

**Our Kids Initiative**  
**October 24, 2009**  
**NCAA headquarters**

**Attendance:** Bruce Stratton, John Mendell, John Brunelli, Tony Young, Julie O’Neill, Carol Zaleski, Kathy Casey, Paul Torno, Sterling Apthorp, Becky Oakes, Sandy Searcy, Richard Wachs, Claudia Multer, Pat Lunsford

**Purpose OKI** – Pat Lunsford reviewed the purpose of Our Kids Initiative. The Our Kids Initiative is a committee formed in 2000 in an effort to bring leaders from all governing bodies together to discuss what could be done to help all swimmers in the United States have the ability to compete without fear of being disqualified, regardless of whether the competition was held under, FINA, NCAA, NFHS, USA-S, USMS, or YMCA rules.

The underlying philosophy is each governing body will maintain its own identity and leave behind personal agendas and egos. The various representatives have embraced this philosophy completely.

**Rules procedure**– Each organization reviewed their process for rule changes. This description is on the OKI website and is not repeated in the minutes.

Bruce Stratton – USA

Carol Zaleski – FINA

Becky Oakes – NFHS

Paul Torno – NISCA

Kathy Casey – Masters

Julie O’Neill – Paralympics

John Mendell – YMCA

**Spreadsheet Review** –

Stroke spreadsheet – each governing body was asked to review the wording on the spreadsheet for accuracy

Butterfly discussion –the arm is shoulder to wrist – some part of the arm must recover over the water – the rule does not imply that the entire arm must clear the water. We will visit next year to see if the clarification helped.

Depth spreadsheet – YMCA needs to update the chart – Each governing body should check their chart to be sure that the chart clearly states their rules.

The chart will be revised slightly clearly stating - More restrictive local, state and municipal ordinances may supercede the national governing body’s rules

**Website** – [www.ourkidsinitiative.org](http://www.ourkidsinitiative.org) – information from our meetings and informative articles on cooperative efforts – each governing body was asked to check their own website to see if they have a link to OKI. In addition, does the link from OKI to your site work correctly?

**USA/YMCA partnership in Learn to Swim Program** – USA and YMCA are collaborating on a goal to teach every child to swim. The goal is zero drowning. At the present time drowning is the second leading cause of death in children under the age of 14. This is preventable. A few pilot programs have been run in various areas of the country. The entire program is targeted to roll out in May of 2010. Boise has a working program right now. It is a work in progress and there is a lot to be done.

**SWIMS databases review** – NCAA using it and it has made the proof of time procedure much easier. – YMCA using it even though all YMCA swim times are not in the database. National entry times are run against SWIMS and only those times not in the database need to be proved.

**Cross officiating** – Most governing bodies require a specific number of sessions to keep current. Many states are allowing credit for working meets in other governing bodies. In some areas at least 50% of the meets can be from an outside governing body. Check in your area for collaborative efforts.

**Coach's certifications** – A swimming coach who coaches USA or YMCA and high school must keep certifications current to be on deck. A coach questioned if it were possible for certifications to be uniform. USA and YMCA are close and a USA card will cover all except one YMCA course that must be taken. High school is state delegated – Some states accept the safety courses from other organizations and some have their own.

#### **Suggested agenda items for next year**

- Training officials – cooperative efforts
- Underwater videos – Carol can bring some to view
- Coach's ethics – what is being done in each group?
- Officials – meet administration

#### **Swimsuit discussion**

A general discussion of the new swim suit rule was held. The governing bodies are in general agreement on the rule and how it will be enforced. Masters has not implemented a new rule yet as they are waiting on Masters FINA who will not meet until January.

Kathy Casey did present a chart where she has listed in detail the various governing bodies rules on the new swim suits. Masters want shoulder to knee for both male and female - waist tie.

They would like to keep zippers as it is difficult to get into the suits without the zipper.

This is the First year of the rule

A lot of new suits to be tested before January FINA meeting

Waivers for Modesty – still no zippers – A waiver can be granted for coverage but no other alterations – USA waivers all go to Bruce Stratton

**Nose clips** – the question was asked if nose clips were allowed as the new rules state that equipment allowed are suit, cap, and goggles. Our group agreed that nose clips would be allowed.

Next year – The group unanimously agreed that it is important to meet again next year. Time of year will be determined by participant's schedules.

Meeting adjourned.

Brian Gordon (NCAA) was unable to attend, but he did send this recap of the changes for NCAA this year. Note the NCAA rule book is now a 2 year rule book; therefore the next rulebook will be printed in 2011.

The major points of emphasis in the rule changes were:

- The committee adopted swimsuit restrictions that are similar to those enacted by FINA and USA Swimming. The NCAA has posted on its website those suits that manufacturers have indicated meet the rule requirements. This site is offered as a resource, but, does not certify those suits have been submitted or passed any type of suit testing. Further the committee adopted and distributed to the membership protocol for pre-meet and post-meet compliance with the swimsuit rule.
- The committee passed language to bring the breaststroke rule (pullouts) in compliance with the USA Swimming and FINA rules.
- The committee enacted language to allow for scratches at events that offer trial and finals (championship and non-championship).
- A rule was passed requiring laser measurement before and after days of competition in facilities that have movable bulkheads.
- A rule was passed allowing for limited use of video replay for reviewing relay take-offs.
- Language was changed for clarity purposes regarding seeding at events.
- A change was made to the default swimming program.
- Change was made to the bona-fide competition rule.