

# Memorandum

**To:** Swimming WA Technical Officials

**Cc:** Carolyn Morrison (Manager Performance and People)

**From:** Georgina Powers (Club Services Coordinator)

**Subject:** Technical/Performance Race Suits

**Date:** 12 June 2018

This is a reminder to all Swimming WA Technical Officials that as of 1 May 2018 the use of Technical/Performance Racing Suits (tech suits) has been restricted at Swimming WA Sanctioned competition. All Technical Officials who have not already familiarised themselves with this policy should take the opportunity to do so now.

**Application of the policy is per the guidelines below.**

## **Swimmers Aged 13 Years and Over:**

Continue to be permitted to wear swim wear in accordance with the FINA by-laws 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3.

## **Swimmers Aged 12 Years:**

Are no longer be permitted to wear technical/performance race suits at any Swimming WA sanctioned competition, except for the meets listed below whereby they will be permitted to wear swim wear in accordance with the FINA by laws 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3.

- Swimming WA State Age Short Course Championships,
- Swimming WA State Open Short Course Championships,
- SunSmart State Age Long Course Championships,
- Hancock Prospecting Western Australian Long Course Swimming Championships,
- SunSmart Country Championships,
- SunSmart End of Summer Sensation.

## **Swimmers Aged 11 Years and Under:**

Are no longer be permitted to wear technical/performance swimsuits at any Swimming WA sanctioned competition.

## **Application of the policy when Officiating**

Technical Officials should endeavour to monitor swimmers throughout all Swimming WA sanctioned meets and should ask swimmers where conditions permit to change into complying swimwear.

Any Technical Official who identifies a swimmer who has presented themselves to race in a tech suit who is ineligible

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under these rules and time does not permit the swimmer to change swimwear, should be report this immediately to the referee.

Pool deck officials in appropriate roles (Judges of Stroke, Inspectors of Turns, or Starter) who identify a swimmer who proceeds to race in a tech suit who is similarly ineligible should report this to the race referee and complete an infraction report in the normal manner. Wording on this infraction sheet should read "Wearing a non-permitted race suit".

Technical Officials are reminded that should they wish to perform a closer inspection of a swimmers suit to establish if the suit falls within the requirements of a tech suit that they should request permission from the swimmer first, male swimmers should only be inspected by male Technical Officials and female swimmers by female Technical Officials.

## Identification of Technical/Performance Suits

Tech suits are manufactured using advanced materials technology. Materials of this type are typically comprised of spandex and nylon composite fabrics with reduced drag characteristics. This swimwear will typically incorporate designs which are highly compressive and increase the swimmer's glide speed through water and reduce 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 are permitted.

Knee length suits and "jammers" are also permitted provided they do not feature the key components of a technical/performance suit.

The key component of a technical/performance suits which should be used by Technical Officials when attempting to identify a technical suit are the following:

- I. The existence of low drag seams in the form of either
  - Bonded Seams
  - Meshed Seams
  - Seams covered by "kinetic" or equivalent taping.

Examples of these seam designs as below - note the lack visible stitching.



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2. The existence of leg grippers - note: leg grippers (Silicone or polymer rings, sealing the leg of a swim suit and stopping it riding up) in their own right are not an indicator of a tech suit as some non-tech suits incorporate these but may assist in the identification of tech suits.
3. Highly compressive fabrics – Identification of this hallmark of tech suits may be one of the most difficult for Technical Officials to recognise. As such TO's should rely primarily on the existence of the previous two factors when identifying tech suits.

### **Implications of Non-adherence to this Policy:**

Swimming WA advises that if this policy is not adhered to at sanctioned meets and significant numbers of breaches of this policy are identified at a given meet, there is the possibility that sanctions may be imposed on the host club. These sanctions may include the possibility of times achieved by all swimmers at the meet not being recognised.

This represents a serious risk for clubs hosting sanctioned meets and we would ask Technical Officials to support the clubs who they work with to adhere to this policy in the most effective manner possible.



**Georgina Powers**  
Club Services Coordinator

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