

## **Minutes Our Kids August 26, 2000**

**Place:** Sheraton -- Station Square - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Attendance:** Pat Lunsford (Coordinator)(USAS), Carol Zaleski (FINA), Pete Carney (USAS), Susan Petersen Lubow (NCAA), Wayne Burrow (NCAA), Dick Wildey (YMCA), Claudia Multer (YMCA), Sterling Apthorp (NFHS)

Pat Lunsford initiated the meeting by stating the purpose of the group meeting. We all represent different swimming groups who use different rulebooks. For the swimmers it is difficult, as they need one set of rules for this swimming group and another set of rules for another swimming group. It would be an ideal situation if we could get one set of technical rules that would satisfy all.

Introductions - Each representative introduced themselves, swimming background, and which group they were representing at the meeting. The representatives and their organizations are listed above.

Process of changing rules in each organization - This is a very brief recap of how each organization proposes rules and the process that is used to review rules and get them approved for a rule book change.

**FINA** - Rule changes are considered every 4 years. The rule changes go to a 12 person technical committee. The committee reviews the technical rule changes. They decide what they will recommend and make proposals accordingly. All proposals go forward to the general body even if the committee is not recommending them. These then go to the general body of FINA. 90% of time what is recommended by the committee is accepted. The other 10 % may take another 4 years of conversation to get it across. Proposals may be amended from floor and this can create problems. The next meeting is August of 2001.

**NCAA** - call goes out in December for changes for next year (actually 18 months away) – The coaches association talks about them in September. Before the September meeting a survey is sent out with the proposals and coaches are given about two months to look them over and make comments. They can review and make changes and send them back. A new survey is sent out in April which is due back by May 1. From this survey the proposals are selected for discussion at the September meeting. Anyone submitting a proposal must have the proposal signed by two other coaches. The Coaches Association has a sub committee on rules, which serves in an advisory capacity.

**YMCA** – The YMCA has no rulebook of their own. They have used NCAA for many years. They operate with a 12 member Swimming and diving Committee. They could, if the need were there, set aside a technical rule, but this has not been done. They can also change administrative rules to fit their championship. The National Committee is mad up of 12 people who each serve for 3 years. The major purpose of the committee is to look at what is fair for national championships.

**NFHS** - NFHS evolved from NISCA. They meet once a year. It is an 8 member committee that meets in the spring. Rule changes are discussed and they can be accepted, rejected, or tabled. From there they can be put on questionnaire, which goes out to association. The questionnaire comes back to the committee and they make their decisions based on the input received.

**USA Swimming** - USA Swimming reviews rules on an annual cycle. Proposals must be in by May 15 by any committee member. The committee tries to publish a packet in June usually. This year (an Olympic year) has delayed the packets. The packets are going out now. They are reviewed and the rules committee meets in October at the annual convention. Effective dates for rule changes are June of the following year. In the even years it takes 90% agreement to accept a change.

**Bodysuits** - A short discussion of bodysuits was held. The main concern is that the suits are very expensive for competitors to buy (or in the case of NCAA for a school to buy). FINA is the only organization that has a statement on the bodysuit. It has given a definition that states that a body suit is not a device. Therefore the only limitation is that the suit is available to all contestants.

**Swimming rules and differences** - We referred to the spreadsheet that Pat Lunsford had prepared. (I have updated the sheet with the comments we added.) As we looked at the sheet we were all pleased that all the groups were so close in technical rules. From the original sheet we added that a breaststroker in High School must raise the head before recovery on the stroke after the pullout. This is a little later than the other groups. NCAA now has the 15 meter limitation for freestyle and that is reflected in the new spreadsheet. We also added a note that FINA will allow a breaststroke kick on butterfly where the other groups do not.

**Differences - Backstroke** - The difference in FINA and USAS is that they do not allow kicking or gliding in the turn. We would like to propose this to FINA and USAS. HS and NCAA allow swimmer to scull back to wall if they missed the wall. We would like to propose that these two groups eliminate this.

**Breaststroke** - NFHS states that on the start or the turn the head must break the water surface prior to starting the recovery part of the second armstroke. We would like to HFHS to make the change, which make them consistent with other swimming organizations.

**Butterfly** – Butterfly is essentially the same except for the wording in FINA, which will permit a breaststroke kick in butterfly. We would hope that change would be considered in their next meeting.

**IM** - NFHS considers turns between strokes in the IM as turns instead of finish for each stroke. If they will make their transition turns finishes we would all be the same.

**General consensus** is that we will never generate one rulebook for all. Each group may have their own rulebook which covers technical rules and administrative. We can only hope to bring the technical rules in agreement so that swimmers do not have a difficult time moving from on organization to the other.

What has been done - Steps that have been made in getting groups to communicate on a regular basis. USAS has invited Don Varner (YMCA) to attend the rules committee meetings and Dick Wildey to the officials committee. They will also ask High School and NCAA to send representatives to the rules committee. Pat Lunsford attended the high school rules committee and high school interpretation meeting.

**Future Steps** - Our challenge is to get more representation at our meetings from other groups. Constant dialogue will open doors for further discussion between the groups.

**Where do we go from here** - Each representative is to go back to his or her group and talk about the ideas we have talked about here. Swimming World donated a page in every other issue called "The Official Word". Pat would like to include the information from the meeting and use it in his article. He needs an OK from group to use the information. General consensus was that the article would be a good idea. Pat offered to send the article out to members before it goes to print.

We plan to meet next summer. The meeting will possibly be after FINA.

Pete Carney offered these web sites as sources of information.

FINA - [www.fina.org](http://www.fina.org)

Sidney Herald - [www.smh.au](http://www.smh.au)

USAS - [www.usa-swimming.org](http://www.usa-swimming.org)

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned  
Claudia Multer

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