

Southeast Ohio/West Virginia YMCA Swimming League Championships Lane Timer Instructions

PLEASE READ THESE!!! YOU MUST PERFORM YOUR DUTIES AS OUTLINED BELOW
TO OBTAIN ACCURATE RESULTS. IF YOU ARE RELIEVED, BE SURE
YOUR RELIEF PERSON READS THESE BEFORE THEY BEGIN

In each lane one timer will have a clipboard and a backup button. The other will have a watch and a backup button.

The timer with the clipboard writes the watch time down on the timing sheet next to the appropriate heat. Record the times to the hundredth of a second as shown on your watches. Do **NOT** round or use times from the scoreboard.

VERY IMPORTANT! Before each heat (or when exiting the pool for 25 yard events) ask the swimmer to tell you their name. Verify their name matches the timing sheet for that event and heat. If not, inform the referee/starter before the race begins.

If you have an apparent “no-show”, call out the swimmer’s name and team loudly to be sure that they are not just daydreaming behind the blocks.

If you are not ready when a race is about to begin, call out and wave your arms over your head to get the referee/starter’s attention.

Start your watch at the flash of the strobe light on the starter’s stand. The difference between the speed of light and that of sound can make your time be up to several tenths off if you don’t. If you hear the horn, start your watch! The strobe may be broken!

Start your watch even if your lane is empty in case additional backup watches are needed.

The backup buttons start automatically. Therefore, you **NEVER** press them at the start, only at the finish. Do not pick the backup button up until the swimmer begins their final length.

Immediately after the start of each race look to be sure your watch has started. If it hasn’t, signal the backup timer immediately by calling their name and waving your arms over your head. There will be several backup timers. They will be positioned across the racing course. They will be wearing bright vests. They can be used as temporary relief timers, if you need a break.

Know the distance of the event being swum and what lap the swimmer is on so that you can be ready to stop your watch when they complete that distance. In the 500 events, tally 10 laps (20 lengths) to be sure the swimmer has completed the required distance. Do not rely on the lap counters count. The swimmer is always responsible for completing the required distance.

As the race is ending, stand **DIRECTLY** over the end of the lane and look vertically down the end wall for the finish. Stop your watch and/or backup button at the instant any part of the swimmer’s body **PHYSICALLY** touches the **TIMING PAD**. Use the first joint of your index finger to press the watch/button and do not swing your arm when starting or stopping. Don’t concern yourself with the legality of the finish. The officials will take care of that.

ACCURATE watch times and backup button times are **VERY** important, even with the electronic timer. Occasionally pads and/or backup buttons malfunction. The official time may need to be determined by integration of pad time, backup button time and watch times.

Don't become over excited in a close race and forget to pay attention to **YOUR** lane!

An official may request your assistance in "holding" the swimmer/s at the lane until they can get back to talk to them. If so, please tell them an official needs to talk to them and have them wait behind the block until the official arrives.

Timers can help keep the length of a meet down in these ways:

- a. Write your times, clear your watches and be ready for the start of the next event as quickly as possible.
- b. Help with crowd and noise control behind the blocks.
- c. Ask swimmers who may be delaying to exit the pool quickly after each race or their leg of a relay.

Never reassign swimmers to different heats or lanes without the referee's approval.

Do **NOT** coach swimmers, give advice, or cheer during a race. Congratulations after a race are in order.

The back of your clipboard has a QUIET, PLEASE notation. You may need to hold this up to help quiet the swimmers behind the blocks.