



CHIEF TIMEKEEPER CLINIC

ROLE OF THE POSITION

Of all the intermediate positions, Chief Timekeeper is probably the most straightforward. Accurate timing by this team is essential. The Chief Timekeeper and his assistant must maintain a constant check on the accuracy and efficiency of all the Timekeepers.

PERFORMANCE OF THE POSITION

Before the Meet

- 1 Arrive early - at least one hour before the start of the meet.
- 2 Check with Meet Manager about condition of watches and check watches, if required.
- 3 Arrange a sign-out system for the watches if requested by Meet Manager.
- 4 Arrange a time with Referee and Starter for the watch check.
- 5 Have extra batteries, watches and pencils for Timekeepers on the deck, during the meet.
- 6 Discuss with the Referee:
 - ✓ Signals for advising the Referee if all Timekeepers have a problem. E.g. ticket mix-up.
 - ✓ Will there be two swimmers per lane in distance events? - Need to appoint relay take over judges.
 - ✓ Special procedures distance events, two swimmers per lane? Need for extra timers. 25 metre swims in a 25 metre pool or 50 metre swims in 50 metre pool
 - ✓ will swimmers be moved to start at the turn end or will timers be moved to take finish at turn end?
- 7 Conduct a briefing session and watch check with all Timekeepers 15 to 30 minutes before the start of the session.
 - ✓ Introduce yourself and your assistant and explain your duties.
 - ✓ Ensure you have enough Timekeepers, and arrange for more if required.
 - ✓ Identify the apprentice Timekeepers and ensure they work with experienced Timekeepers.
- 8 Appoint relay take over judges if required and discuss correct position for observing relay take over and procedure for reporting of disqualification's.



- 9 If you have qualified Inspectors of Turns available, select a Head Timekeeper for each lane and notify the Referee. Discuss how to operate the different kinds of watches that are used. Stress that the person that starts the watch must stop the watch. **NO EXCHANGING OF WATCHES.**

- 10 Identification of swimmers (Have a sample ticket or Lane Sheet):
 - ✓ correct name on ticket: matches the swimmer in the water.
 - ✓ correct heat: for heats it's located under Heat, for timed finals or finals it's located under Final.
 - ✓ correct lane: for heats it's located under Heat, for timed finals or finals it's located under Final.
 - ✓ relays: swimmers swim in correct order.
- 11 Discuss the recording of times on the time tickets.
 - ✓ Recorded to the hundredths.
 - ✓ Correct location on the ticket for:
 - timekeepers times
 - check time
 - official time
 - ✓ Splits: a. when
 - ✓ every time the swimmer comes by. b. how
 - ✓ lean over the end of the pool and observe the touch. c. where to record them on the ticket.
 - ✓ On far right. and on the back if not enough room. (Note: the Chief Finish Judge may request splits to go on the back of the ticket.)
 - ✓ On distance events, 800 and 1500, if you miss a split put a line through the space where the split would have been recorded. This will assist you in keeping track of the swimmer in the race, for the whistle Lap.
- 12 Light touches when using electronics.
 - ✓ swimmer does not touch the pad firm enough to active the electronics.
 - ✓ report it to the Chief Timekeeper or his assistant.
 - ✓ write "LIGHT TOUCH" on the time ticket.
- 13 When and how to blow whistles if you have 800 or 1500 events during the session
 - ✓ 25 metre pool:
 - a. In 800 ring the bell at the 750 lap.
 - b. In 1500 ring the bell at the 1450 lap.
 - ✓ 50 metre pool:
 - a. In 800 ring the bell at the 700 lap.
 - b. In 1500 ring the bell at the 1400 lap.



- ✓ Ring the bell over the right hand lane rope when your lane's incoming swimmer is 5 metres from his final turn until your outgoing swimmer is 5 metres passed his final turn (backstroke flags are 5 metres from the turn/end wall).
- 14 How does the Timekeeper signal for help when he has a problem?
 - ✓ It is customary to have the timer raise his or her hand to get the Chief Timekeeper's attention. Alternate signals may be worked out in advance.
- 15 Resetting of watches
 - ✓ on the Referee's whistle to start the next heat or as instructed by Chief Timekeeper.
- 16 Advise Timekeepers to record times quickly and to be prepared for the next race.
- 17 Relays:
 - ✓ The first leg of relays (50 or 100 splits) shall be timed by all Timekeepers and recorded and published as official times.
 - ✓ Ensure the Timekeepers know the relay take off rules, and the Head Timekeeper is charged with this duty.
 - ✓ If requested, inform the swimmers of their "unofficial" time when they get out of the water.

During the Meet

- 1 There may be an extra ticket attached to the normal ticket requesting an "Official Split". The Referee should advise you as soon as he is advised, and arrangements made to time the split distance.
- 2 Signal the Referee if something goes wrong in your area that needs to be fixed and requires the meet to stop.
- 3 Take the time of the winner of each heat or other lane as required.
- 4 Supervise all Timekeepers.
- 5 check that their times are accurate by observing the times being recorded.
- 6 check that the information is recorded correctly in the right place on the tickets.
- 7 have your time recorded if required for a third time or if a designated Timekeeper's time is incorrect. Chief Timekeeper's time is a diplomatic way for the Chief Timekeeper to stick his nose into every lane and observe that times are accurate. The Chief Timekeeper's time is not used when three good times are recorded.
- 8 Evaluates apprentice Timekeepers.



- 9 Move Timekeepers from a lane with no swimmer to a lane where a Timekeeper did not get a start on his watch.
- 10 Solves ongoing problems in his area of responsibility.

After the meet

- 1 Sign record applications.
- 2 Ensure all watches are returned, shut off and stored properly. Those that are not working are marked and brought to the attention of the Meet Manager.
- 3 Return the watches to the office or Meet Manager.



CHIEF TIMEKEEPER EXERCISES

How would you, as Chief Timekeeper, handle the following situations?

- 1 Timekeeper 2 in Lane 5 consistently records times that are 0.40 to 0.60 faster than the other 2 Timekeepers.

Observe the Timekeeper working. Is he attentive? Is he starting and stopping the watch properly? If everything appears normal give him another watch, and explain the problem. Review the correct procedure for taking starts and finishes i.e. Is the Timekeeper starting the watch by the sound of the start device instead of the flash? Also is the Timekeeper anticipating the finish? (Make sure he is watching the wall not the swimmer.)

USE A LOT OF DIPLOMACY. We only have so many Timekeepers, and they all have swimmers. If nothing appears to work request the referee considers moving him to another position that he can handle well i.e. Marshall.

- 2 The Timekeepers in lane 4 are all inexperienced.

Trade places with one experienced Timekeeper to assist the others.

- 3 Timekeeper 1 in lane 3 takes her split times seated in her chair.

Advise the Timekeeper of the importance of observing the touch and the time she records is not correct unless she observes the touch.

Review the correct position for taking splits standing over the lane.

- 4 Timekeeper 1 in lane 4 is a qualified Inspector of Turns. He is trying to take splits and judge turns at the same time.

Ask one of the other Timekeepers to take the splits and explain to the offending Timekeeper that the two jobs don't work together, because they both require his attention at the same time.

- 5 All three Timekeepers in lane 6 are recording times that are inconsistent with the Referee's order of finish.

Observe the Timekeepers working.

- a Are they attentive?
- b Are they starting and stopping the watches properly?
- c If you observe a problem, bring it to the attention of the Referee.

USE A LOT OF DIPLOMACY, we only have so many Timekeepers, they all have swimmers, and we need both.



- 6 After the start, 3 Timekeepers raise their hands. They have missed the start. Are they all in the same lane?
- If so are there any lanes with no swimmers?
 - If you have empty lanes move the Timekeepers into the lane with the problem.
 - If no empty lanes and no extra Timekeepers the Chief Timekeeper and his assistant can take a time.

REMEMBER IF YOU START THE WATCH YOU MUST STOP THAT WATCH

- 7 A Timekeeper requests a toilet break after the start of an 800M freestyle event.
- It takes about 10 minutes to complete the 800M race.
- If you have no extra Timekeepers, and the Timekeeper has enough time, allow the break.
 - You or your assistant can cover for him.
 - If he doesn't have enough time enquire if he can delay until the start of the next race when he would have more time.
- 8 The Referee has blown his whistle to signal the start of the next heat. The Timekeepers in lane 2 raise their hands.
- There is a problem in lane 2.
- Use your prearranged signal with the Referee to hold the start.
 - DO NOT LET THE RACE START with a problem among your Timekeepers.
 - Make sure it is an important problem e.g. ticket mix-up or else do not hold up start again for a minor problem.
- The Timekeepers must try to come up to the speed that the Referee requires.



CHIEF TIMEKEEPER'S BRIEFING SHEET

- Watches all work.
- Check list of events. Any relays, 25M/50M, 800M, 1500M.

MEETING WITH REFEREE

- Arrange signals for 25/50M.
- Will there be two swimmers per lane for distance events.
- Where do you want the Split Times for the first leg of the relays written.
- Need to appoint relay take over judges?

BRIEFING OF TIMEKEEPERS

- Introduce, self, assistant, Starter.
- Do you have enough Timekeepers.
- Put apprentice Timekeepers with experienced ones.
- Do you have enough Qualified Head Timekeepers? If not let the Referee know.
- Discuss operations of watches.
- Have starter do watch check (let watches run for a full minute). While waiting, carry on with list.
- Tickets, ensure correct name, heat, lane.
- Times in correct location on ticket for heats finals or timed finals.
- Splits - are any required? What event/heat?
- Bells for 800M and 1500M.
- Light Touches - where recorded and who to notify.
- Relays, swum in correct order, first leg will require all Timekeepers to take a time. It is an Official Time. Where to write it?
- Have starter complete watch check
- Ensure all Timekeepers have similar times.
- Procedure and time to report to deck

TAKE EXTRA WATCHES AND PENCILS

HAVE FUN.