

## ~ TIMER INSTRUCTIONS AND PROTOCOL ~

### **TIMING**

Other than winning the race or scoring points for their team, the most important part of a swimmer's race is knowing with confidence how long he took to swim that event, aka his Official Time. Although there is usually only one first place winner in a race, each swimmer who participates legally achieves an Official Time. The swimmer's time could meet the qualification standards for future competition, set a local or national record, or it could simply be that swimmer's Personal Best. Regardless, our responsibility as officials is to provide each swimmer with an accurate and valid Official Time.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR LANE TIMERS**

1. The Chief Timer will assign each timer to a specific lane.
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 a button and/or a watch, but may never operate two buttons or two watches at the same time.
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 same finger.
5. The Timers should check each swimmers name, preferably by asking for the swimmer's name.
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 your 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. For all events make sure you know the number of length for each event and keep track in order to be in position to stop your watch at the finish of the race.
11. 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.
12. Always push the same button at the finish.
13. Times should always be recorded to the hundredths of a second (two decimal places), and in the same order for each heat. If there is no one in the lane, record "No Swimmer" as N/S.
14. Stay focused on your duties, particularly during the start and finish. Do not cheer
15. 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.