

2017 London Region Open Water Competition

Amendment to Competition Conditions

Background

FINA made a change to the rules regarding applicable swimwear for Open Water in August 2016, which has been adopted by the ASA since the publication of the London Region event conditions. The ASA adoption of the FINA rule change is applicable from 1st January 2017 and has therefore to be incorporated into the conditions for the Regional Competition. This rule change has been made on health and safety grounds and defines the water temperature conditions when competitors may or must wear wet suits.

Rule Change

Water Temperature above 20 degrees centigrade

Only costumes complying with FINA rule BL8.4 can be worn. A BL8.4 compliant costume (for both male and female) shall not cover the neck, nor extend past the shoulder or extend beyond the ankle. In all other respects they must comply with pool regulations i.e. be FINA approved and be made of a textile material.

Water Temperature between 18 degrees centigrade and 20 degrees centigrade

A wet suit may be worn as an alternative to the current swimwear (as laid out above for water temperatures above 20 degree centigrade).

Water Temperature below 18 degrees centigrade

A wet suit is compulsory

Wet suit definition

For the purposes of the FINA rule, a wet suit is defined as a swimsuit made of a material providing thermal insulation. A wetsuit shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists or ankles.

There are currently no FINA approved wet suits on the market. Therefore for 2017, the decision as to whether a wet suit complies or not will rest with the lead referee of the competition.

The guidance provided by the ASA as an interpretation is that any wet suit would be approved provided it meets the minimum coverage requirements stated above. In addition the outer surface should not include shapes such as ridges and fins.

Impact on London Region Conditions

1) Condition 15 is amended if the published water temperature on the day is less than 20 degrees centigrade to permit the wearing of a wetsuit. If the water temperature is less than 18 degrees centigrade then a wet suit must be worn.

Guidance Note

The water temperature at the London Championships over the last 4 years has been in the range of 19.5 degrees centigrade to 22.5 degrees centigrade.

*Please note that the Region will **not** be arranging to have wet suits available to rent on the day.*

2) Championship Conditions regarding wet suit event will only apply if the water temperature is above 20 degrees centigrade.