

## LANE TIMERS BRIEFING

**Thank you for being a timer. You have the most important position on the deck.**

1. The Chief Timer will assign each timer to a specific lane and designate one timer per lane as the Head Lane Timer.
2. Remember that timing is one of the most important positions at the meet. Your input is always needed to determine a swimmer's Official Time.
3. You may operate one watch only. Use your index finger, not your thumb.
4. Become familiar with the watch you will be using at the meet. In particular, know which button starts, stops and clears (resets) the watch. Start and stop the watch with the index finger.
5. The Head Lane Timer/Recording Timer should check each swimmers name, preferably by asking for the swimmer's name. For relays, the team and the order in which the swimmers compete should be checked.
6. Do not engage in conversation with swimmers prior to their race unless they initiate the conversation.
7. Prior to the race you should be sitting or standing (if no chairs are provided) far enough back so you will not distract the starter or competing swimmers.
8. At the start, focus on the starting device (strobe light or gun flash) and start the watch on that signal, rather than the sound.
9. Once each heat has started, check to be sure your watch is running. If it is not or you think you started it late, signal the Chief Timer by raising your hand with the watch showing.
10. Be at the edge of the pool at the finish. You must be looking down over the forward edge to see an underwater touch. **Expect to get wet.** Stop your watch when any part of the swimmer's body touches the wall. You are not concerned with whether the finish was legal.
11. Head Lane Timer/Recording timer should always record times to the hundredths of a second (two decimal places), and in the same order for each heat. That is, watch A should always be the same. **Times meet to be recorded clearly.** If there is no one in the lane, record "No Swimmer" or "No Show" as N/S on the card, if provided.
12. If using a Recording Timer, place your watch in the same position on the table after each heat and pick up another watch.
13. Stay focused on your duties, particularly during the start and finish. Do not cheer for particular swimmers and do not get so interested in watching a race in another lane that you do not get an accurate time for the lane you are timing.