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March 2, 2010

To: All Members of USA Swimming

From: Bruce W. Stratton, Chair, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee

Subject: Swimsuits for Open Water Competition

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At the FINA Bureau meeting held in Bangkok on January 14-15, 2010, revised rules were adopted for swimsuits used in open water competition. Effective June 1, 2010, swimsuits used in open water competition are allowed to provide for more body coverage than allowed under our current rules. Swimsuits for both men and women in open water competition may not cover the neck, extend past the shoulders nor below the ankle.

Pursuant to Article 511.1, which gives the Rules & Regulations Committee the authority to amend USA Swimming rules in order to conform to FINA, the attached amendment has been adopted by a majority vote of the Committee. The changes are reflected as underlined text in the attachment. The amendment is effective June 1, 2010.

Until June 1, 2010, the swimsuit requirements for both pool and open water competition are identical. The change to the requirements for swimsuits used in open water competition affects only the coverage requirements; all other specifications remain the same.

The FINA Bureau intends to publish a list of approved suits for open water competition. At such time as the list is published, it will be widely disseminated to our membership and posted on the USA Swimming website.

If you have any questions or need any clarification, please contact me via e-mail at [bruce@strattoncpa.com](mailto:bruce@strattoncpa.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce W. Stratton', written over a white background.

Bruce W. Stratton  
Chair, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee

**Amendments to Conform USA Swimming Open Water Swimsuit Rules to FINA Open  
Water Swimsuit Rules  
(Effective June 1, 2010)**

**102.9 SWIMWEAR**

**.1 Design**

A *no change*

B In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces, except as provide in 205.10.1. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. For men, the swimsuit shall not extend above the navel nor below the knee, and for women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor extend below the knee (see 701.4.4 for open water exception).

**701.4 SWIMWEAR**

.1 *no change*

.2 *no change*

.3 Only swimsuits complying with FINA Open Water swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USA Swimming sanctioned or approved open water competition.

.4 Swimsuits for both men and women shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor extend below the ankle.