



Toyota National Championships

Indianapolis, IN ~ June 3-7, 2025

Tracy Meece ~ Chief Inspector of Turns (CIT)

I had the opportunity to attend the Toyota National Championships in Indianapolis, IN. This meet was ran under World Aquatics protocols. I served as a Chief Inspector of Turns (CIT) which is World Aquatics' equivalent of our Chief Judge. This meet had five days of prelim/finals sessions with the first and last day also having a Timed Final distance session. Time trials were held after each preliminary session.

There were seven CITs at this meet because of the use of underwater cameras. Prior to the meet, several Zoom meetings were held with the CIT crew and the meet referee. These pre-meet meetings included discussions on protocol and plans for briefings. Even with all the planning ahead of time, protocols continued to change up to the beginning of the meet as well as during the meet which is VERY typical of this level meet. As an example, NBC camera placements and pool set-ups often threw a wrench into our plans even though we thought we had thought of everything.

I arrived in Indianapolis on Sunday afternoon (2 ½ days prior to the meet) along with most of the CIT crew and started to do our walk-thru's of the facility. On Monday, an all-assigned team meeting was held with the meet referee. The CIT crew followed up that meeting with more walk-thru's and more planning. The first day's officials meeting was a bit longer than the others as that is the only session where we go thru the Stroke Briefing. Protocol is also briefed in its entirety on the first day so that everyone is prepared for time trials. CITs met both prior to and after each session, with the officials briefings being held 1 hour prior to the session start time for all remaining days of the meet.

The meet was held at the Indiana University Natatorium using Omega Timing. Omega backstroke wedges were also used. Finals sessions were broadcast by NBC which brought on the challenge of TV cameras...including the moving camera affectionately known to the officials at the meet as "robo-Boy" and "robo-Girl" who joined the meet after robo-Boy took a dip in the pool). Broadcasting of Finals also means that NBC TV is in charge of the "timeline" and it is important to try to keep to that timeline. 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 Video Review Set-Up included the TV crew being set up in a classroom just off of the pool deck. There were 5 deck referees watching the swimming shown by the underwater cameras. 4 referees watched 2 lanes each with the fifth referee watching the two 15M cameras. If any of those 5 referees saw an infraction, they would notify the video review supervisor, who was also a referee. They would then use a separate display which allowed them to watch the race in question in slow-motion, along with being able to stop the video and re-wind as needed. The Video Review Supervisor would also review any infractions called from the deck officials in the same manner.

Due to us using World Aquatics' protocols, the process for reporting infractions was also different than how we do it at one of our meets: 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 video review supervisor would let the deck referee know via radio if: 1) video confirmed the call, 2) video overturned the call, 3) video was inconclusive, or 4) there was no video. If #3 or #4 was called, then the deck referee would vet the call like they would at a meet without video. If the call was accepted, then the official and deck referee would complete the World Aquatics Disqualification Form which unlike the USA-S DQ Slip with its checkboxes, is manually written out. The lead CIT would then notify the swimmer at the end of the race. Coaches/Athletes were then given the opportunity to review the swim in Video Review if they requested.

The Official hospitality/meeting room was located on the same level of the natatorium as the competition. Snacks & beverages were always available, and meals were served both before & after Prelims and prior to Finals each day.



Working as a CIT is a position that can be both mentally and physically exhausting. Not only are you always watching the officials in your quadrant of the deck but you are also supporting your team of CITs and watching for anything that would affect the swimmer's races. At this level of a meet, the goal is to be a team of officials moving as one and that means mentoring with gentle reminders.

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!!