



September 2018

## 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!

#### ***2018 Long Course Senior Zone Championship***

**August 2-5, 2018**

**Jan van Nimwegen**

**Meet Referee**

#### ***2018 EZ Long Course Age Group Championship***

**August 8-11, 2018**

**Bob Rustin**

**Meet Referee**

Once again, we had a very successful series of Championship meets. The Eastern Zone Age group meet was piloted by a Bob Rustin 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. As a veteran to this meet, Bob and his crew did a great job keeping the tone of the meet positive and upbeat.

In Buffalo, Jan van Nimwegen was at the helm. Jan is a new member of the Eastern Zone Leadership Team and did an outstanding job as Meet Referee. This meet presented some difficulties during planning and Jan rose to meet the challenges. Like the Age Group Meet, attendance was down at Seniors as well. In this case, not only was the athlete count down, but the officials count as well.

We encountered the "Perfect Storm" on the weekend of August 5<sup>th</sup>. The Eastern Zone was host to a Futures Meet in Richmond, another Futures Meet was held in North Carolina, and a third had an Eastern Zone Meet Referee. This had a huge impact on the number of officials available to work at our Senior meet. It was difficult putting together a Leadership Team and a well-staffed deck. Jan successfully overcame the storm and ran a great meet! I will be proposing that in the future, no Eastern Zone Championship Meet be held on Futures weekend.

**Meet Referee Reports are attached.**

*Bob Menck*

## **2018 Long Course Senior Zone Championship**

Location: Erie Community College, Buffalo, NY  
Dates: August 2-5, 2018

Meet Director : Phil Aronica  
Meet Referee : Jan van Nimwegen (PV)  
Admin Referee : Patrick Johnstone (NE)

Number of officials : 27 (20 worked 3 or more sessions)  
Evaluations : none

### **Statistics**

Number of athletes : 455 (around 100 fewer than last year)  
Number of relays teams : 39  
Number of splashes : 1762 (first round)  
Number of improved times : 443 (about 25%)  
Number of meet records (re-)broken : 7

The meet was smaller compared to last year. This resulted in some challenges for the time lines to offer swimmers reasonable times between swims (see below).

### **Timelines**

Longest session was first day prelims, with one of the distance sessions directly following the prelims. Duration was about 3h 40m. Shortest prelims sessions was last day, duration a little over 2 hours. To offer individual swimmers at least a 20 minutes break between events, a break for 5-10 minutes was scheduled after each men's events.

### **Evaluations**

Due to the number of (national) meets in the same period as this meet, no national evaluator could be planned to attend this meet. As a side effect of this, no evaluations were offered, and no application for OQM was submitted. There were some requests for N2-SR and N3f-SR evaluations that could not be granted.

### **Staffing**

Finding officials for the meet was a challenge. As appears to be the 'standard' for this meet, officials tend not to sign up in advance for this meet, or well past the deadline mentioned in the Meet Announcement (MA). On 7/20 (date mentioned in MA) the number of officials that had offered to volunteer at this meet was 12 (including MR and AR). For each of the sessions we ended up have 1 Deck Referee, 1 CJ, 2 (prelims) or 1 (finals) starter and between 4 and 10 Stroke and Turn officials. Since there were planned breaks between events at most one relief official was assigned (when there were an off number of available judges).

For the medley relay we had no turn judges, since each of them were needed for relay take-off judging.

Other challenges from an official's staffing perspective were (1) officials that needed to leave the session halfway (or even well before this) through a session, and (2) many officials were arriving late for the official's briefing one hour before the planned session start time. While this may not impact the level of officiating during the meet, it is challenging to coordinate assignments and offer officials an opportunity to visit hospitality.

### **Meet management**

The host club, STAR Swimming, did an excellent job running the meet. The operators for both Timing System and Hy-Tek were highly qualified and were able to provide the Admin Referee correct times. They also were able to help with seeding for the time trials. Since there were no experienced meet referees available for some days of the time trials, the meet ref for the Seniors meet acted as MR for the time trials as well, as well as the admin for seeding the time trials. The host club also provided timers for each of the sessions, and for each session there were enough timers to run the meet (2 per lane, and experienced head timers).

### **Running the meet**

Throughout the meet there were about 10 observed infractions. All swimmers were informed of the infraction by the meet ref, and no coaches requested additional discussions about the infractions. Apart from a couple of minutes of delay during the meet due to some audio-system issue, no issues occurred during the sessions, and all published timelines were met (within 5 minutes margin).

### **Time Trials**

Time trials were offered each day (the first day after the distance sessions, per request from the coaches). In total about 218 splashes were counted in time trials. Due to staffing limitations few changes from the prelims staffing were possible (and needed).

### **Suggestions**

1. During warmups, give more time for sprint lanes. We started 30 minutes before each end of the warm-up session, and lanes appeared long. Every swimmer was able to sprint starts.
2. Since staffing the meet is challenging, try not to plan the meet whilst many more national-level meets need (experienced) officials as well. Many officials (and coaches as well) indicated some form of meet-fatigue: too many meets going on at the same time.

Respectfully submitted 2018-08-09  
Jan van Nimwegen, meet referee

**MEET REPORT**  
**EZ Long Course Age Group Championship**  
**August 8 to 11, 2018**  
**Collegiate School Aquatic Center, Richmond, Virginia**

Meet Referee: Bob Rustin  
Admin Referee: Bryan Wallin  
Lead Starter: Bill Pritchard  
Team Lead CJ: Ralph Jones  
Meet Directors: Mary Turner, Lori Hopewell  
National Evaluators: Paul Jones, Bob Menck

Teams: 12  
Athletes: 946 Total, 472 Women, 474 Men  
First Round Splashes: 3897 (379 Relays)

Notes on the meet:

I'd like to thank Bob and the Eastern Zone for selecting me as Meet Ref. This was my 2<sup>nd</sup> time serving in that capacity and this is one of my favorite meets, I enjoyed the experience. Overall, I thought the meet went very well. The athletes were enjoying the experience, the deck was a happy place, the coaches were happy, and we had some FAST swimming. By my count, there were 25 new meet records set over the course of the meet. Meet Manager also indicated that 47% of the swims were improved times!

Although there were some concerns about the attendance being down from last year, this was a very good size for this meet and made the timelines and meet management quite easy. We considered chase starts in the pre-planning, but when we ran those scenarios we found that significant numbers of athletes would be coming back for the next event in 15 minutes or less, so we did not use chase starts in any sessions. The only sessions that were tight were the Wednesday morning session with the miles, but we combined some heats to save 20 minutes and the afternoon session started on time. We also added a 3<sup>rd</sup> warm-up on Friday afternoon due to the large number of swimmers in the session to avoid overcrowding.

The only change I am aware of in the meet announcement is to fix the order of the relays on Friday to have the 11-12 relays swimming last. This was correct for Wednesday but initially missed on Friday.

We chose to allow the 13 and over sessions to use the backstroke wedges if they wanted to. My rough survey was that around 25% of the 13/14 swimmers used them, but I would say around 75% of the 15-over swimmers used them. The wedges were the Myrtha (Omega) design which must be manually pulled up, facility staff handled that and there were very few delays due to twisted lines.

The facility was also very pro-active with the air quality in the warm-up pool. Due to the lower roof and room volume the air can go off in there when many swimmers are wearing tech suits, but they ran the HVAC with max purge and the air quality stayed OK, a little warm as the outside air was 95+

We had 54 officials work the meet and all the sessions were well staffed. 21 officials had

national evaluations, thanks to Paul and Bob for making them a positive experience with excellent mentoring. Thanks also to Mari Weferling (Maine) and JoAnn Faucett who worked every session at Deck Ref and made sure the meet ran well  
Thanks also to NOVA Virginia, our host club, who did an excellent job staffing and overseeing the meet. Well Done NOVA!

Respectably submitted:  
Bob Rustin