



TIMERS BRIEF

- Thank you for volunteering or if you were assigned to work, thank you for showing up.
- Identify the head timer and the back-up timer(s). Where will they be positioned? If you miss the start, or your watch doesn't work...just raise your hand and yell for a back-up!
- The timing system does record the time, the button is the first back-up and the watches are the second back-up. Please keep in mind that they are all equally important and the watch times are used more than you think. Behind the scenes, when there is a bad touch, the computer acts up or there is some other problem, the Administrative Judge uses the watch time to verify whether the button is accurate and/or the watches need to be used to calculate the true finish times. Times are important since a swimmer may be trying for a certain qualifying time to participate in a Championship meet and we want the times to be good.
- Familiarize yourself with how the watch works – start, stop and reset
- One person will have a watch and record the times on the timer sheets
- The other person will have a watch and the “finish button” – Remember that the button is only pressed at the finish
- (Point out the location of the starting system strobe)
- Use your index finger to operate the watch
- The short set of whistles means that the current heat is ending and that the next set of swimmer should be behind the blocks and ready to swim (cap and goggles on, sweats off)
- Make sure you check that the swimmers name matches that on the timer's sheet. Any conflicts should be brought to the attention of the head timer or referee. If the sheet is blank and a swimmer is present to swim, record the swimmers name in the blank
- Be sure to not block the swimmer from approaching the blocks and stay behind the blocks at the start. (For fly-over starts) Remind your swimmer to stay in the water at the end of the race
- On the long whistle the swimmers step-up on the blocks
- Start your watch when the strobe flashes. The strobes do fail from time-to-time and you will start the watch on the sound.
- Immediately after the start, check your watch to make sure it is working. If you miss the start, immediately raise your hand and call for a “back-up”.
- At the finish, you need to be in position to stop the watch. You need to be at the edge of the pool looking down directly over the lane. You cannot accurately time a race sitting on the bench/in a chair behind the blocks
- You may have to share the space with an official who is judging the race so it may be crowded. Have any extra swimmers step back from the edge of the pool.
- Please refrain from using cell phones (including texting), iPods, or any other device that could distract you from the race.
- Bells are to be used on individual events of 500 yards or more. They should be rung when the swimmer has 2 lengths plus 5 yards (which is the distance from the wall to the flags) to go. The bell should be rung for the swimmer until they have executed the turn and reached the backstroke flags – do not ring the bell directly over the swimmer in case you drop the bell.