

California State CIF Rules Clarification and Emphasis

Penalty for Deck Changing See Rule 3.6.1 (p. 31) and 3.6.1 Situation F (p. 33 of the NFHS Rules Book)

This violation is considered to be unsporting conduct, resulting in disqualification from further participation in the meet – see Rule 3-6-1 PENALTY (p. 31)

No sanction may be imposed for “deck changing” unless the change was directly observed by the official. The wording of 3.6.1 Situation F is crucial: “The official observes....” It is strongly encouraged that officials deal with deck changing issues through the coach rather than directly with the swimmer.

RECOMMENDATION: Section and school administrators, as well as officials, should encourage coaches to discuss with their teams both the (now-forbidden) practice of deck changing and the manner in which suits are worn in and around competition venues. Coaches should fully cover the expectations of this new rule as well as the provisions of long-standing Rule 3-3-1, which requires that suits be of decent appearance. **The wearing of female suits to create a “thong effect,” as well as the lowering of male suits, should be universally prohibited by school/team policy and decision.**

3-3-3 - Suits worn by swimmers shall be limited to the following requirements:

a. only one swimsuit shall be permitted in competition. (A swimmer with special needs may request customization through his/her school to the CIF San Diego Section via a letter request.)

b. the swimsuit shall be:

1. constructed of a woven/knit textile material;
2. permeable (100 percent to air and water); except for one post-construction, impermeable school name and/or logo which shall not exceed 9 square inches
3. made so as not to aid in buoyancy and shall not be altered to aid in buoyancy;
4. made with no zippers or other fastening system other than a waist tie for a brief or jammer and elastic material within the casing/ribbing in the terminal ends (straps, leg openings, and waist openings); and
5. constructed so that the style/shape of the suit for males shall not extend above the waist nor below the top of the kneecap and for females shall not extend beyond the shoulders nor below the top of the kneecap, nor cover the neck.

PENALTIES (For ART. 2): When an official discovers a competitor wearing an illegal swimsuit by the wearing of two suits or a suit which is of an illegal construction, the official shall:

1. when observed prior to the start of the heat, notify the competitor to make legal the swimsuit before becoming eligible to compete. If the competitor cannot comply without delaying the start of the heat, the competitor is disqualified from that event and shall not be eligible for further competition until in a legal swimsuit.
2. when the race has officially begun (see Rule 1-3-4), disqualify the competitor at the completion of the heat;
3. when the starting device has been activated, disqualify the competitor at the completion of the heat; nullify the competitor's performance time and he/she shall not be eligible for further competition until in a legal swimsuit.