

Our Kids Initiative
May 15, 2004
Indianapolis, Indiana

Representatives in attendance

Pat Lunsford	Chair		
Carol Zaleski	FINA	Leo Letendre	USMS
Claudia Multer	YMCA	Pete Carney	USAS
Cynthia Doyle	NFHS	Richard Wachs	NISCA
Dana Abbott	NISCA	Wayne Burrow	NCAA
Dick Wildey	YMCA		

Pat Lunsford called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Leo Letendre was a new member this year. He is representing USMS. Everyone introduced himself or herself.

Pat commented that we keep everyone on the mailing list so that they will be informed. We only remove someone from the mailing list if they ask to be removed. We will add Bettie Williams from California. She is very active in both YMCA and USA-S on the west coast.

Pat gave a very short history of the committee. Basically, we have managed to have the governing bodies of swimming meeting and discussing rules and interpretations. We have made great strides in getting rules of the various bodies closer. In some cases our discussion have helped an association change a rule and in some we have helped the organization keep the rule.

USA-S funded the initialization of the committee. We now look to the groups to help perpetuate the committee. Dick Wildey (YMCA) said that he would bring shirts next year.

Last year we had a good discussion of rule change processes. This year we only highlighted possible changes in the system of initiating rule changes.

NCAA – There is a move toward making changes in rules an 18-month process. This is still just in the discussion phase.

NFHS – Currently rule changes come from the 8 sections of the country. They are considering allowing the individual states to submit rule changes.

YMCA – No rule changes, but the YMCA strongly supports the Our Kids Initiative. More people are recognizing Our Kids and understand what we are about.

Masters – Leo recapped master's rules. IN the pool they use USA-S rules. They are on a 2-year cycle.

FINA – No rule changes until 2005. Carol commented that she thought that we had really opened the lines of communication between all the groups.

There is some concern that as we get closer we might stifle innovation. USA-S has allowances for innovation as an LSC can try a new rule on an experimental basis.

National Federation also has accommodations for trying new rules.

Rule changes-

NCAA – At this point it looks like there will be no major changes. The surveys are out. The collegiate coaches meet in May. They are working on officials at NCAA championships. They would like all officials to be CSOA certified. They are just looking for consistency in their meets.

Cynthia asked if they had a mechanics manual. After some discussion – it was suggested that any group that had a written protocol should send it to Cynthia as she is just in the process of writing recommendations for NFHS.

Our Kids has helped get all governing bodies represented on the NCAA deck.

Suggestion – a videotape covering universal protocol would be helpful and application of rules.

FINA rule changes will not take place until Montreal in 2005. There is a proposal that a single dolphin kick be allowed after the start and as you come off the wall in breaststroke. Suggestions are due December 31 of this year so there could be more suggestions.

NFHS – Major change is the IM turns. The transition turns now follow finish rules instead of turn rules. Cynthia also distributed copies of flyers that NFHS had on Sexual Harassment and Hazing. She said she could make copies available if anyone needed them. She also had them in Spanish.

Items for discussion –

Pool length – Dana Abbott mentioned that when he went to recognize a record in a 50 meter pool with a bulkhead he had difficulty finding a good definition of where and when the pool length was to be measured. He researched all the governing bodies. USA-S and USMS require the measurement to be taken by a licensed surveyor or architect before each session and after a session when a record has been broken.

Dana offered to put together the statement, which might become universal to all groups for setting a record. It would be submitted to the various records committee as a suggestion.

One suggestion on fixed pools is to require a copy of the certificate that the host facility should have on record.

Second part of the question is what timing is required to set a record. Most agreed that it is automatic timing or 3 watches.

As we discussed timing we talked about the differential for correcting a time. Since this is something we are all interested in, we suggested inviting Colorado, Daktronics, and Omega to our next meeting to discuss timing and relay takeoff pads. The goal would be

to have uniformity in how differentials are handled and how relay takeoff pads are used. Not all manufacturers display relay judging the same.

Lane width – The question was when measuring the width of a lane, is it the open water or is it hook to hook? USA-S had the best description in 103.13.3 we allowed a single lane line in a 7 foot lane. Multiple lane lines can be used if it does not make the water between the lane lines less than 7 feet in width.

National Database – Would it be possible to have all times from all organizations in the same database. It would help with proof of time for everyone. The problems will arise from those times that are achieved in backstroke where the times do not conform to the strictest rule. Perhaps they could be flagged some way. Wayne offered to talk to Larry Herr as NCAA has already been talking about having their times in a database.

Master Calendar – All governing bodies should submit their dates to Cynthia and Pat so that the master calendar can be updated.

Spreadsheets – please check the sheets to be sure they are accurate before they go out to all the organizations.

Pool depths – Pat will rework the chart so that all groups have basically the same wording.

Swimming rules – The chart will be updated with the new high school rules. Cynthia asked that we now refer to whistle starts. For our chart we will use the term “whistle commands”.

Shared effort and expense for the meeting – thanks to Wayne and Kelly (NCAA) for arranging accommodations; Cynthia for arranging the Friday evening meal and supplying Saturday’s lunch, USA Swimming for providing for the Friday meal and the accommodations, Claudia for taking the minutes.

Selection of a Chairman for 2005 – Pat Lunsford was selected to continue as Chairman.