

## MINUTES

### OUR KIDS INITIATIVE

### USAS CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

5:15 – 6:00 P.M.

**Members present:** Carol Zaleski, Claudia Multer, Becky Oakes, Julie O'Neill, Mark Hesse, Brian Gordon, Kathy Casey, John Mendell, Dan McAllen, and Rick Kehlenbach

We had several others there to observe.

**Call to Order** - Carol Zaleski called the meeting to order and gave a quick overview of Our Kids

**Overview** - Our Kids is a meeting of all the governing bodies of swimming. We have been meeting since 2000. Most discussions are on technical rules and how we can get closer in defining the rules. As a result the technical rules for the organizations have become closer over the last 11 years.

**Rule Change Procedure** Each governing body present explained briefly the process for changing rules and highlighted the new rules for this year. No attempt is made in these minutes to explain the process of rule changes as this is posted on the Our Kids Initiative website.

#### **New rules/ Pending changes –**

- NCAA – has moved to the no false start rule –
- NFHS – swimmers must start in the water if depth at starting end is 4 feet or less – other changes affect diving
- No major changes in other groups

**Master schedule** – Richard Wachs sent a master schedule to members of the committee for their perusal -- (note: after the meeting he sent an updated calendar.) When all changes are in, the final calendar will be posted on the web site.

**Website** – [www.ourkidsinitiative.org](http://www.ourkidsinitiative.org) – minutes of the meetings, spreadsheets showing differences in rules and differences in pool depths are posted on the website. Members are asked to check and send up to date information to Pat Lunsford. They will get sent to the webmaster for posting.

**Spreadsheets-** Everyone in attendance received a copy of the spreadsheets for rule differences and pool depths. Governing bodies were asked to submit changes to Pat Lunsford so the sheets can be updated and posted. Hopefully, the spreadsheets will be up to date by late October.

**Relay takeoff pads** – One member of the group had asked for a discussion on relay take off pads. Becky Oakes explained that a high school state meet had used the relay take off pads for their state meet and were alarmed by the number of DQ's. Brian Gordon stated that NCAA was in the same pool one week later and had not had a problem. Brian also mentioned that it is relatively inexpensively to have a TIVO monitor for backup. A suggestion was made that we might need one more spreadsheet to compare how governing bodies handle Relay take off pads. General consensus – if you use relay take off pads with athletes that have not been exposed to Relay take off pads you will get a significant number of DQ's. Carol Zaleski stressed that you still need human judges and they can be used as back up (Dependent on the each governing body's rules).

**2012 Meeting** – Members of the group present felt that it was very convenient to meet at convention. We should ask for a 2 hour block and keep the meeting in conjunction with convention.

Carol asked for questions from the floor. No questions.

As there were no further questions, the meeting was adjourned.

Claudia Multer, Secretary