



## Winter Juniors West Section ~ Westmont, IL December 6-9, 2023

I had the opportunity to attend the Speedo Winter Juniors West in Westmont, IL earlier this month. I served as stroke & turn official for the meet and was given the opportunity to serve as a deck referee for one of the time trials sessions. This meet was scheduled as a 3 ½ day meet with Timed Finals on Wednesday and Prelims/Finals on Thursday to Saturday. Time trials were held after each preliminary session. The meet was swum SCY in with 2 pools for prelims (men and women separated) and 1 pool for finals.

The meet was held at FMC Natatorium in Westmont, IL. The pool is a 9-lane pool with bulkheads to separate the 2 SCY pools. The layout of the pool deck with diving boards requires some tweaking of the protocols typically used at a championship level meets. Officials cannot walk stroke on the lane 9 side of the “main competition/women’s” pool. That meant that stroke officials were stationed at the 15-meter marks for the duration of the session on that pool. Stroke officials did walk stroke on the men’s pool (used only for prelims).

The meet used Omega Timing System. For prelims, the start-end of each pool had 1 volunteer timer (operating stopwatch and a button) and 1 official (serving as turn judge, button operator and bell-ringer as necessary) for each lane. For finals, the start-end had 3 officials working typical right/center/left chair duties. There were 2 stroke judges on each side of the pools and 1 turn judge per lane at the turn end at all times. Reserve and relief officials were stationed at each pool and used during all sessions. Relays were all swum during finals and reserve officials served as relay-take-off officials on the sides of the pool. Relay judging platforms were utilized for take-offs as well.

Officials were given a separate hospitality area that was set up in the officials meeting room. Snacks/beverages were always available, and meals were served after Time Trials and prior to finals each day.

I would recommend that all officials apply to work at a higher level meet outside of our LSC. You meet new officials and gain knowledge of how higher-level meets are ran. While our LSC meets do not have to have the same level of protocols, there are many things that you bring back to the LSC to help our meets run better for our athletes.

Submitted by  
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