

## MESSAGE TO COACHES, CLUBS, ATHLETES & SWIMSUIT MANUFACTURERS

**TOPIC: Process for Swimsuit Evaluation at the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships and World Championship Trials**

***We encourage all teams to communicate this information to their athletes, and also ask for your patience as we do our best to manage this complex issue.***

Given FINA's recent release of approved swimsuits, USA Swimming will be implementing a swimsuit evaluation process at the upcoming ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships and World Championship Trials, July 7-11, in Indianapolis. This document will provide you with some basic details of how this will happen.

- As part of the meet entry process, teams will be asked to complete a form that provides the meet management with the brand and model of suit their athletes intend to wear at the competition. In addition, if they have not done this in advance of the meet, coaches will be asked for this same information when they check in at registration at the meet. If an athlete reports to the ready room in a different suit than what is on their team's list, the athlete will not be penalized (provided that suit is on the FINA-approved list).
- All athletes will be required to report to the ready room (also called the "last call" room) 15 minutes prior to their race. Athletes must report to the ready room in the swimsuit they intend to wear in their race. USA Swimming will make all attempts to notify athletes through the venue public address system when they need to report.
- Once in the ready room, the swimmers will be assigned to a check-in desk for their suit evaluation based on their event/heat/lane. Swimsuit inspectors will be of the same gender as the athletes.
- There will be three individuals that will be "in charge" in this room. These people will be: a member of the FINA Technical Swimming Committee, a high-ranking USA Swimming meet official, and Professor Jan-Anders Manson of Lausanne, Switzerland. Professor Manson is the person who led all testing on the swimsuits for FINA.
- Only swimsuits that are on the FINA-approved swimsuit list and made by manufacturers who have satisfied the availability requirements will be permitted to be worn in competition. Athletes must be prepared to change suits if their suit is deemed illegal. Athletes not complying with this rule will be disqualified. A listing of all approved suits will be posted in the ready room area.
- Based on the USA Swimming Rules Committee letter of June 1, 2009, athletes will be permitted to wear traditional (non technical) swimsuits that are NOT on the FINA-approved list, provided the swimsuit meets the following criteria:
  - Female Swimmers – the suit shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulders or past the pelvis.
  - Male Swimmers – the suit shall not extend above the navel or below the knees.
- Each athlete will be permitted to wear only one swimsuit. No modesty suits will be permitted.
- The suit inspection area and ready room will be cordoned off and will be a "secure" area. From the time an athlete enters this area, until the parade onto the pool deck, the athlete must remain in this secure area. If an athlete leaves this area prior to his/her race and is unescorted (to use the restroom or for another reason), the athlete may have to go through the suit evaluation process again.
- All preliminary heats and all finals heats will be paraded onto the deck. This is similar to how heats came onto the pool deck at the 2008 Olympic Trials in Omaha.
- USA Swimming will likely be offering an opportunity for all swimsuit manufacturers to have a representative in or near the ready room area.