



June 5, 2009

Dear Swimsuit Manufacturer,

Based on FINA's issuance of the approved swimsuit list of May 19, and USA Swimming's commitment to follow this list, USA Swimming would like to share with you some important information regarding our rule implementation of the FINA-approved list in USA Swimming-sanctioned competitions.

A USA Swimming Rule amendment was put in place in response to FINA's May 19 ruling on approved swimsuits, and is designed to keep USA Swimming's rules in line with those of the international governing body.

The FINA legislation and resulting USA Swimming amendment impact competitors and competition at several levels. Below you will find information on each of three key areas:

- ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships & World Championship Trials
- FINA World Championships
- USA Swimming Member Communication

### **ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships & World Championship Trials**

Most immediately, this amendment addresses procedures and requirements for the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships & World Championship Trials (July 7-11).

I want to turn your attention to this language as it requires immediate action from the appropriate contact at your company.

Consistent with FINA's requirement that suits to be used at the World Championships must be available to all World Championship competitors, the USA Swimming rule applicable to the National Championships and World Championship Trials also addresses suit availability. That rule is set forth below.

*Only those permitted swimsuit models that are available to all competitors may be used. To avoid confusion, availability is defined as follows:*

1. *The swimsuit manufacturer is present at the event with its approved swimsuits available for all competitors on a purchase, loan, give-away or other basis; or*
2. *The swimsuit manufacturer has provided to USA Swimming (see attached), through a written representation in the form requested by USA Swimming, that its approved swimsuit(s) will be made available before July 7, 2009 to all World Championship Trials competitors on a purchase, loan, or giveaway basis through retail stores, the internet, or other means. USA Swimming will publish a list of swimsuit manufacturers who have made*

*this representation once they are received. Competitors may rely on this list as approval to wear a particular swimsuit model at the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships & World Championship Trials.*

**Please note, due to the short time frame, we will not, as previously reported, enforce the availability requirement at Open Water National Championships.**

To satisfy number 1 above, USA Swimming will provide a specific area for the sale, loan or giveaway of suits to competitors only, including access to the ready room area. More detail will be forthcoming.

To satisfy number 2 above, the representation form requested by USA Swimming is attached. Please fax a completed and signed form to the USA Swimming office (719-866-4761) as soon as possible.

Attached, you will also find a document outlining the procedures for on-site inspection of suits at the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships.

### **FINA World Championships**

Additionally, we want to make you aware of how we plan to address the FINA requirements and procedures for suit usage at the FINA World Championships (July 19-Aug. 2).

All suits worn in competition in Rome will require a FINA-approved label. Lindsay Mintenko, USA Swimming's National Team Managing Director, will collect all suits, including suits for the World Championship Open Water events, at the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships & World Championship Trials in Indianapolis. Mintenko will take these suits to Rome on July 12 to have labels affixed. If suit manufacturers don't submit suits as a part of this delivery to Rome, it will be their own responsibility to have the FINA approved labels affixed. Any swimmer wearing a suit without the label will not be eligible to compete at the World Championships in Rome. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Lindsay Mintenko 719-866-3559 or [lmintenko@usaswimming.org](mailto:lmintenko@usaswimming.org).

### **USA Swimming Member Communication**

Lastly, we want to make you aware of the statement we've provided as a response to our members – parents, coaches and swimmers – who have sent comments about the amendment.

You can read the full text of this statement at [usaswimming.org](http://usaswimming.org).

Also, there is significant confusion among our members regarding approved model numbers that may not correlate with retail product names. In the interest of alleviating such confusion, we also kindly request the following.

- Please provide an email address and/or web address to which we can direct consumers with specific questions about your brand or suits.

The above information can be submitted via email to Jamie Olsen at [jolsen@usaswimming.org](mailto:jolsen@usaswimming.org)

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Wood", written in a cursive style.

Jim Wood  
President, USA Swimming

**Attachments: 2**

- 1- *Representation to USA Swimming Regarding Availability of Swimsuits*
- 2- *Process for Swimsuit Evaluation at the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships and World Championship Trials*

CC: USA Swimming coaches, clubs and athletes participating in the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships and World Championship Trials