

**Minutes**  
**Our Kids Initiative**  
**May 13, 2006**  
**Indianapolis**

Members in Attendance: Pat Lunsford, Wayne Burrow, Dick Wildey, Leo Letendre, Jennifer Gibson, Claudia Multer, Becky Oakes, Sterling Aphorpe, Mark Onstott, Richard Wachs, Bruce Stratton, Carol Zaleski

Pat Lunsford called meeting to order at 8:40 AM

Everyone introduced himself or herself as we had some new members.

Pat thanked Wayne Burrow for the excellent article in the Colorado Time Systems Newsletter. It gave a little of the history and philosophy of Our Kids. Pat gave a brief history of Our Kids so that all would understand the purpose of the group.

Diving has expressed an interest in trying to do something like Our Kids. Plans were set up for a meeting this April, but Don Leas was taken ill and the meeting did not take place.

**Rules of Governing bodies –**

**FINA –Carol Zaleski**

FINA changes rules every four years at the Technical Congress held with the World Championship. An extraordinary Congress can be called for if needed. But in general, each four years any of the 180 countries that are members of FINA can propose changes. The Technical Committee (12 people) review these suggestions, recommend for or against or edit/change the proposals. These recommendations then go to the FINA Bureau (23 persons). They recommend for or against and finally the proposals come before a Congress for final vote.

Last year the big change was to allow the downward dolphin kick in the first stroke of breaststroke. FINA has also set the maximum age for officials at world championships and Olympics at 60 years old.

Video tapes are not used to make judgment calls. There is some talk of how an official can get a better view of the pool.

FINA has no formal process for innovation, but it happens. Groups will always test the rule to the limit.

**USA-S – Bruce Stratton**

USA-S follows FINA in technical rules. Any member of the House of Delegates can submit a change by May 15. (Those proposals only need a 50% vote to pass.) Submissions after May 15 need a 90% to pass. The proposals go to the Rules Committee and they suggest a yes or no vote. All proposals go to the House of Delegates at convention for approval.

Any changes that come from FINA are put into effect immediately.

There is no formal procedure for innovation. On occasion, an LSC will experiment with a new rule. The entire LSC must adopt the change and report back after one year of experimentation.

### **NFHS – Becky Oakes**

In the past few years, there have been more changes on meet administration than technical rules. NFHS did adopt the downward dolphin kick this year. There is always a lot of talk about jewelry. The process is that the NFHS writes rules and a state can adopt all the rules or use in part or ignore the rules.

Rule proposals can come from anyone in an association. The proposals go to the state association and they are forwarded to NFHS. They are compiled into a questionnaire and sent out to target groups. Coaches and officials can respond to the questionnaire on their own if they so desire. The rule proposals are discussed and voted on at the rules meeting. This information goes to the Board. The Board looks at the rules (particularly anything that would affect risk management). The Board has final approval.

Experimentation can be done in the NFHS system. A state association may write a proposal to try a new rule for a year. They provide an evaluation at the end of the year. Many rules have been adopted because of this method.

### **YMCA – Claudia Multer**

The YMCA does not have its own rulebook. The YMCA has used NCAA rules for years. Even 30 years ago, coaches asked why the YMCA did not adopt the USA-S rules as they pertained to age group. At the time, there was a good deal of resistance to the change. Over the years, the question has come up repeatedly. YMCA athletes swim by NCAA rules at YMCA meets and USA-S rules at USA-S meets. If YMCA adopts USA-S, technical rules the athletes will only have one set of rules until they swim high school. In the fall of 2005, the YMCA Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee voted to adopt USA-S Technical rules effective September 1, 2006. Most YMCA's have welcomed the change. The YMCA is working with USA-S on the implementation. At the present time, the YMCA plans to continue their online testing for officials. YMCA officials will be YMCA officials and USA-S officials will be USA-S officials. There will be a short crossover course for USA-S officials to become YMCA officials if they so desire.

### **NCAA – Wayne Burrow**

Every coach receives a survey. They can make a proposal for a new rule. The proposals go to CSCA. They are discussed at the NCAA meeting in July. The Swimming and Diving committee has the final vote.

NCAA has worked hard to make their rules in the water the same as other governing bodies. Wayne explained that they would probably stay with the announcer announcing and verbal starting commands. Just a note – the make up of NCAA championships has a large foreign factor. The percentage of females is about 25% and the percent of males is 30%.

### **Master Calendar - Richard Wachs**

Richard had a master calendar for 2005-2006. Our goal is to put together a master calendar for 2006-2007. Representatives are asked to submit dates to Richard by October 15.

Some dates are the respective dates each year.

Wayne said dates for Division I women are the third Thursday – Saturday in March every year. Men swim the following weekend.

### **USMS – Leo LeTendre**

The meet is in Coral Springs, Florida this year with 1271 athletes. There is no Long course USMS meet this year. There is a large World Championship in Stanford, California in mid August. They expect 6,000 to 10,000 athletes.

USMS has their own rulebook, which follows USA-S closely with a few adaptations. They would like to see FINA recognize the 18 year old as a master swimmer, but that was not accepted this year.

### **NISCA – Mark Onstott**

NISCA had been working on a form for submission of records, which included measurement of pools. Several organizations shared their record application process and NISCA now has a form on their website for records. NISCA works with NFHS in making rule changes. NISCA does meet separately and then submits suggestions to NFHS.

### **ASCA – Jennifer Gibson**

The goal of ASCA is to promote what is good for the sport. One goal is to make athletes at convention a part of the convention rather than just their own group. They are there to learn and become an active part of the convention.

**Spreadsheet** – Pat discussed the spreadsheet and how close we are becoming. Wayne asked if there were any areas that should be addressed by various bodies to help with uniformity.

NCAA was asked about the leading part of the head rather than any part of the head on the 15-meter rule and foot position on backstroke starts.

NFHS was asked to look at the backstroke start again and sculling on the breaststroke pullout.

**Question** – Should we include the Red Cross in our meeting? Consensus from groups is that Red Cross is about teaching swimming not competitive swimming.

**Depth spreadsheet** – Pat will make a few corrections and send out for the groups to look at.

**Website** – Should we have our own website? Groups have been good about posting some of our material, but it is not always up to date. We cannot reach everyone who posts the material when changes are made. If we had our own website, we could update and then ask all other groups to link to our site instead of copying material that might be out of date. The group thought that would be a good idea.

Pat thanked the following groups:

USA-S for providing Friday night's meal and the rooms for this year's meeting;

NCAA for the meeting room and making room reservations;

NFHS for making dinner reservations;

NISCA for Saturday's lunch;

USMS for offering to assist in developing a website and possibly providing lunch next year; and everyone for taking up another weekend to help with OKI.

We plan to meet again next year with each group covering their own expenses. Date is decided by what is best for the group.

Respectfully submitted

Claudia Multer, Secretary