

Instructions to Timers

Assigned to each lane in addition to a Head Lane Timer are other Timers usually two or three depending on availability and the size of the meet. These are usually the least experienced folks in the timer group. As a Referee you or your designate should attend the Timers meeting prior to the meet. You should ensure that the following items are covered:

- 1) Lane assigned to time
- 2) when to start the watch (flash on starting device or sound if the light fails)
- 3) when to stop the watch (when the end wall or pad is touched)
- 4) watches should be started and stopped with the first finger (not the thumb it is slower)
- 5) how to record the time and which times to record (the order of the recording to be consistent on all time cards)
- 6) when to stop a backup button (with the first finger and note that it will not stop a time display)
- 7) timers to check all swimmers for bleeding and notify you if found (they are closer to the swimmers and more likely than you to see a problem)
- 8) check that the proper swimmer(s) are at their lane (swimming the proper heat)
- 9) have a specific signal to notify the Referee/Starter the need to stop the event (perhaps a raise hand with the watch in it/raised

hand can be an acknowledgement to a person in the crowd)

- 10) where to stand when obtaining the finish time (at the edge, not back a distance)
- 11) control waiting and finished swimmers at their assigned lane (keep extra swimmers behind starting blocks and away from the pools edge)
- 12) during disqualifications expect directions from the Chief Timmer or an official to hold the swimmer(s) at the block (do not divulge the hold direction until the end of the race)

Do not try to explain the operation of automated timing devices unless you are familiar with the device and how it is currently programmed. Many schools alter the devices program based on the type of competitors, age group, high school or Master's dependent upon their desires. Advise the system operator you are not familiar with the device and its current programming.

Be sure to leave time for timer's questions in their meeting, and be sure to thank the timers for the assistance at the end of the meet.

Rules Review: During the last heat of the 50-yard freestyle, the automatic timing system malfunctioned just in Lane 2. The coach of the swimmer in Lane 2 insists that every lane be timed manually.

Ruling: The backup system of timing will be used in Lane 2 only. The other times will continue to be calculated using the automatic system. The manual time from Lane 2 will be incorporated with the automatically calculated times.