

Our Kids
April 27, 2002
Indianapolis, Indiana

Attendees: Pat Lunsford, Chairperson; Claudia Multer, YMCA; Cynthia Doyle, NFHS; Dana Abbott, NISCA; Dick Wildey, YMCA; Jennifer Gibson, ASCA; Mark Hesse, ASCA; Peter Carney, USAS; Peter Hugo, NISCA; Sterling Apthorp, NFHS; Susan Petersen-Lubow, NCAA

Introductions: Each attendee gave a brief introduction including their background along with a brief summary of how the respective groups change rules.

Dana Abbott shared information on how the various swimming groups in Texas had met to try to settle some scheduling differences. Their emphasis was communication, collaboration, and cooperation. They plan to meet again next year.

As we began our discussion of rules we had a short discussions of how new rules get implemented in the organizations. With written approval of Rules Committee, USAS allows a waiver to LSCs to try new rule. High School allows a state to deviate for up to three years upon written approval from the committee.

Rules: Pat had prepared a very nice spreadsheet comparing the rules of the governing bodies. The discussion was very open with members asking questions for clarification and suggesting ways to get rules closer. Our goal is to make it easier for the competitor to move from one format to another.

NFHS has adopted the same backstroke start as the other groups. The only other major difference now is the IM turn in NFHS. They consider transitional turns as turns instead of finishes as the other groups do. It was noted that NFHS does allow a swimmer to resubmerge after surfacing at the 15-meter mark in freestyle, backstroke, and butterfly. Cynthia Doyle explained that the purpose was to allow the less experienced swimmer to submerge without getting disqualified.

NCAA is about to define the head passing the 15-meter mark. They plan to spell out that the forward part of the head must be up before passing the 15-meter mark. NCAA has discussed whistle starts, but is not ready to adopt them yet. CSCCA will meet this May to discuss other impending changes. No major technical changes are expected - mostly changes are for clarification.

USAS - No major changes expected. They follow FINA.

Pat will revise the spreadsheet and it will be included with the minutes.

Starting systems: Susan Lubow-Petersen had communication from John Wheaton in Illinois about checking the starting system before a meet. Occasionally, a Colorado start system is hooked up incorrectly. This would cause the system to start late and give incorrect times to the swimmers. If the Colorado is hooked up correctly with a Colorado system - the official can depress the button on the microphone and hold it down until they see the scoreboard running. (Hold it down long enough to see the board run as there is a

delay built in.) If the system does not start until the button is released the system is incorrectly set up. The technical adviser needs to be sure that the start is connected to the Colorado start output.

Joint representation: Several of the groups are inviting members of other governing groups to their rules meetings. It opens the door for exchange of philosophy. We encourage all groups to consider the possibility of this happening. All groups but YMCA have published information about "Our Kids" in their publications. Members were invited to attend CSCOA in May. That is where NCAA discusses their possible rule changes.

Future of the Our Kids Initiative: Pat asked if we felt that the group should continue to meet. Dick Wildey spoke up recommending that we meet every year. USAS said they would fund every two years. We need to consider funding for the other years. Questions to consider - Would every organization help fund travel expenses? We were to approach our groups to ask about funding for travel for delegates. One suggestion is that the individual groups pay the expenses of their own delegates the year that USAS is not funding. Our next question was location of the meeting. Some suggested rotation. Indianapolis did work out well as most people drove and several from the governing bodies live in the area. We will probably meet in Indianapolis next year, but the subject is still open for discussion.

Chairperson: By a unanimous vote of the committee, Pat Lunsford was elected chairperson of the Our Kids Initiative.

Evaluation Forms: Pat asked that the group include new agenda items on evaluations. Everyone was encouraged to turn in his or her evaluations at the conclusion of the meeting on Saturday.

After the discussion on rules we broke for lunch. The afternoon was devoted to a discussion of pool depths and rationale of the governing groups in adopting their rules.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudia Multer

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