

**Meet Referee Report**  
**10 and Under State Meet – March 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Gary Albrecht**

**Facility:**

1. Pool area somewhat tight on the sides and ends of the pool. Start end quite tight for timers, officials, and swimmers staging especially during relay events.
2. Cool down/ warmup pool very good
3. Deck seating for swimmers and coaches– due to the fact that there were over 500 swimmers the deck was jam packed, after relays we lost almost 200 swimmers and the deck was much better.
4. Spectator seating – probably the only real sore spot, many complaints by parents that they couldn't get in to see their kids swim. Multiple announcements were made to the spectators about rotating in and out when their kids would swim but it was ineffective.
5. Auxiliary rooms and space - Hospitality room was good, officials room was good, awards staging area was good.
6. Timing equipment was great no issues with Colorado, pads, cables
7. Awards platform was good, very visible to spectators.
8. Parking seemed adequate but I was there early and parked right up front.
9. Facility Manager – they provided us with a radio at the timing table to have direct contact with them in case of an emergency or equipment issue.

**Foxjet Host:**

1. Staff of volunteers good
  - a. Timing – two per lane with head timers
  - b. Awards – Staging under the bleachers directly adjacent to the pool, staff was great, very organized , right on time for awards breaks.
  - c. Announcer – same guy each day, really good, acoustics system just updated, very clear.
  - d. Timing table – solid staff no issues with the Colorado or Meet Manager.
  - e. Safety/ Security – no issues and were visible, we had a few parents wondering on deck but quickly removed.
2. Provided a GREAT experience for the swimmers
  - a. At the beginning of each session they played a video of Regan Smith wishing all the swimmers good luck and to have a great meet, awesome touch.
  - b. Each swimmer at the meet was presented a USA Swimming tote bag with stickers, sun glasses and treats
  - c. Top three finishers in each event were given a stuffed animal at awards with their medals
3. Hospitality
  - a. For coaches and officials good, nice big room
  - b. Had food trucks outside for spectators which was well received

4. Purchased shirts for officials with meet logo on them

**Overall meet operation:**

1. This is my opinion and also the opinion of many of the coaches and parents – This separate meet truly felt like a championship meet for the 10 and under swimmers. This was an opportunity for these younger swimmers to be in the spotlight the entire meet and not feel like they were an add on session to the age group meet. The kids were super excited to be there and it made for a really fun atmosphere.
2. The meet ran right on the timeline, adequate time for awards, no equipment issues to slow us down.
3. The assigned officials team was awesome
  - a. Kim Togstad was fantastic as our admin, solid with time reconciliation, awards, time trials, along with Amber Berry and our Saturday shadow Jennifer Cadwell.
  - b. Our Deck Refs and Starters were consistent, managed the timeline well. Minimal issues with DQ calls from coaches.
  - c. CJ's all worked well together, controlled the officials briefings, followed great radio protocols. Zero missed heats with swimmers. Special shout out to Anne Stout for her close contact with me preparing jurisdiction and protocol documents prior to meet weekend. It was also a huge plus that she was with the host team and had good communication with the meet director and host staff.
  - d. Outstanding turn out of officials, we got a late surge of ST officials so we were able to cover the deck with three officials on the start and turn ends, and lead / lag officials on both sides with relief and relay take off coverage.