

July 2, 2010

Dear CCAA coaches, team reps and officials,

A matter for clarification and implementation has presented itself.

There was a USA Swimming rule change this past season that involved the swimming suit. Rule 109.2 addresses the suit design. (It is incorporated at the end of this letter.)

I misunderstood the change in the rule, partially because, just like Congress, I failed to read the whole rule.

I thought the rule only addressed the material that the suits could be made of, and felt that it would be highly unlikely that anyone would have one of these high tech polyurethane suits in our summer league. I also felt that those that might have one, most likely are year-round swimmers and would know that the suits were illegal to wear in competition.

Much to my chagrin, it so happens that the rule also addresses the style of the suit and as you can see, includes the prohibiting of the suit from extending below the knee or above the navel in males, as well as certain restrictions for females.

My failure to point this rule change out and my assumption that it would not be an issue was a mistake. The CCAA generally follows USA Swimming rules, we state so, and we outline in our rules when we don't follow them. In this case, I made an assumption, failed to communicate that assumption, did not follow the USA rule, and as a result created an issue that generated much "discussion" at a meet Thursday night.

I personally apologize to those involved: coaches, officials, team reps, and spectators, and I accept responsibility.

As for the remedy:

- 1) All team reps will ensure that their coaches receive, and are made aware of this letter. Team reps are also responsible for seeing that each official from their team reads this letter or refers them to the website to read it on the "officials' page".
- 2) The coaches are then to ensure that all their swimmers are aware that certain suits are not to be worn and are not permitted in competition during CCAA meets. These suits will not be permitted in the championship meet.
- 3) Swimmers wearing such suits are to be asked to change their suit before being allowed to compete. They may be given opportunity to change during a meet if sighted, but the meet will not be held up for their event should they not return from changing in time. Should they compete in an illegal suit, they will be disqualified from that event.

4) This shall take effect from the date of this letter and will be in force for dual meets after 2 July 2010, and will apply to the 2010 CCAA championship meet.

All queries may be made to me in person, by phone, or by e-mail.

I apologize for the lateness of this interpretation and for your being informed in this manner. I again apologize to the two teams, their coaches, parents and representatives for the difficulty this caused at their meet on July 1, 2010.

Sincerely,

Chris Accetta
CCAA

The rule reads as follows:

102.9 SWIMWEAR (effective October 1, 2009)

.1 Design

- A Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap, and goggles. Armbands or leg bands shall not be regarded as parts of the swimsuit and are not allowed.
- B In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces, except as provided in 205.10.1. (cited below) **All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. For men, the swimsuit shall not extend above the navel nor below the knees, and for women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor extend below the knee.**
 - (1) Exemptions to the foregoing restriction may be granted to a swimmer, on a case by case basis, by the Chair of the Rules & Regulations Committee, or his/her designee. Exemptions will be granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer's verified religious beliefs or verified medical conditions.
 - (2) Procedures for applying for an exemption will be established by the Rules & Regulations Committee and posted on the USA Swimming website.
 - (3) No exemption to this restriction will be granted for a swimsuit that will give the swimmer a competitive advantage.
 - (4) The decision of the Rules Chair may be appealed only to the entire Rules & Regulations Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.
- C Only swimsuits complying with FINA swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USA Swimming sanctioned or approved competition.
- D Swimsuits worn for competition must be non-transparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate.

- E No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device, substance or swimsuit to help his/her speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the Referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Referee.
- F The Referee shall have authority to bar offenders from the competition until they comply with the rule.

205.10 SWIMWEAR IN AGE GROUP COMPETITION

- .1 For age group competitions, it is permissible for an athlete to wear a single set of garments underneath his or her competition swimsuit for modesty and/or privacy reasons.

In a letter from Bruce W. Stratton, Chair, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee dated January 25, 2010, he wrote in part,

“On January 4, 2010, FINA issued its final list of swimsuits approved for use in 2010. The suits included on this final list were all submitted to and approved by FINA. In addition to the suits included on this list, FINA has indicated that “older suits” are also acceptable for competition. Although the term “older suits” was not specifically defined, it generally refers to suits made from nylon or Lycra that meet the following criteria:

1. Swimsuits for men may not extend above the navel or below the knee and for women may not cover the neck, or extend past the shoulders or below the knee;
2. Material used for swimsuits can be only textile material which is defined as materials consisting of natural and/or synthetic, individual and non-consolidated yarns used to constitute a fabric by weaving, knitting, and/or braiding. Simply put, this would generally refer to suits made only from nylon or Lycra that do not have any rubberized material such as polyurethane or neoprene; and
3. No zippers or other fastening devices are allowed except for a waist tie on a brief or jammer. Although the “older suits”, as defined above, are acceptable for competition, they will not be allowable for purposes of establishing World Records, as qualifying times for FINA World Championships or Olympic Games, or for world rankings. Only suits listed on the FINA Suit List may be used for these purposes.”

The entire statement may be found on the USA Swimming website under the Rules and Regulation tab, under “New Swimwear Rules”