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To: All Members of USA Swimming

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

Subject: Procedure to Apply for an Exemption to Article 102.9.1B Regarding Swimsuit Design for Religious or Medical Reasons for the Calendar Year 2010

Article 102.9.1B(1) of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations provides that exemptions may be made to the swimsuit requirements of 102.9.1B by the Chair of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee, or designee, for religious or medical reasons. This document provides the procedure to apply for such exemption.

1. Requests for an exemption due to religious or medical reasons shall be submitted by the swimmer or swimmer's parent to the Chair of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee either via e-mail or regular mail.
2. Exemptions for religious reasons must state the applicable religion and the basis for needing an exemption due to religious beliefs.
3. Exemptions for medical reasons must state the specific medical condition which requires an exemption, along with a statement from a medical professional stating that an exemption is needed.
4. Exemptions will only be granted for the swimsuit coverage requirements. An exemption may be granted for: (1) a swimsuit that covers more of the body than permitted under 102.9.1B; or (2) the use of a separate garment worn underneath a regular swimsuit. A swimsuit or garment for which an exemption has been granted must meet all other swimsuit technical requirements established by FINA, including, but not limited to, the prohibition against the use of zippers or other fastening devices, the requirement that the swimsuit be made of full textile materials and the requirement that the suit not give the swimmer a competitive advantage.
5. All exemptions are effective only for the calendar year in which they are granted and must be renewed annually using the procedures provided herein.
6. It is the responsibility of the swimmer to present a copy of the exemption letter to the meet referee prior to the start of the meet in which the swimmer intends to participate.