



May 14, 2009

Re: High-performance swim suits

Dear MSL Coaches, and Team Boards,

It is hard to imagine, but in this age of technology even swimsuits are now the subject of cutting-edge innovation. As a result, there are a number of swimsuits currently retailing for several hundreds of dollars that provide a significant competitive advantage. There has been significant concern at all levels of the sport about the appropriateness and fairness of allowing such suits in competition. In response to these developments, the governing bodies of U.S.A. Swimming have promulgated the following rule to restrict the use of such suits:

102.9 Swimwear

.1 Design

A. Swimsuits worn for all 12 & under age group defined competition shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor past the knee.

B. Swimsuits worn for competition must be non-transparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate.

C. The Referee shall have the authority to bar offenders from the competition until they comply with the rule.

By operation of the MSL Bylaws this rule now governs all MSL meets. Additionally, the MSL Board deliberated on this matter in considerable detail at its last Board Meeting and determined that this rule should extend to all age groups not just 12 and under. While the Board was unable to take up this matter prior to the deadline of March 15th for amending the League Bylaws and rules, the Board adopted a resolution determining that Rule 102.9 as applied to all age groups is the policy most consistent with the Mission Statement of the MSL, which provides in relevant part:

[...]The MSL fosters and promotes the ideals of good sportsmanship, fair play and good fellowship for participants of all ages and abilities in an environment that nurtures self-esteem in all the children it serves. [Emphasis added]

Further, the Board believes that in order to maintain the integrity of the MSL, its swimmers, and the records of its teams and individual swimmers, each team is strongly recommended by the MSL Board to voluntarily adopt and enforce Rule 102.9 as to all age groups in support the fundamental mission of the MSL by adopting voluntary enforcement of Rule 102.9 for the age groups 13 and up. The MSL Board President will ask each League representative to report on your team's compliance in advance of the next MSL Board Meeting. At least one team has already done so.

Please be aware that Rule 102.9 shall be enforced as to all swimmers 12 and under regardless. Swimmers with non-compliant suits will be barred from swimming by the referee. Please review this rule with your meet officials ASAP. Please feel free to contact your League Representative with any questions or concerns that you may have.

The Marin Swim League Board of Directors 2009