



## Toyota National Championships

Indianapolis, IN ~ June 3-7, 2025

**Jim Meece (Stroke & Turn)**

I had the opportunity to attend the Toyota National Championships in Indianapolis, IN. This meet was ran under World Aquatics protocols. I had the opportunity to volunteer as a stroke and turn for this 5-day meet. This was a multiple international team selection meet and run under World Aquatic Protocols, which are slightly different than a standard meet.

I arrived in Indianapolis on Sunday afternoon (2 ½ days prior to the meet) along with most of the CIT crew, Tracy was on the CIT team so I took an extra day of vacation and spent time looking around Indy.

The meet was held at the Indiana University Natatorium using Omega Timing and backstroke wedges. Finals sessions were broadcast by NBC which brought on the challenge of TV cameras, with a moving camera on wheels, instead of a camera person.... known as "robo-Boy" and "robo-Girl" who joined the meet after robo-Boy took a dip in the pool). The protocols for this moving camera, (yes it a 3D printed model of a Toyota SUV) were basically stay out of the way after the first finals. This involved a 2 sets of 2 stroke officials on that side, the one set behind the "car" was the ones observing, the other set in front of the "car" were hurrying to get to the end of the pool and out of the way. The "car" at times would go right to the end of the pool.



As done at many 5 star meets, broadcasting of Finals by NBC TV means the "timeline" is dictated by the producer. and This meet also had Omega Timing Cameras so the deck was set with 1 official over each lane at the start and turn ends of the pool, along with stroke officials. The Start end officials also operated a stop-watch and a button for back-up timing purposes.

The difference in using World Aquatics' protocols for handling calls on deck boiled down to process for reporting infractions. If a deck official observed an infraction, they would watch the swimmer until the swimmer left their jurisdiction. The official would then walk quickly to the CIT in their quadrant (a reserve official would go to their place). The lane #, the infraction, along with the location in the pool was called in via radio to the deck referee (and video review supervisor). The deck official would then report to the deck referee who would ask any questions they may have, while the video of the race was being reviewed.

The Official hospitality/meeting room was located on the same level behind the diving well, which was behind the curtain at the start end of the pool. Snacks & beverages were always available, and meals were served both before & after Prelims and prior to Finals each day.



This meet included the excitement of several Olympians, and all the excitement of the naming of the USA-S World Championship teams. My main take-away from this meet? BE FLEXIBLE as things are ALWAYS changing!!