

## **Winter Juniors – West, Austin TX – December 2024**

### **1. MY ROLE**

- a. Stroke and Turn
- b. Time Trials Starter

### **2. VENUE**

- a. Pool
  - i. Lanes: pair of 8 lane short course pools
  - ii. Deck Space: tight at various pinch points
  - iii. Spectator seating: plenty, in bucket chair-type seating
  - iv. Scoreboard: only one, large multi screen
  - v. Start Area: Womens pool was crowded and needed management for pedestrian traffic.
  - vi. Timing System: Omega Timing system with Dak scoreboard and Meet Manager
  - vii. Issues: Equipment was reliable and the few issues were addressed immediately and efficiently.
- b. Officials' meeting room
  - i. Designated room was too small for meetings of full deck crew. Prelims meetings were held in a remote building 3 blocks away. Finals briefings held in the small on-site room were split for ST and then for relief, reserve and stroke.
- c. Hospitality
  - i. Food was reliably good. Lunches always in boxes with generous sandwiches and sides. Hospitality was located outside one end/corner of the pools. Bit difficult to get over and back on a break.
- d. Restrooms
  - i. One single occupancy RR each start end of pools. Some awaiting involved
  - ii. Large restrooms on next floor up, one gender each end of the pools.
  - iii. Generally a hike or a wait.
- e. Lodging
  - i. Clean, quiet, well managed.
  - ii. 0.75 mile walk to pool plus additional blocks for prelim meeting room.

### **3. MEET MANAGEMENT**

- a. Leadership team: Experienced, gracious and skilled at the roles.
  - i. Eight (?) CJs but only 3 ever spoke in the meetings. Same one did deck set up, same one managed the agenda and same one gave jurisdiction and protocols. No questions were allowed in the meetings. This seemed counterproductive as the information sought would apply to many present and had to be hand transmitted individually later.
  - ii. Non-speaking CJs seemed to be a bit behind once on deck as to what the set up was to be. Parading, especially on bulkhead at finals, was not well communicated prior to being in action, then audible-modified to coordinate both sides and both ends.
- b. Deck staffing:
  - i. Prelims: bulkhead: two lanes apiece on bulkhead,  
start end: official as timer one per lane, ST two lanes apiece.
  - ii. Finals: one lane apiece on bulkhead  
start end: official as timer one per lane, ST two lanes apiece.
  - iii. Distance: counting one lane apiece on bulkhead, back to back.

- c. Time lines: reasonable and followed quite accurately.
- d. Awards: Short and sweet, top 3 after each A-final.
- e. Timers: all volunteer timers did not show up first day and straggled in over later days.
- f. Pool Staff: Invisible, efficient.

4. CONDUCT OF THE MEET

- a. Jurisdictions / Coverage: two lanes at start end plus operating a button on one lane lead to some early button pressing for which I received a commendation certificate. 😊
- b. DQ processing – reserves stepped in timely to allow for official to step off with CJ.
- c. NA
- d. Time Trials:
  - i. Only three days with rotation of 3 pairs of DR/SR through the one hour sessions. TTMR divided shifts by time rather than number of heats. I was lucky in that I got both the 50 frees and 11 heats overall, twice as many as others.
  - ii. Constructive feedback was spare and not well thought out, nor useful.

5. POSITIVE COMMENTS / over all, enjoyable.

6. COULD IMPROVE COMMENTS / over all: walking distances, restrooms

7. LEARNED TAKE AWAYS / over all: great to see old friends and make new. Very little by way of teaching, mentoring or interaction with CJs on the finer points of protocols and rules.

8. OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE EXPERIENCE: hope I can go again!