

Meet Referee Report

CZ Open Water Championships- Pleasant Prairie

June 13, 2019 – June 14, 2019

The Central Zone Open Water Championships were held at Lake Andrea in Pleasant Prairie, WI. The athletes had a OW clinic and check in on Thursday June 13 and the competition was held the morning of Friday June 14.

The following LSCs sent athletes: AR (12), IL (107), LE (3), MW (5), MV (3), OZ (48), IN (50), MI (13), IA (25), MN (17), OH (26), WI (81) = Total 390 athletes.

The water temperature race day morning was 69 degrees.

Air temperature race day was 68-72 degrees.

We swam the following schedule:

Open 5K Boys (5 minute gap) Open 5K Girls
13-14 3K Boys (5 minute gap) 13-14 3K Girls
11-12 2K Boys (5minute gap) 11-12 2K Girls
10 & Under 1 K Boys (5 minute gap) 10 & Under 1K Girls

We only had 1 age group race on the water at a time (ie.: Open Boys started 5 minutes later Open Girls started). The next age group was not started until the lake had been cleared and all swimmers were accounted for on land. The Open races have become very competitive with the “National and Jr National Spots” being awarded out of these races. This year our open girls race we had to go to video to confirm the placing of our top 12 girls. This was a long process bc of the video equipment the facility had available at the time. (The RecPlex has since upgraded their video cameras and playback equipment. This new equipment was used at the UANA OW event they held in August)

The safety staff at the RecPlex were outstanding as usual. We had 10 lifeguard kayaks/paddle boards that zone covered the inside of the course. We had 4-5 lifeguards on the beach covering the warm up area and finish area. We had 2 paramedics on site. We had 4 race official boats (2 for the boys races and 2 for the girls races), each race boat had a Race Referee, Asst. Referee, and a captain. As this meet continues to grow I recommended to the RecPlex staff we should consider having 12-15 lifeguard kayaks/paddle boards, they did not see that as a problem.

We had 26 Officials work the meet. 11 officials attended the OW Officials Clinic that I ran the night before.

Our athletes experienced an event that mirrors what they will experience when they go to OW Nationals. This was the 3rd time I worked as the Meet Referee for the CZ OW Championships and I have enjoyed every time. I am excited for the development of our CZ athletes that are interested in the opportunities Open Water competition presents for them. I hope we as a Zone continue to promote this event and help LSCS promote other open water competitions for our athletes.

Tom Lombardo

