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Racing Goggles

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Goggles might be the most polarizing piece of equipment. Swimmers can use a random kickboard or pull buoy lying on the deck or in a storage container and be perfectly happy, but if they try a different pair of goggles than what they're used to, it seems they don't fit right, leak, or have a horrible nosepiece—or perhaps all three.

With that in mind, *SWIMMER* reviewed some of the most recently released racing goggles. Some people may stick with one brand no matter what—if it ain't broke, don't fix it—but each brand has something positive about it that draws its customers back.

For some swimmers, racing goggles don't always make great practice goggles—a socket that fits snugly at the start of practice can cause pain after an hour. If you don't like wearing your racing goggles for an entire practice, that's OK, but you should still practice with them in race conditions, including starts.

As with all goggles, the fit is personal and what one tester loved another couldn't wear.

(Note: Prices vary for some brands based on if lenses are clear, mirrored, or polarized. All goggles reviewed, except for the FINIS Circuit and FINIS Strike, come with multiple options regarding color and tint.)



FINIS CIRCUIT | FINISSWIM.COM | \$20

The FINIS Circuit goggles are designed with an arched nosepiece to allow free movement of the silicone eye gaskets for comfort and have curved lenses to offer improved peripheral vision. These goggles come with three interchangeable nosepieces.

Tester Feedback

- One tester who has had multiple broken noses praised how well the nosepiece fit, saying that nosepieces are usually too tight on other goggles.
- “Strap adjusts nicely—quicker and easier to manipulate,” one tester said. Another said the straps were comfortable.
- One tester liked the goggles' wide range of visibility, which included around the nosepiece and through the top, but said they were too close to her face.



FINIS STRIKE | FINISSWIM.COM | \$20

The frame and lenses of the FINIS Strike goggles are fused together to create a more hydrodynamic profile and the eye gaskets are designed to sit inside the swimmer's eye sockets to provide a tight seal and reduce drag. These goggles come with three interchangeable nosepieces.

Tester Feedback

- One tester kept using the word “lightweight” to describe these goggles, saying that it “almost felt like nothing was on.”
- Two testers said the goggles were uncomfortable for extended wear, so they preferred them for racing only, and another said they felt fine and were well padded enough for practice as well as racing.
- One tester praised the strap as being comfortable and easy to adjust.



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MP XCEED | MICHAELPHELPS.COM | \$30-\$55

The MP XCEED goggles were designed with a curved lens and a low profile, perfect for racing. They come with four interchangeable nosepieces.

Tester Feedback

- One tester praised how clear the lenses and how comfortable the goggles were. He added the goggles were snug and didn't seem to produce much drag. Another said these are his go-to goggles for racing at Nationals.
- One tester said it was easy to adjust the strap and that she would love using them more in practice or in competition.
- One tester said that his field of vision when looking forward (or straight ahead toward the wall while keeping his face pointed toward the bottom of the pool on freestyle) was restricted, and another tester praised the field of vision.



ROKA F1 | ROKA.COM | \$20-\$25

The ROKA F1s come in a range of colors that provide maximum visibility depending on the light and environment in which you're swimming. These goggles come with three interchangeable nosepieces.

Tester Feedback

- Two testers saw advantages in both the ROKA F1 and the ROKA F2, saying the F1 was better for pool competitions because of its smaller size and the F2 was better for practices and open water swimming.
- One tester praised how comfortable these goggles were and the range of vision.
- The straps are thinner than those on other goggles, but they didn't rip when one tester pulled on them as hard as he could.



ROKA F2 | ROKA.COM | \$20-\$25

The ROKA F2s come in a range of colors that provide maximum visibility depending on the light and environment in which you're swimming. These goggles didn't come with any extra parts.

Tester Feedback

- Testers praised how clear the goggles were, the field of vision, and how comfortable they were.
- "I think I found my new training goggle," one tester said. Another said the rose-tinted lenses are a must-have for dark early-morning practices.
- The seal received mixed reviews. One tester said the suction was fine, another liked it but said it took about 45 minutes to "break in," and another said the goggles didn't fit her face well enough for the suction to be effective.





**SPEEDO SPEED SOCKET 2.0 |
SPEEDOUSA.COM | \$27-\$32**

The Speedo Speed Socket 2.0 goggles fit similarly to the Speedo Speed Socket but offer increased peripheral vision. They come with three interchangeable nosepieces.

Tester Feedback

- Testers praised the field of vision the goggles provided. One compared it to being in a fish tank, and another said the visibility through the top of the goggle allowed her to keep her head down because she didn't have to look for the wall.
- One tester gave the goggles a "nine out of 10 rating."
- Several testers thought the Speed Sockets were uncomfortable, one saying they depress too far into her eye sockets and another saying the lining was too thin. One tester compared them to Swedes, saying they have a minimalist design and some added padding and that they'd be good for swimmers who like a smaller pair of goggles.



**SPEEDO VANQUISHER EV |
SPEEDOUSA.COM | \$25**

The Speedo Vanquisher EV goggles are like the Speedo Vanquisher 2.0 but have a 20 percent larger field of vision. These goggles come with four interchangeable nosepieces.

Tester Feedback

- Multiple testers noticed and praised the expanded field of vision compared to previous versions of the Vanquisher and other goggles, though one said the Speed Sockets provided better field of vision around the nosepiece.
- Another tester compared how these goggles fit to the Speedo Speed Socket 2.0, adding that the Speedo Vanquisher EV is better for swimmers who want extra padding.
- One tester said the shape, which was changed to allow swimmers more peripheral vision, made it more difficult to remove the goggles quickly in the middle of a set.



TYR BLACKHAWK | TYR.COM | \$20-\$40

The TYR Blackhawk goggles are designed to have a low profile and a close fit to produce as little drag as possible. These goggles come with five interchangeable nosepieces and a bag for the goggles.

Tester Feedback

- One tester praised the Blackhawk's design, saying its low-profile design worked well for racing because it creates very little drag.
- Testers also liked the straps, saying they were easy to adjust and comfortable.
- Several testers reported that the goggles fogged up shortly into practice, but others said fogging wasn't an issue.



FOGGIES | SBRSPORTSINC.COM | \$8-\$48

There's nothing like the clarity a new pair of goggles provides, but that only lasts until they lose their anti-fog coating. Swimmers have developed many solutions, including baby shampoo, saliva, and pool water, but FOGGIES provide another. Swimmers can wipe their goggles with this anti-fog towelette to clean up their goggles. FOGGIES can be easily stashed in your swim bag and are less messy than baby shampoo and saliva. A pack of six costs \$8 and a pack of 48 costs \$48. FOGGIES can be used multiple times after they're opened if they're stored in an airtight bag.