



Timers Meeting Notes

(Tone --friendly, comfortable, appreciated -- vital to the overall success of the meet!)

1. **Introduce Self, Head Timer**
2. **Thank you!** Timing is one of the MOST important positions of the meet.
3. **Why this timing is so important?**
 - You are part of a team to help swimmers get the most accurate, backed up time recorded for their swim. Timers ensure the integrity of the swimmer's time.
 - You also help swimmers accurately be in the right heats and lanes.
 - In the end -- that's why we are here -- to ensure the swimmers receive the most accurate time!
4. (You are) **Part of a 3 Part Timing System:**

#1 -- Fully Automatic TOUCHPADS

(touchpads can fail, be missed by the swimmer, or too soft of a touch)

#2 -- Button (or plunger) -- This is semi-automatic

- manned by the timer who has the clipboard/records the time
- the button needs to only be pushed *ONLY* at the end of the race (not at the start)

#3 -- manual watch -- Entirely HUMAN

Through this 3-part system there is a blend for an accurate time:

If there is ever a window of greater than .3-time difference the admin ref/official pulls all the information that is being recorded to find the official time.

5. **What is expected... overview**
 - a. Work in pairs (experience/less experienced?): One person with a watch, the other person mans the button/clipboard -- YOU ARE A TEAM -- check that cell phones are silent/off... any other distractions -- want attention on the race.
 - b. The person with the watch should become familiar with the watch before the session start -- making sure it works and getting comfortable with the watch: start, stop, clear...
 - c. The person getting the FINISH with the button also has the clipboard to record the watch time after the race has concluded-- to the nearest hundredth.
 - d. **PLEASE use the row of chairs as your home base.** Please sit at the start of the race, during the race, and then again as soon as you have gotten the swimmers time/pushed the button at the finish. (Record time once you're back in your chair)
 - e. The swimmers need to stay at, or behind the row of chairs to give the swimmer on the block plenty of pre-race room... this is home base. (The swimmers often follow the timers)
 - f. check in swimmers (name and team), and then invite them when it's time to come up -- your help managing the waiting swimmers is VERY helpful to running a smooth session: If the start is about to take place, and you find you have a wrong swimmer... leave that person -- notify head timer -- let ref know. (don't want to pull a swimmer down.)

6. HOW TO TIME

- a. You will hear a series of chirpy whistles, then one long whistle.
The chirpy whistles signal to the swimmers to be ready for their heat (goggles etc.)
The long whistle indicates it's their turn to step up. (Second long whistle on backstroke)
- b. At this point, it should be calm and quiet behind the blocks... (i.e., no swimmer standing right behind the block for next heat)
- c. The timer with the watch needs to make sure the watch is clear and watch the STROBE light on the timing system.

You start your watch on the strobe flash-- SIGHT OF THE LIGHT starts.

(Let the head timer know if you cannot see the strobe well.)

**** PLEASE LET YOUR HEAD TIMER KNOW IMMEDIATELY
if you did not get the start, need a different watch due to yours not working,
or if you felt you got a late start.**

- d. Please check the distances of races to know when the end of the race approaches (don't want to be caught racing for the finish): outside the flags you want to move with your timing partner to the **VERY EDGE OF THE POOL** to get the finish of the race. **ANY PART OF THE Swimmer's BODY stops the clock.** (Head, shoulders, hand, etc.)
 - e. PLEASE have steady balance but lean over the edge so you can accurately observe when to stop the watch or push the button.
- **IF it appears the swimmer may have missed the touch pad, or had a soft touch at the finish -- PLEASE note that on your lane-timer sheet (small box on far right) (this may help the ref figure out a time disparity...)**
- f. The person with the clipboard/button records the time to the nearest .01 (hundredth)
 - g. Fly over starts -- ready for next heat.

7. INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN OFFICIAL?

Thank you for volunteering and do consider another much needed volunteer role. All the officials you see on deck are parent volunteers, we are always in need of more trained officials. This position will get you on deck at any meet you go to, not just your home meets. You can be on deck at any meet even while you are training! Some teams cover the cost of expenses, provide a shirt and name badge when your training is completed. If you are curious, or know someone who may be interested, talk to me, even for today, if you want to start learning, we will find another timer for your spot. Thanks for considering.

THANK YOU! -- HAVE FUN! -- Let us know if there are any questions!