

## **Timers at Potomac Valley Swimming Meets Minimum Requirements & Guidelines**

The purpose of this document is to review the minimum requirements for timers (per USA Swimming Rules) and present guidelines from the PVS Officials Committee.

The Timing Rules are Section 102.24 in the USA-S Rulebook. As defined in the rulebook, there are three possible primary timing systems: Automatic (touchpads), Semi-Automatic (electronic button finish), and Manual (stopwatches). The rules for timers are different for each of these cases.

### **Automatic Timing**

This is the type of timing used at most of PVS meets. Timers are used to operate the required backup timing systems (semi-automatic and manual)

#### **Requirements**

When Automatic Timing is used as the primary system, a minimum of one timer is required to operate both the secondary (button) and tertiary (stopwatch) backup systems.

#### **Guidelines**

Having to operate a backup button, a watch, and handle the clipboard is too much to ask of a timer, particularly when doing dive-over starts with a 15 sec. heat interval. So, the recommendation is for two timers; one timer operates a stopwatch and button, the other timer operates a button and handles the clipboard.

### **Semi-Automatic Timing**

This type of timing uses an electronic timing system without touchpads. The primary timing system is buttons, with stopwatch backup.

#### **Requirements**

When Semi-Automatic Timing is used as the primary system, a minimum of two buttons is required. Each must be operated by a separate timer. A backup consisting of at least one stopwatch is required.

#### **Guidelines**

The recommendation is for two timers; one timer operates a stopwatch and button, the other timer operates a button and handles the clipboard.

### **Manual Timing**

This type of timing uses stopwatches only.

#### **Requirements and Guidelines**

When using Manual Timing, three stopwatches per lane are required, each operated by a separate timer.