

Splash Times

ADMIN EXTRAORDINAIRE



This month, we are pleased to share with you a look into the Admin life of Herb Schwab (shown left). Herb has been a Referee since 1992, served as Hy-tek Meet Manager Specialist at USA Swimming National

Championships since 2017 and has worked 29 NCAA Championship meets and 38 USMS National Championships. Herb was kind enough to answer a few questions about his experiences.

Q: How did you get started in Admin work?

A: I got started at a Sectional Meet in the early 2000's in College Station, Texas. I had been working as the Meet Referee at several age-group and senior meets at Texas A&M during that time, and the Aggies were awarded one of the Short Course Sectionals. The Meet Director and I were discussing about who to ask to be the Referee and the Administrative Referee, and no one really wanted to be the Admin. I got volunteered!

Q: What do you most enjoy about it?

A: The best part about the Admin spot is that you get to know all of the coaches (and athletes). The coaches will always find the Admin when there is a problem – and the Admin can usually find the way (or know who can find the way) to fix the problem.

Q: What do you least enjoy?

A: Good question! Not sure if this is an answer, but I don't like being in a somewhat isolated room away from the pool deck (or separated by a door from the pool). I want to be accessible to the coaches and to the officials. Being in a remote location just doesn't appeal to me.

Q: How is the NCAA experience different from, say, a club meet?

A: The NCAA meets are exciting! The championships are fast and well executed. The swimming is fast, with the possibility of American records in every event. The

difference from a club meet is just the higher level of the competition, the more experienced coaching staffs, and the more professional staff operations from the timing system personnel to the announcing staff.

Q: In your experience, was there a particularly challenging moment you had to work through?

A: There's always the possibility of power outages, fire alarms, evacuations, and illnesses (e.g., COVID).

Q: What advice would you give someone who is just getting started in Admin?

A: The best advice that I would give is to work as an Admin at various venues with different timing systems, different staff, different officials. Don't just stay at one pool and think that the way that pool runs is the only way. Every pool is different. And, timing systems may be different. Work at different pools, with different Admins and learn new ways to do a better job!

MEETS & MORE MEETS

With summer upon us and fall following not far behind, we move into the time of year where outdoor meets are plentiful, particularly with summer league and high school swimming. A goal of *Splash Timing* is to have all "associates" involved in meets, one way or another. The more meets we work, the more we learn – and can share with one another.

Thanks for spreading the word about our services so our [Client List](#) can continue to grow and our [Meet Calendar](#) will keep us busy!

ALTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

Trivia Question:

What is the minimum altitude at which times can be adjusted?

Bonus Question:

At an altitude of 5,000 feet, how much time would be subtracted for a 1650-yard freestyle at NCAA meets?

(First to answer both correctly gets a bag of M&M's!)