

## Changes to SASA/FINA Rules Open Water Swimsuits & Wetsuits 2017

For Level One events (Scottish National and District Championships Events), the new FINA swimsuit and wetsuit rules will be followed.

For Level Two events (Club and District non-championships events) swimwear rules are at the discretion of the Organiser (subject to license)

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*FINA has issued the following rule changes for 2017*

BL 8.4 For open water swimming competitions, with water temperature from 20 C, swimsuits for both men and women shall not cover the neck, nor extend past the shoulder, nor extend below the ankle. Subject to these specific shape specifications, swimsuits for open water swimming competitions shall further comply with all other requirements applicable to swimsuits for pool swimming competition.

BL 8.5 From the 1st of January 2017, for open water swimming competitions in water with temperature below 20 C, men and women may use either swimsuits (BL 8.4) or wetsuits. When the water temperature is below 18 C, the use of wetsuits is compulsory. For the purpose of these rules, wetsuits are swimsuits made of material providing thermal insulation. Wetsuits for both men and women shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists and ankles.

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*This rule change has been brought about to increase safety for competitors.*

*However, there are not many "FINA approved" wetsuits available yet. Accordingly, further information has been provided as follows:*

*"The wetsuits should meet minimum requirements for coverage - wetsuit must completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees, and shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists and ankles. In addition, the outer surface of the used wetsuits shall not include outstanding shapes, such as ridges, fins etc."*

*...and British Swimming has provided the following guidance:*

*"...to ensure complete coverage of the shoulder the wetsuit must include a sleeve, as a minimum polo or 'T' shirt length covering the full shoulder and upper arm in order to maintain shoulder cover during swimming..."*

Since the wording of all this is fairly complicated, the diagrams on the following three pages are offered by Scottish Swimming Open Water as guidance to the rules as they will be applied in Scotland with respect to the "FINA-legal" extent of wetsuits and open water swimsuits in 2017.

Note that FINA could change its rules in the future. Scottish Swimming has no control over that possibility.

## WETSUIT EXTENTS – Interpretation of FINA OW Rules 2017

### MEN and WOMEN

Wetsuits **COMPULSORY** at Level One Events at temperatures of less than 18 c.

Wetsuits **OPTIONAL** at Level One Events at temperatures of 18 c to 20 c ( at discretion of organiser / officials)

Wetsuits **NOT ALLOWED** at temperatures in excess of 20 c

Level One Events are National and District Championships Events

### MINIMUM EXTENTS

#### **SHOULDER:**

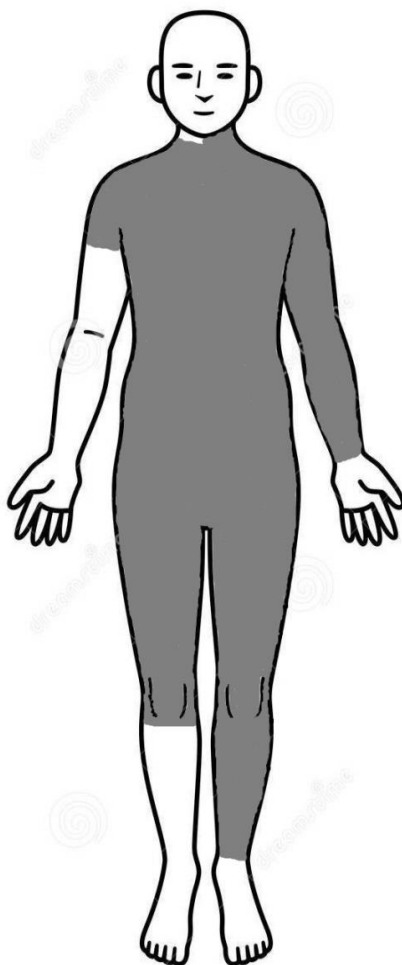
shall completely  
cover the shoulders

#### **TORSO AND BACK:**

shall completely  
cover the torso  
back

#### **KNEE:**

shall completely  
cover the knees



### MAXIMUM EXTENTS

#### **NECK:**

shall not extend  
beyond the neck

#### **WRIST:**

shall not extend  
beyond the wrists

#### **ANKLE:**

shall not extend  
beyond the ankles

## SWIMSUIT EXTENTS - Interpretation of FINA OW Rules 2017

### MEN

Swimsuits **COMPULSORY** at Level One Events at temperatures in excess of 20 C  
Swimsuits **OPTIONAL** at Level One Events at temperatures of 18 C to 20 C (at discretion of organiser/officials)

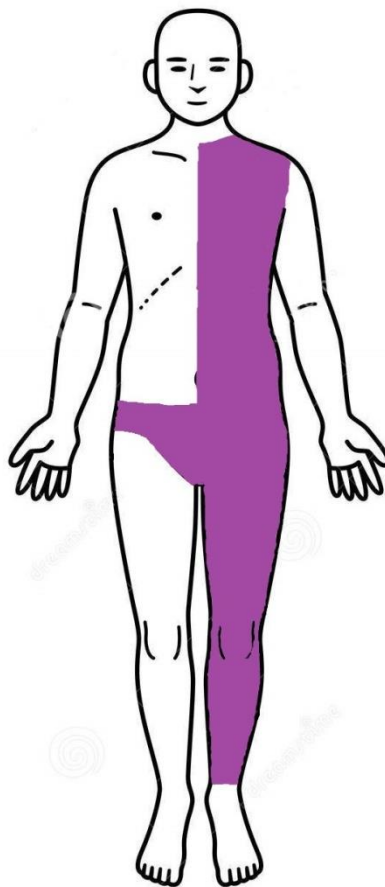
WETSUITS must be worn at temperatures of less than 18 C

Level One Events are National and District Championships Events  
Special Rules may be applied at Level Two events - details will be in the entry information

### MINIMUM EXTENTS

**Swimsuit in one or two pieces.**

**Decency rules apply**



### MAXIMUM EXTENTS

**NECK:** shall not cover the neck

**SHOULDER:** shall not extend past the shoulder

**ANKLE:** shall not extend beyond the ankles

Swimmers must also wear the cap provided. A maximum of two caps can be worn

This is an interpretation of the 2017 FINA Open Water by-laws as they will be applied in Scotland.

FINA may change their rules in the future or issue alternative guidance. Scottish Swimming has no control over this

## SWIMSUIT EXTENTS - Interpretation of FINA OW Rules 2017

### WOMEN

Swimsuits **COMPULSORY** at Level One Events at temperatures in excess of 20 C

Swimsuits **OPTIONAL** at Level One Events at temperatures of 18 C to 20 C (at discretion of organiser/officials)

WETSUITS must be worn at temperatures of less than 18 C

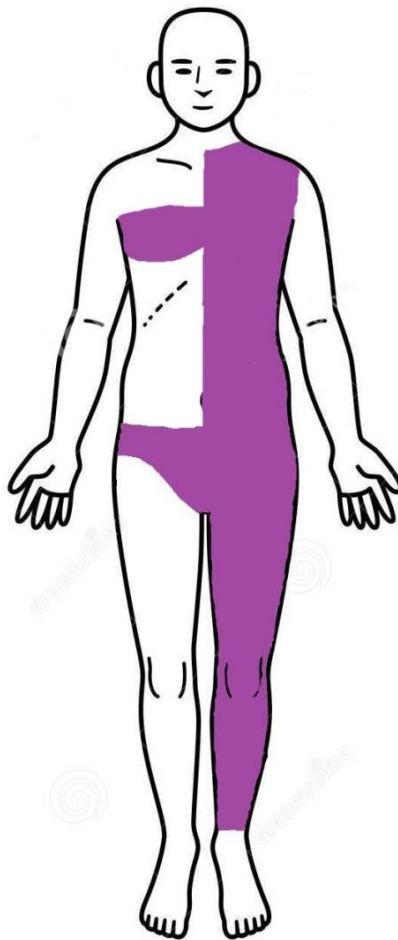
Level One Events are National and District Championships Events

Special Rules may be applied at Level Two events – details will be in the entry form.

#### MINIMUM EXTENTS

**Swimsuit in one or two pieces.**

**Decency rules apply**



#### MAXIMUM EXTENTS

**NECK:** shall not cover the neck

**SHOULDER:** shall not extend past the shoulder

**ANKLE:** shall not extend beyond the ankles

Swimmers must also wear the cap provided. A maximum of two caps can be worn

This is an interpretation of the 2017 FINA Open Water by-laws as they will be applied in Scotland.

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## APPENDIX

These are the FINA rules (2017) which must be complied with in order for a wetsuit manufacturer to seek the “FINA Approved” mark.

Note that wetsuits do not need to have a “FINA Approved” mark, provided that they do comply with the following:

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### 4.2. Wetsuits for open water swimming competitions with water temperature below 20 C.

Subject to the specifications below, wetsuits are subject to the provisions applicable to swimsuits set forth above under.

#### 4.2.1. Design (shape)

Wetsuits shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists and ankles.

#### 4.2.2. Composition

Wetsuits for both men and women shall be in one piece.

#### 4.2.3. Material (Type)

Material used for wetsuits must have thermal insulation properties (for example foam of polychloroprene (Neoprene) or of polyurethane or other material with similar insulating properties). The material can be multilayered, with non-water permeable layers. The material cannot contain injected gas.

Material without insulating properties cannot be used.

#### 4.2.4. Material (measured values - layers)

**Thickness:** The thickness of material/s used shall be minimum 3mm and maximum 5mm. Provided the insulating functions are not prejudiced, the Applicant may apply for lowering of the minimum thickness value in limited specific areas, if such is functionally justified to allow free swimmer's movements. A decision in this respect is made at SAC' s discretion and cannot be challenged. Permeability and buoyancy are not measured.

#### 4.2.5. Construction

Zippers or other fastening systems are allowed without specific limitations. They must be functional.

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The FINA rules are unchanged with respect to the design of swimsuits.

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