

USMS Long Distance Committee

Procedure for a Swimmer to Apply for a Religious or Medical Exemption under Open Water Swimwear Rule 303.7.2

1. Swimmers seeking exemptions to Rule 303.7.2 for religious or medical reasons shall submit a written request to the Chair of the Long Distance Committee, either by e-mail or regular mail, at least one month before the date of the requested exemption.
2. The written request shall include:
 - a. For a religious exemption:
 - i. A detailed description of the specific religious restrictions for which the exemption is requested;
 - ii. The impact of the religious restrictions on the daily life of the swimmer; and
 - iii. Written testimony from an ordained or certificated religious leader or professional explaining the need for exemption based on religious beliefs.
 - b. For a medical exemption:
 - i. A detailed diagnosis and description of the medical condition for which the exemption is requested;
 - ii. The impact of the medical condition on the daily life of the swimmer; and
 - iii. Written testimony from a licensed, practicing physician or health professional explaining the need for exemption based on medical grounds.
3. Exemptions will only be granted for the swimwear design, including additional coverage or a separate garment or prosthesis worn under the swimwear. Swimwear for which an exemption has been granted must be made from textile materials only. No exemption will be allowed that will give the swimmer a competitive advantage.
4. All exemptions are effective only for the calendar year in which they are granted, and must be renewed annually. The written exemption letter to the swimmer shall include the expiration date.
5. The swimmer is responsible for presenting a copy of the exemption letter to the event director or referee before the pre-race meeting for the competition in which the swimmer intends to participate.