



Referee Clinic



Certification Requirements

You are responsible for tracking your apprenticeship requirements and the requirements to maintain your certification. These can be found in the Advancement Guidelines.

Advancing to Referee:

- Attend Ozark Official Advancement Clinic for Referee
- Must take and pass the online exam(s) within 45 days of attending the clinic and prior to apprentice sessions. The Starter tests include the following:
 - **Recertification Test:** Starter
 - **Certification Test:** Timing Judge, Clerk of Course, Administrative and Referee
- A minimum passing grade of 80% on all tests is required.



Certification Requirements cont'd

Apprentice on deck at Ozark sanctioned meets:

- Minimum of 10 sessions from at least 3 Ozark Sanctioned meets as Referee with 2 different Deck Referees.
 - 4 sessions must be at sessions where the majority of athletes are 12 & under
 - 2 sessions must be as Timing Judge. This session is to be deemed successful by the Meet Referee.
- Receive written recommendations from 2 Meet / Deck Referees that you have worked with, confirming your readiness for certification as a Starter



Certification Requirements

cont'd

Observation:

- Upon completion of apprentice sessions submit your completed “Apprentice Form” to the Ozark Officials Coordinator and schedule your observation as a Referee
- Observations are held during sessions where the majority of athletes are 12 & under

All apprentice sessions and observations must be completed at non-championship format meets and meets / sessions without time standards. These meets must be Ozark / USA Swimming sanctioned meets. Intra-squad meets will not be counted toward apprentice sessions.

This process must be completed within 12 months from the date of the clinic the candidate attends or they must restart the process



Maintaining your Certification

Each Season (September 1 – August 31):

- Be current member of USA Swimming (non-athlete or athlete) without any lapse.
 - Work a minimum of 6 sessions as a certified official at Ozark/USA Swimming sanctioned meets hosted by teams other than your own.*
- Work 1 session as a certified official at an Ozark Swimming sponsored Championship meet:
 - A Champs – November
 - Division I – February
 - Long Course Champs – July

Every three years:

- Must attend appropriate Ozark Official Recertification Clinic.
- Must take and pass the appropriate online examinations within 45 days after attending the re-certification clinic. A score of 80% or better on all tests taken is necessary to pass the official's test.
- **Recertification Tests** Timing Judge, Clerk of Course, Administrative and Referee



Setting Up and Staffing the Pool

Pool Depth Requirement

- Swimmers must be certified prior to allowing racing starts (from blocks or pool deck) during competition
- There must be a minimum of 4 feet of water for swimmers to dive off blocks or the deck of the pool
- This depth must be maintained a distance of 1 meter through 5 meters from the start end of the pool
- This is an absolute requirement set by USA-S that cannot be waived by coaches



Setting Up and Staffing the Pool

Jurisdiction

- Make sure jurisdiction is covered during pre-session meetings
- Reinforce that an official may only make calls within the scope of their assignment and within their jurisdiction



The Deck Referee

Specific Duties:

- Has full authority over all officials on the deck while on duty
- May be requested by the Meet Referee to assign and/or instruct the officials as to their duties at the meet
- Ensures that all applicable rules are applied fairly and consistently
- Approves all disqualifications for rules infractions
- Can overrule any deck official on a point of rule interpretation, or on a judgment decision pertaining to an action which the Deck Referee has personally observed



The Deck Referee

Specific Duties continued:

- May overrule any meet official on a point of rule interpretation, or on a judgment decision pertaining to an action the referee has personally observed
- May disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the rules that the Referee personally observes
- Signals the Starter that all officials are in position, that the course is clear and that the competition may begin, before each race
- Gives a decision on any point where the opinions of the judges differ



The Deck Referee

Specific Duties continued:

- Has the authority to intercede in the competition at any stage to ensure that the proper and fair racing conditions are present
- May modify any rule for a competitive swimmer who has a disability, in accordance with Rule 105



The Deck Referee

Responsibilities:

- Is responsible for seeing that every swimmer gets a fair opportunity to swim his/her very best race every time
- Knows the USA-S Technical Rules and all Interpretations thereto
 - Read the rulebook regularly
 - Review interpretations from USA-S regularly
 - Read and review Deck Referee/Starter guidelines from USA-S
 - For invitational and championship meets, also knows and has a copy of the Meet Invitation, which contains information about the conduct of the meet



The Deck Referee

Qualities of a Good Referee:

- Knows the rules and enforces them consistently and equitably; there is no substitute for an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the rules
- Reviews the rules before each meet to be prepared
- Regularly works meets, not only as a Referee, but in the other officiating positions as well; there is also no substitute for on-deck experience
- Possesses strong organizational and leadership skills



The Deck Referee

Qualities of a Good Deck Referee:

- Establishes a rapport with the Starter she/he is teamed with
- Projects a calm, controlled image
- Maintains control of the meet without becoming arrogant or overbearing
- Maintains a cordial relationship with all coaches; is always ready to listen to their concerns and act on them when appropriate; is not intimidated by coaches
- Is ready and willing to take the responsibility for the meet and the people working with him/her



The Deck Referee

Qualities of a Good Referee:

- Always puts the swimmers first and does what is right for them, within the scope of the rules
- Treats every meet as if it was a championship meet and strives to give each swimmer their best experience possible
- The Referee sets the tone for the meet; a Referee who is obviously knowledgeable and in control will engender better officiating and the swimmers will have a better meet experience
- Taking on the role of the Referee for a meet is an important responsibility, one that should not be taken lightly, because it can affect the performance of all the swimmers entered into the meet



The Deck Referee Before Each Meet

- Review positions and jurisdictions for all deck officials
- Review pool configuration/problems
- Discuss protocols with your Meet Referee:
 - False starts, Delay of meet
 - No shows, Declared False Starts
 - Radio use, Disqualifications
 - Timelines
 - Athletes exiting the pool
- Check the timing / start system & Operators
- Find your deck position



The Deck Referee During the Meet

- Be prepared
- Blow the Series Short/Long whistles
- Turning over of field
- The “start”
 - Focus, be aware, be very aware
 - Suit , goggle, failure
 - Body language
- False Start Protocol
- Use of recall



The Deck Referee During the Meet

- Confirming an infraction
 - Hearing
 - Repeating
 - Confirming
 - Review DQ slip
- Notifying the athlete
- DQ review process for Coach



The Deck Referee

“Good to Great”

- Teammate with Starter
- Teammate with all Deck Officials
- Your success depends upon their success
- Role model, perceived and real
- Mentor, coach , teacher
- Wear the hat you are given
- Park your ego at the door
- Listen, learn and adapt



The Administrative Referee

- An Administrative Referee works with the console and timing equipment operators and handles the administrative tasks, including dealing with timing differences, following up on the paperwork for disqualifications, reviewing the results of each race before they are posted, etc.



Official Time Timing Systems

Automatic Timing System
Computer activated start
Touchpad activated finish

Semi-Automatic Timing System
Computer activated start
Manually activated finish (button)

Manual Timing System
Manually activated start (watch)
Manually activated finish (watch)



Official Time Official Times

Manual Timing System

1 watch = official time

2 watches

Average of time truncated to $1/100^{\text{th}}$ = time

3 watches

Middle time or time where 2 or more watches agree – to $1/100^{\text{th}}$ of a second



Official Time

Official Times – Manual Examples

1 watch

Time 33.12

Official time 33.12

2 watches

Watch 1: 33.25

Watch 2: 33.50

Average is $(33.25 + 33.50)/2$

$66.75/2 = 33.375 = 33.37$ (Truncated, not rounded)



Official Time

Official Times – Manual Examples

3 Watches:

Watch 1: 33.25

Watch 2: 33.50

Watch 3: 33.30

Official Time=33.30 (Intermediate watch)

Watch 1: 33.25

Watch 2: 33.25

Watch 3: 33.30

Official Time=33.25 (2 watches agree)



Official Time Integration of Times

- Three different timing systems in priority order
 - Automatic
 - Semi-automatic
 - Manual
- Not all meets will have automatic or semi-automatic timing systems
- Official time is the time recorded by the highest priority timing system in use
- When everything works, this is straightforward



Official Time Integration of Times

- When a swimmer fails to activate the pad or the timing system malfunctions, times must be integrated.
- What does this mean?
- The time recorded by the highest priority timing system **that is not determined to have malfunctioned** is the official time.



Timing System Malfunctions

- Primary Timing System Malfunction — A malfunction may have occurred if:
 - The difference between the time obtained by the primary system and the back-up system(s) is approximately .30 second or greater; or
 - The place judge(s) reports a different order of finish; or
 - It is reported the swimmer missed the touchpad or had a soft touch



When to use a “Delta”

With USAS’s adoption of FINA timing rules, times produced by subordinate timing systems are no longer corrected for human reaction time – No Delta!

Delta calculations are used in a heat malfunction – when the primary timing system has malfunctioned as a whole



Official Time Integration of Times

Equivalency of times:

Automatic: Time is started by the starting mechanism and stopped by the swimmer with the pad. There is no human intervention.

Semi-automatic: Time is started by the starting mechanism and stopped by the timer depressing the button. There is human intervention for the finish of the race.

Manual watch: Time is started by the timer and stopped by the timer. There is human intervention twice.



Official Time Integration of Times

Lane	Pad	Button	Watch 1	Pad-BU	Place	Official	Time
1	2:03.13	2:02.91	2:02.96				
2	2:06.41	2:06.18	2:06.22				
3	2:01.02	2:00.80	2:00.87				
4	1:59.44	1:59.46	1:59.40				
5	2:08.15	2:08.04	2:06.90				
6	2:00.06	1:59.91	2:00.00				

Finish Judges:

4-6-3-1-2-5

4-6-3-1-2-5



Official Time Integration of Times

Lane	Pad	Button	Watch 1	Pad-BU	Place	Official Time
1	2:03.13	2:02.91	2:02.96	.22		
2	2:06.41	2:06.18	2:06.22	.23		
3	2:01.02	2:00.80	2:00.87	.22		
4	1:59.44	1:59.46	1:59.40	-.02		
5	2:08.15	2:08.04	2:06.90	.11		
6	2:00.06	1:59.91	2:00.00	.15		

Finish Judges:

4-6-3-1-2-5

4-6-3-1-2-5

No malfunction indicated



Official Time Integration of Times

Lane	Pad	Button	Watch 1	Pad-BU	Place	Official Time
1	2:03.13	2:02.91	2:02.96	.22	4	2:03.13
2	2:06.41	2:06.18	2:06.22	.23	5	2:06.41
3	2:01.02	2:00.80	2:00.87	.22	3	2:01.02
4	1:59.44	1:59.46	1:59.40	-.02	1	1:59.44
5	2:08.15	2:08.04	2:06.90	.11	6	2:08.15
6	2:00.06	1:59.91	2:00.00	.15	2	2:00.06

Finish Judges:

4-6-3-1-2-5

4-6-3-1-2-5

No malfunction indicated



Official Time Integration of Times

Lane	Pad	Button Watch	1 Pad-BU	Place	Official Time
1	2:03.13	2:02.91	2:02.96		
2	2:06.41	2:06.18	2:06.22		
3	2:01.02	2:00.80	2:00.87		
4	1:59.44	1:59.46	1:59.40		
5	2:08.15	2:07.04	2:06.90		
6	2:00.06	1:59.91	2:00.00		

Finish Judges:

4-6-3-1-2-5

4-6-3-1-2-5



Official Time Integration of Times

Lane	Pad	Button	Watch 1	Pad-BU	Place	Official Time
1	2:03.13	2:02.91	2:02.96	.22		
2	2:06.41	2:06.18	2:06.22	.23		
3	2:01.02	2:00.80	2:00.87	.22		
4	1:59.44	1:59.46	1:59.40	-.02		
5	2:08.15	2:07.04	2:06.90	1.11		
6	2:00.06	1:59.91	2:00.00	.15		

Finish Judges:

4-6-3-1-2-5

4-6-3-1-2-5

Malfunction indicated in lane 5. Secondary and tertiary timing systems appear reasonable.



Official Time Integration of Times

Lane	Pad	Button	Watch 1	Pad-BU	Place	Official	Time
1	2:03.13	2:02.91	2:02.96	.22			
2	2:06.41	2:06.18	2:06.22	.23			
3	2:01.02	2:00.80	2:00.87	.22			
4	1:59.44	1:59.46	1:59.40	-.02			
5	2:08.15	2:07.04	2:06.90	1.11			
6	2:00.06	1:59.91	2:00.00	.15			

The button (Tier 2 Timing System) is the highest priority “Valid” timing system. This is the time that will be used.

Official time for lane 5 becomes 2:07.04



Official Time Integration of Times

Lane	Pad	Button	Watch 1	Pad-BU	Place	Official Time
1	2:03.13	2:02.91	2:02.96	.22	4	2:03.13
2	2:06.41	2:06.18	2:06.22	.23	5	2:06.41
3	2:01.02	2:00.80	2:00.87	.22	3	2:01.02
4	1:59.44	1:59.46	1:59.40	-.02	1	1:59.44
5	2:08.15	2:07.04	2:06.90	1.11	6	2:07.04
6	2:00.06	1:59.91	2:00.00	.15	2	2:00.06

Finish Judges:

4-6-3-1-2-5

4-6-3-1-2-5

Malfunction addressed



Official Time Integration of Times

Lane	Pad	Button	Watch 1	Pad-BU	Place	Official Time
1	2:03.13	2:02.91	2:02.96	.22		
2	2:06.41	2:06.18	2:06.22	.23		
3	2:01.02	2:00.80	2:00.87	.22		
4	1:59.44	1:59.46	1:59.40	-.02		
5	2:08.15	2:07.04	2:07.90	1.11		
6	2:00.06	1:59.91	2:00.00	.15		

Finish Judges:

4-6-3-1-2-5

4-6-3-1-2-5

Potential malfunction indicated in lane 5



Official Time Integration of Times

Lane	Pad	Button	Watch 1	Pad-BU	Place	Official Time
1	2:03.13	2:02.91	2:02.96	.22		
2	2:06.41	2:06.18	2:06.22	.23		
3	2:01.02	2:00.80	2:00.87	.22		
4	1:59.44	1:59.46	1:59.40	-.02		
5	2:08.15	2:07.04	2:07.90	1.11		
6	2:00.06	1:59.91	2:00.00	.15		

While the secondary system indicates a potential malfunction, the tertiary system appears to agree with the primary timing system



Official Time Integration of Times

Lane	Pad	Button	Watch 1	Pad-BU	Place	Official Time
1	2:03.13	2:02.91	2:02.96	.22	4	2:03.13
2	2:06.41	2:06.18	2:06.22	.23	5	2:06.41
3	2:01.02	2:00.80	2:00.87	.22	3	2:01.02
4	1:59.44	1:59.46	1:59.40	-.02	1	1:59.44
5	2:08.15	2:07.04	2:07.90	1.11	6	2:08.15
6	2:00.06	1:59.91	2:00.00	.15	2	2:00.06

Finish Judges:

4-6-3-1-2-5

4-6-3-1-2-5

Referee determines no timing malfunction

Rule of thumb – look for reasons to accept the primary timing system



Official Time Integration of Times

- Heat malfunctions
- What about missing button times
- Watch times that are 'off'
- Judgment and common sense need to be used
- Computer will flag differences between primary and secondary but will not flag missing times. All "No Swims" should be checked before posting results.
- Swimmers swim for place AND times.



Determining Official Time, Place and Order of Finish

Place Judges (102.15.2)

- Independently record the order of finish
- Responsible only for judging the order of finish (and not for the strokes at the finish)
- May record a tie if a place distinction cannot be made (should be extremely rare)



Determining Official Time, Place and Order of Finish

When Place Judges are Used (102.16.6):

- Judging shall only be used to change the order of finish produced by ranking the Official Times if:
 - If the swimmers competed in the same heat
 - times obtained from properly operating automatic timing equipment are not available, and
 - both Place Judges observed a different relative order of finish and made a written record of their observation immediately following the conclusion of that heat.

Note: A different relative order of finish means there is agreement that a different swimmer finished ahead of another swimmer, there need not be agreement on their exact placement within the heat



Timing System Adjustments

Utilizing Back-up Times

Exercise

Using the Timing Systems Adjustment Worksheet, work out one or two of the calculations in the handout.



Event Seeding

Timed Finals

- Swimmers swim once for time and place
- Event is seeded 'horizontally'

Prelim/Final

- Swimmers swim for ability to swim in finals
- Prelim is seeded 'vertically'
- Final is seeded 'horizontally'



Event Seeding Horizontal Seeding (Timed Finals)

6 lane pool – 36 entrant's example:

Heat	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6
1	35	33	31	32	34	36
2	29	27	25	26	28	30
3	23	21	19	20	22	24
4	17	15	13	14	16	18
5	11	9	7	8	10	12
6	5	3	1	2	4	6



Event Seeding Horizontal Seeding (Timed Finals)

6 lane pool – 33 entrant's example:

Heat	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6
1		33	31	32		
2	29	27	25	26	28	30
3	23	21	19	20	22	24
4	17	15	13	14	16	18
5	11	9	7	8	10	12
6	5	3	1	2	4	6



Event Seeding Horizontal Seeding (Timed Finals)

6 lane pool – 32 entrant's example:

Heat	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6
1		32	30	31		
2	29	27	25	26	28	
3	23	21	19	20	22	24
4	17	15	13	14	16	18
5	11	9	7	8	10	12
6	5	3	1	2	4	6



Event Seeding

Vertical Seeding (Prelim/Final)

- Vertical seeding (6 lane pool):
 - The fastest swimmers are placed in the final 3 heats
 - Fastest swimmer in last heat lane 3; 2nd fastest swimmer in 2nd to last heat lane 3; 3rd fastest swimmer in 3rd to last heat lane 3; 4th fastest swimmer in last heat lane 4, and so on



Event Seeding

Vertical Seeding (Prelim/Final)

6 lane pool – 36 entrant's example:

Heat	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6
1	35	33	31	32	34	36
2	29	27	25	26	28	30
3	23	21	19	20	22	24
4	15	9	3	6	12	18
5	14	8	2	5	11	17
6	13	7	1	4	10	16



Event Seeding

Vertical Seeding (Prelim/Final)

6 lane pool – 18 entrant's example:

Heat	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6
1	15	9	3	6	12	18
2	14	8	2	5	11	17
3	13	7	1	4	10	16



Event Seeding

Vertical Seeding (Prelim/Final)

6 lane pool – 15 entrant's example:

Heat	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6
1	15	9	3	6	12	
1	14	8	2	5	11	
2	13	7	1	4	10	



Event Seeding

Vertical Seeding (Prelim/Final)

6 lane pool – 12 entrant's example:

Heat	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6
1	10	6	2	4	8	12
2	9	5	1	3	7	11



Prelim Seeding Changes

The recent change to seeding procedures for the prelim component of a prelim/final event specifically changes how events of 400 YARDS are seeded

Previously, events of 400 yards (400 IM) were seeded using vertical for the last three heats

Now, 400 yard events only vertically seed the last two heats.



Prelim Seeding Changes

- Three heats — Except for 400m/400y/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events

The fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat, next fastest in the second, next in the first. The fourth fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat, the fifth in the second heat, and the sixth fastest in the first heat, the seventh fastest in the third heat, etc.



Prelim Seeding Changes

- Four heats or more — Except for 400m/400y/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events

The last three heats of an event shall be seeded in accordance with B above. The heat preceding the last three heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers; the heat preceding the last four heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers, etc. Lanes shall be assigned in descending order of submitted times within each heat, in accordance with the pattern outlined in 102.5.



Prelim Seeding Changes

- For 400m/400y/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events, the last two heats of an event shall be seeded in accordance with 102.5.1A(2):

The fastest swimmer shall be seeded in the second heat, next fastest in the first heat, next fastest in the second heat, next in the first heat, next in the second heat, next in the first heat, etc.



THANK YOU!!!!

See you on deck