

Official's Liaison Report

Meet Name: 2009 USMS LC National Championships – The Big Splash

Location: IU Natatorium on the IUPUI Campus, Indianapolis, IN

Meet Referee: Lucy Duncan

Head Starter: None Administrative Referee: Claire Gendron

Approximate number of deck officials each day:

Thursday	14	Friday	10
Saturday	13	Sunday	14
Monday	8		

Were there an adequate number of officials each day? Most days there were enough officials to adequately cover the deck. With creative assignments, pool coverage was adequate using the off starter and off referee as turn judges at the start end of the pool. Two more officials on Friday would have helped. There was a USA Zone Meet going on at the north side of Indianapolis this same weekend.

How long was the S&T shift? Most days, stroke and turn officials received adequate breaks. Everyone had the opportunity to eat lunch during the lunch hour.

Number of officials from various LMSC's:

IN 20 IL 1 OH 1 GA 1

Conditions for the officials? Conditions for the officials were above average. Being in the natatorium that was temperature controlled made for comfortable conditions since the temperatures outside reached the 90s during the weekend. Air quality at the facility needs to be improved, as the chlorine content in the air was noticeable.

Number of officials evaluated for N2 or N3? 12

Evaluators: Lucy Duncan & Dick Duncan

Number of total evaluations for N2 or N3? 20

This was the major reason we had an adequate number of deck officials each day. Lucy did an outstanding job of making officials aware that they could obtain evaluations at this meet. Also, each official received credit for 3 sessions worked each day in the OTS.

Quality of Officiating: On Thursday and Friday, stroke briefings were held, as many officials had not officiated a USMS meet previously. On Saturday, a short briefing was held and Sunday only one new official was present so that person was briefed quickly during the meeting and was asked questions prior to the meet while the officials were having breakfast. It was suggested that in the future, a full officials briefing be given each day. Since there were CJs being evaluated, this would give them a chance to do the briefing and be evaluated on such.

The stroke judges used lead/lag as they walked the side of the pool. On freestyle events only the 15 m an official on each side of the pool observed mark. I suggest during the backstroke events officials' watch the stroke from the 15 m mark on the start and off the turn.

Turn judges at the start end of the pool stood on the long whistle, stepped forward on the start to the end of the pool to observe the swimmers in their jurisdiction. The turn end turn judges also stepped forward to the edge of the pool as the swimmers came into their jurisdiction. On the backstroke starts, the outside turn judges wrapped around for the start to observe the feet after the start.

Most officials interacted with the swimmers when officiating at the start end of the pool. An honest attempt was made by CJs to notify the swimmer of the infraction the swimmer made.

I know of only one protest that occurred and it concerned the relays. Do not know any more than that.

The Chief Judges (CJs) had radios to communicate with the referee and administrative referee. The CJ would approach the official making the call and ask the appropriate questions of the official. Then the infraction would be called into the referee with a recommendation to accept or not accept the call. For infractions not accepted by the referee the official was notified of this.

The quality of the starters and referees was adequate. You could tell which officials were being evaluated and time was taken with those officials to improve their skills at the position they were working. The regular starters and referees were of high quality. Creative assignments of starters and referees were needed to accommodate evaluations and staffing of the deck.

The host club provided a stipend to each official who worked 3 or more days. The stipend was \$50 per day. Travel expenses were submitted to Charles Cockrell, USMS Officials Chairman, for payment. \$.55 per mile was used for travel reimbursement. An outside administrative referee was not brought in to run the administrative duties as had been done in previous national meets. This was a cost saving measure for the host club. Suggest that in the future, the contract provide for an administrative

referee designated by the Officials committee to provide for continuity between meets.

Unfortunately, Rule 102.15.14 was enforced during the 200 butterfly. The person had surpassed the seed time at the 150 m turn. Both CJ's spent time talking to the individual in question and one later stated that was the hardest thing he has had to do as an official.

Recommendations:

Championship committee should spend some time discussing how to handle the following:

Rule 102.15.14 (pg 14) A swimmer misrepresents a seed time, causing a significant delay of the meet, may be disqualified at the discretion of the referee. The disqualified swimmer shall be removed from the pool as soon as practical. Referees need some guidance on how to handle this kind of situation. (Delay – Time entered is faster than can be swum.)

104.5.11 (pg 33) if a swimmer enters a deck-seeded event with a time significantly slower than his/her recently recorded time, the meet director may, after notifying the swimmer, change the seeded time to a realistic time. (Fast swimmer enters slow time then swims a time significantly faster.)

Since flyover starts were used, it is recommended that each timer have two watches. One watch is used to record the finishing heat and the second to start the next heat. During the heat in the water, the time is written down from the previous heat. Names of the next heat can also be checked. On relays, the swimmers should be asked their order prior to the start of a heat. For 50s, names need to be checked prior to each heat using at least two officials.

Submitted by Fred Pigott, Official Liaison, August 24, 2009