



## **Central Zone 14& Under Long Course Age Group Championship Meet Post Event Report**

Geneva, Ohio

Spire Institute/Lake Erie Silver Dolphins

LSCs in attendance:

Arkansas 47 athletes 223 entries

Indiana 187 athletes 629 entries

Lake Erie 89 athletes 385 entries

Michigan 128 athletes 521 entries

Missouri Valley 29 athletes 169 entries

Ohio 184 athletes 736 entries

Total athletes 432 Female, 315 Male 747 Total 2778 entries and 254 relays Total 3032

Facility: 10 lane competition pool. 10 lanes allowed for the efficient use of the pool for prelims which was a big benefit for the time lines. Would favor all potential hosts that have 10 lane facilities to use them in prelims. Expansive pool deck allowed for ample athlete seating. Host provided event logo themed LSC Team Banners for identification of reserved seating area throughout the event. Several LSCs took their banner back with them. Excellent event graphics and logos carried out through publications, signage, apparel and medal design. Excellent water depth, water quality, air quality received mixed evaluation responses, excellent scoreboard, graphics, team scores were posted on video boards. Colorado Timing System, little to no timing adjustments were noticed, timing system did have difficulty when switching start ends for the 50's of stroke. Back stroke ledges were used. Staff was very knowledgeable and experienced with the installation and use of the ledges. Facility does not have Relay Take Off Pads. Sound system adequate but needs some attention for a championship experience, noticeable lack of music. Both announcers received high marks from the evaluations, professional, knowledgeable of the sport, very cordial, and easy to work with, willing to work with the admin staff on any issues that came up. Very good separation of athletes from general spectator contact regards seating and rest rooms/locker rooms. Separate athlete Locker rooms from public access. Expansive spectator seating upstairs on both side of the competition area. General spectator viewing areas from vendor and rest areas upstairs Air quality was generally highly reviewed in the evaluations. There were some complaints about deck temperatures trending warmer and warmer as the meet

progressed, some concerns about air quality were noted and communicated to the host. Warm Up warm down pool conveniently located in separate area off competition pool deck. Lack of Wi-Fi accessibility and connectivity was a common question. The public is accustomed to being able to use their electronic devices. Over the course of a 4-day event this availability has become a necessary service for the attending public. Hospitality area near pool deck. Very nice seating area with excellent air conditioning provided a great space for meals, rest area off deck and social sitting for coaches and officials. Expansive on site professional/commercial quality food services department provided meals, snacks for “teams” and spectators throughout the event. A few local food vendors were present as well. Massive spectator seating away from the upstairs seating area provided rest/crash areas for parents and athletes on two levels. Parking was free. While not a paved surface for parking there is more than enough space for larger attendance numbers than our event. Permanent parking lot lighting capability should be planned, some attention to signage for entrance and exit routes. Facility is very impressive and currently hosts several collegiate and USA-S competitions and championships. They have the potential to host many major aquatic events. That opportunity and success is tied to improving what currently has a limited number of national lodging establishments and restaurants. The Institute is fully aware of these challenges and is constantly working to draw to Geneva and the surrounding area these critical infrastructure support services. The potential for growth, if these needs are met could be a huge expansion of events to the facility.

Host: Meet Director, Aquatic Staff and Club staff were very professional, energetic, experienced and knowledgeable with swim meet process and championship meet expectations of the CZ. The Meet Director(s) (Josh Ptak and Sara Tobin) worked tirelessly to keep the meet running on time. They worked well with the CZ Coordinator, Meet Referee for months in advance of the competition. Assisted with lodging and transportation to attend the event. The level, of cooperation attention to detail and assistance in planning was excellent and greatly appreciated. Host staff worked well to assist the meet admin. staff on time lines for prelims and finals session, meet publications, heat sheets, programs, timing questions and especially the awards process for both 10& under and older athlete sessions. Excellent meet operational capability allowed for experienced computer operations, and timing system operators. Special thanks to Jake Rehfus for lead work with the Meet Computer, Colorado Timing lead operators Ryan Carlis and Ben Corley. Parade/Awards lead coordinator Emily Dempster and Event Safety Director Veronica Clutter. The host was very proficient with the use of email and web-based communication pre- meet and post meet, meet reports, meet publications available in hardcopy or online promptly every session. Previous experience of the host organization with the CZ meet and other championship meets was apparent and prepared the leadership team to present a championship meet.

Sessions: Ran smooth, on time line each session (see actual session time line report for complete details). Prelim sessions length 2-3 hours very well accepted, allowed for brief calm water before starting warm up for 10&under session, 10-under session ran on time each session, pace of competition of the 10& under session was addressed after the first session to allow more rest and recovery between events. This being only the second year to use the new format meet admin is still learning to balance pace of the competition with the number of athletes and session length. This improved every session. Presentation of awards was measured and consistent, ample awards presentation time with photo opportunities. 1-8 medals, 9-16 ribbons, relays 1-3. 1-8 medals presented on podium. Adjusted awards session from presentation by age group to presentation by stroke. This change allowed more predictable timeline management. Excellent team work between admin staff and meet operations to coordinate the awards process so that it was a good experience for athletes and spectators. Finals sessions ran well, followed projected session timeline reports. Assistance from host staff with awards presentations insured adequate time for the athlete recognition and keeping the meet running smoothly.

Safe Sport Incident: Sunday August 5, 2018

Official statement from the Central Zone

“In the aftermath of the event at the 2018 Central Zone 14-and-under Age Group Championships In Geneva, Ohio, we are reaching out to provide an overview of the incident and the immediate steps taken to ensure the safety of the competitors at the pool that day.

We respect and understand everyone’s concern and want to ensure members that the incident was handled quickly and with the utmost professionalism by the on-site event team. We encourage everyone to speak to individuals expressing concerns to be sure they are heard and that they understand the events that unfolded.

On August 5th the Safe Sport trained event organizing team saw an individual in the stands taking photos of the event and recognized the signs of inappropriate activity and took immediate action. The reported individual was detained, law enforcement was immediately contacted, and his belongings were confiscated. Teams and coaches at the meet were made aware of the situation.

While this is now with authorities, we have been advised by the facility that proper protocols were in place and this reported individual, who entered as a general event spectator, is not known to have been in any restricted areas nor near any of the competitors.

We cannot say enough about the vigilance and actions of the meet leadership. There is no better reminder to everyone involved with our sport of the need for proper education and training to protect our athletes.

We continue to review the situation and welcome your comments and feedback. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact us. This is important to us, and we will welcome all calls. “

Thank you.

The Central Zone Directors

Amy Hoppenrath and John Bradley

The Central Zone recognizes and appreciates that without the leadership of the Meet Referee, Curtis Myers MVS, Betsy Purcell MWS and Edie Mueller SDS as Admin Referees, the generous support of all the officials who gave of their time, personal expense and energy to work this event this meet would not have been the success it turned out to be. Much appreciation to Ron Vanpool for his mentorship and participation as National Evaluator.

Evaluation summary remarks:

Pace of competition received a combined rating of 88% approval

Meet format received a combined rating of 96% approval

Starters received a combined rating of 90% approval

Admin received a combined rating of 95% approval

Meet overall evaluation received a rating of 93% approval

Event meet the needs of the attendees received a 95% approval

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Thompson

CZ Championship Coordinator for the Spire Site