

## Our Kids Initiative Annual Meeting Minutes

Jacksonville, Florida

September 18, 2014

9:00am

**Welcome and introduction of guests:** Jay Thomas welcomed the member organizations and guests. The following participants represented member organizations:

- FINA - Carol Zalesky
- NCAA - Brian Gordon
- NFHS - Becky Oakes, Sandy Searcy
- USA Swimming - Dan McAllen
- USMS - Kathy Casey
- USOC/USP – Julie O’Neill
- YMCA - Ed Miller

**Overview of OKI:** Jay Thomas provided a background overview of OKI and its mission to bring the rules of all of the swimming governing bodies together. He stressed that the beneficiaries of these initiatives are the athletes.

**Rule Changes:** Each governing body reviewed their process for rules changes, changes since 2013 and pending changes for 2014.

### USMS

**Process:** The organization looks at technical rule changes in swimming in the even years and administration in the odd years. This year, we are looking at the technical rules. The HOD will vote on rule changes that were due on July 10th. Rules committee then makes recommendations to the HOD. Recommendations require majority approval by vote, non-recommendations require a 2/3 vote. Rules proposals must come from LSC, committees, executive committees. Individuals may NOT make recommendations.

#### **Pending Changes:**

- Addition of 25 yard individual events and 100 yard relay events.
- Changing the dates for Long Course Nationals and removing order of events at national championships - leaving it to the Championship committee.

### FINA

**Process:** FINA rule changes every four years in conjunction with World Championships. However, they may call extraordinary congress which will occur this year in Doha. Federations cannot submit legislation at an extraordinary congress; it must come from the Technical Committee.

#### **Proposed Changes:**

- Breaststroke – At any time prior to the first breaststroke kick a single butterfly kick is permitted. (Extraordinary Congress – Doha)
- Backstroke ledge – Enable legislation to say that the ledge may be used at upcoming events.

### NCAA

**Process:** This will be a rule-change year for the NCAA. The membership will be solicited for proposals during mid-winter and those proposals will be vetted by the Swimming & Diving

Rules committee. Membership and Committee driven proposals will be compiled on a survey (non-binding) and that will be sent to the membership in mid-late March, 2015. Discussion on proposed changes will also occur at the CSCAA Annual convention in early May in Indianapolis. The committee will then choose to adopt new rules during their annual spring meeting for inclusion in the next NCAA Swimming & Diving rulebook due out September 1, 2015.

**Rule changes since 2013:** The NCAA does not make rule changes in a non-rule change year; therefore there have been no changes since the rulebook was published, September 1, 2013.

#### **Pending Changes:**

- Monitoring the FINA Extraordinary Congress in December for changes regarding breaststroke and backstroke. The committee has worked diligently in recent years to try and adopt, where practical, any FINA/USA Swimming rule changes for consistency.
- Continued discussion regarding adoption of the backstroke ledges. At present, the NCAA membership is not in favor of adopting these devices, but, this could change with availability in the marketplace.
- Changes in penalties for “failure to appear” for a prelim heat in a championship meet.
- Changes in declared false start protocol to potentially allow for reseeding.
- Implementation of the NCAA Swimming Officials program for testing, registering and certification. Per action taken in the spring 2014, jointly by both the Rules and Championships committee, the NCAA will have an officiating program in place by the fall of 2015. Only those officials registered and certified by the NCAA will be eligible to be selected for NCAA Championships beginning in 2015-16. The NCAA is in discussions with USA Swimming to enhance their existing partnership to perhaps also include joint areas in officiating. The next discussion between the two organizations is taking place after this report has been written, but prior to the beginning of the USAS Convention.

#### **USA Swimming**

**Process:** For process refer to article 511 in the rulebook <http://www.usaswimming.org/Rainbow/Documents/00b913aa-b3d1-4345-a201-6071745f46dd/2014%20Rule%20Book.pdf>. Basically, rules must be proposed to the Rules & Regulations Committee no later than May 15. The Rules & Regulations Committee considers all proposed amendments and presents them for vote to the annual meeting of the House of Delegates with the committee’s recommendation. Approved amendments to Part 1 of the rulebook become effective on May 1 of the year following adoption, unless otherwise specified. All other amendments become effective January 1 of the year following.

#### **Rule changes for 2014:**

- New provisions have been added to the Code of Conduct.
- In breaststroke and butterfly, the rules now require that the hands be separated at the touch at the turns and at the finish to comply with the new FINA rule.
- Exceptions have been defined for inserting alternates in heats at finals.
- Required LSC Bylaws have been revised to say that the General Chair is prohibited from serving on a Nominating Committee or on an LSC Board of Review.
- Requirements and conditions of sanction and approval have been re-ordered.
- Effective January 1, 2014, FINA permitted the use of devices to be attached to starting platforms for use in backstroke starts.

**Pending Changes:** There are approximately 23 – 24 items that will be voted on by the HOD in 2014. USA swimming never deals with the technical rules. USAS automatically adapts FINA rules without going through the HOD.

### **NISCA / NFHS**

**Process:** NISCA shares the NFHS rule change proposals with our general membership asking for feedback, concerns, suggestions and comments. Those rule change proposals were a topic of discussion at our Annual Conference (the end of March). The membership at that meeting votes on accepting or rejecting those proposals. That information is then taken to the NFHS meeting as advisory to that committee.

### **Rule changes for 2014-15:**

- Conduct – Defined unsporting vs. unacceptable behavior.
- Reorganized to list the items a competitor may wear/use and clarifies that adhesives are not allowed for swimming and/or diving.
- Diver may wear tape or wraps for support and no longer limited to the wrist.
- Swimmers no longer step off the starting platform after the referee/starter gives the command to “Stand Up.” Only under unusual circumstances will swimmers be asked to step off the blocks.
- The elimination of the starting pistol as a sounding device in Interscholastic Swimming.
- Defined the warm-up for diving competition when diving is between the 50 Freestyle & 100 Butterfly.
- Updated the diving scoring scale to align with NCAA, FINA, & USA Diving.
- In championship meets, meet management has the option in diving to reseed the finalists based on their semifinal score (lowest to highest).
- Backstroke finish – requiring some part of a swimmer body to remain on the surface on the finish of the race.
- A number of minor editorial changes were made.

Items of consideration but not passed:

- Jewelry was discussed at length – It will more than likely come up again from the membership --- NFHS Track and Field rules committee has lifted the ban on wearing of jewelry during competition.
- Stacking of the hands was discussed, the feeling that there was not a problem in High School Swimming at this time.

### **Pending Changes:**

- We will probably not make any changes to the breaststroke as changes have already been made.
- Inclusion of students with disability. Putting in a unified program to include intellectual disability. Also adding adapted programs for physical disability for inclusion in traditional programs. We are learning that you have to recruit students to participate. These programs are happening in all sports not just swimming. Swimming has been proactive regarding swimming as compared to other sports.

### **YMCA**

**Process:** The YMCA follows what USA Swimming does. The cooperation between USA and the YMCA relationship has been great.

### **USP**

**Process:** US Paralympics follows FINA technical rules. Administration follows rules. Disability recommendations for USA Swimming come from the disability committee. NFHS recommendations come from the community.

**Rule changes since 2013:** Many administrative changes occurred in 2013.

**Master Schedule** (<http://www.ourkidsinitiative.org/#!/master-calendar/c1jxp>):

- Helps with conflicting meets. This also includes meetings. Please email Jay ([jayfthomas@gmail.com](mailto:jayfthomas@gmail.com)) to add information.

**Spreadsheet / Handouts:** Jay will keep up to date. If you would like wording change contact Jay ([jayfthomas@gmail.com](mailto:jayfthomas@gmail.com)). Subsequent to convention the spreadsheet has been updated.

Current spreadsheet can be found at

[http://media.wix.com/ugd/8c869c\\_809f250b7b6645af901e62d8da71b2d8.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/8c869c_809f250b7b6645af901e62d8da71b2d8.pdf)

**Website:** The Our Kids Initiative website has been redesigned. It serves as a resource to share information <http://www.ourkidsinitiative.org>

**Additional discussion:**

**Risk perspective regarding use of backstroke device.** There was interest from the governing bodies about potentially doing a study about the plunge depth and pool depth when using the backstroke device. If the study shows there is a concern, it is likely that a rule change would follow.

**2015 Meeting:** Group agreed that the 2015 meeting should continue at convention.

**Closing:** Carol Zalesky commented that it is amazing how far we have come to unify the rules. Jay Thomas thanked the group for their willingness to collaborate and work together.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amy Hoppenrath