

Speedo Sectionals Meet – February 2023 in Fargo ND

1. MY ROLE

- a. Stroke and Turn

2. VENUE

- a. Pool
 - i. Lanes 10 for prelims, 8 for finals – 0 and 9 empty
 - ii. Deck Space
 1. Turn end was crowded with large concrete bases for diving platforms
 2. Start end on bulkhead was crowded due to fixed benches for timers
 3. Stroke area was clear, safe and easy to use
 - iii. Spectator seating – both sides 9 feet above deck
 - iv. Scoreboard – only on one end, hard to read
 - v. Start Area – crowded and full of traffic because there was no access behind timing table. Awards parades went through Start area.
 - vi. Timing System - adequate
- b. Officials' meeting room: close to pool, cool and conditioned, large, quiet, well lit.
- c. Hospitality: Close to pool
Well stocked and well-staffed, commercial and homemade offerings.
- d. Restrooms: All on deck adults required to use family changing room individual rest rooms.
Could be long waits.
- e. Parking: Ample, free and close to doors. Well maintained in blizzard conditions
- f. Lodging: Many choices within a mile or two and well-priced.

3. MEET MANAGEMENT

- a. Leadership team – CJs were great in the meetings with protocols and deck staffing, etc.
- b. Deck staffing – thin, two each end and 4 stroke, sometimes 2 reserve and 2 relief
- c. Time lines – only a couple hours both prelims and finals
- d. Awards – staff did not order awards correctly so they were promptly removed from the swimmers after the photo op. Parades were not organized well first night, ceremony not very special, and parade went through Start area every night.
- e. Pool Staff: Gracious and accommodating, but not familiar with this level of meet.

4. CONDUCT OF THE MEET

- a. Jurisdictions / Coverage: Thin, see above.
- b. DQ processing: Convolutd. Call radioed in by CJ, excessive questions by DRs, several return visits by CJ to official and walking back to DR. This was before there was any kind of coach inquiry. CJs were out of position frequently because of this. DR only spoke directly to the observing official if there was an inquiry.

5. POSITIVE COMMENTS

- a. Fun fast meet for the swimmers, coaches seemed pleased with the meet.
- b. Phil Barnes was Evaluator and offered much wisdom and anecdotes at Officials briefings.

6. COULD IMPROVE COMMENTS

- a. More staffing on deck
- b. The Weather... blizzard conditions every day.

7. LEARNED TAKE AWAYS

- a. The meet did not need 4 SR/DRs, reduced to 3 each and worked fine.
- b. As a ST, I did not see much of the behind the scene mechanics of the meet. But overall, the start end and start area layouts should be reviewed to reduce congestion.

8. OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE EXPERIENCE

- a. Glad to contribute as the meet was so thinly staffed and such an important meet for the Swimmers.