

Correct Timing Procedure

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. As a timer, 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.

Timing with 3 watches per lane:

- If 2 of 3 watches have the same time, that will be considered the official time:
Watch #1: 50.06; watch #2: 50.08; watch #3: 50.08 ----- **50.08 is Official Time**
- If all 3 watches have a different time, the middle watch time is to be considered the official time:
Watch #1: 50.03; watch #2: 50.08; watch #3: 50.07 ----- **50.07 is Official Time**

Timing with 2 watches per lane:

- If 2 watches have the same time, that will be considered the official time:
Watch #1: 1:00.02; watch #2: 1:00.02; ----- **Official Time is 1:00.02**
- If the 2 watches have different times: use the following method to arrive at the official time:
 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**

Timing with 1 watch per lane:

- If there is only 1 watch per lane, that time will be considered the official time.

Each Timer's watch time must be recorded on each swimmer's entry card or heat sheet.

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.). Do as suggested.

Before the race starts:

Look at the starter's starting device for a strobe light. If there is a gun start, look for the gun flash. With your finger in place, on the watch start/stop button, depress the start/stop button when you see the light flash or the gun flash. If you don't see a flash, immediately start your watch on the sound of the gun or sound of the starter's starting device.

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 and at that moment, stop your watch.

Once your watch has stopped, read your watch and place that time on that swimmer's entry card/heat sheet. When told to clear your watch, clear your watch and get ready for the next race.

While timing, there are a few things you can do to make the meet move as rapidly as possible.

Before the next race and the swimmers get ready to swim:

- Check the swimmer in your lane to make sure you have the right swimmer in the right lane, in the right heat and in the right event. Make doubly sure. If not, signal the starter/referee not to start the race.
- At any swim meet without automatic timing, all times are for record purposes. 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.