

**Meet Referee Report**  
**LC Senior State Meet – July 31-August 3, 2025**  
**Tracy Meece**



**Facility: Hulbert Aquatic Center (West Fargo, ND)**

1. Seating around the pool deck was more than adequate for all swimmers/coaches. Bleacher seating with room for lawn chairs for coaches that chose to bring them.
2. Utilized staging area in warm-up pool area during finals which helped to ease the congestion behind/around the timers.
3. General open warm-up was conducted with assigned lanes for 1-way sprints/pace for the last portion of warm-ups. Backstroke ledges were available for use. Warm-up pool was open for warm-ups during the duration of warm-ups and the competition.
4. Backstroke ledges were available for all lanes.
5. Spectator seating – Stadium seating!! More than enough as the seating runs the full length of the natatorium on both sides.
6. Auxiliary rooms and space - Hospitality room was fabulous, officials' room was large with seating for all, awards staging area was good.
7. Timing equipment had no issues. Gen 7 Colorado Timing System for all sessions.
8. Award platforms were great, very visible to spectators on the lane 1 side of the pool. This was announced in the General Meeting so that parents could be prepared for photos.
9. Parking was good. FREE parking with overflow in HS parking lot within a couple of blocks.
10. Facility Manager – Facility staff were great at dealing with any issues that occurred. Lifeguards and staff were always prepared to deal with anything that came up.
11. No glass facility. Large signs were posted outside as you entered the pool with reminders for everyone.

**Red Dragon Swimming Host:**

1. Staff of volunteers
  - a. Timing – two per lane with head timers.
  - b. Awards – Staging in warm-up pool area, staff was great, very organized, right-on time for awards breaks.
  - c. Announcer – Same announcer for all sessions. Was great at making announcements when requested and kept meet flowing.
  - d. Timing table – Facility staff ran the timing table. No issues.
  - e. Safety/ Security – Lifeguards on duty for entire meet. Coach/Official/Athlete credentials were checked before entering pool deck. One issue of a team giving their coach credentials to parent on last day.
2. Provided a GREAT experience for the swimmers, coaches and officials.
  - a. Athlete bags – Swim cap, massage rollers, stickers and a stress ball.
  - b. Official/Coach bags - MN Swimming beverage cup, fidget pen, stress ball and stickers
  - c. Bag tags were given to swimmers/coaches/officials at the meet.
3. Hospitality
  - a. Meals for coaches and officials available for breakfast and dinner with a variety of snacks/beverages available at all times. Lunch was available on Sunday as many coaches/officials did not leave the facility between prelims and distance.
  - b. Concessions were available for spectators.

## **Officiating Personnel and Protocols:**

1. With this meet running 3 ½ days, and relays running in finals (prelims & finals on Sunday), there were times when we weren't sure what deck coverage would be like. THANK YOU to all officials that helped out during the weekend. 29 officials from 3 LSCs helped at some point during the meet!!
2. This meet was set up as an Officials Qualifying Meet (OQM) for officials to be evaluated. Phil & Kerry Barnes from Iowa Swimming were our National Evaluators for the meet. 5 officials received evaluations during the meet.
3. The deck was set with 2 stroke judges walking the sides of the pool. A couple of the sessions we would have had enough officials to also have turn judges but since that was not the case for all sessions we remained consistent with the 2 stroke judges on each side for all sessions.
4. Protocols were sent out to officials prior to the meet. During the meet the Chief Judges then worked with officials to ensure that the protocols were being followed. There were a few adjustments made during the meet, and officials adapted quickly to those changes.
5. The assigned team was amazing!
  - a. Justin Haycraft and his team of admins worked to ensure seeding was accurate and results from each session and programs for the following sessions were sent to teams after each session. Time Trials (when offered), Seeding for Finals/Prelims was always timely. The admin team included Kerry Barnes, Jim Meece, Lisa Montplaiser and Anne Knapp. The only re-seed required was due to a medical scratch in finals.
  - b. Deck Referees did a fantastic job of keeping the timeline given, adjusted well to changes in protocols (backstroke events) and worked great as a team. DR team included: Scott Hauch and Phil Barnes.
  - c. Team Lead Starter Gary Albrecht set the rotation for starters and deck referees. All starters and deck referees worked well with each other and covered for each other when needed. SR team also included Pat Thompson.
  - d. Team Lead Chief Judge Chris Hetzler set the tone for the officials working the deck. He and his team (Deb Slack & Kelly Robole) worked together to set the deck, give stroke briefings (at all sessions due to officials coming and going throughout the meet) and explain protocols for the meet.
6. Radios were used throughout the meet. Chief judges notified swimmers of disqualifications.
7. No protests were received during the meet so the meet committee/jury was not called together.

## **General Comments:**

1. With this meet being held in West Fargo requiring most teams to need to travel to the meet, the meet was slightly smaller than other years. The facility is beautiful and Red Dragons did a phenomenal job hosting the meet.
2. No Policy 250 violations were observed during the meet. THANK YOU to coaches for educating your athletes and to the athletes for being safe!

I would like to thank the Committee for providing me the opportunity to serve as meet referee for this meet. With the help of the host, the volunteer officials, and the facility staff we provided a fun, safe, fair meet for everyone entered in the meet.