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To: All Members of USA Swimming

From: Taylor Rogers, Chair, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee

Subject: Procedure to Apply for an Exemption to Article 102.8.1B Regarding Swimsuit Design

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Article 102.8.1B(2) of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations provides that exemptions may be made to the swimsuit requirements of 102.8.1B 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 to the Chair of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee's designee via e-mail at inclusion@usaswimming.org and copying usasrulesandregs@gmail.com. Athletes requesting an exemption based on a competition category change may use the link provided through the self-identification process.

2. Requests may only be submitted by an athlete (if 18-years-old or older) or an athlete's parent or legal guardian (if the athlete younger than 18-years-old).

3. Exemptions for religious reasons must state the applicable religion and the basis for needing an exemption due to religious beliefs.

4. Exemptions for medical reasons must state the condition which requires an exemption.

5. 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 102.8.1B; or (2) the use of a separate garment(s) worn underneath or on top of a regular swimsuit. A swimsuit or garment for which an exemption has been granted must meet all other swimsuit technical requirements established by World Aquatics, 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, the insignia and advertisement restrictions, and the requirement that the suit not give the swimmer a competitive advantage.

6. All exemptions are effective only for the USA Swimming registration year in which they are granted and must be renewed annually using the procedures provided herein.

7. 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.
