

SWIM SUIT RULES

The following rule change was announced by Swimming Australia (SAL) in December 2008. Swimming WA as an affiliate member of SAL has adopted the policy which effectively means that there are restrictions to swimwear for age swimmers in age events. (Restrictions DO NOT apply for age swimmers in open events).

In the interest of equal opportunity, fair and equitable competition, and to prevent the deterioration of swimming skill development it has been determined that guidelines for swimsuits for Age Group Events conducted by SAL are required.

The following changes have been made to SAL's By-Laws for the conduct of Age Group Events.

CBL14.2 Additional Swimsuit Guidelines for Age Group Events

(1) All swimwear worn by competitors in Age Group Events (18 and under) conducted in Australia by SAL shall be commercially available products.

(2) Swimwear worn by competitors in Age Group Events shall conform to the following design – **effective 1 April 2009:**

(i) Men's swimwear is limited to one (1) swimsuit that covers at most the body surface from hips to knee. Swimwear must not extend above the waist or below the knees;

(ii) Women's swimwear is limited to one (1) swimsuit that is of "open back" and "open shoulder" designs that may extend down to the knee. Swimwear must not extend below the knees.

(iii) Swimwear must not have a zipper or any type of fastening system.

An **Age Group Event** is defined as any 18 and under swimming event conducted by SAL under the Australian Championships By-Laws. Currently this includes:

- Australian Age Championships (including Age SWD and Age Open Water), and
- State Teams Age Short Course Championships.

Please note that these changes will be in effect from 1 April 2009 and will be in place for the 2009 Australian Age Championships.

Following FINA's announcement on swimwear approval on May 19 2009, **only FINA approved swimwear will be allowed to be worn at Swimming Australia events.** This means swimmers can only wear the 202 swimsuits currently approved by FINA. Swimmers are not able to wear one of the 136 that need modifications, or the 10 that have been banned.

The complete list of approved swimsuits can be found on the FINA official website at www.fina.org. We strongly encourage all swimmers to check this list before competing.