

## **Speedo Sectionals Meet – March 2024 in Iowa City IA**

### **1. MY ROLE**

- a. Assigned Deck Referee 5 sessions and substitute TLCJ (one session – first day of chase starts, as I was the only one on deck that had ever done them.)

### **2. VENUE**

- a. Pool
  - i. Lanes – 8 – CHASE STARTS prelims
  - ii. Deck Space - good
  - iii. Spectator seating - good
  - iv. Scoreboard - good
  - v. Start Area – spacious, some traffic
  - vi. Timing System - good
  - vii. Issues- none
- b. Officials' meeting room
  - i. Comments: Close, ample, good whiteboard and radio charging area. Snacks.
  - ii. Windows to pool deck
- c. Hospitality: Close, ample. Windows to pool deck
- d. Restrooms
  - i. Comments: single user restroom on deck by timing table. Busy, long waits
  - ii. Large, clean RRs upstairs behind spectator seating. Took a bit of time to get there.
- e. Parking: Lots and Ramps nearby.
- f. Lodging: Plenty and variety available nearby

### **3. MEET MANAGEMENT**

- a. Leadership team MR, 4 DRs, 4 SRs, 5 CJs
  - i. Evaluations for 2 DRs (1 for N2), 3 Starters and 3 CJs; varying experience levels were managed and learned from.
  - ii. First time MR –
    1. Team Meeting: expressed appreciation of all team members. Would have liked more detailed guidance to the group on cross-disciplinary aspects: explain the leadership structure and delegated tasks.
    2. General Meeting mostly handled by pool staff and ADM.
    3. Protocol for inserting Alternates was developed Sunday night when needed.
    4. Assigned one starter as eval for N2 DR so he had radio disruptions when he started.
  - iii. First time TLCJ – nice job setting up pre-session tasks and supporting on deck during swims.
  - iv. TLSR: when chase starts became the last minute directive this position was overburdened with reworking DR/SR protocols. Needed to revise for paper flow in boxes for two pools racing same events, setting up Swim-offs and other duties as all four SR/DR were on duty the full sessions.
    1. SR/DR Assignment sheets were all redone for chase starts and also often modified just before session to accommodate evals.
    2. CJs could not access DR programs as the DRs kept the entire set on their person.
    3. TLSR was not able to be connected to the CJ team or as a liaison to the Deck Refs and MR because was on deck constantly with chase starts, either starting or OOF.
    4. TLSR was not on the radio and did not know what is going on; unfortunately admonished a DR for actions observed rather than investigating what was going on, which they could not hear.
- b. ADMIN – team of 4, trading jobs daily. Some stepped-on toes, apparently with the paper flow. DRs got caught in that not knowing who was handling what each day.

- c. Deck staffing
    - i. Friday and Saturday chase starts were staffed 2 lanes per judge each end and had four stroke each side for chase starts. Sunday was down to 4 lanes per judge each end. Start end protocols applied to both ends.
    - ii. Stroke teams were amazing, following protocol, getting out of each others' ways and into their chairs.
  - d. Time lines – held, improved second day of chase by supplemental DR instructions.
  - e. Awards – top three, immediately after A final.
  - f. Timers – 16 each end at most sessions
  - g. Pool Staff – gracious, knowledgeable, good trouble shooting.
4. CONDUCT OF THE MEET
- a. Jurisdictions / Coverage – flags in, heads up out; wall to wall; backstroke toes for ledges and starts.
  - b. DQ processing – choppy. Language of the rule was frequently not used by the reporting CJ, nor location of the infraction. Some CJs were slow at recognizing hands up in their jurisdiction, problematic at finals. Both of these were addressed and improved over course of meet.
  - c. No-show / DFS processing - paperless
  - d. Scratch procedures – typical NC.
5. POSITIVE COMMENTS / over all
- a. STs were all great, wanting to learn and following new protocols.
  - b. DRs and CJs had varying experience but were collegial and improved cheerfully over the meet.
  - c. Starters all good.
  - d. Great venue!
6. COULD IMPROVE COMMENTS / over all
- a. Leadership organization and provisioning by MR when chase starts were implemented.
7. LEARNED TAKE AWAYS / over all
- a. Always sniff out turf wars before you get caught up in one.
  - b. Seek out the collective wisdom of the experienced hands on deck to build and support teams.
8. OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE EXPERIENCE
- a. I'd go there again.