

SWIM MEET JOB DESCRIPTIONS

- **Stroke & Turn Judge:** *These judges determine whether a swimmer touched the end of the pool during a turn and whether the technical aspects of the swimming stroke were legal. It requires knowledge of the US Swimming stroke regulations, and a willingness to fairly disqualify swimmers when appropriate. Those who are interested in this job usually "apprentice" with someone who has done it before. We provide a copy of the rules, and a master with whom you can apprentice. There is also a required training program available from the league. (2 total, usually 1/team)*
- **Starter/Referee:** This is the most technically demanding job. The Starter/Ref runs the events in the meet by ensuring that the swimmers start simultaneously and oversees all the other meet officials. This is a leadership position that requires experience and a take-charge personality. It is up to the Starter to keep the meet moving. (1, usually from the home team)
- **Lap-Top Operator (Scoring Table):** *Scorers from each team record the results following each race, and track the team scores. There can be some pressure at the table, and the job requires knowledge of the computer program (Meet Manager) used for the computerized scoring system. The scorekeepers are critical to the success of the meet, and they are often the only ones who know which team is winning the meet. The league runs clinics each fall to train new scoring table workers, and your team leaders will also be very happy to show you the ropes and have you apprentice for this essential job. (2 home, 1 away)*
- **Timing System Operator (Console):** This job is for someone who likes to play with electronic gizmos. The timing system uses an electronic signal from the starter's device and the touch pads in the pool to determine the swimmers' times and order of finish. This information is displayed on the scoreboard and is fed into the computer program used by the scorekeeper that keeps track of the official results. This job requires a couple sessions of on-the-job training, which your team leaders will be very happy to arrange. (1-2)
- **Pool set-up/Tear down:** A crew of 3-4 people is needed at each home meet to ready the pool area for competition. This includes setting up the electronic touch pads and lane lines. This crew must arrive early for home meets and stay about 30 minutes after the end of each home meet. (3-4)
- **Timer:** *This is the most popular meet job among both new and experienced swim parents. You use a stopwatch to time the swimmer in your assigned lane. There are typically three timers per lane, and the median of the times is used as the official time (or as backup for electronic timing systems). It's cooler on the pool deck than in most observation balconies, and you get a much better view of the action. One timer will also record the times on a timing sheet and one will also hand the sheet to the runner. (18-24 total usually ½ per team)*
- **Head (Back-up) Timer:** *Starts a watch for each heat and watches to see if any lane timers indicate that they missed the start. If so, the back-up timer gets the finish time for that lane. (2, usually 1 per team)*
- **Announcer:** This is a great job for someone with a strong voice and an ability to correctly pronounce names. You announce the names of the swimmers in each event, make any other necessary announcements, and work with the Starter/Referee to keep the meet moving quickly and smoothly. (1, usually from the home team)

- **Finish Judge:** *These judges stand at the end of the pool and observe the end of the race. They help decide the order in which the swimmers finished the event (i.e., who won). No technical knowledge of swimming is required, but it does require a keen ability to focus your attention for close races. (2, usually 1 per team)*
- **Heat Winner Ribbons:** These volunteers identify the winner of each heat and give them a prize (usually a ribbon) – needed for hosted invitational/champs meets only.
- **Deck Parent:** *The deck parent has a copy of the meet events for the swimmers. The deck parent will line swimmers up at the blocks and get them motivated to swim. In order to be a deck parent, volunteers are required to obtain their clearances (1-2 per age group for swimmers 12 and younger)*
- **Ready Bench:** In the case of hosted invitational or champs meets, the ready bench personnel receive swimmers of all teams as their coaches send them to line up for their races. They organize the swimmers into the appropriate event, heat, lane, order then hand them off to the lane marshals right before their race.(2-4)
- **Lane Marshal:** In the case of hosted invitational or champs meets, the lane marshals are assigned 4 lanes of the pool (1-4 or 5-8) and are responsible for receiving the organized swimmers from the ready bench and placing them in order behind the blocks for the correct lanes. (2)
- **Runner:** *After each race, the runner collects the times from the timers in each lane, finish judge cards, stroke and turn judge cards, and any cards from the starter/referee and takes them to the scoring table. You stay on the move throughout the meet, so it's great exercise. (1-2)*
- **Snack Bar:** The snack bar is a great place to work if you're not interested in watching the whole meet. This is an important fund raiser for the team, as we raise money for end-of-the-season awards and other extras this way. You get to interact a lot with both kids and parents and can always get away to watch your child swim. (2-3)
- **Meet Director:** This is usually the boy's or girl's representative. The Meet Director is responsible for making sure everyone is available for their job before the start of the meet. The meet director will hand out watches to our timers and find substitutes for any job needing to be filled. A meet director is very busy during warm-up before the meet starts. When everyone is in their positions the meet director can sit and cheer on the team until the meet is over and the stopwatches must be collected. (1)
- **Awards/Post Results:** In the case of hosted invitational or champs meets, the awards/results posting personnel work with the lap-top/scoring person to obtain a copy of the results of each event to post and also to receive labels (usually every 3-4 events) to stick on the medals and ribbons and sort the awards into bags for each team. (2-3)
- **Door Monitor:** Is responsible to stay at the entrance of the pool and ensure that non-working parents stay off the deck and that swimmers are (fairly) dry and wearing shoes before leaving the deck. (1-2)
- **Program and/or Shirt Sales:** These volunteers are responsible to arrive 20 minutes before the called warm-up time to sell programs (invitational and champs) and shirts (champs only). (1)

- **Check-in assistant:** Assists meet director at hosted invitational/champs meets only in checking in volunteers (from our team as well as other league teams) and all teams' coaches. Also, during check-in, volunteer supplies and coaches packets are distributed. Must arrive 20-30 minutes before the called warm-up time. Job is complete shortly after the meet begins. (1)

Note: *Italics* means needed for home and away meets. If not in italics, only for home meets.

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