



SNC Rule GR-5 Swimwear Rule and Procedures for Provincial Sections

With the introduction of the FINA Swimwear approval process, and the subsequent release of FINA's "approved" swimwear list, much confusion has arisen around this complex issue. The main issue for many clubs and families centres on the absence from the FINA list of some swimwear brands and models commonly used in Canada. Also at issue is clarity as to how the swimwear rules are to be applied at meets other than SNC designated events.

SNC, via the Technical Swimming Committee, kindly requests all Provincial level officials to take an educational and "low-key" approach to this issue. We further request that coaches, in the spirit of fair play and professionalism, approach the new suit regulations from a "self-policing" perspective.

During the period where we begin to become accustomed to the new rules any official or coach is encouraged to contact Ken Radford, SNC Technical Director, if they have questions or concerns that cannot be resolved through provincial channels.

The SNC Swimwear rule reads as follows:

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*



For the purposes of clarity and application at all sanctioned events, SNC has made the following interpretations for GR-5:

- With the release of FINA's approved list as per GR 5.6, all suits used in competition in Canada must appear on the FINA approved list with the exception of suits addressed in the following paragraph.
- Swimsuit models approved prior to 2009 and made of full textile material (lycra, nylon, etc) will be accepted (ie/ SNC will allow all NIKE suits available prior to June 09, 2009; the Speedo FS II; and all brief type suits where such suits comply with the Dubai Charter). Such suits must adhere to the shape requirement of GR 5.3 and have double layers of textile stuck together.
- 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).

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.