

What is the reason for the swimmer's request to wear alternate or modified swimwear?

To accommodate a swimmer's impairment

Modification of swimsuits to accommodate a swimmer's impairment is permitted as per [WPS10.15.2](#), provided that for Australian Swimming events any such approval may be granted by the Technical Manager/Meet Referee, with proposed modified swimsuits presented prior to the swimmer's first event at the competition for approval.

TECHNICAL MANAGER/ MEET REFEREE APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Swimmer or representative presents alternate/modified swimwear to the Technical Manager or Meet Referee prior to the start of the swimmer's first event of competition.
2. Technical Manager/Meet Referee inspects and approves or denies use of swimwear in line with this policy.
3. Technical Manager/Meet Referee keeps a register of all requests and outcomes for the duration of the meet.

For modesty, religious or cultural reasons

IS THE SWIMWEAR NON-TRANSPARENT, IN GOOD TASTE, AND MADE OF TEXTILE FABRIC(S)?

This may include 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.

YES

NO

COULD THE SWIMWEAR UNFAIRLY ENHANCE A SWIMMER'S PERFORMANCE?

This may be due to compression of tight-fitting swimwear or buoyancy due to the number of items worn. Unacceptable items include full body fast suits and full leg fast suits.

NO

YES

DOES THE SWIMWEAR PRESENT A GENUINE SAFETY RISK TO THE SWIMMER AND / OR OTHER SWIMMERS?

This may include swimwear that covers the face, prohibits the body from moving freely or impedes buoyancy. In accordance with FINA regulations, for open water swimming competitions in water with temperature below 20°C, swimmers may use either swimsuits or wetsuits. When the water temperature is below 18°C, the use of wetsuits is compulsory.

NO

YES

SWIMWEAR IS ACCEPTABLE
and the swimmer's request to compete in the swimwear should be supported.

SWIMWEAR IS NOT ACCEPTABLE
and the swimmer's request to compete in the swimwear should not be supported.

For other reasons not outlined within the Inclusive Swimwear Guideline / Policy

The swimmer's request to compete in alternate or modified swimwear would not be supported. However, in instances where the Technical Manager/Meet Referee is unsure whether the swimwear meets the policy requirements, the swimmer should be allowed to participate. The Technical Manager/Meet Referee should then contact Swimming Australia at inclusion@swimming.org.au with details regarding the swimwear. Swimming Australia will work with the relevant parties to review the case and provide further feedback to those involved.

ADDITIONAL SWIMWEAR NOTES

Swimmers may choose a swimsuit style that covers additional body surface including the legs, arms and/or head.

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

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

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