

Open Water Swimsuit Rules Clarification – February 4, 2010

The January swimsuit ruling made by U.S. Masters Swimming applies to all USMS sanctioned and recognized pool events (including meets and postal events). However, **it does not apply to open water events.**

The USMS Open Water swimsuit rules have not changed from 2009 and are not impacted by FINA's recent decisions. ***Swimwear that was approved for pool use in 2009 is still legal for USMS sanctioned open water events in 2010.***

The following rules apply to open water competition:

303.6 Swimwear

303.6.1 Swimwear shall be the same as defined in articles 102.14.1 and 102.14.7. Goggles, ear plugs, watches, and grease shall be allowed. The suit shall be made of a porous material.

102.14.1 Design- The swimsuits worn for competition shall be nontransparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate. The referee shall have authority to bar offenders from competition until they comply with this rule.

102.14.7 Advertising- Products involving tobacco, alcohol or pharmaceuticals containing drugs banned under IOC or FINA rules may not be advertised, but the advertiser's name only may be used. Offenders may be barred from competition until they comply with this rule.

303.6.2 Swim cap(s), including those made of neoprene, may be permitted. Swim caps shall be defined as head gear conforming to a traditional swim cap design and shall not extend to protect the neck or shoulders.

303.6.3 Wetsuits may be allowed at the discretion of the event director when the water temperature does not exceed 78°F. If awards are given to wetsuit competitors, they shall be awarded separately from those for non-wetsuit competitors. Any published results or records must clearly indicate which swimmers wore wetsuits.

303.6.4 Devices used to maintain body heat are illegal, except for those listed in articles 303.6.1, 303.6.2 and 303.6.3.

303.6.5 Flotation or propulsive devices are not permitted, apart from those listed in articles 303.6.2 and 303.6.3, except in designated events where all swimmers are using similar devices.

303.6.6 A wrist watch may be worn in open water competition.

The complete list of swimwear allowable for 2010 USMS Open Water events can be found at the following two links:

http://www.fina.org/project/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2389&Itemid=49

http://www.fina.org/project/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2768&Itemid=107

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