

OFFICIAL'S LIAISON REPORT

Meet Name Spring (Short Course) USMS Nationals

Location- Kino Pool, Mesa, AZ. We used two 25 yard pools, side by side courses.

Meet Referee- Pat Baker

Head Starter-I am not sure who, but there was one.

Approximate number of officials each day-I would estimate that there were a total of 20-22 at each pool each day.

Were there an adequate number of officials each day? Yes

Were there enough officials to provide relief? Yes, there was a regular rotating, with officials rotating in and out.

How long was the average S & T shift. Started off on Thursday, (a very hot and sunny day, with 45-minute rotations. This was too long in the sun. Then, the following days, the rotations were either with the event, or every 30 minutes. Which was much better.

How many officials were provided by the host LC? I do not know the exact number, but knowing most of the AZ Officials, I would guess at 10.

Conditions for Officials: The first day, Thursday was a very hot and sunny day. It was difficult on the S & T officials, because they were sitting at each corner of each pool, and there was NO shade. However, chairs were provided. Also, these rotations were 45 min. Each day, the weather got cooler and the rotation times were shorter so it worked better. There was a small but nice hospitality room with plenty of food and beverages.

Quality of Officiating- I do believe that the quality was very good. Whether it was a local S & T official or a Top Referee from another LSC.

Were the officials briefed on the differences of USAS & USMS swimming rules? Yes, each morning in the hospitality room, there was a complete briefing. The head referee, Pat Baker had someone go over the specific events coming up that day, and the differences for these. Katy Casey, USMS Rules Chair was also there and spoke and answered questions.

How would I rate the quality of officiating? I would rate it a 10 out of 10. It was a very well officiated meet with some of the top officials. Like I mentioned earlier, even the local S & T officials did a great job.

Did the officials step up to the edge, were they friendly to the athletes, did they explain the DQ's, and lastly did they notify the athlete's? As far as I could see, working as a S &

T official, and as a swimmer. Yes, the timers and stroke and turn officials stepped up to the edge of the pool to watch the touches, and/or to see the touch for the time. The timers and the officials were very friendly to the swimmers. As the LMSC Chairman in AZ, I know many or all of the swimmers in AZ. Many are older swimmers who were very nervous about their swims. I found almost all of the officials were very accommodating and helpful. As a swimmer, I found the timers very friendly, and helpful. As for explaining the DQ's, and notifying the swimmers, I can only say what I saw and heard. I heard NO complaints. However, I did see, one stroke and turn officials raise his hand for a long time waiting for the chief judge to come over. The chief judge was not watching and did not see the S & T officials hand. Then, there were more DQ's, and this particular stroke and turn official, had to raise both hands, and kept waiting. Meanwhile the other S & T official on the same end of the pool, also had a DQ, and raised her hand. The Chief Judge still did not see. So, I do believe that maybe one heat managed to get away, with possible DQ's that did not get called. I also do not know anyone that did get a DQ, to make comments in this area.

How would you rate the quality of the starters and deck referee's? I found them all very highly qualified. I do know that it was an adjustment for some to wait for some of the older swimmers to get up on the blocks and then wait for them to swim to one entire side of the course to exit via a ladder. The starters thought they would be doing over the top starts. This did not work for the older age groups, but it did for the younger. There were two starts called back. I did inquire into this. I found out that one of the starters, Richard Joos, who is a very highly N3 rated starter from AZ, felt that the swimmers in one particular heat did not get a fair start, since some on the far end of the course had a slower start off the blocks then those close to the starter. He called that heat back. There was much discussion because other referee's and starters felt that he should have just let them swim. But, they were called back, and allowed a few heats rest, before they had a second start. I did inquire about the other one, but do not remember now, what was the reason.

Did the host make the officials feel welcome? Yes, very much so. The hosts, Laura and Paul Smith, Erin Shields, and the representatives of the Mesa Parks and Rec. and the Mesa Visitors Bureau, all stopped by at different times of the Officials Briefing each morning in the Hospitality Room. They introduced themselves, and welcomed all the officials.

Meet Length: The time line each day was great. I do believe, from what I remember that we were one each day before 4:00. This was great, considering that the last two times AZ hosted, we went well into 10:00pm one night.

Personal Comments: I was supposed to be the meet liaison for this meet. However, every time I tried to communicate with Pat Baker, the head referee, I did not receive any response. Even when we had our Officials Committee Conference call, Pat commented that she had notified all the officials that had contacted her. Not true, and I stated so. She never returned an email to me saying she had received my application. Also, Richard Joos an AZ N3 Starter and N2 Referee, had sent Pat an application, and he had told me at least twice that he was concerned that he had not heard anything in return. Richard and I

both showed up at the Wednesday evening General Meeting, in our white over navy. Pat had informed all her officials that they were to wear white over Khaki. Richard and I never received that notification until that meeting, the day before the meet.

Whenever I tried to talk during the briefings, or to Pat, I was given a quick, curt, response. On one morning after the briefings, and one evening at the end of the day, after briefings, Pat asked to have a private talk with me. On the first occasion, she said, “we need to talk”, I responded that “Yes, I agree we need to talk”. I told her that I felt as if I was being ignored and/or treated as if I was a low-life and did not belong there. That this was my state, my LMSC that I was the LMSC Chairman, as well as the Officials Chair, and knew almost all of the players at the venue, including most all of the AZ swimmers, and officials, as well as being the liaison to the meet. Her response was that she also sat on the Officials Committee, so therefore she really didn’t need me as the liaison! Therefore, I am sorry that I did not prepare a liaison report sooner, and that I do not know many of the specifics, as to numbers of officials, and DQ’s etc.

However, I do believe that it was a well-run meet, and most swimmers had good swims, and had a good time.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Gillies
USMS Officials Committee
AZ LMSC Chairman,
AZ LMSC Officials Chair