

I had the opportunity to attend the Speedo Sectionals East in Columbus, OH earlier this month. I served both a CJ and DR for 2 days in each position for the meet. This meet was scheduled to have 4 days of prelim/final sessions. Sunday finals were canceled due to an incident during warm-ups. Time trials were held after each preliminary session.

The meet was held at "THE Ohio State University."

The most important take away from the meet was how critical a safety plan is for each meet. A swimmer during warm was pulled out the water not breathing and facilities safety plan was activated with lifeguards running the show.

This is a good reminder for all meet refs, hosts, and directors to make sure they know what the safety plan for the facility is, where it is located, how to contact emergency personnel, etc. The facility had a plan and lifeguards on duty many pools do not have lifeguards on duty or located to an emergency room that close.

Swim-offs were set-up as a team effort with the admin team contacting coaches to start the discussion of if/when swim-offs would happen and we kept the deck referee for the event in the loop the entire time.

Coach/Official hospitality was in an area just off the competition pool.

Snacks/beverages were always available, and meals were served after Time Trials and prior to finals each day.

While this meet will not leave the memories of other higher level meets that I've attended, I would still recommend all officials attend a higher-level meet outside of the LSC. You make new friends and see different ways of doing things at each and every meet you attend.

Swimmingly submitted by

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