

Meet Report- 11-14 Age Group State March 20-23, 2025

I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be the meet referee at the 11-14 State Meet in March 2025. The host team, NSAC, the University of MN staff, and the officials team all worked well together to put on a well run, fair, safe, and fun competition for the athletes. I truly feel privileged to have been a part of it.

The following aspects were big positives of the meet and how it was run:

- NSAC was an amazing host. Andrea, their lead volunteer, has run so many meets that she has the food, the volunteers, and the organization down to a science. Rory also kept everything organized and was always willing to jump in whenever and wherever needed to help (timer, medal organizer, help with hospitality, etc).
- The University of MN staff are wonderful. The smallest of issues they were quick to look into and fix- was that button not working correctly? Was there a problem with that ledge? They are quick and efficient and great to work with.
- We had a great group of officials who were also willing to do whatever was needed to help the meet run smoothly. A CJ jumped in as a starter to make the 1650 session run more easily. A couple stroke and turn officials were willing to be CJs when we needed a couple extra. Everyone had an attitude of willingness to serve however needed for the benefit of the athletes.
- The officials made well articulated and accurate disqualification calls.
- A big shout out to all the coaches for helping their athletes and parents know when to be at the pool and when the various heats were swimming (11-12s some in am, some in pm, relay downseeding, etc) as we had no missed swims the entire weekend (not counting people being sick or choosing to not come). We had no frantic requests for changes in downseeding. Everyone followed the process, knew the process, and it worked. And the admins performed amazingly in keeping it all organized and accurate.
- We also had no Policy 250 violations which meant that every athlete sat and slipped in every time (at least that we saw).

The following were possible areas of improvement for the meet:

- The meet information was unclear about how many heats of the 500 were to swim with finals (the 500s were discussed on two different pages, the second of which could have been interpreted to contradict the first). This ultimately led to a meet jury which decided in favor of the way the meet referee had interpreted the meet

information (1 heat of boys 11-12s, 1 heat of girls 11-12s, 1 heat of boys 13-14s, 1 heat of girls 13-14s in finals).

- In addition, the meet information had incorrect information about when scratches were due for Thursday's events (meet info said Wed at 5:30 pm but rulebook says scratches are due 15 minutes after general meeting ends which was significantly later). Even though several of us read the meet information before it was published, perhaps we need an outside person with attention to detail to scrutinize it and double check it.
- I didn't think through the timeline Thursday night well enough or communicate well enough with the announcer so we held athletes waiting behind the blocks for 5 minutes before a finals heat even when they were ready to swim.
- I could have communicated better with the lead officials about some of my expectations both before and during the meet.
- The medal distributor did not send the correct number or type of medals which made for some scrambling on Sunday to enable athletes to get photos with medals.
- Understandably, officials sign up at the last minute and/or change their plans. That does create a challenge to make sure we have enough officials as well as to ensure that we officiate prelims and finals in the same way.

Thank you for this opportunity. I am honored to have worked with such amazing coaches, officials, and volunteers to work as a team to put on this meet.

Kerra Mayor