

Swimming WA Swimwear Information Pack

With recent changes being made at the national and state level regarding the requirements around swimsuits in competition, Swimming WA has put all the information into a single location for Clubs and Members to find all the information they need surrounding the rules and regulations of swimsuits.

There are 3 items being referenced in this document:

1. [FINA By-Laws](#)
2. [Swimming Australia Inclusive Swimwear Policy](#)
3. **SWA Technical/Performance Race Suits – found at the end of this document**

The FINA By-Laws are the overarching rules for all swimming and racing competition around the world. Countries are members of FINA and abide by their rules and regulations on these matters. There are some exceptions that are in place such as the 2 additional policies mentioned above.

The rule that has been recently commented on in WA events has been surrounding the logo size on swimsuits. The rule reads as follows:

One (1) manufacturer's logo of a maximum size of 30cm² when worn. Where one-piece body suits are used, two (2) logos of the manufacturer shall be permitted, one above the waist and one below the waist of a maximum size of 30cm² each when worn. These two (2) logos of the manufacturer shall not be placed immediately adjacent to each other. Where two-piece body suits are used, the two (2) logos of the manufacturer shall be placed on one piece each.

Examples shown in the pictures below:



Swimming Australia has made steps to be more inclusive in their swimsuit policy and the background of these decisions can be seen below:

1.1 Swimming Australia is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive swimming environment for all competitive members. Within our Inclusive Swimming Framework, our goals are:

- All Australians feel welcome, safe, valued and celebrated in swimming
- All Australians 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 FINA requirements for swimwear approval may not suit their individual needs and preferences.

1.3 This may be attributed to a range of factors including but not limited to a swimmer's cultural or religious observations.

1.4 Lack of appropriate competitive swimwear options are a key barrier to participation in swimming by many people in the community including, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, transgender and gender diverse people and women and girls.

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

For more information please refer to the policy linked at the top of the page.

Swimming WA Competition Policy

Technical/Performance Race Suits – Update in effect October 1st 2021

In the interest of athlete development and retention, Swimming WA in consultation with Swimming Australia, the SWA High Performance and Competition and Planning Committees, made changes to the Policy pertaining to the use of technical/performance race suits at Swimming WA sanctioned competition which came into effect on May 1st 2018.

Technical/Performance suits can be very expensive and thus provide a potential barrier to entry for families looking to start out in swimming. In the view of Swimming WA and other State Swimming Associations, there are no proven performance benefits for young swimmers using technical/performance suits. After consultation with coaches across the State in previous years, feedback indicates that much of the benefit of wearing a technical/performance suit **is not relevant to young swimmers** who have yet to physically develop.

The move to limit the use of technical/performance suits for young swimmers is another initiative from Swimming WA to remove the competitive pressure on young swimmers at a crucial development phase of their swimming journey.

SWA Members are reminded that the SWA Technical/Performance Race Suits Policy is **in effect**.

The update is as follows – **Tech Suits will no longer be permitted to be worn at Junior Meets**. This will go into effect on the **1st October 2021**.

Who Will the Change

Apply To?

Age Group Swimmers:

Females Aged 13 Years and Over
Males Aged 14 Years and Over

Will be permitted to wear swimwear in line with the FINA by laws 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3.

Junior Swimmers:

Females Aged 12 Years and Under
Males Aged 13 Years and Under

Will no longer be permitted to wear technical/performance swimsuits at any Swimming WA sanctioned competition. The only exception to this rule is when the swimmer is competing in a State Championship event as an Age Group Swimmer; then they will be permitted to wear swimwear in line with the FINA by laws 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3.

What is a Technical/ Performance Suit?

Technical/performance racing suits are manufactured using scientifically advanced materials. Materials of this type are normally comprised of [spandex](#) and [nylon](#) composite fabrics with features to reduce “[drag](#)” against the water. The fabrics include features which are highly compressive and increase the swimmer's glide through water and reducing absorption of water by the suit as opposed to regular swimsuits.

Traditional one-piece race suits for females as well as briefs and trunks for male swimmers are not technical/performance suits and will be permitted. Knee length suits and “jammers” will also be permitted provided they do not feature the key components of a technical/performance swim suit will also be permitted.

The key component of a technical/performance suits which should be identified when differentiating what is and isn't permitted are the following

- Bonded/ Sealed Seams
- Meshed Seams
- Kinetic Tape



The above photographs are examples of seaming which will continue to be **permitted** for swimmers at junior meets, note the stitching is raised on the outside of the fabric.



The above photographs are examples of swim suit seaming which **will no longer be permitted** for swimmers at junior meets. Note the bonded/sealed seams and use of kinetic tape.

If you have any further questions about this policy please contact Mr. Ben Harvey at ben.harvey@wa.swimming.org.au