

# Swimming New Zealand Policy

## Title: Inclusive Swimwear



## Number: 012

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### PURPOSE

To outline policy on creating a welcoming and inclusive swimming environment for all competitive members.

### 1. Background:

**1.1** Within our SNZ Strategic Framework, our goal is to get more people swimming more often. To achieve this outcome, we want to remove barriers to participation and create an environment where:

- All New Zealanders feel welcome, safe, valued and celebrated in swimming
- All New Zealanders can participate in the role and at the level of their choice in swimming
- New Zealand's diversity is reflected in swimming.

**1.2** It is acknowledged that for some swimmers the standard competitive swimsuit options defined by FINA requirements for swimwear approval may not suit their individual needs and preferences.

**1.3** This may be attributed to a range of factors including but not limited to a swimmer's cultural or religious observations.

**1.4** Lack of appropriate competitive swimwear options are a key barrier to participation in swimming by many people in the community including, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, transgender and gender diverse people, women and girls.

**1.5** To accommodate and support swimmers' individual needs and encourage participation and involvement in swimming competitions, Swimming New Zealand allows swimwear to be modified or alternative swimsuits to be worn in accordance with this Policy.

### 2. Objective:

**2.1** This Policy has been developed to clarify and supplement the effective application of SNZ Swimming Rules SW 1.5 which reads:

Notwithstanding any other clause in these Rules, swimsuits may be modified and alternative swimsuits may be worn to accommodate a swimmer's individual needs and preferences, including in respect of modesty, religious or cultural purposes, gender identity, physical disability or in connection with any other protected attribute under government anti-discrimination legislation, provided any modification or proposed alternative swimsuit: (a) complies with the Swimming New Zealand Inclusive Swimwear Policy; and (b) is approved by the Technical Director/Meet Referee prior to the swimmer's first event at the relevant competition.

**2.2** If there is any inconsistency between this Inclusive Swimwear Policy and the Swimming Rules, the relevant Swimming New Zealand Rule will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

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### 3. Application:

**3.1** This Policy applies to swimmers, except swimmers seeking to achieve a World Record or international selection, competing in:

- All levels of domestic pool and open water swimming competition conducted by Swimming New Zealand, its affiliated Member Organisations and Clubs.

### 3.2 New Zealand Records

- All swimmers are eligible for a New Zealand record if they wear modified or alternative swimwear for the relevant event at which they achieve that record provided the swimwear satisfies the requirements of this Policy.

### 3.3 World Records

- To be eligible for official World Records swimmers must wear an approved swimsuit as required under FINA rules and World Para Swimming Rules.

### 3.4 International Selection

- To be eligible for selection on to international teams swimmers must wear an approved swimsuit as required under FINA rules and World Para Swimming Rules.

**3.5** The swimwear of all swimmers shall be modest, in good taste and must not be transparent.

**3.6** Swimwear must be of textile material (i.e., permeable textile open mesh materials such as cotton, nylon, lycra and the like) with no application of surface treatment closing the open mesh structure. Swimwear must not contain any non-textile material such as polyurethane or neoprene.

**3.7** Swimsuits which the Technical Director/Meet Referee believes would be capable of unfairly enhancing a swimmer's performance will not be permitted, this includes compression swimwear that may be tight-fitting and/or increase buoyancy.

**3.8** Swimsuits which the Technical Director/Meet Referee believes would present a genuine safety risk to the wearer or other swimmers will not be permitted, this includes swimwear that may cover the face, prohibit the body from moving freely and/or impedes buoyancy. In accordance with FINA regulations, for open water swimming competitions in water with temperature below 20°C, men and women may use either swimsuits (3.5 above) or wetsuits. When the water temperature is below 18°C, the use of wetsuits is compulsory.

**3.9** The Technical Director/Meet Referee may ask the swimmer or their representatives to inspect the modified or alternative swimsuit prior to the swimmer's first event at the competition for approval to ensure they comply with this policy and for the swimmer's safety in the water.

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**3.10** Swimmers are not required to justify their choice of swimsuit, however, swimmers may be required to provide information pertaining to items within this policy to assist with the Technical Director/Meet Referee's decision.

**3.11** The Technical Director/Meet Referee may approve a modified or alternate swimsuit at their discretion and in accordance with this Policy, the Swimming Rules, the Open Water Swimming Rules and competition rules to the extent they relate to swimwear. The Technical Director or Meet Referee's decision shall be final.

**3.12** In instances where the Technical Director/Meet Referee is unsure whether the swimwear meets this Policy's requirements, the swimmer should be allowed to participate, however the Technical Director/Meet Referee should contact Swimming New Zealand at [inclusion@swimming.org.nz](mailto:inclusion@swimming.org.nz) with details regarding the swimwear. Swimming New Zealand staff will work with the Technical Advisory Committee and associated Member Organisation to review the case and provide further feedback on this request to wear alternate or modified swimwear. Swimmers should also be encouraged to contact Swimming New Zealand at [inclusion@swimming.org.nz](mailto:inclusion@swimming.org.nz) if they require any clarification or support on their request to wear modified or alternate swimwear.

## 4. Accommodating Modesty:

**4.1** Swimmers may choose a swimsuit style that covers additional body surface including the legs, arms and/or head, but not the face.

**4.2** Swimmers may choose a relaxed fitting swimsuit style however, this must not be so loose as to cause a safety risk, this includes swimwear that prohibits the body from moving freely and/or swimwear that impedes buoyancy. Swimsuits must not cover the face as this is a drowning risk.

**4.3** Swimmers may choose to wear a swim skirt as an additional layer over a standard swimsuit.

**4.4** There is no limit to the number of pieces the swimwear may be made from, however as set out in 3.6 swimsuits which the Technical Director/Meet Referee believes would be capable of unfairly enhancing a swimmer's performance will not be permitted, this includes compression swimwear that may be tight-fitting and/or increase buoyancy.

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### 5. Examples

#### 5.1 Examples of acceptable swimsuits

			
Full coverage with legging	Full coverage with pant	Three-quarter length	Rash shirt or well-fitted t-shirt
			
Swim skirt (additional layer)	Swim shorts	Trunks	Briefs






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#### 5.1 Examples of acceptable swimsuits (continued)

			
<p>Neoprene wetsuit (only for open water swimming)</p>	<p>*Hygiene swimwear or underwear</p>	<p>Swimwear with ties</p>	<p>Swimwear with zippers or fasteners</p>
			
<p>Sportswear (if textile material)</p>			

*\*Note – Swimmers are not required to present hygiene swimwear to the Technical Director/Meet Referee, however this swimwear is approved under the Policy.*







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#### 5.2 Examples of unacceptable swimsuits

		
Loose fitting t-shirts	Full body fast suit	Full leg fast suit
		
Loose fitting shorts	Street wear	Sportswear (if not textile material)