



# Surf Life Saving Australia – Bulletin

August 2009

## **REVIEW OF SLSA SWIMSUIT STANDARDS**

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<b>Department</b> Surf Sports	
<b>Summary</b>	
This bulletin details the outcome of a review of SLSA Swimsuit standards.	
The review was completed with the assistance of a Task Force and the direction has been endorsed by the Board of Surf Sports.	

### **Detail**

The 33rd Edition SLSA Surf Sports Manual provides detail of swimwear standards and includes reference to the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) technical standards in respect of eligibility for swim events.

However, there has been much interest within SLSA and the broader community about the fairness, availability, cost and durability of the so called “technical swimsuits”.

As a result, SLSA has completed a review of its swimwear standards for events that involve swimming.

The outcome of the review is that SLSA will continue to apply the standards approved by FINA for its pool rescue competitions but has approved changes effective immediately for its open water (ocean) events that involve swimming.

Unless otherwise advised (because of weather, water or other marine conditions - see below for details) these events include the swimmers or swim legs in events including:

- Rescue and Resuscitation;
- Board Tube Rescue Relay Race;
- Surf Race and Surf Teams, Surf Belt, Rescue Tube, Rescue Tube Rescue, Run-Swim-Run, Wading Race and Wading Relay;
- Ironman and Ironwoman, and the swim legs in the Taplin, Cameron and Lifesaver Relay races and the Board Rescue event; and
- All SLSA special and endurance events involving swimming including the Coolangatta Gold.



For all open water events where the competitor is required to swim (excluding R&R events) the swimwear worn by males shall be limited to a swimsuit that does not extend beyond the navel or below the knees;

The swimwear permitted to be worn by females and male R&R competitors shall not cover the neck nor extend below the knees. Two piece costumes that conform to this standard may also be worn.

The material used in all swimsuits shall be “textile fabric(s)” only i.e. material consisting of, natural and/or synthetic, individual and non consolidated yarns used to constitute a fabric by weaving, knitting, and/or braiding.

Full details of the swimwear standards adopted forthwith by SLSA are currently detailed by FINA at:

[http://www.fina.org/project/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2543&Itemid=108](http://www.fina.org/project/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2543&Itemid=108)

For SLSA implementation of these standards is immediate with review dependent upon FINA’s further direction in respect of swimsuit standards.

In addition, SLSA will allow both males and females to wear a “modesty” costume of a textile fabric under their swimsuits provided that no apparent competitive advantage will be gained.

Please note that dependent on weather, water or other marine conditions the Referee may authorise the wearing of “marine stinger suits” for protection, or “wetsuits”.

Wetsuits shall be permitted in open water events when the water temperature is 16 degrees Celsius or less, or when the referee determines wind chill factors to be dangerous. Water temperature should be taken approximately 30 cm below the surface.

The only wetsuits approved for use in events involving swimming shall be a maximum thickness of 3 mm at any location on the wetsuit with a tolerance of 0.3 mm; and contain no additional material to provide flotation or buoyancy assistance. This specification is consistent with ILS standards.

Note: As per the SLSA Surf Sports Manual wetsuits may be worn by surf boat sweeps and by IRB competitors in any conditions. The wetsuit specifications detailed in this Bulletin shall not apply.

Please also note that the SLSA swimsuit standards may vary from the ILS standards. Reference should be made to the ILS Competition Manual when competing in events conducted under ILS rules.

## **Further Information**

Please contact SLSA for further information.

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