Subject: Meet Referee Report for 2022 Speedo Sectionals LCM Region VIII

Dates: 13-16 July 2022

Location: University of Missouri

Number of Officials: 39

Number of Evaluations of Officials: 14

Number of Athletes: 692

Number of teams: 62

The meet consisted of eight regular sessions and three-time trial sessions. The Columbia Swim team is very experienced at running this level of meet and did an outstanding job. They made sure the swimmers, coaches and officials were always taken care of. Hospitality was also very good and everyone was happy. The administrative team was very experienced and always gave great advice. The Administrative Referee’s help was invaluable.

The evaluator for the meet was Melissa Hellervik-Bing. Her tips to everyone were excellent and everyone learned a great deal. The meet ran very smoothly. We did have to clear a few over 18 athletes with their Athlete Protection Training, all worked out in the end. The numbers of swimmers did not require us to run chase starts. We did have one swimmer with Tourette’s Syndrome and no problems were encountered with this swimmer. One swimmer required their parent to be on deck with them and an accommodation was allowed. This was the first time we marched in the finalist meet since COVID started. This worked fine and we did have to insert a couple of alternates but with no real delay.

One question came up during the meet. It was brought up that a transgender swimmer swam in a women’s relay. I tried to look up the USA Swimming rules on the subject but they only address elite athletes. I could not find any guidance on the subject for athletes at the sectional level. After asking a few questions it was discovered that there was not a transgender athlete. The USA Swimming policy and guidance needs to be available for referees to make good and fair decisions.

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