

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210705-soul-cap.html>

The Black Swimming Association is up in arms over a ban on the use of a swim cap at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics. FINA, the body that regulates international swimming, has rejected an application from the brand SOUL CAP. Its product is a cap that accommodates diverse hairstyles and hair types. The company wants the cap certified for competition swimming. It wants to help swimmers with afros, braids, dreadlocks, hair extensions, weaves, and thick and curly hair. FINA said it would not permit the Soul Cap because swimmers have never used a cap "of such size and configuration" before. FINA stated it would not be permitted because "it didn't fit the natural form of the head".

The Black Swimming Association was aghast at the decision and called it a step backwards for black swimmers. It warned it would drive away swimmers from diverse backgrounds. BSA spokeswoman Danielle Obe said: "This will affect younger and up-and-coming swimmers who might want to consider taking up elite swimming." She added: "At the highest level, we're hearing that, 'we want the sport to be inclusive and representative; we want to have people of colour in the sport, but we want them to join on our terms'. This will affect their decision because by and large, hair is a significant barrier, especially for women." The caps are allowed at all Swim England clubs and competitions.

Sources: <https://www.skysports.com/more-sports/swimming/news/29876/12346581/black-swimming-association-chair-says-fina-decision-to-reject-caps-for-natural-hair-not-what-inclusion-is-about>
<https://www.insider.com/natural-hair-swim-caps-not-allowed-olympics-2021-6>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-57688380>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. up in arms | a. Very, very angry. |
| 2. upcoming | b. Showing a great deal of variety; very different. |
| 3. regulates | c. About to happen. |
| 4. rejected | d. A formal request to an authority for something. |
| 5. application | e. Controls or supervises something, especially a company or business activity by means of rules. |
| 6. diverse | f. Refused to agree to a request. |
| 7. configuration | g. An arrangement of elements in a particular form, figure, or combination. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 8. aghast | h. Not excluding any section of society or any party involved in something. |
| 9. up-and-coming | i. Best; top level. |
| 10. taking up | j. Filled with horror or shock. |
| 11. elite | k. Conditions under which an action may be undertaken. |
| 12. inclusive | l. Making good progress and likely to become successful. |
| 13. terms | m. An obstacle that keeps people or things apart or prevents communication or progress. |
| 14. barrier | n. Starting something new (like a hobby, musical instrument, sport, etc.). |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210705-soul-cap.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. A black swimming association has welcoming arms for a swim cap ban. **T / F**
2. The Soul Cap is for people with many kinds of hairstyles. **T / F**
3. A regulatory body said such a cap had never been used before. **T / F**
4. A regulatory body said the cap didn't fit the natural form of the head. **T / F**
5. The swimming association said the decision was a step backwards. **T / F**
6. The association said there would now be more elite swimmers. **T / F**
7. The association said hair is a major barrier for men. **T / F**
8. Soul Caps are not allowed at swimming competitions in England. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. up in arms | a. horrified |
| 2. upcoming | b. allow |
| 3. regulates | c. obstacle |
| 4. permit | d. approaching |
| 5. configuration | e. various |
| 6. aghast | f. angry |
| 7. diverse | g. conditions |
| 8. up-and-coming | h. design |
| 9. terms | i. supervises |
| 10. barrier | j. promising |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. up in | a. at the decision |
| 2. rejected an application | b. barrier |
| 3. The company wants the cap | c. form of the head |
| 4. a cap of such size | d. from the brand |
| 5. it didn't fit the natural | e. for black swimmers |
| 6. aghast | f. arms over a ban |
| 7. a step backwards | g. on our terms |
| 8. younger and up-and- | h. and configuration |
| 9. we want them to join | i. coming swimmers |
| 10. hair is a significant | j. certified for competition |

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210705-soul-cap.html>

- 1) What association is angry about the Soul Cap ban?
 - a) The Olympics Swimmers
 - b) the Black Swimming Association
 - c) FINA
 - d) the IOC
- 2) What hairstyles does the Soul Cap accommodate?
 - a) swimmers' hairstyles
 - b) original hairstyles
 - c) straight hairstyles
 - d) diverse hairstyles
- 3) What does the company want the Soul Cap certified for?
 - a) competitions
 - b) life
 - c) swim clubs
 - d) juniors
- 4) According to FINA, how many times has the cap been used by swimmers?
 - a) once
 - b) three times
 - c) never
 - d) twice
- 5) What did FINA say the Soul Cap did not fit?
 - a) Olympics rules
 - b) the natural form of the head
 - c) international standards
 - d) fashion standards
- 6) Who did the association say the ban was a "step backwards" for?
 - a) black swimmers
 - b) all swimmers
 - c) male swimmers
 - d) synchronised swimmers
- 7) Who did the BSA say would be driven away from swimming by the ban?
 - a) children
 - b) Olympics swimmers
 - c) swimmers from diverse backgrounds
 - d) long-distance swimmers
- 8) Who did the BSA say the ban would affect?
 - a) younger and up-and-coming swimmers
 - b) all of us
 - c) the IOC
 - d) spectators
- 9) Who did the BSA say hair is a "significant barrier" for?
 - a) women
 - b) spectators
 - c) the IOC
 - d) FINA
- 10) Where are the caps allowed in competitions?
 - a) in schools
 - b) the Olympics
 - c) in Asia
 - d) England

SWIMMING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'swim'?
3. When was the last time you were up in arms?
4. What do you think of the Olympics?
5. What do you think of swimming caps?
6. What do you think of FINA rejecting the Soul Cap?
7. What do you think of our hairstyle?
8. Why does it matter what swim cap people wear?
9. Why won't FINA allow swim caps for people with more voluminous hair?
10. What is the 'natural form of the head'?

Swimmers angry over afro Soul Cap Olympics ban – 5th July, 2021
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SWIMMING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'cap'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. When was the last time you were aghast at something?
15. Should FINA reverse its decision?
16. What might help those from diverse backgrounds to take up swimming?
17. Why are swimming caps necessary?
18. How unfair is it that hair can be a barrier in life?
19. Has your hair ever caused you problems?
20. What questions would you like to ask a FINA executive?