

Phillips 66 Nationals ~ Irvine, CA July 26-30, 2022

I had the opportunity to attend the Phillips 66 National Championship in Irvine, CA. I served as Stroke and Turn for all sessions at the meet and time trials. This meet had 5 prelim and 5 finals sessions plus time trials. Time trials were held after each preliminary session.

Official's briefings were held prior to the beginning of the meet and before each session. Due to the meet being classified as a FINA meet an Omega timing system was used along with timing and underwater cameras during the races. Because of the use of the timing cameras, the deck was set with only 1 official at the start end of each lane. This person served as the turn official and as a button pusher at the end of each race. Unlike other FINA meets, the underwater cameras were only used to confirm, overturn, or declare inconclusive a call made on deck by stroke or turn officials.

This meet was live streamed for finals and recorded/shown later for prelims. The live stream for finals meant extra cameras on deck. This meant a little creative positioning of officials at times and the stroke officials had to be always extra aware of the camera's location as to not walk in front of the cameras.

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.

I would recommend attending a higher-level meet outside of the LSC to any official. You make new friends and see different ways of doing things.