

Tech Suit Survey (Virginia LMSC)

Summary

On Aug 20, 2010, an electronic survey was administered to 1312 USMS swimmers who were registered in the Virginia LMSC in the years 2009 and 2010. The purpose was to get some notion of their reception to allowing technical suits in short-course yards (SCY) competitions. The survey consisted of four multiple choice questions and one open-ended question inviting comments. There were 184 responses to the survey. Of the respondents, 15% approved of the idea of allowing the suits in SCY meets, while 76% disapproved; the statistical margin of error in these numbers is about 7%. The disapproval rate is virtually identical among swimmers who identified themselves as regular or prospective participants in USMS competitions. The survey results do not support the notion that allowing technical suits to be used in SCY will increase participation in our LMSC; in fact, the tentative conclusion is that participation will probably decrease.

Here are the results of the survey:

	Allow Tech Suits in SCY?			More/less likely to compete?			Enjoyment of sport?		
	Yes	No	No opinion	More	Less	Neither	Increase	Decrease	Neither
<i>All reponses (n=184)</i>	15%	76%	10%	8%	43%	49%	8%	49%	42%
<i>Currently registered (90%)</i>	14%	75%	10%	8%	43%	49%	8%	50%	41%
<i>Competes regularly (48%)</i>	17%	76%	7%	8%	43%	49%	11%	56%	31%
<i>Would like to compete (29%)</i>	17%	76%	7%	11%	41%	48%	7%	43%	50%
<i>Does not compete (21%)</i>	8%	71%	21%	3%	42%	55%	3%	37%	61%

The full report is available at

<http://www.vaswim.org/TechSuitSurveyReport.pdf>

The survey questions and process, as well as the sources and potential effects of survey sampling bias, are discussed in detail in the full report.