

## **TIMEKEEPERS:**

Sufficient Timekeepers shall be appointed, one of whom shall be Chief, to ensure that all swimmers are timed and that a finish time is recorded when each swimmer finishes his/her race. The General Requirements apply to Timekeeper appointments.



### ***What to bring?***

- 🕒 A stopwatch capable of running continuously for 10 hours or more with lap split and memory recall (minimum 300 laps) functionality (and if you have one with an inbuilt printer so much the better. SNSW has these available as part of its Open Water Equipment);
- ✎ Pencils preferably HB or soft; and
- 📖 Clipboard and a writing pad/writing paper.

### ***What to do?***

- 🕒 Be assigned as instructed by the Referee or the Chief Timekeeper;
- 🕒 Start your stopwatch at the starting signal (Pistol shot, light flash, or smoke from the starting pistol, horn, predetermined position of a starting device/signal [flag], whistle or word of command);
- 🕒 Time each swimmer as he/she crosses the finish line or rounds a buoy or other object as instructed by the Referee/ Chief Timekeeper (times are taken by using the “lap split” function of the stopwatch);
- 🕒 If your stopwatch does not have an inbuilt printer record the times of swimmers in the manner prescribed (usually this involves calling the times to a scribe who records the time on a time sheet or card that is passed to the Chief Recorder) [see example below] but should you have a stopwatch with an inbuilt printer the times are recorded for you;

**Timekeepers'/(Scribe) Time Sheet (or Printout from Stopwatch\*).**

Position Number	Time Lap 1
1	27.45
2	28.47
3	29.49
4	30.53
5	30.57
6	30.59
7	31.01
8	31.40
9	31.12
10	31.58
11	32.05
12	32.07
13	32.32
14	32.48
15	32.49
16	32.51
17	32.55
18	32.55
19	33.02
20	33.11
21	33.22
22	38.05

\* If using a stopwatch with an inbuilt printer you can assist the Recorders by handwriting a swimmer's number in the margin against the time recorded, BUT, only do this where time permits

- 🕒 Forward recorded times to the Chief Recorder;
- 🕒 Ensure that your stopwatch is running by constantly checking it throughout the race;
- 🕒 If the stopwatch fails or is accidentally stopped prior to the finish of the race to immediately advise the Chief Timekeeper of the occurrence;
- 🕒 If able, to restart the stopped stopwatch using the "elapsed time" method (restarting the stopwatch on the command of the Chief Timekeeper usually at the full minute and recording the "elapsed" time so that the elapsed time can be added to any times recorded from the restarted stopwatch);
- 🕒 Don't stop the stopwatch until instructed by the Chief Timekeeper or the Referee;
- 🕒 Ensure that you have an unobstructed view of the finish; and

- 🕒 Record an accurate finish time for each swimmer as they finish.



### **CHIEF TIMEKEEPER'S DUTIES:**

In addition to the above the Chief Timekeeper:

- 🕒 assigns all Timekeepers to their positions for the start and the finish;
- 🕒 conducts a time check of at least 15 minutes duration prior to the start;
- 🕒 advises the Timekeepers of the method of start (after consulting with the Starter);
- 🕒 ensures that recorded times are forwarded to the Chief Recorder;
- 🕒 examines any time taken by a Timekeeper by inspection of their stopwatch or of the time recorded on the time sheet or card;
- 🕒 instructs the Timekeepers when to stop their stopwatches; and
- 🕒 supervises the appointed Timekeepers and reports to the Referee on their performance and replaces any who are incapable through illness or inability to perform their assigned tasks after consultation with the Referee.

- ⌚ ensures that a least two (2) backup stopwatches are started on the starting signal. These are to be used in the event of stopwatch failure or accidental stoppage.

**The main differences between timekeeping at an Open Water Swimming Event and a “Pool” Event are:**

- ▲ the stopwatch is not stopped the instant that any part of the swimmer's body touches the finish (you use the lap split function);
- ▲ Timekeepers time all swimmers with one stopwatch being used as the primary time and the others as backup to the primary stopwatch. Where a stopwatch is used that has an inbuilt printer the first swimmer number is recorded against the first time printed and then the last swimmer number in the group. These swimmers' numbers are provided by the Finish Judge or Turn Judge as the case may be. Timekeepers do not act as Finish Judges under any circumstance;
- ▲ the “lap split” function of the stopwatch is extensively used;
- ▲ you are not assigned to a lane;
- ▲ the finish may be a fixed vertical strike plate, a line suspended above the water surface, a projected line between the shore and a buoy;
- ▲ times are not provided to the swimmers or their representatives until after the Recorders have completed their duties and the Referee has checked and confirmed the result; and
- ▲ there are no records in Open Water Swimming. Even where an identical course is used no two events will have identical climatic conditions and these will have an impact on the times swum.

**RULES:** The following rules relate to the Timekeeper's responsibilities and duties:

FINA	SNSW
OWS3.13	OWS4.13
OWS3.14	OWS4.14
OWS3.15	OWS4.15
OWS3.16	OWS4.16
OWS3.17	OWS4.17
OWS3.18	OWS4.18
OWS3.19	OWS4.19