

## **2022 Central Zones 14 & Under Championships – Elkhart, IN**

### **Meet Referee Report**

**Host:** Elkhart United Aquatics

**Meet Directors:** Josh Ptak and Michelle Guipe

**LSCs:** AR, IN, LE, MI, MV, OH, OK, OZ

**Facility:**

Elkhart Health & Aquatics  
200 E. Jackson Blvd.  
Elkhart, IN 46516

Competition Pool: Indoor, ten-lane, 70-meter pool with a depth ranging from 4'-13' (race course is 8'2"-13' deep). Competitor lane lines with Myrtha track starting blocks, Colorado electronic timing equipment and scoreboard. Myrtha backstroke wedges were available for athletes age 11 and over.

There are six athlete locker rooms on the deck level of the aquatic center, three of each gender and a gender-neutral/family locker room for the exclusive use of credentialed non-athlete participants.

Elkhart Aquatics has hosted several large meets including Championship meets at the collegiate level and were well prepared to run a great Zone Meet. Both Meet Directors, Josh and Michelle were present before, during, and after the competition and hands-on throughout the meet.

**Athletes:** There were no athletes with disabilities entered in the meet.

**Entries by LSC:**

2022 IN Central Zone 14 & U Championship - 8/4/2022 to 8/7/2022  
Elkhart IN Elkhart Health & Aquatics 50m, Sanction #: IN22317

		Team List					
	Team	Female	Male	Total Athletes	Entries	Relay	Total
1	AR-AR Arkansas Swimming	21	23	44	194	32	226
2	LEZT-LE Lake Erie Swimming Zone Team	39	27	66	230	38	268
3	MV-MV Missouri Valley	23	21	44	199	32	231
4	OK-OK Oklahoma Swimming	6	18	24	93	16	109
5	IN-IN Team Indiana Swimming	87	90	177	627	40	667
6	MICH-MI Team Michigan	34	35	69	277	36	313
7	OH-OH Team Ohio Swimming	81	64	145	496	40	536
8	OZ-OZ Team Ozark 2022	47	33	80	299	40	339
		338	311	649	2415	274	2689

**Timelines:**

All session timelines were manageable with +/- three hour sessions for prelims, +/- two hour 10&U sessions, and approximately 2.5 hour finals' sessions, giving athletes sufficient time for rest.

**Meet Referee:** Fran Werner

**Administrative Referees:**

Dave Nadler, Lead AR (Thur. and Fri.)

Mike Artim, Lead AR (Sat. and Sun.)

Ann Widdowson, Assistant AR (Thur.-Sun.)

**Officials:**

45 Officials volunteered from the following LSCs:

AR – 2	MI – 0
IA – 2	MV – 4
IL – 3	OH – 10
IN – 18	OK – 0
LE – 2	OZ – 4

Five officials requested and received evaluations at the meet.

**Safe Sport Complaint:**

A parent was escorted to the Meet Referee on deck to make a complaint of a Safe Sport violation. Paul Stauder, the Central Zone Safe Sport Coordinator was called by the Meet Referee to discuss the complaint and ascertain the details needed. Information was gathered by the Meet Referee and Meet Directors and the Meet Referee submitted a written report to Paul with supporting photos.

**Illegal Swimsuit:**

It was brought to the attention of the Meet Referee that a 12 year-old swimmer was competing in a swimsuit not approved by USA Swimming for competition. The swimmer had presented the suit to an official on deck who told the swimmer the suit was legal upon inspection of the FINA logo on the suit. The official, however, neglected to ask the age of the swimmer and therefore the swimmer swam in the suit. After research, it was determined that the suit was indeed illegal for the athlete to compete in due to the athlete's age and a meeting was held with the coach and athlete and it was understood that the suit could not be worn again.

**Considerations for Future Zone Meets:**

Consistency between the Meet Announcement and Hy-Tek file i.e. The 800 and 1500 events required special seeding due to combined age groups and genders.

Consistency in how events are to be seeded across age groups and events.

**Additional Comments:**

All three key leadership officials - Head Administrative Referee, Team Lead Chief Judge and Head Starter - tested positive for Covid within one week of the start of the meet and were unable to attend. Several officials stepped up to fill those roles as well as all who made accommodations to help cover the deck due to a shortage of officials for several sessions.

Representatives from one LSC didn't want the 1500s to be swum multi-aged and mixed genders and took considerable time stating their case, on more than one occasion, to the Meet Referee to change from the Meet Announcement's directive.

There was a disturbance in the stands by a parent, who is also a coach in one of the LSCs, because he felt his child should not have been disqualified for a false start. After the session, he texted several coaches from his LSC with his complaint and continued to complain insisting that officials had to watch the video of the start.

Thank you to for the opportunity to serve our athletes.

Fran Werner