

A note on Tech Suits from Ralph Jones, Referee (GRAL and USA)

*I think the confusion is the result of the various understanding of the definition of Tech Suit. Tech suit has sometimes been used within the general swimming community to describe any suit more expensive than a regular meet suit. But within the rule, USA Swimming defines a Tech Suit as specifically a suit that is not legal for 12 & Unders, and have published definitions and descriptions of the suits that are illegal. In the officiating world, we tend to use 'Tech Suit' to describe the suits defined by USA swimming as being illegal for 12 & Unders, but many in the swimming community don't know the specifics of the USA definitions and description and often use the term more generically as mentioned above. At this point, any suit that has a sewn seam rather than a bonded seam (bonded seams are flat, sewn seams have a three dimensional characteristic) is not a Tech Suit as defined by USA Swimming and would be legal for use by any swimmer in the GRAL Champs meet. (The illegal fabric cannot be sewn and must be bonded). The USA Swimming definition and description has some points that are easily misunderstood, but getting through that confusion, the nature of the seam is the safe measure.*

*And you can tell swimmers and parents that any suit with a green check mark, or is listed in the list of legal suits is legal. (But many suits that are legal, especially older suits, do not have a green check mark and there are some legal suits that don't make it on the legal list). ... look at the seam; if you can see threads and is three dimensional, it is legal.*

Here is a link to the USA article: <https://www.usaswimming.org/news/2020/08/24/tech-suit-restriction-for-12-and-under-swimmers>