

**NOTIFICATION FROM THE ASA SWIMMING OFFICIALS’ GROUP ABOUT WATERPROOF COCHLEAR IMPLANTS**

The following notification was sent to ASA-registered Swimming Officials on 15th January 2015, 11:48:

*We have recently been approached by a member regarding the development of waterproof cochlear implants.*

*The view of the British Swimming Medical Committee is that there is no performance enhancement effect from these devices as they only help interpret/amplify the ambient sound, and that they are therefore not in contravention of any current FINA rules.*

*Concern was however expressed as to how well the device would remain attached during fast swimming and that the resultant lump under a swimming hat may bring it to the attention of officials. For your assistance in recognising such a device, the sensor is applied to the scalp behind the ear and the amplifier is hooked to the ear lobe like a hearing aid.*

*If you wish to read more on this development, please go to:*

[*http://www.cochlear.com/wps/wcm/connect/in/home/discover/cochlear-implants/nucleus-6-system/nucleus-6-for-children/nucleus-6-sound-processor/be-confident-in-and-around-water*](http://www.cochlear.com/wps/wcm/connect/in/home/discover/cochlear-implants/nucleus-6-system/nucleus-6-for-children/nucleus-6-sound-processor/be-confident-in-and-around-water)

The recommendation from GB Deaf Swimming Club is that, if a swimmer wishes to wear their processor(s) in a competition (to include a regional disability competition) then a laminated copy of this notice should be kept poolside so it is available for scrutiny in the event of an official querying its use. It might also be sensible to bring this to the attention of the swimmer’s Coach.

Use of any such devices are NOT permitted in GBDSC championships or galas, in the same way as their use is not permitted poolside by the ICSD (international Committee for Sport for the Deaf).

Margaret Baxter

Secretary, GB Deaf Swimming Club

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22nd November 2016