



## TIMER'S INSTRUCTIONS

TIMING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT AND  
CRITICAL JOB AT THE MEET!

### ARTICLE 103: Meet Procedures

#### 103.1 Required Personnel

The minimum personnel at USMS sanctioned Masters swimming meets or recognized events shall include the following for each course:

**103.1.2 Timers**—Two timers per lane if automatic timing is not being used. One timer per lane if automatic timing is used.

---

**ONE TIMER PER LANE IS DESIGNATED AS THE HEAD LANE TIMER.** That person also serves as a Lane Timer and is responsible for the other Lane Timers assigned to that lane:

- Determines that the proper swimmer or relay team is in the lane.
- Determines if relay team members are swimming in the proper order.
- Records all manual watch times to two decimal places (hundredths of a second) or the absence of a swimmer/relay team in that lane.

**TIME DETERMINATION** (Done by Head Lane Timer if requested by the Chief Timer): *Very Rare*

- If the times of at least two of the three watches agree, that shall be the recorded time.
- If all three watches disagree, the time of the intermediate watch shall be the recorded time.
- If only two watch times are available, the recorded time shall be the average of those two watches. The digits representing thousandths of a second shall dropped with no rounding.

#### ALL LANE TIMERS:

- Start watch at the instant of the flash (on sound only if flash not observed).
- Check watch after start to make sure it is running.
- If start is missed or watch malfunctions, raise hand with watch in it to signal the Chief Timer.
- Stand directly over assigned lane **at the finish**; watch for under water touches.
- Stop watch immediately when **any** part of the swimmer's body touches the wall.
- Promptly report times to the Head Lane Timer or the designated recorder; present watches for inspection, if requested.
- Report to the Head Lane Timer if swimmer missed the pad.
- Do not clear watches until given the command to "Clear watches" or the Referee signals the next race is ready to start by a long blast of the whistle. With use of the new "whistle protocol" for instructing the swimmers, timers should clear their watches as soon as they are sure their time has been recorded.
- For initial splits only, the Referee, if requested, may permit three additional official timers for any lane.

**If an Automatic Timing System is being used, you may be required to also operate a plunger (secondary timing device)**