



September 2017

Eastern Zone Officials Chair Report

Meet Referee Recognition

The Meet Referees for the last round of meets are listed below. Congrats on a job well done by both!

2017 Long Course Senior Zone Championship

August 3-6, 2017

Betsy Russell – Meet Referee

2017 EZ Long Course Age Group Championship

August 9-12, 2017

Meet Referee: Bob Menck

New Zone Officials Chair

Last year at convention I was given the honor of being elected as the Vice Chair of Finance for USA Swimming. Upon being elected I had a discussion with our Zone Directors about the impact of that position and the time required to continue in my role as the Officials Chair. It was a unanimous decision that my tenure as the Eastern Zone Officials Chair would come to an end at convention this year. Not only because of the added responsibility of being on the USAS Board of Directors, but because it is time for someone new to step in and lead us into the future. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the rising pool of talented officials and the fantastic Meet Hosts that we have in the Eastern Zone. There is also no doubt that the experiences that I had working with our professional coaches and dedicated athletes will make me a better board member.

It makes me very proud to announce and have the opportunity to personally endorse the choice of our Zone Directors that Bob Menck will be our new Eastern Zone Officials Chair. While I have worked with Bob at many meets, I got the chance to witness him in action during the Long Course Age Group Championship in Richmond. His ability to manage and mentor our rising stars on deck showed me once again why Bob is the right choice for this position. I look forward to working with Bob to make sure that we continue to provide opportunities for all of our officials.

Meet Referee Reports are attached.

Thank you again for your support during my tenure.

Bob Vincent



2017 Long Course Senior Zone Championship Report
August 3-6, 2017, Buffalo, NY (hosted by Star Swimming)

Athletes	571
Teams	84
Splashes (1 st Round)	2284
DQs – stroke	12
DQs – FS	14
Records Broken	13
Improved times	25%

Preliminary Session timelines were reasonable with Day 1 (including distance) at 4.25 hours our longest session. All others were well under 4 hours. Finals sessions were all completed within 2.5 hours.

The crew of Officials were extremely professional, had a great demeanor on deck and were always willing to do what was asked of them without hesitation. We had 25 Officials, including leadership, over the course of the Meet. Staffing levels were such that there were only 2 DR and 2 SR for prelims and in Finals we often only had one of each. ST covered 4 lanes apiece and depending on staffing, we either had one or two Stroke per side. All sessions but one were run with only 2 CJs.

2 Officials applied for Evaluation prior to the start of the meet. Both were looking to advance to N2 ST. One withdrew evaluation request when work requirements did not allow for him to work more than one session. At the meet several Officials requested evaluations from Frank Ching who gladly accommodated and was an extremely valuable mentor. We had Officials advance to N2 ST and AR, advance to N3 Final CJ, recertify at N2 CJ, N3 ST and N3 SR.

There were no issues brought to my attention regarding the Meet Announcement other than clarifications which were easily found upon (re)-reading the document. Host team and Facility Director were very pleasant and easy to work with. There were equipment issues which were addressed. First equipment issue was the Starter system microphone which had intermittent feedback. On Saturday it was replaced by a new microphone after it became unworkable. I would hope that at future such meets, the Host team and Facility would consider using the new equipment right away rather than setting up equipment with a history of problems.

The second issue we had was with the Colorado system suddenly firing randomly during heats and then ultimately becoming completely unresponsive on Day 4. Saturday's issues were resolved with back up times and Colorado kept working. On Sunday, the Colorado froze completely x 2. The secondary system that was booted up had not been configured to the meet, not even to LC settings. The



subsequent delays could have possibly been reduced had the second Colorado been ready to go. After getting the first problem heat in the water, this second Colorado had the same problem and froze as well. After it became clear that the issue was taking an extraordinary amount of time with no clear indication that they would be able to fix the system, a emergency Coaches' meeting was called and a request was made to the stands for 8 additional timers to report to the deck in case we needed to go to watches as a primary system. The equipment issue was explained to the coaches and it was decided that we would give the Colorado another heat and if it failed again we would go to watches. Coaches seemed satisfied with the plan. Heat went off after significant delay and the automatic timing system managed to work for the rest of the day. Swimmers whose heats were held were allowed to get in pool while issues were being resolved.

Other suggestions I have:

- I would like to have the Facility Director available by radio as it would sometimes take me a significant amount of time to find him to resolve facility/equipment issue.
- That they have a Hy-Tek operator available/scheduled for Wednesday scratch/check in deadlines to be able to prepare the Session 1 meet program in case the Admin Ref/Meet Ref are not Meet Manager fluent. The Meet Director assumed that the Admin Referee would be doing it and no one was there to do the program other than the Assistant Admin and myself.
- That they do not set up the Time Trials in a separate database because it was extremely difficult for Admin to manage entry limits for the meet. Time trials were included in the 7 event limit for this 4 day meet.

Please let me know if there is any other information you would like me to provide.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Russell



2017 Long Course Age Group Championship Report

August 9-12, 2017, Richmond, VA (hosted by Poseidon Swimming)

Meet Statistics:

Number of Teams:	11
Number of Athletes:	1,110
Number of Splashes:	4,706
Individual:	4,209
Relays:	497
Number of Disqualifications:	43
Number of Records Broken:	9
% Best Times:	43%

The meet itself ran well throughout all the sessions. The overall tone of the meet was positive, happy, and very enthusiastic. All sessions came in under the projected timelines with ease and allowed for smooth transitions between sessions.

The meet management team, Poseidon, did an outstanding job as a meet host. They were dealt a terrible blow as the meet began, but at no point did Poseidon let this impact their performance during the meet.

We ran chase starts for all morning sessions with great success. The starts were split by sex rather than odd and even. Thanks to Mike and his crew, as they adapted to yet another Meet Referee with different ideas! The 50 Freestyle was seeded in a chase format as was announced at the Team Manager Meeting. The difficulty switching the Colorado back and forth between heats. In the end, the extra time needed proved to be well spent. The pace was excellent, the noise was manageable, and the athletes received quality starts. Again, thanks Mike!!

There were some items that were left out of the Meet Announcement, the needed information was however found in the Eastern Zone Policy Manual. No time was given for turning in relay cards. No seeding information was provided for distance events. The 11-12 400 Freestyle was a time final event with one heat in finals, as new to the meet, should also have been in the announcement.

The Saturday distance check-in was 6:30, the meet announcement said 7:30. The process for substitution was clearly defined for prelim/finals event but is not defined for a positive check-in event.



There were several athletes treated for scrapes, cuts and bruises throughout the meet. Three athletes did require off site medical attention. We had two swimmers with respiratory difficulties that were both sent via ambulance to the hospital for treatment. In addition, one athlete placed his foot through the grates of a storm drain outside of the pool. His father, and MD arrived and transported his son to the hospital for further treatment. All athletes swam later in the meet. The Aquatic Center staff responded promptly when medical assistance was needed. Their medical transport process was smooth and did not draw undue attention to the situation. Some folks were unaware that we had transported folks to the hospital.

Although the number of officials was light for some of the sessions, we had walk-ons, and others added sessions to help fill the voids. The officials were upbeat, smiling, and did an excellent job throughout the meet. This was an Officials Qualifying Meet (OQM) and many officials were evaluated for upper level certifications. Frank Ching was the National Evaluator for this meet. In total, 26 officials were evaluated for advancement or recertification.

Since there are so many athletes participating in this meet I would offer the following suggestions.

- 1) There is no need for positive check-in of relays
- 2) Relays should be swim by distance, and scored by age
- 3) Distance events should be swum by distance and gender, and scored by age
- 4) An option to select AM swim should be allowed for all distance events on all days

Thanks again for the opportunity!

Bob Menck