

2024 MN Senior Short Course State Championship

Meet Report

Date: March 31, 2024

By: Bruce Green, Meet Referee

Facility: University of Minnesota Aquatic Center

The University of Minnesota Aquatic Center once again was the site of a MN Swimming Championship. It is an excellent facility with a very supportive staff.

All aspects of the facility are very good. Timing equipment, scoreboard and public address system all worked well. Noteworthy was the availability of the latest Colorado timing console. It is better than the previous versions and produces quality timing reports. The scoreboard was also excellent with its new graphics.

Colorado Backstroke start wedges were used and functioned well.

Automatic relay takeoff equipment was used and appeared to function correctly. More on this below.

As usual, plenty of deck space, seating and warmup space.

Pre-meet

I reviewed and made recommendations regarding the meet information. I continue to find the template problematic. Information regarding various aspects of the meet can be found in different places.

A general meeting was held the night before the meet started. There was an issue sharing the presentation but after a few minutes we were able to start the meeting and it ran without any issues.

Thursday scratch and check-in was done online and that proceeded without problem.

Warm-ups

Just prior to the meet a decision was made to emphasize the slip-in entry policy. This was highlighted during the general meeting. Officials monitoring the warm-up were given the following instructions:

- If an athlete was observed not slipping in (i.e. dive, jump) then the official would attempt to identify the athlete and their team.
- They were not to physically interrupt the athlete. Rather, when an appropriate moment occurred they should attempt to signal to the athlete to exit the pool for identification purposes.
- The official would report to the Meet Referee anyone observed and identified as not using a slip-in entry.

To my surprise, I was also watching warm ups, we did not observe anyone violate the policy.

Competition

The meet ran without any serious issues. There were some minor delays but nothing out of the ordinary.

Officiating

We had a very good team of officials who adjudicated and administered the meet. The Chief Judge team, led by Jack Swanson, did an excellent job preparing the officials, managing them on-deck and executing all of their various duties very well. It was the best run deck I've seen at a MN Championship.

The administrative team of Linda McKee and Marcus Stromberg performed their role at a very high level. Results were produced in a timely manner and they kept coaches well apprised of changes.

All in all, each official in attendance performed their duties as expected or above.

Several officials successfully completed national officiating evaluations. All of the feedback I received regarding this was positive.

Recommendations

1. The meet announcement can be better organized. I'd suggest that the senior and officials committee prepare the first draft rather than having MN Swimming staff to do this.
2. A question arose with regard to an acceptable method for proof of times. If the senior committee would like to accept more than what is described in the meet announcement I recommend they produce a written addendum which clarifies other acceptable methods.
3. While the automated relay take-off policy is clear, if you read it a few times, the reasoning behind it is not. While it mimics the college rules there appears to be a common desire to understand the logic behind it. I suggest the Senior Committee

consider some education regarding this. I also would have liked a better understanding of how the technology worked and was configured. Better information and education on its use should be considered by the Officials committee.

4. The Senior committee provide some guidance as to the pace of finals. Especially with respect to the amount of recovery time between events. I used a minimum of 20 minutes.
5. In my opinion finals ran too late into the evening due to a 6:30 PM start. I'd recommend an earlier start time.
6. Two sets of starter/referee teams meant those officials didn't have much time off and that limited their ability to do anything else such as organize swim-offs. I'd recommend another team or at least one additional referee.
7. Recruiting at least three admin officials (1 lead, 2 assistants). Linda and Marcus could have used a bit of help. We were fortunate that they are very good at performing the role.