

Meet Referee Report

10 and Under **Long Course** State Meet – July 27-28, 2024

Jim Hanton

Facility:

1. Pool area somewhat tight on the sides of the pool. The ends were not bad although start end does get a little chaotic during relays.
2. All starts were run from the deep end because RSC only has 8 backstroke ledges.
3. Cool down/ warmup pool is located immediately adjacent in Senior Center. It is a shallow warm-water pool which is probably not optimal.
NOTE: the CD/WU pool was NOT staffed by a lifeguard. Host was aware of this but did not have staff available. Coaches were informed. Although athletes generally behaved this lack of pool supervision was not optimal.
4. Deck seating for swimmers and coaches – there were 329 swimmers entered in the meet. The deck seating appeared to be adequate.
5. Spectator seating – Announcements were made to the spectators about rotating in and out of the first two rows of bleachers which helped “somewhat”. The host, RSC, also tries to enforce a policy of no stadium seats in the bleachers – but again only with qualified success.
6. Auxiliary rooms and space - Hospitality room was good, officials room was good, awards staging area was handled under the bleachers and immediately adjacent to the “Clerk Tent”. That staging worked very well.
7. Timing equipment was great no issues with Colorado, pads, cables
8. Parking seemed adequate but I was there early and parked right up front.
NOTE: I was somewhat surprised at how early many families arrived and parked even though they were not allowed to enter the facility.

RSC Host:

1. Staff of volunteers excellent
 - a. Meet Director – Autumn Kappes does an excellent job
 - b. Timing – two per lane with head timers
 - c. Awards – Staging under the bleachers directly adjacent to the pool, staff was great, very organized , right on time for awards breaks.
 - d. Announcer – very good, very clear.
 - e. Scoreboard (and monitors) - excellent
 - f. Timing table – solid staff with just one issue that was quickly resolved.
 - g. Safety/ Security – no issues
2. Hospitality
 - a. For coaches and officials good, nice big room

Overall meet operation:

1. This LC championship meet for the 10 and under swimmers was on par with the first-ever SC Championship in March. I heard absolutely no complaints or criticisms.

2. The meet ran on the timeline, adequate time for awards, no equipment issues to slow us down. The biggest “problem” is that we built in anywhere from 12-20 minutes award breaks after every event cycle. However, the deck staff and admin were so efficient at processing DQs and results that we consistently picked up 3-5 minutes per award break. By the end, we were approximately 20 minutes ahead of the timeline.

NOTE: pre-meet reconnaissance indicated no swimmer with recovery times less than 25 minutes. So I was not concerned that we ran ahead of the session timeline.

3. The assigned officials team was awesome

a. Kelly Burrows was fabulous as our admin, solid with time reconciliation, awards, time trials, along with Jack Swanson and our Saturday shadow Kerri Neil Storm.

NOTE: might want to consider a dedicated third admin/computer operator. The current staffing plan worked – but it was slightly challenging to reconcile times; monitor radio for calls and close-outs; and generate results for awards.

b. Our Deck Refs (Anne Stout; Bob Crunstedt) and Starters (Gary Albrecht; Pam Jaworski) were consistent, managed the timeline well. Minimal issues with DQ calls from coaches.

c. CJ’s (Ross Reichard; Charlie Vazac; Cosmin Tarau) all worked well together, controlled the officials briefings, followed great radio protocols. Zero missed heats with swimmers.

d. Outstanding turnout of officials. We covered the deck with two officials on the start and turn ends, and three stationary stroke officials on both sides with relief and relay take off coverage.

4. The swimmers appeared to swim well.

a. There were 54 Zone cuts made by 10 & U swimmers.

NOTE: Interestingly there were more boys than girls that made Zone cuts.

b. 87.3% of all swims were champ cuts or better

c. There were a total of 9 individual DQs and 3 relay DQs.

NOTE: the relay DQs were all dual-confirmed (either false starts or early takeoffs)