



TIMEKEEPING

Accurate timekeeping is essential to swimming. Timekeepers are a part of swimming competition at every level.



Manual timing with a stopwatch is used at club nights and as a backup to electronic timing systems

To start the clock press the right top button. To stop the clock press the same button again, and to reset the clock press the left top button.

Start the clock when you see the starter's light. Light travels faster than the sound of the gun and is therefore more accurate. Stop the clock when **any part of the swimmer's body touches the end of the pool**. Do not reset the clock until the referee blows the whistle to instruct the swimmers to mount the block for the next event (a long whistle).

At a qualifying meet, three timekeepers are required for every lane, and the middle time (not the fastest, not the slowest) becomes the "official time". If two of the three timekeepers record the identical time, this becomes the "official time". At non-qualifying meets, only two timekeepers are needed in each lane, and the slowest time becomes the "official time". If your watch malfunctions, or you miss a start call out and a spare timekeeper or the chief timekeeper will take your place. **This is why it is important to always start your watch, even if you have no swimmer in your lane.**

Accurate timekeeping ensures that every swimmer receives the just reward for his/her training.

ELECTRONIC TIMING: Fully automatic electronic timing is available at TAS Aquatic Centre. The starting box starts a timer. The timer is stopped by the swimmer touching the pads when they end their race. At TAS Aquatic Centre two buttons are provided to obtain backup semi-automatic times. Timekeepers are required to press the buttons when the swimmer touches the pool at the end of the race.

FNQRSA has purchased a **semi-automatic timing system** which is now being used at many regional carnivals. In this system, the starting box starts a timer, and timekeepers press a button when they see the swimmer complete the race.

In FNQ, one manual time by stopwatch is often used as a backup.

All clubs are rostered to provide timekeepers at carnivals so every parent will need to do an hour or two per carnival.