

## Speedo Sectionals Meet – July 2023 in Des Moines IA

1. MY ROLE
  - a. Assigned Starter – all sessions
2. VENUE
  - a. Pool
    - i. Lanes – 8 1/2
    - ii. Deck Space – bit crowded
    - iii. Spectator seating – great views, very expensive admittance, not split by session.
    - iv. Scoreboard - adequate
    - v. Start Area – cramped, not room for table, start area, officials traffic, etc.
    - vi. Timing System – lost power several times due to ad hoc power cables across the building to outlets.
    - vii. Issues? – the ½ lane was confusing visually to SR/ DRs
  - b. Officials' meeting room: shared with coaches lounge but no conflict, pleasant, accessible
  - c. Hospitality: Good when we had it. Sessions went to almost 2 pm and there was no lunch served the first two days.
  - d. Restrooms: far away from the start area, required long absences to get there.
  - e. Parking: expensive downtown ramps nearby
  - f. Lodging: expensive hotels nearby, very noisy streets at night. Cheaper to stay outside of downtown and pay for daily parking (which you have to do anyway at the Hotels)
3. MEET MANAGEMENT
  - a. Leadership team
    - i. Meet Referee: first time at this level, courteous, knowledgeable and so calm. Set nice tone.
    - ii. Admin: first time at this level, some hiccups
    - iii. TLCJ: courteous, knowledgeable, helpful
    - iv. TLSR: none: two starters only per session with OOF, no breaks, various starters and DR worked through for evals. I was the only constant in the Start Area staffing.
  - b. Deck staffing: adequate but thin. Most Iowa Officials had followed the MR to the Ohio meet.
  - c. Time lines: not unusual.
  - d. Awards: adequate
  - e. Timers: VERY short staffed. One per lane. Several sessions with delayed start due to few timers
  - f. Pool Staff: knowledgeable, helpful
4. POSITIVE COMMENTS / over all
  - a. Fast meet, coaches were happy overall
5. COULD IMPROVE COMMENTS / over all
  - a. Get commitments from timers
  - b. Plan for lunch
  - c. Only two starters with OOF as well, never got breaks.
  - d. Traffic management for the 50 free starts was terrible.
  - e. Get the power situation fixed for the timing table.
6. LEARNED TAKE AWAYS / over all
  - a. Thoroughly enjoyed starting all weekend and feel that I hit them all, pretty much. Good to see how long I could hold my focus day to day and throughout a session with no breaks.
  - b. Nice to see our evaluator, Bob Griffin, from decks long ago.
  - c. Don't pay to stay downtown.
7. OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE EXPERIENCE
  - a. Positive, except for the timer scramble every session.