

# 2025 Region VIII Sectionals Report

## Officiating Sessions at the 2025 Spring Speedo Sectionals Swim Meet

The 2025 Spring Speedo Sectionals swim meet held in Columbia, MO, was a remarkable event, both in its organization and execution. As an official, I had the unique opportunity to demonstrate flexibility by splitting my assignments between two distinct roles. Over the course of the meet, I served as a deck referee for four sessions and as a starter for another four sessions.

Split assignments are not typically the norm at these meets, marking this experience as particularly noteworthy. This flexibility was crucial, allowing me to adapt seamlessly to the varying demands of both roles. The meet itself was run exceptionally well, reflecting the meticulous planning and dedication of the organizing committee.

During my tenure as a deck referee, I encountered a situation where a relay team was disqualified for a false start. This required me to engage in a discussion with the coach, ensuring that the decision was clearly communicated and understood. Such interactions are an integral part of maintaining the integrity and fairness of the competition.

Additionally, the meet provided an invaluable opportunity to reconnect with several national-level officials I have had the pleasure of working with in the past. These professional relationships are vital, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose within the officiating community.

In summary, the 2025 Spring Speedo Sectionals swim meet in Columbia, MO, was a testament to the high standards of competitive swimming and the collaborative efforts of officials dedicated to upholding these standards. My dual role as both deck referee and starter underscored the importance of flexibility and adaptability in officiating, contributing to the smooth and successful running of the event.

Last, I wanted to note that my glasses were once again sent flying into the pool while working relay take offs from the lane position. This time, however; the meet did not have to be delayed. The last swimmer retrieved them from the bottom of the pool while the awards were being presented.