

2025 Toyota US Open Report

I had the privilege of being accepted to officiate the 2025 Toyota US Open in Austin, TX as a stroke and turn official. Mike Dilly was the Meet referee and John G. was our Team Lead. This was by far the best experience I have had at a national meet so far in my limited career.

The hospitality was outdoors, as I am told it normally is in Texas, and it was good, however they only provided snacks during the 1500's on the first day. After that we were served breakfast and dinner. Boxed lunches were dropped off in the officials' room for lunch.

The facility and the officials did seem to but heads a few times regarding things like chairs and towels. I believe the phrase "that's how we do it in Texas Aquatics" was said more than once. The time trials entry and seeding process was done in accordance with how Texas Aquatics does it rather than what is standard for USA Swimming. The time trials ref did state that once her team and the coaches were used to it, it did work rather well. Overall deck space was limited compared to the U of M or to Greensboro as well.

The first night I worked the left and right chair positions for the 1500 session. I was then rotated through all positions at least one during the meet. I was also assigned as a CJ for the day-two Time Trials session. I did not have to walk stroke during any of the finals sessions, so I did not have to avoid the Toyota 4Runner TV camera, but I did get pictures of it.

The overall mood of this meeting was light and fun from my perspective. Very similar to the Pro Series meet I worked in March. Much less stressful than Futures. I met quite a few officials who were new to me and caught up with several whom I have not seen in some time. I would strongly encourage any qualified official to apply for this meet.