

Meet Referee Report

2019 Central Zones 14 & Under Championships

West Fargo Site

The meet was conducted from August 1st to August 4th 2019 (inclusive) at the Hulbert Aquatic Center, West Fargo North Dakota. There were just under 670 athletes registered from 9 LSCs with a total of just over 2600 individual splashes. 59 officials from the 9 LSCs plus Wisconsin and Florida signed up for and worked the meet. The meet hosts (West Fargo Flyers and Fargo Moorhead Gaters) did an excellent job supporting the meet with meet volunteers, addressing issues as they arose and keeping the coaches and officials fed with some great food.

The facility (10 lane 50 m pool, with another 25 yd warmup pool) had more than sufficient deck space for this meet and spectator seating is available on both sides above the pool deck. The spectator area didn't fill during this meet. There was a separate room at the back behind the warmup pool for officials which provided plenty of room for meetings and storage. This facility could host a meet twice the size of this zone meet with ease.

The timing system (Colorado Gen 7) had two minor hiccups – one reboot during a swim and a failure of the 50 m starting system to provide adequate volume for starts. The first was addressed by timing adjustments for the heat while the second was addressed by moving timers for the 50 m freestyle events for that session and then fixing the problem between sessions.

A general meeting was held the Wednesday evening before the start of the meet where each team had at least one coach in attendance. Each session was started on time and finished within 10 minutes of the scheduled finish time (either slightly early or slight later due to awards). Events were started at the published time on the session report unless the session was running late, in which case the Deck Referees adjusted the heat interval slightly faster to catch up. After reviewing responses for the previous two Zones meets, additional time was added between stroke cycles for the 10 & Under Sessions. Division 2 finals were added for 3 finals sessions. The approximate session lengths were as follows;

Day/Session	Start Time	Session Length	# of Heats	# of Swimmers
Thursday S1 Prelims	08:40 am	~ 2 hrs 40 mins	46	394
Thursday S2 TF	01:00 pm	~ 2 hrs	26	181
Thursday S3 Finals	05:00 pm	~ 2 hrs 50 mins	32	256
Friday S4 Prelims	08:40 am	~ 2 hrs 20 mins	60	513
Friday S5 TF	12:30 pm	~ 2 hrs 20 mins	30	200
Friday S6 Finals	05:00 pm	~ 2 hrs 50 mins	39	289
Saturday S7 Prelims	08:40 am	~ 2 hrs 30 mins	47	401
Saturday S8 TF	12:30 pm	~ 2 hrs 10 mins	25	167
Saturday S9 Finals	05:00 pm	~ 3 hrs 15 mins	36	285
Sunday S10 Prelims	08:40 am	~ 2 hrs 50 mins	65	547
Sunday S11 1500 m TF	12:30 pm	~ 2 hrs 55 mins	8	69
Sunday S12 Finals	05:00 pm	~ 2 hrs 25 mins	32	243

Timed finals were swum in 8 lanes except for the 800 and 1500 freestyles – where the combined age/gender heats were swum in 10 lanes (the fastest heats of the 800 and 1500 freestyle age/gender events were swum in 8 lanes). Preliminary events were swum in 10 lanes and finals events were swum in 8 lanes. The layout of the officials on deck was made consistent for the 12&Under timed final events that were swum across prelim and finals sessions. All 50 m events – except for the 50 free in session 4 as previously mentioned – were started from the diving well end of the pool (so timers didn't have to move between events). There were no protests that went to either committee at the meet. 322 of the athletes bettered their seed time (many in multiple events). There were 3 zone records set that I am aware of.

After the spread of swimmers in the 800 freestyle (bonus events were entered as NT into Meet Manager), I directed the Administrative Referee to seed the 1500 for bonus swimmers with the fastest time for the event for those swimmers. No bonus swimmer was seeded before a swimmer with the meet q time. The seed times for the bonus swimmers were then replaced by NT in the program. This potentially saved 10 minutes in the session. I recommend that bonus swims at Zones include the swimmer's seed time for better seeding within an event (the times can be designated as Bonus in the meet program).

The meet was designated an N3 Officials Qualifying Meet with Melissa Hellervick-Bing being the main evaluator. 25 officials were evaluated for N2/N3 ST, CJ, SR and DR at the meet (some for more than one position).

Thank you for the opportunity to work this meet and enjoy the hospitality of West Fargo. I look forward to seeing more Zone and USA Swimming meets being able to take advantage of this facility for our swimmers.



Geoffrey (Phil) Barnes

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