



Swimming Natation Canada Rule Interpretation – Swimwear

The following interpretation is offered to clarify SNC's stance on the recently released list of FINA approved suits and the application of SNC Rule GR 5.

February 16, 2009 SNC approved an interim rule specifically limiting the use of two suits in competition. This was done in anticipation of the FINA Bureau meetings that were subsequently held March 2009 in Dubai. Following these meetings and following FINA's release of the Dubai Charter and subsequent support for the existing FINA swimwear rule, SNC rescinded its interim rule and reaffirmed the application of SNC Rule GR 5 effective March 31, 2009:

GR 5 – Swimwear

GR 5.1

The swimwear (swimsuit, cap and goggles) of all competitors shall be in good moral taste and suitable for the individual sports disciplines and not to carry any symbol which may be considered offensive.

GR 5.2

All swimsuits shall be non-transparent.

GR 5.3

In swimming competitions the competitor must wear a swimsuit in one or two pieces which shall not extend beyond the ankles, the wrists and the neck. No additional items, like arm bands or leg bands shall be regarded as parts of a swimsuit.

GR 5.4

The referee of a competition has the authority to exclude any competitor whose swimsuit or body symbols do not comply with this rule.

GR 5.5

Before any swimsuit or new design, construction or material is used in competition; the manufacturer of such swimsuit must submit the swimsuit to FINA and obtain approval of FINA.

GR 5.6

The manufacturers must ensure that the approved new swimsuit will be available for all competitors.

With the recent release of FINA's approved list as per GR 5.6, all suits used in competition in Canada must be approved as per the FINA list.

http://www.fina.org/project/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2389&Itemid=9

Under GR 5.3 wherein it is stated "*the competitor must wear a swimsuit in one or two pieces...*" SNC interprets this to mean a swimmer is limited to wearing a single suit only and where the suit is "two pieces" that the pieces do not overlap each other and are distinct units (ie/ bikini style).

Until such time as SNC releases new procedures specific to the verification of approved suit use at competitions, it will be incumbent on swimmers and coaches to ensure their swimwear is compliant with GR 5 (FINA approved). To that end, SNC expects the rule to be self-policed, that swimmers and coached embrace a sense of fair-play and professionalism and ensure compliance.



Further:

All Canadian Record swims will be reviewed to ensure compliance with GR 5.

All foreign swimmers competing in Canada will be required to comply with GR 5.

Any swimmer not complying with GR 5 shall be disqualified.