



TECHNICAL SUIT FAQ 2015

There aren't any new rules regarding swimsuits. If you are wondering if your suit is legal, please check the [2015 USMS Rule Book](#). If you still are unsure, show the suit to the meet referee and ask if it's legal. Here are some frequently asked questions.

Is my suit legal if it has a FINA stamp? If the suit has a FINA stamp on the back, it is legal except for three models of Arena Powerskin Carbon-Pro suits that, even with the FINA stamp, became illegal just days before the 2013 USMS Spring Nationals due to a change in production. A swimmer who has had an Arena Powerskin Carbon-Pro suit for over **two years** should check the FINA stamp number on the back of the suit; illegal stamp numbers are AR220993 (female), AR220994 (female), and AR141364 (male). If a swimmer is concerned that a FINA stamp dated 2009 or 2010 might not still be legal, show the suit to the referee to be sure.

Does my suit have to have a FINA approval stamp? No, but it must comply with FINA and USMS swimsuit specifications: all textile materials (no fasteners except for a waist tie), only one swimsuit in one or two pieces (the two pieces cannot overlap each other) which shall not extend beyond the shoulders nor below the knees for women, and for men, shall not extend above the navel nor below the knees (102.12.1C). A waist tie is allowed for men and for a two-piece female suit. The suit must be nontransparent (102.12.1A).

Can my suit have two logos? Yes, suits with two logos are legal for USMS pool competition. USMS rules do not address the number of manufacturer logos on a swimsuit (102.12.2). FINA rules allow two manufacturer logos on a swimsuit, so European suits are manufactured with two logos. In the United States, high school and NCAA rules only allow one manufacturer logo, so American suits are manufactured with one logo. (USA Swimming rules follow FINA rules and allow two logos.) Shoppers have been able to find the European suits online for purchase; hence, the warning from swimsuit vendors about two logos on a suit being illegal in the US for high school and NCAA competition. The FINA rules exempt Masters from the FINA logo rules (FINA Bylaw 7.1), so USMS swimwear rules do not address the number of logos allowed.

Can I wear anything under my suit? Or two suits? No, USMS swimwear rules (102.12.1) do not allow modesty wear (no brief, sports bra, or jock strap under the competition suit). Only one suit may be worn.

What is an example of illegal swimwear? Illegal swimwear seen at USMS national championship meets in the last **two years** include: a zipper suit, a two-piece suit with metal or plastic rings on the straps of the bra top, a female suit with a plastic clip hooking the straps together in the back, a bra top under a female racing suit, a female Fastskin suit with a rubber-dot design on the chest (the rubber dots can be carefully scraped off to make the suit legal), a male Arena Powerskin Carbon-Pro suit with the FINA-approval tag number AR141364 that became illegal May 2010 due to a production problem (the illegal FINA-approval tag numbers for the female suits are AR220993 and AR220994).

Can I wear tape on my body for my race? Kinesio tape is not allowed at all; all other tape is not allowed unless approved by the referee (102.12.1E). That includes tape on any part of the body, not just on the shoulders. Armbands and legbands are not considered part of the swimsuit and are not allowed (102.12.1B).

For reference, please consult the [2015 USMS Rule Book](#) and the [FINA bylaws](#).