

**Date:** 20 May 2025

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**To:** All Clubs

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**From:** Lewis McClintock – National Sport Manager

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**Subject:** Wetsuit use in sport events

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### Summary

Following discussion & endorsement by the National Sport Committee, an adjustment to the competition manual will be made to allow wetsuits to be worn at anytime during an event for junior and masters competitors. The competition manual will be updated accordingly.

Existing Rule	New Rule
2.10.1. The Event Referee may authorise the wearing of wetsuits or “marine stinger suits” dependent upon weather, water or other marine conditions for swimming events and/or swim legs in team events. E.g. water temperature and/or wind chill are factors.	<b>Added</b> 2.10.1. Junior & Masters competitors may wear a wetsuit for any Event <b>Changed</b> 2.10.2. Senior competitors may wear wetsuits for any Event, except for swimming races and/or swimming legs in team events unless authorised by the Event Referee.
2.10.2. The only wetsuits approved for use in Events involving swimming shall have a maximum thickness of 5mm at any location on the wetsuit. Wetsuits cannot contain additional material to provide the wearer with flotation or buoyancy assistance.	<b>Changed</b> 2.10.3. The only wetsuits approved for use in Events involving swimming shall have a maximum thickness of 5mm at any location on the wetsuit. <b>Added</b> 2.10.4. ‘Tri-suits’ or similar cannot be worn and wetsuits cannot contain any additional material to provide the wearer with flotation, buoyancy or performance assistance.
2.10.3. It is not permitted to wear more than one wetsuit (i.e., one upon the other).	<b>Changed</b> 2.10.5. More than one wetsuit cannot be worn at a time.
2.10.4. Except for the swimming legs of Events (unless specified in the Competition Entry Circular) other protective clothing (e.g., wetsuits, shorts, lycra tops, etc) may be worn by Competitors in both individual and team Events.	<b>Not required – taken as given</b>
2.10.5. In addition, the following exceptions apply to particular Events: (a) In surf boat Events, the sweep oarsman may wear apparel (including wetsuits and booties) as the conditions warrant. The specifications for wetsuits shall not apply. (b) In IRB Events, Driver and Crewperson Competitors may wear apparel (including wetsuits, booties, gloves	<b>Not required – covered in 2.10.2.</b>

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and hoods) in all Events. The specifications for wetsuits shall not apply.

(c) All IRB patients are required to wear a full length (sleeves to wrist and legs to ankle) wet suit.

<ENDS>