

RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center  
Grapevine, Texas  
May 29, 2009  
Minutes

**Present:** Bruce Stratton, Julie Bare, Arvydas Barzdukas, George Block, Kathy Casey, Cecil Gordon, Jim Kelly, Claire Letendre, Paul Lundsten, Pat Lunsford, Ed Miller, John Morse, Susan Peterson-Lubow, Jamy Pfister, Jim Sheehan, Jay Thomas, Hannah Wilson, John Wilson, and Carol Zaleski. Staff Liaison Carol Burch.

**Absent:** Alan Beste, Brittany Boldizar, Anneliese Eggert, Don Hart, Derek Jansen, Ellen Johnston, Blake McKay, Wells O'Brien, and Paul Sigfusson.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Stratton. Introductions were made. This was Sue Lubow's last meeting after many years of service; Bryan Gordon will be replacing her as NCAA representative.

**Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed and approved. Discussion of the various swimsuit issues was to be deferred until the relevant legislation items were addressed. Materials were handed out for people to review before the next meeting: (a) letter from Roque Santos regarding the Blue Seventy (Attachment A); (b) copy of the Dubai Charter (Attachment B); (c) draft of publication to membership regarding an immediate change to our technical rules because of FINA approved suit list (Attachment C).

**Minutes:** The minutes from the Rules meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, September 24-25, 2008, were approved.

**Reports from Affiliated Organizations:**

- FINA – Carol Zaleski reported that no major technical rules changes are on the horizon for the Congress in Rome. There will be new wording for the Breaststroke that is intended as clarification. FINA is undergoing a multi-step process regarding swimsuit approval so as to minimize liability exposure: immediate action, requests for approval, January 1, 2010. FINA will be employing underwater cameras at Worlds to confirm calls made on deck.
- FINA Open Water – Jay Thomas distributed a written report (Attachment D). Jay explained that the pieces of legislation he submitted are largely a result of actions taken at the Manchester Congress. He is not expecting anything major to come out of the Rome Congress.
- YMCA – Ed Miller reported he has been busy trying to keep up with Bruce's interpretations. Ed is pleased with the cross-training of officials (YMCA/USA-S) and reports it has resulted in an increase in the number of USA Swimming officials. There are still some within the Y who are resistant to the many changes, concerned that the Y program is being swallowed up by USA Swimming, but Ed reported that the majority believe the collaboration is a good thing.
- NCAA – Susan Lubow reported that they had sent out a rules questionnaire and there is consensus to return to the old wording regarding "leading part of the head" on the 15 meter rule. NCAA, too, is dealing with the swimsuit issues. NCAA will do its best to conform to the FINA philosophies, but will stick with whatever NCAA has in place as of September 1, not changing anything during the season (no matter what FINA comes up with after that). The NCAA meeting is in July. They will be looking at the possible use of video.
- NFHS – absent
- USMS – Kathy Casey reported that swimsuits are their number one concern and so far, they are in line with USA Swimming. Dual-sanctioning has gone well. They have no big rules proposals yet, but it's early. USMS has opened a national office in Sarasota, Florida.
- OKI – Pat Lunsford referred everyone to [www.ourkidsinitiative.org](http://www.ourkidsinitiative.org). They have a meeting scheduled for October in Indianapolis and nine out of the ten member organizations have already committed to attend. The ten member organizations are ASCA, CSOA, NCAA, FINA, NFHS, NISCA, USMS, USP, USA-S, YMCA. NFHS is concerned about swimsuits and has asked Pat to make a presentation; unfortunately, this will be before the Rome Congress.

## Review of Significant Interpretations

- Breaststroke (initiation of arm pull) – should actually read “outward lateral or downward movement”
- Swimsuit restriction for Age Groupers – development of exemption process for religious or medical reasons
- Use of only one suit (initial dictate allowing only 1 suit; follow-up allowing modesty wear)
- Emergency legislation regarding teaching racing starts
- Approved Swimwear – Bruce distributed a draft of the necessary rule change regarding the approved suits list which Bruce hopes to distribute on June 1.
- Simultaneous 2-hand touch – both hands must make contact with end of course; a virtual wall does not exist between a recessed gutter and the deck. They must make actual contact.

## Discussion Items

- Bruce reviewed the appropriate application of the national scratch rule (if an alternate is personally notified that he has moved into finals and commits to swim, that swimmer is subject to the same penalty as an original finalist if he does not compete). It was recommended that the Officials Committee educate the LSCs and encourage them to develop appropriate scratch rules for their competitions. LSC Sanction Chairs should require that meet information include the scratch rule & penalties.
- The glossary in the Rule Book is in need of a major overhaul. Those willing to help with this should let Bruce know.
- The Rules and Regulations page on the USA Swimming website has been updated. Please provide any suggestions to Bruce for improvements. The consensus was that there needs to be a link directly to Rules, not going through the Volunteer tab.

**Motion:** *Authorize Bruce Stratton, Chair, to interpret rules on behalf of the Rules Committee. Passed.*

Task force reports were deferred until the relevant legislation.

The meeting was adjourned until the next morning.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Bare, Secretary

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**Present:** Bruce Stratton, Julie Bare, Arvydas Barzdukas, George Block, Kathy Casey, Cecil Gordon, Jim Kelly, Claire Letendre, Paul Lundsten, Pat Lunsford, Ed Miller, John Morse, Susan Peterson-Lubow, Jamy Pfister, Jim Sheehan, Jay Thomas, Hannah Wilson, John Wilson, and Carol Zaleski. Staff Liaison Carol Burch.

**Absent:** Alan Beste, Brittany Boldizar, Anneliese Eggert, Don Hart, Derek Jansen, Ellen Johnston, Blake McKay, Wells O'Brien, and Paul Sigfusson.

**Call to Order:** Bruce called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

#### **Review of Rules Committee Responsibilities**

- Make sure items are properly and concisely worded and not in conflict with existing rules or policies and that other affected provisions are considered.
- Legislation coming from committees should be weighed heavily.
- Any recommendation for rejection should be accompanied by clearly stated reason for the rejection.

#### **Procedures**

- Legislative items stated as of May 15<sup>th</sup> may be withdrawn only with the consent of the HOD.
- Any proposal received after May 15<sup>th</sup> is subject to 90% approval.

#### **Legislation**

Items were reviewed and edited as necessary. Recommendations were made for approval, rejection, or for no recommendation. Recommendation on some items was deferred until the September meeting. Attachment E summarizes the recommendations and lists the legislation as edited.

Bruce will contact Don Hougardy to make certain that the edit to R-4 (False Starts) was acceptable to him.

Regarding swimsuits: all items should be edited using the terms "pelvis" and "navel."

There was considerable debate about the wisdom of including swimsuit restrictions (knee to navel for males, pelvis to shoulder for females) in the requirements for approved meets and for observed swims. The legislation is to be presented both ways so that the HOD can decide the matter. Affiliated organizations like NCAA, NFHS, and YMCA are likely to find any such inclusion very troublesome.

Discussion on the approved and available section (swimwear) was postponed until after the Rome Congress.

The draft presented by Bruce (Attachment C) regarding the rule change requiring that swimsuits be on the FINA list of approved suits was approved for publication and distribution. Bruce was going to make one edit which included instructions to contact Mark Shubert with questions regarding Trials or Worlds.

Legislation from the Disability Committee regarding a non-auditory recall device was referred back to the Disability Committee for an explanation as to why this legislation was necessary and to find out what non-auditory recall devices other than a rope are available. Julie will contact Gail Dummer.

Carol Burch will make certain the Registration Manual is posted on the website since legislation includes a reference to it.

Cecil Gordon distributed a report from the task force that studied the use of approved meet status as a means to avoid membership in USA Swimming. (Attachment F).

During discussion on the Code of Conduct, George Block brought up the issue of massages being administered to athletes by coaches who were not licensed to give massages. John Morse and George both feel that a section in the Code of Conduct specifically dealing with this topic would be very helpful, even though other sections of the Code could be used to deal with inappropriate behavior in this regard. George will consult with the Senior Development Committee and with the Board of Directors for suggestions as to how to proceed in this area. Carol Z will ponder the insurance angle.

John Morse explained the findings and recommendations of the task force on membership requirements and the subsequent legislation.

#### Old Business

Pat Lunsford stressed the need to make sure all of the various organizations are included in the discussion about restricted swimwear being included in the list of requirements for approved meets and observed swims.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Bare, Secretary