

NOTICE TO ALL U. S. MASTERS SWIMMING MEMBERS

December 6, 2009 Update

The following U.S. Masters Swimming's official interpretation of Swimwear rule 102.14 was published March 26, 2009, and again June 1, 2009. These USMS interpretations have not changed and will remain in place until further notice. While USA Swimming chose to modify their rules, U.S. Masters Swimming has chosen to maintain its rules and interpretations until FINA has completed its processes and informed us of its interpretation as it applies to Masters Swimming. The FINA Bureau will meet January 15-16, 2010. While our policy remains unchanged during this interim period, there is new information in the questions and answers following the interpretations.

#1. USMS SWIMWEAR INTERPRETATION

FINA approval or rejection of new swimsuits introduced after September 30, 2007, will be accepted by U.S. Masters Swimming for USMS sanctioned and recognized competition.

The following interpretation regarding the use of two suits during competition was also published March 26, 2009.

#2. USMS SWIMWEAR INTERPRETATION

For purposes of Article 102.14 of U.S. Masters Swimming Rules of Competition, Swimwear, the use of more than one swimsuit at a time during any USMS sanctioned or recognized competition is prohibited.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

1. Question: If FINA changes the Masters swimwear rule in mid-January, will the new swimwear rule then immediately apply to the remaining two weeks of the One Hour Postal Swim in January?

Answer: No. The swimwear rule in effect on January 1, 2010 will apply for the duration of the One Hour Postal Swim being conducted in January 2010. The swimwear rule in effect on January 1, 2010, will be the interpretations as published in this notice.

2. Question: Can I still wear my LZR, TYR Tracer, or Blueseventy at meets including short course yard meets?

Answer: Yes, because the LZR, the TYR Tracer, and Blueseventy models are on the list of FINA-approved suits that was published June 22, 2009. LZR, TYR, and Blueseventy suits on the FINA-approved list are legal for Masters until FINA issues a ruling on swimwear for Masters. Those suits could be banned by FINA in mid-January if the FINA Bureau, which meets January 15-16, approves the recommendation of the FINA Masters Technical Committee that Masters follow the elite swimwear rules.

3. Question: Why don't I see the Xterra suit on the June 22, 2009 list of FINA-approved suits?

Answer: One model, the Xterra Velocity Red (1), was inadvertently left off the June 22, 2009 FINA-approved list. It was approved by FINA.

4. Question: Can I wear a regular racing suit that is not a body suit?

Answer: Yes, suits introduced prior to September 30, 2007, are legal for USMS competition.

5. Question: How will this impact Masters competitors?

Answer: Suits on the FINA list that was published June 22, 2009, or suits that were introduced prior to September 30, 2007, are legal at this moment. The USMS swimwear interpretation will be reconsidered by the USMS Rules Committee and the USMS Executive Committee when the FINA Bureau, which meets January 15-16, issues a swimwear ruling for Masters or issues more definitive information on its new swimwear rules.

6. Question: My coach is forcing me to swim the 1650 Free as a training swim. Can I wear a drag suit over my jammers?

Answer: No. Although wearing an extra drag suit may not be perceived as having an advantage, the interpretation is that only one swimsuit is permitted.

7. Question: Does "one suit for competition" mean I can only wear one suit for the whole meet?

Answer: No. You can change suits during the meet, but you can only wear one suit at a time. This restriction applies only to the actual races (competition). You can wear more than one suit during warm-up and warm-down.

8. Question: Does "one suit for competition" mean I can't wear a modesty suit under my competition suit?

Answer: No. This restriction applies to all types, makes, and models of swim suits, but it is not intended to apply to athletic supporters or modesty type wear (a single set of garments such as a pair of "briefs" or "bikini bottoms and/or top" or a sports bra worn to ensure modesty and privacy) that must be for modesty only, not for the purpose of providing additional compression.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

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