



Speedo Winter Juniors West

Austin, TX

December 11-14, 2024

Tracy Meece ~ Admin Referee

I had the opportunity to attend the Speedo Winter Junior Nationals West in Austin, TX last week. I served as the lead administrative referee for all sessions at the meet. This meet had 1 timed finals (relay) session followed by 3 prelim and 3 finals sessions. Time trials were offered on 2 days of the meet (couldn't be more because the college team wanted their pool back as quickly as possible each day). The admin team consisted of myself along with 2 assistant admin referees. At this meet all officials had N3 certification in the position that they worked in.

Officials' briefings were held prior to the beginning of the meet and before each session. The meet referee requested that the admin team have a representative at each briefing if possible. While I tried to have one of the 2 assistant admin referees at the meeting, that wasn't always possible. We did all attend the final afternoon briefing when Phil Barnes (Meet Referee) was presented with his golden whistle.

The facility used a Daktronics timing system for all races. While the meet did not utilize underwater cameras or timing cameras, it did use relay judging platforms, which were monitored by the Head Deck Referee (Derigan Silver). Two pools were utilized for prelims, with men swimming in one pool and women in the other. The women's pool was also used for the Time Trial, Timed Final and Final events.

Admin duties were split between the Current Session (set up at each pool with a timing system operator and Meet Manager (MM) computer operator) and Future Session, with the Resolution Desk set up on deck between the 2 pools.

Current session worked with MM operator and timing console operator 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 announcer so that DQs/results could be displayed/scrolled correctly after each heat/event and to get initial results to the Resolution Desk.

Future Session admin(s) 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 3 heats of finals. Since the admin team was spread between working 2 pools and the resolution desk during prelims, the Head Deck Referee 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 admin team rotated between working current session and the resolution desk.

Customer service was extremely important. The only positive check-in event at the meet was the 1650 Freestyle for each gender. The admin team worked together to verify athletes that had not positively checked in so that all that planned on swimming were included in the seeding. This meet required positive check-in to be seeded unlike other meets that allowed athletes/teams to be down seeded if not checked in. When checking in the 1650s, we also allowed athletes to request to be down seeded and asked them to indicate which side they wanted their counters on during the race. (Officials were doing the counting for distance events unless a swimmer/coach reported to the chief judge prior to the race starting to count for an athlete.)

Coach/Official hospitality was just outside the men's competition pool. As the lead admin, I don't think I made it to hospitality for any meal. Meals appeared to be the same each day (catered boxed lunches with sandwiches).

All officials were given an evaluation at this meet. The leads completed the evaluations for their assigned team (if certified to do so) 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. This was a GREAT meet with AMAZING friends working alongside each other making it a fun meet for both the athletes and officials!