



Winter Juniors East ~ Indianapolis, IN December 10-13, 2025

Tracy Meece

I had the opportunity to attend the Winter Juniors East meet in Indianapolis, IN this past week. This meet ran prelims in 2 pools and finals combined in the evening. Time trials were held after each preliminary session. I served as a stroke and turn official for all sessions at the meet. For time trials I served as admin referee for the 1st day and as stroke and turn for the last 2 days.

Official briefings were held prior to each session. Meeting space for officials was in a "closet" area just off the diving well. The space was tight, but we made it work.

As has been done in recent years, the girls' events were always held in the "main" pool for prelims and finals and boys' events were on the "far" pool for prelims. They did NOT alternate pools by gender each day.

Coach/Official hospitality was located down a short corridor from the diving well. It was stocked with snacks and drinks at all times with meals being served for breakfast, lunch and supper.

The chief judges worked hard to make sure that all stroke and turn officials worked various positions during the meet. Splitting officials for prelims meant that all officials were needed for time trials each day. Prelims staffing: Start end 1 official per lane with officials in even numbered lanes being the stroke judge over 2 lanes and odd numbered lanes being a timer. (Each lane was also staffed with a volunteer timer for prelims and time trials.) 2 stroke judges on each side and 4 officials on the turn end each covering 2 lanes. Finals was similar to prelims with the exception of 2 officials per lane at the start end (timer/relay take off and turn judge). With all finals being swum in 1 pool, there was more relief for those sessions.

Relay judging platforms were utilized at this meet which delayed the start the next race because the deck referee was often still working with the referee watching the timing system and the chief judges to clear take-offs for the heat that just finished.

This meet was live streamed for finals. When walking stroke on the side with the camera, the position of the officials was dictated by the location of the camera. The jurisdiction of the stroke official was the same as usual, but you could not walk as close to the flags as you normally would (and the opposite site mirrored what was being done on the camera side) and had to be aware of where the camera was facing so as not to walk in front of it.

All officials were given an evaluation at this meet. The chief judges completed the evaluations for the stroke and turn officials.

I would recommend attending a higher-level meet outside of the LSC to any official. You will learn new ways of doing things and to visit with friends from around the country.

Swimmingly submitted by
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