

Swimming Canada Swimwear Interpretation 2017

Notwithstanding GR 5 and FINA approved swimwear in competitions, the OCRC presented the following interpretation of the FINA Swimming rule on “legality of swimsuits” for domestic competitions (SW 10.8 in SNC rule book).

This is the rule that states that no swimmer is permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid or give them a competitive advantage in terms of speed, buoyancy or endurance.

In judging the legality of a swimsuit in domestic competitions in Canada, Technical Officials will make a determination and decide whether the swimsuit assists or provides a competitive advantage to the swimmer in terms of speed, endurance or buoyancy.

As a reminder, we know that swimsuits can be accepted and deemed legal even if they do not bear the valid FINA approval label or sticker, provided that they fulfil the material requirements, that is, that they are made of traditional permeable textile material with no application of surface treatment closing the open mesh structure.

Swimwear not listed on the FINA website are permissible at all club/Provincial meets, however the following will apply: Swimwear fabric must be of a permeable open mesh textile material that can be used even if the corresponding model is not formally listed on the FINA website. Such swimwear includes training or 'drag' suits, modesty swimwear, as well as religious cover-ups.

A swimsuit that covers more of the body, such as modesty swimwear or religious cover-ups, or the use of a separate garment worn underneath a regular swimsuit, is also permitted providing the fabric is permeable open mesh textile material and does not give the swimmer an advantage in terms of speed, buoyancy, or endurance.

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