

# **\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

## **NEW FINA RULE AFFECTING ALL COMPETING SWIMMERS**

Please be aware that FINA have recently introduced new rules relating to Swim Suits.

The main area to highlight is that swimmers are now only allowed to wear one swimsuit at any one time (ie trunks cannot be worn under a Fastskin, unless it is part of the costume).

The following is an extract from the Dubai Charter on FINA requirements for swimwear approval.

**These requirements are effective immediately and are being applied at all levels of competition.**

### **1. Amendments to existing FINA requirements for swimwear approval (valid until December 31, 2009)**

- a. DESIGN:** The swimsuit shall not cover the neck and shall not extend past the shoulders nor past the ankles.
- b. MATERIAL:**
  - i. When used, the material shall follow the body shape;
  - ii. The application of different materials shall not create air trapping effects.
- c. THICKNESS:** The material used shall have a maximum thickness of 1 mm. The measurement method is in accordance with ISO Standard 5084 for textiles.
- d. BUOYANCY:** The swimsuit shall not have a buoyancy effect of more than 1 Newton (100 gr). The value to be observed applies to all swimsuits sizes.
- e. CONTROL:** FINA has established its own independent control/testing programme. Scientific testing on thickness and buoyancy will be conducted by a neutral team led by Prof. Jan-Anders Manson, from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) and Laboratory of Polymer and Composite Technology.
- f. CONSTRUCTION:** Any system providing external stimulation or influence of any form (e.g. pain reduction, chemical/medical substance release, electro-stimulation, or others) is prohibited.
- g. CUSTOMISATION:** All swimsuits of an approved model must be constructed in an identical fashion with no variation/modification for individual swimmers from the samples submitted for approval. Any modification before use is prohibited; it is clarified that an adaptation of size does not constitute customisation.
- h. USE:** The swimmer can only wear one swimsuit (FINA Rule GR 5.3).
- i. SWIMSUITS TO BE SUBMITTED:** All swimsuits to be used during the period of application shall be submitted, even if previously approved. The only submission deadline under these rules is March 31, 2009.
- j. APPROVAL:** Approvals issued under these rules remain valid until December 31, 2009. Manufacturers must indicate the approval on the product in use through a method to be implemented by FINA. The purpose is to check that the swimsuits used in competition are approved models.

Full details of the new requirements, including those to be implemented after December 2009 can be found on the FINA website([www.fina.org](http://www.fina.org)) in the section on General Rules and in the Dubai Charter document (<http://www.fina.org/project/images/help/the%20dubai%20charter.pdf>).