured on material with a standard multidirectional stretch of 25 %. However, measures on material which cannot be significantly stretched will be carried out on unstretched, flattened material. Permeability of layered materials is the permeability of both layers measured together. The measurement procedure for permeability is described in exhibit 3

4.1.6. Construction

No zippers or other fastening system is allowed.

Seams shall be limited to functional systems and shall not create outside shapes. Use of seams (notably number, overall length, and disposition) shall not affect compliance with the criteria set forth herein. External stimulation or influence: swimsuits which include any system providing external stimulation or influence of any type, including pain reduction, chemical/medical substance release, electro stimulation etc. are prohibited.

4.2. Wetsuits for open water swimming competitions with water temperature below 20 C.

Subject to the specifications below, wetsuits are subject to the provisions applicable to swimsuits set forth above under.

4.2.1. Design (shape)

Wetsuits shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists and ankles.

4.2.2. Composition

Wetsuits for both men and women shall be in one piece.

4.2.3. Material (Type)

Material used for wetsuits must have thermal insulation properties (for example foam of polychloroprene (Neoprene) or of polyurethane or other material with similar insulating properties). The material can be multilayered, with non-water permeable layers. The material cannot contain injected gas.

Material without insulating properties cannot be used.

4.2.4. Material (measured values - layers)

Thickness: The thickness of material/s used shall be minimum 3mm and maximum 5mm. Provided the insulating functions are not prejudiced, the Applicant may apply for lowering of the minimum thickness value in limited specific areas, if such is functionally justified to allow free swimmer's movements. A decision in this respect is made at SAC's discretion and cannot be challenged.

Permeability and buoyancy are not measured.

4.2.5. Construction

Zippers or other fastening systems are allowed without specific limitations. They must be functional.

4.3. Caps

4.3.1. Design

Independent item: the cap shall not be attached to the swimsuit or goggles nor be in continuity therewith (i.e. no "hood" or "mask" effect).

Shape: The shape shall follow the natural form of the head.

Surface: The outer surface shall not include outside artificial shaping such as rigs or spoilers and similar.

4.3.2. Material

Health: The material used must not put the health of the athletes at risk.

Hardness: No hard material (material can have some rigidity but shall be able to follow the shape of the head: no hard helmets).

Types: Different types of materials may be used on the same cap. The materials can be of different thicknesses, subject to respect of the maximum thickness (see below). However, differences in the thickness shall not be used to form shapes in the outer surface.

Thickness: The maximum thickness in all points shall be lower or equal to 2mm

4.3.3. Construction

Seams if any shall be functional and shall not create outside shapes.

4.4. Goggles

4.4.1. Design

Independent item: the goggles shall not be attached to the cap nor be in continuity therewith (no "mask" effect).

4.4.2. Material/construction:

Health. The material used or the construction must not put the health of the athletes at risk nor create a risk of injury.

Safety standards and functionality: the goggles shall comply with prevailing safety standards for eyewear. Goggles have the function to protect the eyes against water and ensure visibility. Their design or construction shall serve these functions and especially shall not seek to obtain aquadynamic advantages (e.g. through extended shapes not related to the above functions).

Note FINA Master events are, as a matter of principle, subject to the same rules. However, it is reminded that, swimsuits which comply in respect of their shapes and which evidently fulfil the other requirements, in respect of material (permeable open mesh textile material), can be used even if the corresponding model is not formally listed.

MSA Swimming Rule

SW 10.8M No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid their speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands, or adhesive substances, etc.). Goggles may be worn. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

SW 10.16 No pace-making shall be permitted, nor may any device be used or plan adopted which has that effect

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. As it is difficult to easily determine the functions on any particular watch / fitbit /powerband etc. all are deemed to be pacing devices. Basic jewellery need not be removed for pool events unless swimming two swimmers to a lane.