



Speedo Summer Championships Irvine, CA July 23-27, 2024

I had the opportunity to attend the Speedo Summer Championship in Irvine, CA last week. I served as an assistant administrative referee for all sessions at the meet. This meet had 5 prelim and 5 finals sessions plus time trials each day. Time trials were held after each preliminary session. This year's meet was a combined Nationals and Junior Nationals meet.

Official's briefings were held prior to the beginning of the meet and before each session. Since the admin crew was typically busy with pre-session duties (scratches, seeding, taking DFS's, etc.) they did not attend these briefings except for the final morning when Derigan Silver (Meet Referee) was presented with his golden whistle.

The meet was classified as a FINA meet and used an Omega timing system during the races. The meet did not utilize under water cameras or timing cameras as they have in past years. Relay judging platforms were also not used this year.

Admin duties were split between Current Session (in the booth above the pool with the Omega crew and Meet Manager computer) and Future Session, with the Resolution Desk set up in the warm-up pool area.

Current session worked with Omega crew to figure out timing discrepancies (which they typically had figured out before we even saw any paperwork), tracked DQ's called in from the deck, notified the Omega staff person working the scoreboard so that DQs/results could be displayed/scrolled correctly after each heat/event and to get initial results to the Resolution Desk.

Future Session admins worked to notify teams of anyone that scratched into a different heat for finals than originally announced, seed finals and proof heat sheets and custom timelines for the next session - this meet had 4 heats in finals with the C and D finals reserved for 18&Under athletes. Admin and the deck referee for the event worked together with coaches to settle ties. Many ties were settled without having swim-offs, but when they were needed, admins worked with the Meet Manager operator to create the swim-off and get the necessary paperwork to Chief Judges to hand out. Future Session admins also worked to seed the next day's events after the scratch deadline passed each night during finals. The lead admin typically stayed at the Resolution Desk with the 2 assistant admins rotating duties each day.

Customer service was extremely important. The admin team worked together to verify athletes/teams that had not positively checked in for distance events or relays so that all that planned on swimming were included in the seeding. This meet required positive check in to be seeded unlike many Sectional meets the weeks prior that allowed athletes/teams to be down-seeded if not checked in. Since this was different for many teams, the admin team went the extra mile to notify/contact coaches to ensure that the athlete did not plan to swim.

Coach/Official hospitality was in an area just off the competition pool. Hospitality was scheduled so that officials and coaches knew when to expect the food to be available. Breakfast included the famous Nova Aquatics made-to-order omelets and an abundance of fresh fruit.

All officials were given an evaluation at this meet. The leads completed the evaluations for their assigned team and the Chief Judges completed the evaluations for the stroke and turn officials.

I would recommend that all officials attend a higher-level meet outside of the LSC. You will make new friends, see old friends and see different ways of doing things at each and **every** meet you attend.

Swimmingly submitted by
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