



Meet Report

2019 Eastern Zone North Region Speedo Sectionals

Mar 28-31, 2019, Ithaca, NY

Meet Referee: Tim Husson (PV)
Administrative Referee: Nancy Wargo (CT)
Head Starter: Lisa Vetterlein (PN)
Team Lead Chief Judge: Kelly Rowell (PV)
National Evaluator: Jamie Cahn (MD)
Meet Directors: Morgan Harrington and Courtney Christ (Syracuse Chargers)

No. of Teams: 107
No. of Athletes: 789 (149 relay-only)
No. of Splashes: 3506 (437 relays)
No. of Time Trials: 513

No. of Officials: 44
No. of National Evaluations: 14

No. of EZ Speedo Sectionals Records: 8
No. of Junior Nationals Cuts: 5
No. of Futures Cuts: 13 Individual + 30 Relays

Facility & Meet Host

The pool at the Ithaca College Athletics and Events Center was perfect for this meet. It provided nine lanes for competition with ample warm up/warm down space. There was ample deck space for the athletes and coaches.

The host club, Syracuse Chargers, did a fine job of preparing for the meet and supporting the officials in running the meet. The officials had a large, private space to spread out and hold their meetings.

The hospitality was good and the meet hosts helped ensure that officials stuck on deck had food when they got off.

The Myrtha Backstroke Ledges provided a bit of a challenge, but the host club and facility personnel helped with the placing and removal of the ledges to help the process.

Starting off a bulkhead can be a logistical challenge, especially with the number of swimmers during a relay event. The officials and meet staff implemented a one-way flow on and off the bulkhead during relays that eased the process. The flow worked well and was implemented for all events for the rest of the weekend. Adequate marshals were positioned to ensure that the flow worked and there was little impact on timelines.



Competition

The numbers listed above show that it was a high level of competition. Because there were more than 600 swimmers entered in individual events, there was a D Final in each event. Timelines for both prelims and finals were reasonable. Even with time trials, there was adequate down time each day before finals.

Moving the W 1000 Freestyle from Sunday to Saturday worked. The distance sessions on both Saturday and Sunday were short enough to give athletes, coaches, officials and meet staff a good break on both days. Coaches' comments about this change were all positive.

The modification of the "Sunday Relay Rule" to make the default swimming in prelims helped, but there were still some clubs that wanted to switch after the events were seeded. Fortunately, we had the available lanes to accommodate these requests.

Time Trials

Every swimmer that wanted a time trial was accommodated. The time trials sign-up process was smooth and efficient. It was decided to run all time trials as mixed gender events seeded by entry times. This made seeding and running the time trials more efficient.

Allowing three time trials per swimmer was well received. 65 athletes took advantage of this change to swim three time trials during the meet.

Officials

Officials from nine different LSCs worked the meet. Staffing was adequate for all sessions. Fourteen national evaluations at the N2 or N3 level were completed during the meet.

Conclusion

It was a well-run meet by the officials and meet staff. Coaches' comments about the meet were mostly positive. I heartily endorse this facility and meet host for future Speedo Sectionals meets.

Tim Husson
Meet Referee