

## **Referee: Timers Briefing**

Meet with timers 30 minutes before the meet

1. Thank everyone for Stepping Up to Help Today!
  2. Introduce yourself with your name as the Referee for this meet.
  3. Any new timers? That is great! Tell them it is easy to learn.
  4. Remember that timing is one of the most important positions at the meet.
  5. Please start by turning off cell phones or any device that could distract you or the swimmers.
  6. If lanes are not assigned, designate three timers per lane and two Head Backup Timers (one from each team). Even number lanes are home team lanes (2,4,6). Odd number lanes are away team lanes (1,3,5). Therefore, even number lanes can only have 1 home team timer and 2 away team timers. Odd number lanes have 2 home team times and 1 away team timer.
  7. Designate more experienced timers in lanes 3 and 4, less experienced timers in lanes 2 and 5, and new timers in lanes 1 and 6.
  8. When using the stopwatch, press with your index finger, not your thumb. (Have everyone try it out together.) Make sure they all function.
  9. Make sure to reset the stopwatch after the times are written down.
  10. Please arrive in your lane 5 minutes before the meet begins.
  11. Timers with the clipboard, please verify that the correct swimmer/relay is in the correct lane, heat, and event.
  12. Ask the swimmer: "What is your name."
  13. Do not say: "Are you John Smith?" For example, swimmers will say yes to any name.
  14. For relays, check the order in which the swimmers compete.
  15. Timers should only engage in conversation with swimmers before their race if they initiate the conversation.
  16. Prior to the race, timers should stand far enough back so they will not distract the competing swimmers.
  17. At the start, timers must focus on the starting device—the strobe light—and start your watch on that signal rather than the sound. Make sure you can see the strobe and start the watch at the moment of the flash.
  18. Always start the watch even if your lane is empty, just in case a backup is needed.
  19. Check the watch to ensure the stopwatch has started and is working correctly.
  20. If you miss the start or the watch malfunctions, raise the watch overhead immediately to signal the backup timer.
  21. Keep track of the race.
  22. The timer with the clipboard should verify the swimmer in the next heat.
  23. If a swimmer misses a heat, send the swimmer to the Referee.
  24. If there is no one in the lane, record "No Swimmer" as N/S.
  25. Timers should come to the pool's edge at the finish and look directly to see the underwater touch.
  26. Expect to get wet.
  27. Stop the watch when any part of the swimmer's body touches the wall. Timers should not be concerned about whether the finish was legal or not.
  28. Times should always be recorded to the hundredths of a second (two decimal places) and in the same order of timers for each heat.
- Stay focused on your duties, particularly during the start and finish. Refrain from cheering for particular swimmers and get so interested in watching a race in another lane that you do not get an accurate time for the lane you are timing.

**"Again, thank you, Timers, for Supporting Swimmers and Teams Today"!**