

Spring 2023 Region VIII/South Sectional Meet Referee Report
March 9-12, 2023
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Number of officials: 47

Number of officials evaluated: 20

Number of athletes: 490

Number of teams: 53

The meet was conducted in SCY with 2 courses for prelims (girls and boys with course alternating by day) Thursday through Sunday. There were 8 sessions and 4 time trial sessions. The Sunday time trial session was after finals and had just one swimmer trying to achieve a time standard for a national meet later in the spring.

Columbia team and facility personnel did a great job, assisted by a Colorado employee who handled equipment issues as former aquatics manager Chris Hull is no longer at Mizzou. Hospitality was outstanding and appreciated as well. The meet ran well and was adequately officiated, even on Thursday and Friday when some officials are unavailable. Bob Griffiths was our evaluator and generally had positive feedback for the meet as well as the Deck Refs and Starters he evaluated. Officials also had very positive reports of Bob's mentorship and advice. He did recommend moving the starting area platform a few inches back and toward the diving well to give the starters more room. The Admin team was excellent, processing the meet and assisting with resolving any issues. The Region VIII Chair was in attendance for all sessions, and Jay Chambers of USA Swimming also attended multiple sessions.

As time standards were lowered for this meet, it was a little smaller. Several usual teams also did not attend. Since we ran a boys pool and a girls pool for prelims, we added 10-minute breaks between all events, and gave a few additional minutes between events as needed to address tight turnarounds between back-to-back events, particularly the 400 IM and 100 fly, and the 100 breast and 200 fly. We had one disabled athlete participating. One incident report was filed due to an athlete who got a minor cut on their foot in the pool and tracked blood along the deck from the scoreboard competition pool to the diving well. A CJ located the athlete who didn't even realize they were bleeding. The facility crew promptly cleaned the deck.

Judith Deedy