

SCSC Timing Protocol

Timing is an essential part of being a swim parent. Without timers and volunteers, we couldn't have meets and our swimmers would never be able to compete! Our swimmers work for hours in practice in preparation for competition, so we want to make sure we are doing the best job we can in helping them get an accurate time.

SCSC Timing Requirement:

Each family is responsible for timing **1 hour each day your child competes at a meet.** There are 2 exceptions to this requirement: is if it is your very first meet or if you are a working official. If you are officiating, you are excused from timing for the day(s) you are on deck. If you are at a meet but not officiating, you are required to time for one hour. Per the member agreement, SCSC does not award volunteer credit for timing at a meet when your child swims.

How to Time at a Meet:

1. **Pick a lane and chair:** Go to one of the SCSC-designated lanes at the time you selected (the lanes are usually labeled, and are always listed in the confirmation email you receive). Ask who needs to be relieved and take a seat. If you want to be specifically on the girls or boys side, go 5-10 minutes before your shift starts.
 - There are 3 timers per lane:
 - #1 presses timing button only.
 - #2 presses timing button and keeps time with stopwatch.
 - #3 presses black button and records stopwatch time on clipboard.
2. **Race Start:**
 - a. **Confirm swimmer's name:** The person with the clipboard should verify the name of the swimmer while the previous heat is in the water.
 - b. **Start the stopwatch** at the beginning of the race **at the flash of the strobe light**, not when the buzzer sounds. You need to have a **direct line of sight to the strobe light**, politely asking swimmers to stand behind the timers, or standing up to see around officials.
 - If the stopwatch malfunctions, signal the head timer to time your lane or walk over to the head timer to trade watches if there is enough time.
3. **Race Finish:**
 - a. When your swimmer is on their last lap, **stand up and choose a button** to press (you may need to untangle the cords a bit).
 - b. **Lean over the edge of the pool** so you can see the swimmer touching the wall.
 - c. **Anticipate the touch and press the button when any part of the swimmer's body hits the wall**—it does NOT have to be 2 hands for breaststroke and butterfly—it is the officials' job to make sure it was a legal finish.
 - **Count the laps.** Be sure to pay attention to what the kids are swimming, and **count the laps**, paying special attention to the 200s, when you have to count 8 laps of one stroke (short course).

4. Record the stopwatch time onto the clipboard. If you couldn't start the watch and don't have a time, write "NT" for "No Time" on the clipboard for that swimmer. (Do NOT write down the finish time from the electronic scoreboard.)

*****The most important thing you need to know is to LEAN OVER THE EDGE OF THE POOL so you can see the swimmer touch the wall of the pool. Anticipate the touch and press the button AS THE SWIMMER TOUCHES THE WALL.*****

If you need more clarification or an example of how this works, just watch the starter about 15 minutes before the start of the meet when they will give instructions to the first shift of timers. If you still have questions when you are at the meet, feel free to ask another parent.

A few more details:

- Be punctual. When you are late that means there is someone sitting there waiting to be relieved. Please be courteous to other parents and be on time to the lane. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you will be considered a NO SHOW and *will be fined \$25!*
- Time during the shift you signed up for. If you want a different time once you get to the meet, you'll need to trade with another parent so someone is covering your original shift or you will be fined \$25.
- Leaving the meet early: If your child is finished before your scheduled shift starts, it is still your responsibility to time or find a substitute to avoid the \$25 no-show fine.
- Emergency No-Shows: If you are not going to be able to make the meet at all, call the Timing Coordinator and email Kim O'Brien as soon as possible.
- No time slots left. If the timing shifts are full when you try to sign up, keep checking back for the next several days since schedules sometimes change. If you still can't get a shift, then check in with the timing coordinator when you arrive at the meet and let him/her know that you are available if there are any no-shows.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me anytime. Without parent volunteers these meets do not happen. THANK YOU!

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