

MCSL Timer Briefing

- a. Timers should assure that their watch is functioning properly at all times during the meet by:
 - (1) Checking its accuracy at the Starters time check.
 - (2) Watching it occasionally during each event to make certain it is operating.
- b. Look at the starting device and start watches at the sight of the flash - *not by the sound (unless the strobe does not fire or is not seen)*. Timers should feel free at the start of a race to move to a position from which they can clearly see the starting device as long as they are behind the swimmers.
- c. Before the end of each race, Timers should position themselves at the end of the pool and be in position to observe the swimmer touch the end of the pool in order to obtain the most accurate time possible.
- d. The watch should be stopped *when any part of the swimmer's body touches the solid wall* at the end of the pool (or the touch pad if automatic officiating equipment is being used). It is not the responsibility of the Timer to judge if the finish touch meets the requirements of the appropriate stroke finish rule.
- e. If, during any event, a Timer discovers that he/she has failed to properly start or stop the watch or that the watch is not functioning properly, the Timer should immediately notify the Head Timer or Assistant Head Timer.
- f. The official time used will be the time of two watches that agree, or the middle time if none agree, and will be recorded to the hundredths (e.g., 1:35.79). If times from only two watches are available, the average should be recorded to the hundredth of a second and rounded down (thousandths should be dropped, i.e., 1:25.435 is recorded as 1:25.43). If time from only one watch is available and that time is determined to be a valid time, the time from that watch will be the official time.
- g. Timers should ensure that electronic devices be set on silence. In addition, MCSL strongly advocates that any device capable of taking a picture (cell phone, tablet, etc) not be displayed or used immediately behind the starting area.
- h. Relay take-off judging. Timers asked to serve as a lane or side take-off judge for a relay event should watch the feet of the outgoing swimmer leave the deck or wall and then look to see if the incoming swimmer has touched the wall. If the incoming swimmer has not touched the wall, it is an early take-off. Write an X through any early exchanges on the relay take-off slip. Do not raise hand or otherwise communicate that a take-off infraction has occurred.

The Head Timer shall collect all lane/timer sheets and shall check and approve the official time reported at each lane for each event. If valid times are available from less than three watches on a lane, the Head Timer shall have the Assistant Head Timer verify the validity of the available times by initialing the card or lane/timer sheet and presenting the card or lane/timer sheet to the Referee for his initials.