



## **Timers' Briefing**

### **Thank You for Stepping Up to Help Today!**

- With your help and attention each swimmer will receive an accurate official time.
- Introduce yourself and the Head Timer.
- Any new timers? That's great! It's easy to learn and we'll teach you how right now.
- You are essential! You are not merely a "back-up." USA Swimming rules require us to verify all times. Your buttons and watches perform this crucial task in every heat! Please start by turning off cell phones, any device that could distract you or the swimmers.
- Remember that watches are important, but buttons are critical. When pads are used, the buttons are what verify the pad time!

### **Before the Race:**

- Timer(s) with the clipboard, please verify that the correct swimmer/relay is present and in the correct lane, heat.
- Except for backstroke, remind previous heat to stay in the water for overhead starts.

### **At the Start:**

- Make sure you can see the strobe; observe the strobe light, start the watch at the moment of the flash.
- Strobes do fail occasionally; in that case, start the watch on the sound.
- Please start the watch even if your lane is empty, just in case a backup is needed.
- No need to hold hand over block if swimmer is not present.

### **Immediately After the Start:**

- Check the watch to ensure it has started and is working properly.
- If you miss the start or if the watch malfunctions, raise watch overhead to signal the Head Timer.

### **During the Race:**

- Keep track of the race and the distance completed by your swimmer.
- Timer(s) with the clipboard should be verifying the swimmer in the next heat.
- If a swimmer misses his/her heat, send the swimmer to the Referee.



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**At the Finish:**

- Come forward to the edge of the pool, look directly down the wall.
- Stop the watch **and** the button when any part of your swimmer touches the end of the racing course. **Remember, buttons are critical.**
- Timers and officials share deck space at the finish—please be considerate of one another.

**After the Finish:**

- Step back to make space for the next swimmer.
- Timer with the clipboard records the watch time(s) on the sheet in the same order for each heat.
  - ❖ Record “NS” if the swimmer missed the race
  - ❖ Note any other problems (late or missed pad, etc.)
- Remind swimmer to remain in the pool (except for Backstroke, or if dive-over starts not being used)

**Additional Instructions (some of this depends on circumstances):**

- Cameras/smartphones not permitted behind the blocks.
- Do timers need to move to the opposite end of the pool for any events?
- Are swimmers starting any events from opposite end of the pool? Where is the strobe?
- For relays, verify the order of the swimmers on the relay team.
- Any other special instructions?

**Again, Thank You for Supporting Your Swimmers Today!**