

## Minutes

Our Kids Initiative – website [www.ourkidsinitiative.org](http://www.ourkidsinitiative.org)

September 13, 2012

USAS Convention Greensboro, NC

Members present: Pat Lunsford (Chair), Kathy Casey (USMS), Julie O'Neill (USP), Rick Kehlenbach (CSOA), Paul Torno (NISCA), Carol Zaleski (FINA), Robert Broyles (USA-S), Diane Hicks-Hughes (NFHS), Claudia Multer (YMCA)

- Brian Gordon (NCAA) submitted input prior to the meeting but could not attend.

Call to order – Pat Lunsford

Introductions – Each member introduced themselves and indicated which organization they represented.

Minutes of the last meeting, September 14, 2011 were emailed and posted to the web. A motion to accept the minutes was seconded and the minutes were approved as posted.

History – Pat gave an overview of the organization - that information can be accessed on the Our Kids Website.

Handouts- Each year we distribute two spreadsheets – one on required pool depths of the organizations—the other on comparison of rules in the organizations. Each organization was asked to provide updates ASAP

Rule changes - A quick summary of how rules are changed was given by each member. These procedures are outlined on the Our Kids website and are not copied here.

Below are some of the proposed changes that may be coming up in the organizations.

FINA –

- breaststroke change – proposed that the dolphin kick come before the widest part of second stroke- or it is possible that they might go back to old rule –
- there is a push for underwater video for verification of calls on the underwater dolphin kick

MASTERS –

- Masters requires that every pool be certified or measured when a meet is held there. They want to be sure that the pool is a legal distance before they import times.

Calendar – Richard Wachs, with the aid of Swimming World and Judy Jacobs, generates a calendar each year incorporating all the major meets of the governing bodies. He has distributed the first draft an

asked for input from the governing bodies on any new events that have not been included. When the calendar is complete it will be posted on the Our Kids website.

NFHS – NFHS was asked for their stand on tape. National Federation leaves that judgment up to the referee.

Track start blocks – NFHS prohibits their use but are legal in the other governing bodies. For specific rules regulating track start blocks, contact the appropriate NGB.

Backstroke start blocks – they are being developed. We can expect to see them in the next year or two.

Underwater lap counters – Carol Zaleski told us that underwater lap counters are being developed.

Diane shared an article From CDC concerning Water depth at starting blocks. They are proposing that the depth at blocks be 6 feet 7 inches. We are all encouraged to send the article around and go to the website to view it in its entirety. I have copied just the paragraph on depth at starting blocks.

The intent is to require 6 feet 7 inches (2 m) water depth unless there is a governing body (e.g. FINA, USA Swimming, NCAA, NFSHSA, etc.) that is applicable. FINA and NCAA allow 4 feet (1.22 m) at starting platforms. As is well documented in case histories and litigation, this depth is unsafe for high school age beginners. Five feet (1.52 m) is on the edge of safety for a high school age male to make a starting error.

The most conservative and safest

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Keyword Section Annex starting depth is 6 feet 7 inches or 2-meters. This is consistent with the recommended minimum starting depth for Olympic competition.

Future meetings – the group wants to continue meeting and for most, the USAS Convention is convenient. We plan to meet at Convention next year to put us on the rules cycle with FINA and may consider conference calls on alternate years as well as meeting every other year.

Meeting adjourned