

Swim Alberta Festivals – Technical Swimsuits

In alignment with Swimming Canada's Appropriate Athlete Development & Athlete Development Matrix, Swim Alberta will not permit the use of Technical Swimsuits at the Swim Alberta Winter Festival and Summer Festival competitions, competitions which are focused on swimmers aged 12 & under.

Preamble

There have been many advances in swimsuit technology, otherwise known as Technical Swimsuits. This has resulted in swimsuit rules applied at the international level. Several national bodies have banned Technical Swimsuits for younger swimmers and have rules determining at which competitions they can be worn.

Rationale for exclusion of Technical Swimsuits at Swim Alberta Winter and Summer Festival competitions

The following are some of the key considerations and priorities in making the decision to not permit the use of Technical Swimsuits at the Swim Alberta Festivals.

- Skill Development – Swimmers at this level will benefit from learning to swim FAST in standard swimwear by learning great technique.
- Athlete Development – Provides a consistent rule for all swimmers so coaches can focus on a long-term development plan for all swimmers.
- Costs – Technical swimsuits can be expensive, noting there is a wide range of costs. Managing the overall costs can have an impact on swimmer retention.
- Removing Technical Swimsuits provides a more inclusive environment for this level of competition in the athlete pathway

Technical Swimsuit Identification

In general, most Technical Swimsuits have a FINA / World Aquatics Logo which officials can easily recognize. There are a small number of suits with a FINA / World Aquatics Logo that are not Technical Swimsuits.

Technical Swimsuit Definition

A Tech Suit has the following components:

- a. A swimsuit with bonded or taped seams, regardless of its fabric or silhouette
OR
- b. A swimsuit with woven fabric extending past the hips

Clarifications:

Woven Fabric – A swimsuit with woven fabric and sewn seams that does not extend below the hips is permitted.

Knit Fabric – A swimsuit with knit fabric and sewn seams not extending below the knees is permitted.

Any male or female suit with woven fabric and to the knee or mid-thigh is defined as a technical suit, regardless of the type of seams: bonded, taped or sewn.

A woven suit with sewn seams and in a male brief or female regular cut not to the knees or mid-thigh is not defined as a technical suit and is not restricted.

Festival Competition Information

The following statement will be published in the Swim Alberta Festival competition information:

Technical Swimsuits

The use of Technical Swimsuits will not be permitted at this competition. For more information please refer to the Swim Alberta Festival – Technical Swimsuit information published on the [Alberta Competition Information](#) page.

Swimwear at Competitions

The Technical Swimsuit rules for the Festivals are in addition to the rules regarding Swimwear at Competitions as published on the [Swim Alberta website](#). These rules permit the use of modesty wear at all competitions sanctioned by Swim Alberta.

FAQ's

Q – Can boys still wear Jammers? The Technical Swimsuit definition says “Any male or female suit with woven fabric and to the knee or mid-thigh is defined as a technical suit...”

A – Boys can wear Jammers as long as they are not technical swimsuits. The key phrase in the definition is ‘woven fabric’. There are plenty of Jammers with knit fabric.

Q – Can girls wear suits down to the knees?

A – Girls can wear suits to the knees, like the above, there are many girls suits to the knees with knit fabric.

Q – What is the marking to identify a Technical Swimsuit?






A – In general, most Technical Swimsuits have a FINA / World Aquatics Logo which officials can easily recognize. There are a small number of suits with a FINA / World Aquatics Logo that are not Technical Swimsuits, in these cases, the swimsuit must be identified and approved by the meet referee prior to the start of the competition.

Q – Will Technical Swimsuits be limited for swimmers age 12 & under at other provincial competitions?

A – No, all swimmers can wear any FINA or World Aquatics approved swimsuit at other Swim Alberta Provincial Competitions, including Provincial Trials and the Provincial Championships.

Officiating

Most suits that have the FINA or World Aquatics logo are not permitted. It is the responsibility of the parent, swimmer and coach to ensure swimmers are wearing approved swimsuits. At the festivals, if a swimmer completes a race, while wearing a Technical Swimsuit, they will be disqualified.

Logos not Permitted*	Permitted Logos
	
	
	

* There are a small number of suits with a FINA / World Aquatics Logo that are not Technical Swimsuits, in these cases, the swimsuit must be identified and approved by the meet referee prior to the start of the competition. USA Swimming has approved some suits with the FINA / World Aquatics logo, which are marked with an additional green checkmark logo, examples are on the right.

Officiating Process & Questions

During the competition, if a Technical Swimsuit is identified by an official, they are to identify a disqualification to the referee following the standard disqualification process.

Q – If a Technical Swimsuit is identified prior to the start of a race, should the swimmer be warned or given the opportunity to change?

A – No, it is the responsibility of the parent, swimmer and coach to wear approved swimsuits.

Q – Should swimmers be warned if they are wearing a Technical Swimsuit during warm-up?

A – No, there are no rules regarding the use of Technical Swimsuits during warm-up.

Q – If a Technical Swimsuit is identified after the race is complete, should they be disqualified?

A – Yes, enforcement of swimsuits will be consistent with other officiating practices.