



How to Time a Meet or Gala

Volunteer Information

There are numerous people on pool side that are part of timing and running of a swim meet.

- The Timers – **that is you**. It normally takes a minimum of 10 timers (2 per lane) to time a 5-lane swim meet such as RVLG Pool. (Or 12 for 6 lane pools)
- The Starter – that is the person holding the whistle, giving the instructions, and starting each race
- Extra / Spare Time or Head Timer – that is the person with the extra stopwatch. If you miss a start with your watch, he has an extra for you.
- Runner- Collects paperwork from timers

YOUR AIM! BINGO!!!

START WITH YOUR EARS FINISH WITH YOUR EYES

The Starter will say “**TAKE YOUR MARKS**” and **BLOW** his **WHISTLE** to start the race. You do **NOT** look at your swimmer, as soon as you hear the whistle, you **IMMEDIATELY PRESS THE STOPWATCH START BUTTON!** Remember, the **RACE STARTS** when the **WHISTLE** goes, not on any reaction that your swimmer takes or when they hit the water.

As the swimmer approach the finish, you must be standing over the top of the edge of the pool looking down at the wall and water. **You can't be standing back two foot because of fear of a water splash or getting wet shoes.** If you don't see the exact moment the swimmer touches the wall, then the timing won't be accurate.

The name of the game is BINGO. You are trying to get the exact same time as your timing partner.

Note! We must take the **SLOWEST** time from the two watches not the **FASTEST**. Some of our kids have lost opportunities to be record holders in our club because of the differences between timers! These kids train hard all year and to have a **slow time recorded** & destroy their chances of a record time is not fair. You are looking to Bingo your time with your partners' every single race. We are at the pointy end of **CLUB RECORDS** now, all the records broken in the last three years, have been by hundredths of seconds. You make the difference! Please take this job seriously!

Clip boards and paperwork. This will be the responsibility of one of the two timers that operate a stopwatch. Whoever takes care of the clipboard or Paperwork for the lane has three responsibilities: 1) Record the stopwatch time, on the sheet or card next to the swimmer, or relays, name, for the event that has just been completed; 2) Return the completed sheet to the Runner.