



**Timer  
Certification Clinic**

# 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 timer pushing buttons.



- Manual



- Started and stopped by timer pushing watch buttons.  
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

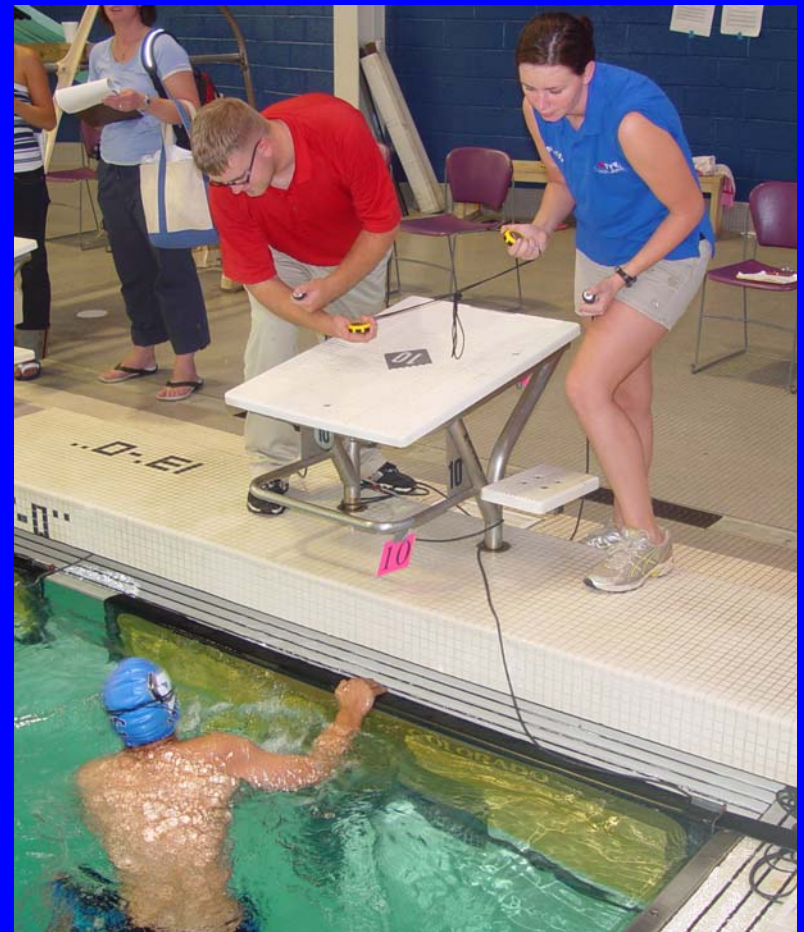
- Frequently referred to as the Head Timer
- Assigns timers to lanes and designates Head Lane Timer
- Starts 2 spare watches on every heat for use as substitutes if any other watch fails
- *Delivers manual watch times to the Timing Judge (usually done by a runner)*

# 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 Timer

- 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 make tally marks on time card to track laps swum*
- May simultaneously operate two dissimilar timing devices



# 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!**