**Timers Briefing (Starter)**

* Welcome Volunteers
* Introduce yourself and the Meet Referee … Timers are a part of the Officiating team.
* Determine whether any volunteer is new to timing … pair with experienced timer, if possible.
* Review Watch Operation … Practice start/stop/reset.
  + Position to see the strobe … Start on strobe, not horn
  + If you miss the start, raise your hand to get the attention of the Head-timer … Introduce your Head Timer
  + Position to see the touch at/above/below water line.
  + Stop when any part of the body makes contact with the bulk-head.
  + If swimmer misses, or softly touches pad, indicate so.
* Review Backup Button (“Pickle”) Operation
  + Only used to stop the automatic timing system ... Do not use at the start.
  + Describe Auto vs. Semi-Auto vs. Manual timing systems.
  + Explain how the backup button is integral to the semi-automatic system, and that their watches will be utilized when pad and “pickle” times differ more than .3 secs
* Review timer sheets
  + Record times to the hundredth … .00 … no more, no less.
  + Record absent swimmers with N/S ... also prevents recording the results of the next heat in the wrong row.
  + Record bad touches
  + Do NOT record scoreboard times, or your partners time twice.
* Review relay timer sheets … or relay cards.
  + Be sure the timer knows whether to record times of the relay card, or timer sheets.
* Head Lane Timer (the one with clip board) is responsible for checking swimmer names prior to 3 short whistles from the Referee. However, this duty should never cause a swimmer to miss their event. If you believe there’s a problem, raise your hand and get the attention of the Starter or Deck Referee. This includes swimmer order during relays.
* Cover timing system check at start of the session … be clear about when you want them ready behind the blocks.
* Thank them again for donating their time to help run the meet.
* **Make a pitch to recruit officials.**