

Swim Alberta Festivals – Technical Swimsuits

In alignment with Swimming Canada’s Appropriate Athlete Development & Athlete Development Matrix, Swim Alberta does not recommend the use of Technical Swimsuits for 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 not recommending Technical Swimsuits 12 & under swimmers.

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. Below is a quick reference guide for suit approval:

Recommended	Not Recommended
FINA or World Aquatics Logo WITH a Green Checkmark Logo	FINA or World Aquatics Logo*
Male Brief / Female Regular Cut any Fabric with Sewn Seams	Any Suit with Bonded or Taped Seams
Knit Fabric (stretches) with Sewn Seams	Woven Fabric (no stretch) if suit extends to knee or mid-thigh

**There are a small number of suits that are not technical suits that are approved by World Aquatics. The chart above clarifies which suits are recommended for swimmers aged 12 & under.*