

# MN Swimming: Meet Report

2025 MV Region VIII Speedo Summer Sectionals

Columbia, MO

July 9-12, 2025

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I originally applied to officiate this meet with the goal of completing an N3 DR recertification. I was accepted to be a member of the DR team, but then found out I was not yet eligible for an evaluation since my N3 DR was automatically recertified when I completed an N3 SR recertification. However, since I had made a commitment to this meet, I honored it. I carpooled there with Marcus Stromberg, which afforded me an opportunity to hear about some of his more recent experiences officiating at National level meets. It was a long drive with some great conversations!

There were four MN officials on the assigned team, including Jack Swanson as our meet referee. I reacquainted myself with some officials from other LSCs and met many new officials from MV.

We had a team of four deck referees and starters, but only 3 worked in those roles per session. On my day off from serving as DR, I worked as ST. Our team lead SR was needed in the role of Admin, but he had already created the rotation and Marcus was our lead DR. We met before each session and sometimes had a quick debrief afterwards to make sure we were all working as a team following protocols. Marcus also met with the CJ team at Jack's request to support their understanding and implementation of expected protocols since they were not a very experienced CJ team (some were a bit resistant to Jack's expectations as they had done it a different way in past meets).

In my role as DR I was cognizant of the importance of sticking around after an event to be available to coaches who might have questions about a disqualification and working with Admin to resolve ties in a timely manner. Over the course of the meet I encountered several potential swim-offs - most were resolved with scratches, one actual swim off, and one athlete deferred to another. The coaches were all very respectful and friendly to work with.

We had a very experienced announcer who worked very hard to prepare for the meet and follow the timeline. I learned that it was important to work with him, especially when it came time to blow my short whistles in finals!

When I was not invigilating I attended all officials' briefings. I was disappointed that we did not do introductions in the first meeting - and while I understand that it can be a timely process, there were several of us there who did not know very many officials at the meet! I introduced myself to as many people as I could at the meet since very few officials who had swimmers in the meet came to our social events in the evening.

We were well fed in hospitality - meals and snacks were available throughout each session, so we were never hungry. One of the highlights for many officials and coaches was the candy table!