

Correct Timing Procedures

The first thing to do is check your watch to see that it is functioning properly. Does it start? Does it stop? Does it clear? Practice starting, stopping and clearing the watch. The more proficient you become, the better timer you will be.

HOW TO TIME:

Before the meet begins, the designated head timer will assign you a lane and the referee will discuss the clearing of watches after each race. Also, you will be told how to signal the referee or head timer if your watch malfunctions (stops, can't get it to clear, etc).

Before the race starts:

- Look at the official's starting device. If there is an electronic starter, look for the strobe light. If there is a whistle start, listen for the sound.
- With your finger (not thumb) in place, on the watch start/stop button, depress the start/stop button when you see the light flash or hear the whistle. If you don't see a flash, immediately start your watch on the sound.
- Once your watch has started, look down at the watch and make sure it is running. Do not place your finger near the start/stop button until you are ready to stop your watch.
- As the swimmer in your lane approaches the finish of the race, get close to the end wall of the pool so that you can observe when the swimmer touches the end wall. At that moment, stop your watch.
- Once your watch has stopped, read your watch and place that time on that swimmer's entry card.
- Once the time has been recorded, clear your watch and get ready for the next race.

Timers should before each race:

Verify that the name on the lane card is the swimmer in your lane. If not, signal the starter/referee not to start the race.

FYI - The referee's rundown, (selection of how the swimmers finished) takes precedence over the manual watch times. Example: A race has finished and the referee tells the scorers "lane 3 finished first, lane 4 finished second" The times show lane 4 first and lane 3 second. The referee's rundown overrules. The scorers will write JD (Judge's Decision) after both times. The referee's rundown is a JD, and takes precedence over any manual watch times.

Manual times are for record purposes. The best manual times can be acquired by having 3 persons timing on each lane, next having 2 persons timing on each lane, and lastly, 1 person timing each lane.

Determining the swimmer's time with 3 watches per lane:

- o If 2 of 3 watches have the same time, that time will be considered the official time. For example: watch #1: 50.06; watch #2: 50.08; watch #3: 50.08

Official Time: 50.08

- o If all 3 watches have a different time, the middle time is to be considered the official time. For example: watch #1: 50.03; watch #2: 50.08; watch #3: 50.07

Official Time: 50.07

Determining the swimmer's time with 2 watches per lane:

- o If 2 watches have the same time, that will be considered the official time. For example: watch #1: 1:00.02; watch #2: 1:00.02

Official Time: 1:00.02

- o If the 2 watches have different times: use the following method to arrive at the official time. For example: watch #1: 50.04; watch #2: 50.06. Then:

1. Write down both times 50.04 and 50.06
2. Add both times 1:00.10
3. Divide the 2 times 50.05
4. The result is the average time. **Official Time is 50.05**

Each timer's watch time must be recorded
on the swimmer's lane card.

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