Timer Briefing

Thank You for Stepping Up to Help Today!
- With your help and attention each swimmer will receive an accurate official time.
- Introduce yourself and the Head Timer.
- Any new timers? That's great! It's easy to learn and we'll teach you how right now.
- Please start by turning off cell phones, any device that could distract you or the swimmers.
- Remember that watches are important, but **<u>buttons</u> <u>are</u> <u>critical</u>.**

Before the Race:
- Timer with the clipboard, please verify that the correct swimmer/relay is present and in the correct lane, heat, and event.
- Except for backstroke, remind previous heat to stay in the water for overhead starts.

At the Start:
- Make sure you can see the strobe; observe the strobe light and start the watch at the moment of the flash.
- Strobes do fail occasionally; in that case, start the watch on the sound.
- Please start the watch even if your lane is empty, just in case a backup is needed.

Immediately After the Start:
- Check the watch to ensure it has started and is working properly.
- If you miss the start or if the watch malfunctions, raise watch overhead to signal the Head Timer.

During the Race:
- Keep track of the race and the distance completed by your swimmer.
- Timer with the clipboard should be verifying the swimmer in the next heat.
- If a swimmer misses a heat, send the swimmer to the Referee.

At the Finish:
- Come forward to the edge of the pool, look directly down the wall.
- Stop the watch **<u>and</u>** the button when any part of your swimmer touches the end of the racing course. **Remember, buttons are critical.**
- Timers and officials share deck space at the finish—please be considerate of one another.

After the Finish:
- Step back to make space for the next swimmer.
- Timer with the clipboard records the watch time(s) on the sheet in the same order for each heat.
  - Record "NS" if the swimmer missed the race.
  - Note any other problems (late or missed pad, etc.)
- Remind swimmer to remain in the pool (except for Backstroke, or if dive-over starts not being used)

Additional Instructions (depending on circumstances):
- Cameras not permitted behind the blocks.
- Do timers need to move to opposite end of the pool for any events?
- Are swimmers starting any events from opposite end of the pool?
- For relays, verify the order of the swimmers on the relay team.
- For distance events, are timers counting lengths or ringing bells?
- Any other special instructions?

Again, Thank You for Supporting Your Swimmers Today!

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