

Swimwear at Competitions

Guiding Principle of Inclusion:

All members of Swim Alberta, including athletes, officials, volunteers, parents, and clubs are bound by the Guiding Principles as approved by the Swim Alberta Board of Directors, one of these being the [Guiding Principle of Equity, Inclusion and Universal Access](#).

Definition of Modesty Wear:

Modesty wear is considered additional body coverage using a fabric that is a permeable open mesh textile and would not reasonably be seen to be creating a technical advantage, meaning it does not aid buoyancy, strength, speed, or endurance.

Swimming Canada Rules:

The current swimwear rules permit the use of modesty wear at all competitions up to and including the provincial championships as per the [Swimming Canada rule book](#). All swimmers are permitted to race with the swimwear of their choosing, including the use of modesty wear, at all competitions sanctioned by Swim Alberta. It is not required to declare the use of modesty wear to the Referee.

Competition Expectations:

In order to ensure the competition environment is an inclusive environment, the following is expected from all participants including swimmers, officials, coaches and volunteers at all competitions.

- *All swimmers are permitted to race with the swimwear of their choosing at all competitions sanctioned by Swim Alberta, including year-round, varsity, masters, and summer competitions.*
- Swimmers are not required to provide a reason or rationale to race using modesty wear.
- Coaches, swimmers, or parents are not required to notify the referee, meet manager or any other official if a swimmer plans to use modesty wear.
- Officials and volunteers (timers, turn judges or marshalling, etc.) are expected to ask swimmers for their name to confirm they are in the correct event. It is not the role of the officials and volunteers to question a swimmer about their use of modesty wear or if swimmers are in the correct event.

Competition Information:

The following statement is required to be included in all competition information packages.

All swimmers are permitted to race with the swimwear of their choosing at all competitions sanctioned by Swim Alberta. It is not required to declare the choice of swimwear to the Referee if the fabric of the swimwear is a permeable open mesh textile and would not reasonably be seen to create a technical advantage in terms of speed, buoyancy, or endurance.