

Meet Referee Report

2025 Central Zone South Section Spring Championships

Columbia, MO

March 13-16, 2025

Host: Columbia Swim Club Tigersharks

LSCs: Arkansas, Missouri Valley, Midwestern, Oklahoma, Ozark

Meet Director: Mary Barnes, CSC-MV

Meet Referee: Tracy Meece, ALEX-MN

Administrative Referee: Eliot Winer, ACAC-IA

Facility: Mizzou Aquatic Center at the University of Missouri Student Recreation Complex
8-lane competition course – 50-yard x 25-yard competition course, 25-yard warm-up, cool-down pool.
Colorado Timing System with backstroke ledges. 1 on-deck restroom for coaches and officials only.

Athletes: 523 total athletes including 1 Para Athlete.

Entries by LSC:

LSC	Female	Male	Total Athletes	Entries	Relay	Total
Arkansas	27	33	60	292	43	335
Missouri Valley	98	104	202	777	165	972
Midwestern	34	38	72	265	38	303
Oklahoma	31	23	54	218	26	244
Ozark	71	64	135	552	103	655
Totals	261	262	523	2104	375	2509

Timelines:

Prelims started at 9AM and ran approximately 2 ½-3 ½ hours

Distance on Thursday/Sunday started at 2:10/2:20PM and finished at approx. 3:30PM

Finals started at 5PM and ran approximately 2 ½-3 hours

Time trials ran after prelims each day. 132 Time Trials were entered.

Officials:

	LSC								
	IA	MN	MV	MW	ND	OK	OZ	VA	WI
# of Officials	6	3	23	3	1	1	6	1	3

Evaluations: National evaluators included: Phil Barnes (IA), Tracy Meece (MN), Kevin Hogan (VA), Jim Meece (MN). 13 evaluations were conducted.

Administrative Referee: N3R-1, N3F-1

Deck Referee: N2-1, N3i-1

Starter: N2-1, N3F-1, N3R-2

Chief Judge: N2-1, N3i-1, N3F-2

Issues:

Equipment problems included failures of block fins, backstroke wedges, distance counters and pad malfunctions each day. None caused a re-swim and the MU student worker (Aiden) worked diligently to get equipment swapped out as quickly as possible. Thankfully we ran the meet in 1 pool so enough spares of everything were available. Had we ran the meet in 2 pools for prelims, this would have been a much larger problem.

It was discovered during the meet that the backstroke flags were not in the correct spots on one corner of the pool at the beginning of the meet. This was corrected and the remainder of the meet was swum without any issues. After discussion with the pool staff, these flags had been in the wrong position for several months and no one had noticed.

Athletes were slow to report to the ready room for finals each night. After the first night of finals, I went around the deck and verified that all athletes that should be swimming in finals were present. This allowed us to not wait for the "A" final to report prior to swimming the earlier heats of an event. We did not have to use any alternates until the last day of the meet due to a medical scratch. The announcer reminded swimmers to report several times during finals. The ready-room area became more of a staging area for the A-final parade.

Considerations for Future Meets:

Down-seeding of distance and relays on Sunday caused some confusion. Meet information did not permit athletes seeded in the Top-8 to down-seed if they wanted to swim. The option was given to all athletes. While I understand the intention of wanting the top 8 to actually swim in finals if they are going to swim, it does cause extra work for the admin team to have to exclude those Top-8 from the down-seeding.

Additional Comments:

The Mizzou Aquatic Center is a great facility. Like many facilities, equipment problems can create some challenges. The current staff was great to work with. Mary Barnes, Meet Director and the rest of the host team always made sure whatever was needed was quickly available.

Records Broken (21 total records broken):

Women's 1000 Free, Men's 1650 Free, Women's 50 Fly, Women's 200 Back, Men's 200 Back, Women's 4x200 Free Relay, Men's 4x200 Free Relay, Women's 100 Fly, Women's 400 IM, Men's 400 IM, Women's 100 Back, Women's 500 Free, Men's 200 Fly, Women's 4x100 Free Relay, Women's 1650 Free, Men's 1000 Free, Women's 50 Back, Women's 200 IM, Men's 50 Breast, Women's 4x100 Medley Relay.