

Location: Page 114 – 701.4 – SWIMWEAR

Proposed by: Kevin Ryan, Member of the House of Delegates

Purpose: To remove the requirement to use World Aquatics-approved wetsuits on grassroots-level open water swimming. The requirement to use WA-approved wetsuits is a needless restriction on grassroots-level open water swimming. There are only a handful listed on the WA Approved Swimwear list and nearly all are \$500 and above. This proposal is that for events below the Zone level that are not national-qualifiers (i.e. LSC Champs) that wetsuits that are not on the Approved Swimwear List but still comply with all of the regulations in 6.9 of the World Aquatics rulebook be allowed. There are dozens of wetsuits available, typically marketed to triathletes, that meet all of the necessary criteria but their manufacturers have simply not gone through the approval process. For example, XTERRA Wetsuits makes several varieties well under \$500 and in youth sizes. The end goal, of course, is to make wetsuits much more affordable for age-group athletes, which would allow for non-Southern states to begin their open water seasons earlier in Spring and extend them further into the Fall.

Recommendation: *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends _____.*

Effective Date: Immediately

701.4 SWIMWEAR

.1-.2 [no changes]

.3 ~~Only swimsuits complying with World Aquatics Open Water swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USA Swimming sanctioned or approved open water competition. For National and National-qualifying events (i.e. Zone Championships), only wetsuits that appear on the World Aquatics List of Approved Swimwear may be worn. For non-Championship events, wetsuits that do not appear on the World Aquatics List of Approved Swimwear but still comply with all parts of Section 6.9 of the World Aquatics Competition Regulations may be worn.~~