

**Minutes
Our Kids
May 14, 2005
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Attendance: Pat Lunsford, Sterling Apthorp, Wayne Burrow, Dick Wildey, Carol Zaleski, Peter Carney, Claudia Multer, Richard Wachs, Mark Onstott, Leo Letendre

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Chairman, Pat Lunsford.

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

Pat reminded us that “Our Kids” is not a governing body. We are just here to keep the lines of communication open between the governing bodies.

Review of Rules Change Process

NCAA – The rules committee is made up of representatives from all 3 divisions. It consists of coaches and administrators. They get together annually to review proposals from anyone. They do ask that anyone submitting get endorsement form at least two others before submitting. They go over the proposals and then put a survey online. The constituents may vote. The coaches meeting is held in May and the proposals are discussed. A meeting will be held in July to decide which proposals will be incorporated. Normal procedure the rules adopted in one year do not go into effect until the following year. There is no process for experimental rules in NCAA.

YMCA – The YMCA uses NCAA rules for age group swimming. The YMCA uses USMS rules for masters swimming.

USMS – Masters will accept rule changes until mid July. They make changes every other year. Basically, they follow USA-S and FINA rules. If there is some emergency legislation it can be passed in the off year with a 90% affirmative vote.

NFHS – There is a committee of 8 members who meet in March. Anyone can submit a rule throughout the year. A questionnaire is sent out asking for input on proposed rules and on last year’s changes. NFHS holds their state interpreters meeting where they discuss the rules. Federation surveys are sent out to selected individuals. Those that receive surveys should be encouraged to return them. Experimentation is allowed by state organizations. This past year some experimented with whistle starts. This year it will be optional to try no recall.

NISCA – NISCA accepts proposals and meets in March just before NFHS. They pass on the proposals that they agree would be an asset. NFHS has the last word on what goes into the rule book.

USA-S – USA-S has one committee which handles rules and by-laws. They meet mid June. May 15 is the last day to submit amendments. In July the changes are posted on the web. The rules are discussed at convention in September and voted on the last day of convention.

Typically, USA-S votes to have their rules go along with FINA. They do have provisions for testing new rules.

FINA – FINA makes changes every 4 years. This year they will be in Montreal in July. Any member of FINA can submit legislation. The legislation is reviewed by the rules committee and can designate that they are for or against the rule. The rules then go to the FINA Technical Swimming congress and they will designate for or against. The rules will be considered in July. One discussion underway right now is setting an upper age limit for FINA officials. The suggested age is 60 years.

Rule Change Proposals

NCAA – NCAA has two proposals this year. One is a whistle preparatory command instead of “step up” or “place your feet”. The second proposal is to require relay take off pads for Division I championships. Wayne Burrow did note that 30% of NCAA championships are foreign swimmers.

The group took a short break at this time.

As we gathered again, Pat pointed out that the Maxwell awards of excellence for officials is not just for USA-S officials. If anyone knows of a deserving official, they can contact Pat.

YMCA – YMCA follows NCAA rules.

USMS – USMS has no rule proposals.

NFHS – NFHS provided a handout with the rule changes. Two important ones are Breaststroke is now compliant with all other organizations. The head must break at the widest part of the second stroke. The jewelry rule has been relaxed a little. Warn the swimmer if they are caught wearing jewelry in an event. If seen before the event they must remove it before they swim.

USA-S – We were not past the deadline so we do not know of any possible changes.

FINA – FINA has many changes to be considered.

Breaststroke – there is a proposal to allow one dolphin kick at the start and at the turn. There is great concern that it could pass this time.

Backstroke – There is a change proposed to the backstroke turn that is an attempt to clarify the continuous turning action. Our group thought the terminology that is proposed would allow kicking and gliding as NCAA does. It is also proposed that the toes do not have to be under the water on the start. (Primarily for flat wall pads in pools with low water levels.)

National Times Database – We are getting closer. NCAA was given the opportunity to use the database this past winter, but did not do so. They may try next winter.

Master Calendar – Richard Wachs and Mark Onstott brought a calendar showing the state high school meets for all states. We will attempt to consolidate all information into one calendar.

Minimum depth charts – We reviewed the minimum depth charts. They are correct to the best of our knowledge.

Stroke Comparison charts – The charts are correct as of September 2004. We will not distribute a new chart until September after all governing bodies have met. High School may go to whistle preparatory commands. If so Pat will rewrite that section.

Web Sites – Please ask your governing body to post the comparison charts. It is informative for anyone that looks at it.

Measurement of pools for records – Dana has done a lot of work on a document for measuring pools for records. It was suggested that it would be nice if there was one place for all governing bodies to get this information so that the pool does not have to reproduce it for each governing body that uses their pool. We did note that if there is any major reconstruction or new touchpads the pool would need to be remeasured. Pools with bulkheads need to be measured before and after competition to be sure that they meet the standard. It would also be nice to compile a list of pools not meeting the standards so that other organizations do not book them. If any organization has a form for record submission they should submit it to Dana Abbott. USMS will attempt to collect its pool measurement data as a pilot.

Future Funding – Next year USA-S will pay for the rooms and the evening meal. NISCA will buy lunch next year. Pat thanked Wayne and his assistant Kelly for the use of the building and the snacks provided, NISCA for lunch and YMCA for the shirts provided.

Our assignment is to publicize “Our Kids”.

When your governing bodies meet, please get the information back to Pat so we can update our charts as soon as possible.

The committee voted Pat Lunsford the permanent chairman of the committee.

Claudia Multer was appointed secretary for an indefinite term.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM

Claudia Multer, secretary