



Memorandum

To: State Association Executive Officers and Swimming and Diving Administrators

From: Becky Oakes

Subject: NFHS Swimming Rule 3-3-2 and High-Tech Suits

Date: August 21, 2008

The NFHS staff has been receiving contacts from our member state associations in regard to the legality of the new high-tech suits and their use in interscholastic swimming competition. These suits are currently being worn by several swimmers in the Olympics.

The NFHS does not perform scientific tests on any specific items of equipment or wearing apparel. Based on the information available at this time to the NFHS, the new suits are not considered a device under Rule 3-3-2 that aids in buoyancy or significantly in speed. Suits which meet these requirements are legal under current Rule 3-3-2. This interpretation applies based on what is known about these suits at this time. Suits being manufactured for open water swims which assert assistance in buoyancy would come into question as to their legality due to aiding in buoyancy.

The NFHS will continue to monitor any developments in regard to the high-tech suits and keep the state associations apprised of these developments.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

BO/bo

C: Bob Gardner, NFHS

NFHS Swimming Committee