

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR TIMING EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

The Timing Equipment Operator is responsible for the automatic or semi-automatic timing equipment, including the electronic starting system and scoreboard (if used.) Because different timing systems are used at various swim meets, discussion of how to use a particular timing system cannot be included. However, many points are common to all systems and can be discussed here.

1. All electronic equipment should be placed whenever possible so that the equipment operator has an unobstructed view of the finish end of the pool. This permits the operator to observe the finish and listen to audio signals from the equipment to confirm that the system has properly recorded the touches when they occur.
2. The timing equipment operator should verify that the various components are properly operating prior to each session. This includes making sure that the starting system properly activates (starts) the timing system, the pads and buttons are connected, pad touches and button pushes are being recorded by the timing system, the timing system is properly configured for the type of pool being used, which side of the pool the equipment is on, number of lanes in use, type of timing equipment being used, etc.
3. The operator should also confirm that the scoreboard is connected and working, output can be printed, and that it can be received by the computer used to record the official meet results.
4. Automatic and semi-automatic times are to be recorded to the nearest hundredth of a second. If possible do not allow the automatic timing system printout to show the time to the thousandth. Identical times to the hundredth are considered ties and swim-offs may be required.
5. Care must be taken to make sure that all intermediate turns are recorded by the system. If not, the system must be adjusted so that it is properly armed prior to the finish.
6. Similarly during relay races, the system must be carefully monitored to make sure first three swimmers have exited the pool promptly enough to not reactivate the touchpad. If not, the system must be adjusted so it is properly armed prior to the finish.
7. If the primary timing device fails to start automatically on the starting signal, it should be started as soon as possible by the automatic equipment operator. Good results can be obtained by using all the watch times to calculate the delay in starting the timing system and adjusting the times accordingly.
8. If operator error or power failure causes machine failure during the race, an attempt to start the machine late should be made. The only requirement is that the touchpads be armed prior to the time the first swimmer finishes.