



September 2019

Eastern Zone Officials Chair Report

Meet Referee Recognition

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

2019 Long Course Super Sectionals

July 18-21, 2019

Rutgers University Piscataway, New Jersey

Paul Memont - Meet Referee

2019 Long Course Senior Zone Championship

August 1-4, 2019

Erie Community College Buffalo, New York

Brooks Howard - Meet Referee

2019 EZ Long Course Age Group Championship

August 7-10, 2019

The Collegiate School Richmond, Virginia

Ken Galica - Meet Referee

Once again, we had a very successful series of Championship meets. The Eastern Zone Age group meet was piloted by a Ken Galica and was held in Richmond, VA. Although athlete numbers were down, the meet was a truly great event. First and foremost, chase starts were not required! This has a very settling, calming influence on both the athletes and the coaches. Ken and his crew did a great job keeping the tone of the meet positive and upbeat. There were several eligibility protests, and all were handled professionally.

In Buffalo, Brooks Howard lead the group. Brooks also serves as Officials Chair for Niagara Swimming and knows the ins and outs of the pool at Erie Community College. Brooks and his team did an excellent job and ran a great meet. The Meet Announcement did contain language for removing athletes who were in violation of the pools restroom policies. We will be looking to remove this before the next meet and do a better job vetting the meet documents.

The Super Sectional Meet was led by Paul Memont from New England Swimming. From the very beginning, this meet faced challenges. These ranged from few entries, to meet cancellation, to meet happening. After all of the hard work and struggles, the meet ran very smoothly, and the venue was excellent!

Meet Referee Reports are attached.

Bob Menck

Meet Referee's Report

2019 Eastern Zone Long Course Super Sectionals

Date: July 18 – 21

Location: Rutgers University Piscataway NJ

Meet Referee: Paul Memont – prmnes@verizon.net

Meet Director: Ellen Mace – Beesmartt Inc – beesmarttinc@gmail.com

Admin Referee: Dave DiNardo

Assistant Admin Referee: Jacl Neil

Head Starter: Denice Wepasnick

Team Lead Chief Judge: Val Gibson, **Assistant Team Lead:** Ken Galica

OQM: 19-0118

National Evaluators: Kathleen & Robert Scandary, Dave DiNardo, Val Gibson, Ken Galica, Bob Menck

Number of Officials: 48

Evaluations: 28

Olympic Trials Cuts: 8

Junior National Cuts: 70

This meet was not what I would call over-subscribed; I believe the numbers were just shy of 500 total Athletes after adding bonus Swims.

The sessions were from one and a half hours for the distance and one other session, to two and a half hours.

We did not have any scheduled breaks, I choose to run the sessions even and slow enough so there was a steady pace to the meet with no long delays. We were right on the timeline every session.

We had 8 combined Olympic Trials cuts; one during time trials, and 70 combined Junior National Cuts.

The facility had good air with the help of four large fans on the corners. There were no complaints about the air quality that came to myself or that I was made aware of.

There was a serious issue with a couple of the starting block wedges; they would not always lock in place, one time the wedge came loose during a start prompting a re-swim of the Men's 400 free relay.

We had a total of 49 Officials working the meet. The deck was always well covered. 28 Officials asked to be evaluated; all were accommodated. The evaluations were for Admin Referee, Deck Referee, Starter, Chief Judge, and S&T. Many were N3 Final and Initial.

Dave DiNardo did an outstanding job coordinating with the Meet Director (beesmart). The Meet Director ran the computers and scoreboard and worked well with the Admin Team and myself. When I asked for paperwork they provided it as requested.

I asked a local Official, Gregory Spicka to run time trials. Gregory is an up and coming Official and did a very nice job.

Overall, in spite of a few shortcomings; lack of forthcoming pre-meet information from the meet host, that I feel kept the Athlete numbers lower than they might have, I feel the meet was a success with no serious issues at all. The Coaches I spoke with were happy, I was happy.

Meet Referee's Report

2019 Eastern Zone Long Course Senior Championship Meet

Dates: August 1-4, 2019

Location: Burt Flickinger Aquatic Center (Erie Community
College) 21 Oak Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

Meet Referee: Brooks Howard jbh5cfp@gmail.com

Meet Director: Phil Aronica and Jeff Hewitt starentries@gmail.com

Administrative Referee Patrick Johnstone pjohnstone@gmail.com

Officials: 32

Evaluations: 0 (We did not make the meet an OQM)

STAR swimming is such a great host. They are very accommodating to every need to run a meet. The coaches, parents and coordination for positional help and timer's coverage all help the meet run like clockwork.

Size: At just over 500 athletes, the meet was bigger than last year's by just a few.

Timelines: The prelims timelines were all manageable, so we added a shorter 15-minute break (with 100% coach approval) before time trial meet and everyone (with a few unable) stayed in the same positions to cover, which worked well for the Athletes, Officials, and Coaches. We also kept the 10-minute break prior to the relays at the end of prelim sessions.

Officials: Thirty-two officials worked at least one session of the meet. There is still a culture with the local area officials who intend to work the meet but don't sign-up using the google form on the Eastern Zone website. This is an ongoing issue with the culture, but it is getting better. We did have enough walk-on officials that could have been used at assigned positions, if we had known ahead of time they were attending. Overall, we had good coverage at every session on deck.

Meet Management: Niagara Swimming and STAR Swimming did an outstanding job running the meet, staffing the "dry side" and were very supportive of Administrative Referee, Patrick Johnstone who was also the Admin Ref for this meet the previous year.

Due to the light coverage, the manageable timelines and second meet Director and meet manager computer, I was meet referee for time trials and with the shorter break prior to swimming and flexibility of Officials the burden of staffing the deck with officials was negated to a couple of folks that have to leave.

Observations/Suggestions: We did have an athlete use the "dry" locker room and in support of the athletes we need to make it even clearer to athletes and coaches that these facilities will address MAPP differently and they really need to pay attention.

Brooks Howard
Meet Referee

Meet Referee Report

2019 Eastern Zone Long Course Age Group Championship August 7-10, 2019
The Collegiate School, Richmond VA

Meet Referee: Ken Galica
Administrative Referee: Jan van Nimwegen
Head Starter: Paul Memont
Team Lead: Sarah Bollman

Many thanks to the Eastern Zone and its LSCs for the opportunity to serve as meet referee for the 2019 Eastern Zone Long Course Age Group Championship at the Collegiate School in Richmond. Having never attended the meet I was grateful for the offer and came away promising I would be back considering the amount of fun and energy that I witnessed on deck. The Meet Director, Lori Hopewell, and her team of volunteers ran a quality and professional meet which, few, if any, could find complaints. The facilities were top notch with a well run timing system, quality hospitality and folks willing to take care of just about anything with a smile on their face.

Size - over nine hundred and fifty (950) athletes from all twelve (12) of the Eastern Zone LSC competed in the meet with Metropolitan Swimming winning decisively. Based on the number of swimmers, along with the session estimated timelines, it was determined chase starts would not be used.

Timeline - a long four days of swimming found us swimming three (3) sessions per day with warm ups commencing at 6:45 am and racing generally concluding around 8:30 pm each evening. The team assigned morning and afternoon warm ups, split into two (2) groups of twenty-five minutes each along with the general warm up prior to finals seemed to work well with no known complaints. While the timelines were tight there never was an issue with a session backing into the next session's warm up. With a heat interval of twenty-five (25) seconds for the 13 and over prelim sessions, thirty (30) seconds for the 12 and under prelims and ninety (90) seconds for finals we were generally spot on the estimated timeline for each session (including parades at finals).

Officials - a total of forty-three (43) officials from all around the Eastern Zone volunteered their time working approximately three hundred and forty-four (344) sessions in total. The Application to Officiate was very helpful allowing the Head Starter and Team Lead to plan accordingly along with ensuring officials were able to get the evaluations they were seeking. While there were some walk-ons most officials were signed up in advance of the meet.

Evaluations - Thanks to national evaluators Bob Menck and Paul Memont for their time evaluating and mentoring the officials seeking evaluations at this OQM (Officials Qualifying Meet). Between us approximately half the officials attending the meet were evaluated with at least twenty-two (22) separate evaluations for national advancement being completed.

Meet Management - Host Virginia Swimming along with volunteers from NOVA Swimming did an excellent job running the meet from the check in of swimmers to the awards Saturday night. Since the meet was pre-seeded, and there were no time trials due to time constraints, things were fairly straight forward, an understatement considering the size of the meet and age of the swimmers. Unfortunately, there were several issues that affected the meet, some administrative (i.e., a swimmer eligibility issue that was addressed by a coach, swimmer and official jury) and some related to swimmer welfare (ambulances called when an athlete suffered a laceration requiring stitches when his foot was cut by a door and another suffered a significant fracture breaking his arm in the pool at the conclusion of a race). There was also a SafeSport incident

(one or more girls were using cell phones and taking pictures in the locker room) that was resolved to the satisfaction of all with the help of the Virginia SafeSport Chair and Mary Turner.

Finally, Sarah Bollman should be recognized for her service as Team Lead. While her first assignment in role she embraced her responsibilities with enthusiasm and did a tremendous job implementing the wishes and philosophies of the meet referee. Also, a special note of thanks to Mary Turner. Her experience, grace and wisdom was felt everywhere on deck and was ever present to assist where and when needed. Mary's insights and counsel were a major reason the meet went as well as it did and I can not thank her enough!