

STAGING 8 & UNDERS-*New Method Sep 2011*

We discovered that giving each child a color coded (for heat) laminated lane number was easier than the sit on a number on a bench method.

- 3 volunteers. Everyone needs to be in place before the announcer calls “first call” which should be about 10-15 minutes before the event. Staging Volunteers (1), (2) and (3) referred to below as **SV1**, **SV2**, and **SV3**
- The bleachers have room for 4 heats. Usually upper left is Heat 4, lower left is Heat 3, upper right is Heat 2, lower right is Heat 1. As each heat is lead to the bulkhead, the remaining heats move up to the next spot – or not, if that seems easier and there are 4 or fewer heats.
- Four colors of laminated lane numbers (1 – 6) will be used for seeding. Decide ahead of time what color goes with what heat. Consistency from event to event is probably best, but that is up to you
- Step 1: Find out swimmer’s name, give them the appropriate colored lane number card and line them up in heats:
 - As the swimmers arrive at the staging area **SV1** asks the swimmer’s name and determines their heat and lane by consulting the heat sheets.
 - Give the swimmer a laminated number corresponding to their lane and the color of their heat. (Decide what works best – number given by **SV1** or by **SV2**.)
 - After a swimmer is given their laminated number, they will be directed by **SV2 and/or SV3** to sit on the Staging Bleachers in order with the other swimmers in their heat (same color lane card).
 - **SV3** will keep the kids line up in heats as they wait for their event.
- As the event draws near, most of the kids should already have their lane cards, so **SV1** can probably handle any stragglers by themselves freeing **SV2** to help **SV3** in getting the kids to their lanes
- When the last heat of the event before the 8&Under 25 yard event is in the water, **SV2 and/or SV3** takes the Heat 1 swimmers to their lanes on the bulkhead for 25s, behind the blocks for the 50 Free or 100 IM. Collect their lane cards from them before they walk onto the bulkhead, remind them of their lane as the card is taken.
- Meanwhile, back at the bleachers, **SV1 and/or SV2** moves the kids from one bench to the other – eventually each heat ends up on the bottom row on the right.
- As soon as the swimmers start their race, get the next heat of swimmers in place.

The idea is to have the kids in lane order, behind the blocks or on the bulkhead, ready to go before the heat in front of them finishes.

While on the bleachers, review what stroke they are doing, number of lengths and legal touch for Breast or Fly for those events (two hand touch.) Or not – up to you.