

**Officials Chair Report
HOD Meeting
October 7, 2018**

Officials Count

We currently have 134 certified officials. This is up from 125 at the time of the Spring HOD meeting.

Officials Training

Edie Mueller and Bob Pelzer attended the "We ARRE Mentors" workshop hosted by the USA Swimming National Officials Committee on June 22-24, 2018 in Minneapolis, MN. The goal of the workshop was to educate, encourage and prepare officials in all our LSCs to become National Evaluators. The workshop focussed on mentoring at the N2 and N3 levels, along with tips for recruiting, training and retaining LSC officials. ARRE stands for Appreciation, Recognition, Respect and Encouragement.

Kevin Axtell and Jamie White will be attending a Referee Workshop the weekend of October 19-21, 2018 in San Antonio, TX. This workshop is also hosted by the USA Swimming National Officials Committee and will allow referee-level officials from across the United States to gather in a group environment and be challenged with a presentation of ideals and philosophies.

State Championship Meets

Between the State A Championship in Rapid City and the State B Championship in Sioux Falls, we had a total of 43 officials who volunteered in different capacities.

State Meet Officials Shirts

We had a total of 9 officials who worked at either of the State Meets and have not previously received an Officials Shirt from SD Swimming. I am getting shirt sizes from those officials and will order additional shirts to distribute during the upcoming season.

DQ Slips

DQ Slip booklets were ordered at the end of May and distributed to clubs during the Long Course season. The booklets were ordered online through Lighthouse Printing at a much more reasonable cost. I will posting order details on the Officials page of SD Swimming for any clubs that may need to order additional booklets prior to our next order.

- A:** Girls can still wear suits to the knees. Similar to the question above, there are plenty of female suits available that are not made of a woven material.
- Q: Can a 12-Under swimmer wear a tech suit at an LSC Championship meet or Zone Championships?**
- A:** No. The only meets where a 12-Under will be allowed to wear a tech suit is one that is in USA Swimming's Championship series of meets (Sectionals, Futures, Junior Nationals, Pro Swim Series, US Open, National Championships or U.S. Olympic Trials) or the YMCA National Championship.
- Q: Can an LSC now make a rule restricting the use of tech suits earlier than the national restriction that goes into place September 1, 2020?**
- A:** The Age Group Development Committee (AGD) spent the last three years looking at the complexity of this issue from all sides in terms of markings, manufacturing, cost, officiating, retail and more to form this recommendation. The AGD strongly recommends LSCs hold any legislation until the national implementation date. This will allow for the proper time period for all aspects of the industry to be ready for the implementation.
- Q: Should LSCs with existing rules "fall in line" with this rule and timing?**
- A:** There was unanimous agreement that for this rule to be effective, it will require consistency nationally. It is the recommendation of the Age Group Development Committee that LSCs match this proposal on definition and timing.
- Q: How does USA Swimming plan to educate parents, coaches and swimmers on what is a technical suit and what isn't?**
- A:** USA Swimming, with the help of all suit manufacturers, is planning to create an educational piece(s) on suits and what will be legal and what won't. This campaign will include information to help parents choose the best suit for their young swimmer that is consistent with the American Development Model. USA Swimming will also publish a list of restricted suits.
- Q: What is the marking system to identify a tech suit?**
- A:** The primary identifier will be any suit that has the FINA logo will be considered a tech suit. This will address 99% of the issues today with 12-and-unders and is a marking system that higher-level officials are accustomed to seeing. It is easily identifiable even at a busy meet and does not require any additional cost or production for manufacturers. This will also keep consumer costs lower without adding additional steps in manufacturing.
- Q: Are there some suits with the FINA logo that could still work for 12-and-unders?**
- A:** There are currently a small number of suits (less than 5 today) that have a FINA logo but do not meet the definition of a tech suit. Those suits will require an additional visual mark (ex. a bright check mark surrounded by a circle) to signify it is ok for 12-and-under competition.
- Q: Are there suits that don't have a FINA logo, but are still considered a tech suit?**
- A:** In the event that a manufacturer chooses not to go through FINA approval on a suit that meets the definition of a tech suit, an additional mark signifying it is not allowed for 12-and-unders will be used. Currently, no companies have a suit in this category.
- Q: If, for example, a 12-year-old is entered in an open/senior meet that is not on the list of exempted meets (i.e. an LSC Senior meet or an Open Invitational) how would an official know that they shouldn't be wearing a technical suit since there isn't an age classification for the meet or event?**
- A:** Because most heat sheets list the age of the athlete, it should be relatively easy at the beginning of the meet for the meet referee to look through the heat sheet and identify any 12-Under swimmers entered in the meet/events. The officials would then need to ensure that those swimmers are not competing in a suit with the FINA logo on it. The burden is really on swimmers, parents and coaches to comply with all rule changes.

If you would like further information, please read the full detail report at www.usaswimming.org/convention



Age Group Development Committee

Proposal to Restrict Tech Suits for 12-and-Under Swimmers

Overview

The Age Group Development Committee proposes the following rule to take effect September 1, 2020.

102.8 SWIMWEAR .1 Design

- F. No Technical Suit may be worn by any 12 & Under USA Swimming athlete member in competition at any Sanctioned, Approved or Observed meet.
- 1) Exceptions to the foregoing restriction are only for meets in USA Swimming's Championship Series (i.e. Sectionals, Futures, Junior Nationals, Pro Swim Series, US Open, National Championships, and Olympic Trials) or YMCA National Championships.
 - 2) A Technical Suit is one that has the following components:
 - a. Any male or female suit with any bonded or taped seams is defined as a technical suit regardless of its fabric or silhouette; or
 - b. Any male or female suit with woven fabric extending to the knee or mid-thigh is defined as a technical suit regardless of the seam type: bonded, taped or sewn. (Note: A woven suit with sewn seams and in a male brief or regular cut not to the knees is not defined as a technical suit and is not restricted).

Age Group Development Committee Key Considerations

- Maintaining the status quo will negatively impact swimmer development by continuing to emphasize the suit as a quick (and false) path to success versus long-term skill development, practice, athlete effort and coaching.
- Curbing the over-zealous parent mentality of needing to "keep up with the Joneses" in order to compete.
- The status quo often removes decision-making from the coach to recommend the best long-term development plan.
- While cost was less of a factor than initially thought, the committee is mindful of managing the overall cost of participation and its impact on athlete retention.

Education

There is strong consensus from the Committee, coaches, suit manufacturers and USA Swimming staff of the importance of education to all parties. USA Swimming and the suit manufacturers will jointly create an educational campaign that will focus on the function and impact tech suits play in the performance of swimmers and the key features, suit options or styles, and cost appropriate suits for different levels of swimming. to achieve this. This educational campaign will integrate with USA Swimming's American Development Model (ADM).

Timing

The September 2020 implementation date allows an adequate lead time for the manufacturers to update current suit styles, develop any relevant new styles, manage existing inventory and planned production, and incorporate the appropriate identification on the suits. Lead time for suit production can be 18 months or more.

Existing or Future LSC Rules

At least 11 LSCs have either created or have pending legislation regarding tech suit restrictions, each with varying interpretations. This scattered approach is not sustainable for officials, coaches, suit manufacturers or families. Should this proposal pass the House, USA Swimming and the Committee recommend all LSCs with existing rules adopt the definition, restrictions and timing consistent with the proposed rule. If the rule passes, LSCs would be prohibited from having their own more restrictive rules after September 1, 2020.

Suit Manufacturer Feedback

Suit manufacturers have a vested interest in both this legislation and future growth of the sport. Virtually all the manufacturers agree that the high end/highest cost tech suits are not appropriate for use by younger swimmers. Manufacturers have provided significant input during the process of defining tech suits and have been given a reasonable lead-up time to adjust product lines and have agreed to adapt to the proposed restrictions. All major brands in the USA market were actively involved in this process and 14 manufacturers overall were consulted.

Identification, Approval and Enforcement

The Committee's goal is to develop a simple, quick and effective way to identify restricted and approved suits without interfering in the efficient and safe management of age group swim meets.

Virtually all suits that fall within the proposed Rule definition of restricted tech suits have been through the FINA approval process and bear the FINA approved logo. There are only a handful of suits in the market with the FINA logo that would be considered legal for Age Group competition. These suits will bear an additional logo developed by USA Swimming to indicate approval. All suits with the FINA logo and without the secondary approval logo will be easily identified as a restricted suit for 12 & under competition. There will be an alternative restricted mark available if any suits are made that fall under the restricted definition but do not have the FINA approval sticker. There are none of these currently in the market. Suit manufacturers are supportive of this proposed process.

Restricted Suit Database and Review & Approval Process

A database of restricted Tech Suits is being finalized by USA Swimming. This will be a critical tool for manufacturers, team dealers, parents, swimmers and coaches in monitoring restricted suits.

USA Swimming will also create a Suit Approval Group to review any questionable suits, FINA approved suits that would be legal for 12 & Unders, and newly defined technical suits not processed by FINA. The Committee anticipates on-going monitoring and tweaking of the rule will be necessary given the evolutionary nature of suit technology.

Technical Planning Report – HoD Meeting Oct. 7

Technical Planning committee met May 16th. On that call we discussed issues that came up from the Spring HoD meeting, including tabled proposals.

State Meet 2019 – This will be first season that the Short Course State meet will be prelim/final. We discussed a few items that still needed to be cleaned up. We discussed keeping the 10 & Under daily limit at the USA Swimming of 6 events, which will be clear in the meet information.

We also looked into the 15 & over age group swimming together and being scored separately. There was concern about whether or no Meet Manager could run that sort of format. After the meeting, after some research by Becky and Kyle, it was determined that Meet Manager can run that way. The 13 & over age groups will swim together in prelims. In finals they swim 13-14, 15-19 then awarded/scored 13-14, 15-16, 17-19. Finals will also always be 8 lanes for A/B finals.

Tabled Proposal re: converting times – we chose no action on this proposal.

Breaks for the upcoming short course championship meet. With this being the first year of this format, I want to work with the host club and meet referee to determine when the breaks would work best. Already discussing with the host about a break in finals after each set of events to award top 3 or top 8 immediately after the events. Want to look at the 9-10 timeline to determine when the best time would be to take breaks and how many breaks to take.

We also welcomed new members, Becky Burke (PST) and Donna Biersbach (WASC). We have three athletes interested in becoming athlete reps Katie Timmer (SFST), Cole Kincart (GREAT), and Caleb Huizenga (PST).

SC State Meet SDQ Time Girls changes					
	9-10 cut	9-10 left	11-12 cut	11-12 left	B Champs NT summary
200 Free	3	11	4	13	0 NT entries
200 IM	1	14	25	9	1 NT
100 IM	0	17	14	13	0 NT entries
50 Fly	0	16	12	14	0 NT entries
100 Back	0	19	2	15	1 NT 11-12
100 Breast	2	14	8	18	0 NT entries
50 Free	0	17	2	19	1 NT 11-12
500 Free	NA	NA	16	13	0 NT entries
100 Fly	7	7	9	6	1 NT entry 11-12
50 Back	0	16	0	16	0 NT entries
50 Breast	3	16	12	19	1 NT entry 11-12
100 Free	2	10	1	15	2 NT 9-10, 1 NT 11-12
Totals	18	157	105	170	

13 & Over Summary of Changes	
Total Splashes Cut	192
Total NT Potential	92
1-2 swimmers cut	
less than 16 swimmers	

SC State Meet SDQ Time Boys changes					
	9-10 cut	9-10 left	11-12 cut	11-12 left	B Champs NT summary
200 Free	2	13	5	17	1 NT 9-10
200 IM	2	13	5	14	1 NT 9-10
100 IM	5	17	0	15	0 NT entries
50 Fly	0	16	2	17	1 NT 11-12
100 Back	1	17	6	20	0 NT entries
100 Breast	1	20	7	10	1 NT 9-10, 2 NT 11-12
50 Free	2	25	4	15	0 NT entries
500 Free	NA	NA	0	17	0 NT entries
100 Fly	0	10	4	13	0 NT entries
50 Back	11	18	7	17	2 NT 9-10, 1 NT 11-12
50 Breast	2	16	0	15	1 NT 9-10
100 Free	0	20	3	21	0 NT entries
Totals	26	185	43	191	