



Guidance on USA Swimwear Rules Rule 102.8 (pg 32 and 33 of 2021 Rulebook)

Congratulations on making it to Divisionals! We hope that everyone has had a fantastic summer! As NVSL follows the USA Swimming rules when it comes to swimwear, we want to make sure that everyone is aware of a recent USA Swimming rule change related to Tech Suits.

Effective September 1st, 2020, tech suits have been banned for 12&u swimmers (rule 102.8.F.2, pg 33). Unfortunately, the definition of a tech suit is tricky. A female kneeskin suit **DOES NOT** automatically equal tech suit. Additionally, a FINA stamp **DOES NOT** equal tech suit.

So, what is allowed and what is not allowed for 12&u swimmers?

Basically, an illegal technical suit will have the following properties:

1. The seams of the swimsuit are either taped or bonded together.
-A legal suit will have sewn seams.

OR

2. The fabric is woven and extending past the hips (this means the fabric is made of independent microfiber threads woven very tightly together).
- A legal suit will be made of traditional knit fabric (one thread continuously looped back and forth).

Below is an example of a bonded seam (Illegal)





Below is an example of stitched seams (**Legal**)



Distinguishing a *Woven suit* from a *Knit suit* is not easy. A woven suit provides greater compression and does not stretch easily. When trying to determine if a suit is legal, we **DO NOT** recommend asking the swimmer to remove the suit to test how it stretches. Instead, **focus on the seams** and consider looking at the **code on the FINA stamp** and comparing it to the approved list put out by USA swimming on February of 2021 (attached). (Reminder not all suits will have these codes)

Other Tips

1. 12&U compliant suits manufactured after 2021 will have a green check mark,
 - but at this time most legal 12&u tech suits **DO NOT** have this green check mark, so you **CANNOT** use this in your decision to declare a suit illegal





2. If you believe a 12&u swimmer is using an illegal tech suit while a race is in progress, the official (stroke and turn or referee) should raise their hand **DURING THE SWIM**.
 - If no hand is raised during the race there is **NO CALL**.
 - If the illegal suit is brought to your attention **AFTER** the race, again there is **NO CALL** as a hand was not raised **DURING THE SWIM**.
3. If there is any doubt, benefit of doubt should always be in the swimmer's favor and no DQ would be made.

Finally, we have attached several documents to help you with this issue and would recommend that all officials (stroke and turn and referee) participating in Divisionals familiarize themselves with their contents:

1. USA swimming's "Tech Suit for Officials"
2. A list of approved suits as of 2/2021
3. Several more pictures to distinguish **legal** vs illegal

We know this can be difficult, and we appreciate your patience with this topic. We believe it is important to maintain the standards of USA Swimming. The compression found in woven/bonded tech suits provides little to no benefit to our younger swimmers and only creates barriers within the swimming community. By following these rules our sport remains open to all and fair to younger swimmers. If you have further questions, please email askNVSL@gmail.com or NVSLofficials@gmail.com for more help.

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