

Timer Certification

A prerequisite for training and certification
in all other positions

(Descriptions in some of the following slides are as indicated in the rules, although it is not unusual for the referee to delegate responsibility somewhat differently in VSI-sanctioned meets. These items are shown in italics.)

Timing Systems

- Automatic- starts via starting system, stops by swimmer touching pad
- Semi-automatic- starts via starting system, stopped manually by buttons
- Manual- started and stopped by timer
Only digital watches may be used

Timing System Designations

- Primary System-determines swimmers time unless there is a malfunction. Preferred order-
 - Automatic
 - Semi-automatic with 2 or 3 buttons per lane
 - Manual with 2 or 3 watches per lane
- Secondary System-If manually operated watches are not the primary system, a secondary system must be used
 - Semi-automatic with 1, 2 or 3 buttons per lane
 - Manual with 1, 2 or 3 watches per lane
- Tertiary System-Unless watches are being used as the primary or secondary system, at least 1 watch per lane shall be provided

Chief Timer

- Frequently referred to as the Head Timer
- Assigns timers to lanes and designates head lane timer
- Starts 2 spare watches on every heat for use as substitutes if any other watch fails
- *Delivers manual watch times to the Timing Judge (usually done by a runner)*

Head Lane Timer

- Determines that the correct swimmer or relay team is present and in the correct heat and lane
- Determines that relay teams swim in the correct order
- Any change to the names or order of swimming must be declared to the Head Lane Timer before the start of the respective heat
- Record manual watch times or absence of swimmer in a lane
- *Assigns 1 timer to time relay splits or initial distance if requested by the Chief Timer (assignment usually done by referee)*
- Report that a swimmer had a late touch or missed the touch pad at the finish

Lane Timers

- May simultaneously operate two dissimilar timing devices
- Does **not** judge the legality of the finish
- Starts the watch on observing the visual starting signal
- Stands directly over the lane at the finish and stops the timing device when any part of the swimmer touches the wall
- Reports the watch times according to meet protocol
- Shall not clear the watches until told to do so by the Referee or at the long whistle
- *In 500-yard events and longer, may be asked to ring a bell over the finish end when the swimmer has two lengths plus five yards/meters to go (not done)*

Determination of Official Time

- Determined by the Timing Judge under the direction of the Referee
- When recorded by properly operating timing equipment, the pad time shall be the official time
- Whenever semi-automatic or manual timing is used, times are determined as follows:
 - If 2 of 3 buttons/watches agree, that is the official time
 - If all 3 buttons/watches disagree, the intermediate button/watch time is official
 - If only 2 buttons/watches are available, the time is the average
 - If only 1 button/watch is available, that is the time

Timing Resolution

- All time systems shall have a resolution to one one-hundredth of a second (0.01 sec)
- All times shall be recorded to one one-hundredth of a second
- Digits representing thousands shall be dropped without rounding
- When averaging two times, the digits representing thousands of a second shall be dropped with no rounding

Thank you!