

TIMEKEEPING

Minimum age is 13 years

Timekeeping is arguably the most important role at a meet. We owe it to our swimmers to record their times accurately so they are correctly recognised for their performance.



Phones and devices need to be away while you are timekeeping. Your focus is the swimmer in your lane.



INSTRUCTIONS

1

Before the start the Referee will blow a long whistle blast to signal the swimmers to get on the blocks. This is your signal to push the SPLIT/RESET button. Check your watch is reading 00:00:00.

2

The Starter will say "Take your marks". If you can see it, watch the light on the start box. Concentrate and listen/watch for the start signal. Wait for the signal, don't anticipate it.

3

When you hear/see the start signal hit the START/STOP button to start your watch. Check your watch has started correctly. If it hasn't, or if you missed the start, IMMEDIATELY put your hand up and stand up to signal the Chief Timekeeper.

4

Count the number of lengths your swimmer has swum. When they are about 15m from the finish get up and stand over the end of the lane. Where you can see the wall (you will get wet - sorry!)

5

When the swimmer has about 1.5m to go, look at the wall and wait for the swimmer to touch. When you see the touch, push the START/STOP button. Don't anticipate the touch. At some competitions, this will be a back-up button for the touchpads instead of a stopwatch.

6

Return to your seat and quickly write your time on your programme. When asked show the lane chief your watch and tell them the time. Keep the time on your watch until the next race is set to start (someone may ask to see it).

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OFFICIAL TIME

At meets with automatic timing equipment, the official time comes from the equipment. The role of the timekeeper is still important as equipment can fail.

How we determine the official time?

- If automatic timing equipment is being used then that is the official time.
- If all three watches agree then that is the official time.
- If two of the three watches agree then that is the official time.
- If all three watches disagree then the middle time is the official time (see example below).

Event 13 Girls 100 SC Meter IM Finals					Dash for Cash - 14/06/2014		
Lane 0	Heat 12	Mitchell, Alisha C 14	KRIWN	1:12.31	1:12.15	1:12.21	1:11.99

- If there are only two good watch times (i.e. one watch fails) the remaining two watches are averaged e.g. 1:24.60 & 1:24.66 = 1:24.63, or 2:33.15 & 2:33.20 = 2:33.17 (NB: when averages result in a value expressed in thousandths of a second, the final digit shall be dropped without rounding)
- Good timekeepers on a lane should record times within 0:15 secs of each other (but up to 0:30 is acceptable).

A FEW LAST THINGS

Before the meet – ask the Chief Timekeeper (CTK) for any special instructions.

Check everyone is familiar with their watch and how it works.

If a swimmer doesn't turn up for a race, write "DNS" in large letters across the time slip. Hand the time slip to the person collecting the time slips.

Remember at development meets swimmers may be nervous, be supportive and helpful.

