

Requesting and Recording Relay Lead-Off Splits and Initial Distance Splits

April, 2015 (Rev. 1)

Relay Lead-off Splits

Relay lead-off splits, when recorded by the automatic timing system, are automatically stored in the SWIMS database and may be used as official times. These splits do not need to be requested by the coach or swimmer. It is up to the meet referee to determine if relay lead-offs should not be uploaded due to timing issues and that information must be communicated to Bill Martin along with the meet back-up file, or the lead-off splits should not be included in the meet back-up.

Initial Distance Splits

Splits from an initial distance of a longer event that is swum in accordance with USA Swimming Rules and Regulations and timed by an automatic timing system will only be recorded in the SWIMS database if requested by the coach or swimmer.

Request at a meet:

It is preferable that the request be made prior to the event being swum (and is required for an initial distance split in backstroke) as this will allow the use of backup timers in case the time is not recorded by the automatic timing system.

A separate card with the swimmer's name, club, heat and lane as well as the distance for which the time is requested should be given to the Referee or Administrative Official.

If watches are to be used for back-up, three additional timers are needed. The assigned lane timers may not act in that capacity.

If an initial distance split request is obtained for a backstroke event the Stroke & Turn official in whose jurisdiction the finish occurs must confirm that a legal backstroke finish was made at the finish of the intermediate distance.

The official time from the timing console printout as well as the watch times will be written on the card. Designation of the official time should be made in accordance with USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

The official time will be entered into the meet database in a new event created by the Meet Management operator for this purpose.

If the request is received after the event has been swum, and the time was recorded by the automatic timing system, and the referee determines the pad time is valid, the time may be entered in the meet database as described above.

Notify the NTV Chair (currently Suzanne Heath) of the request. Proper investigation that confirms an electronic pad time for an intermediate distance will be conducted and the time may be manually added to the SWIMS database. Initial distance splits for backstroke cannot be requested after the fact for backstroke as a legal finish cannot be confirmed.

Use of Initial Distance Splits

The recording of initial distance splits by meet personnel or the entry of the splits into the SWIMS database does not mean that the times can be used for all purposes. It is not the responsibility of meet personnel to determine when and for purposes these times can be used.

Alternative Issues for Split Times

- **Semi-Automatic Timing System:** When a semi-automatic timing system is the primary system for a meet, in order to get an official time for a relay lead-off split or an intermediate split time according to USA Swimming rules, it is necessary to notify the meet referee before the event and provide three additional manual watches to time the lead-off or

intermediate split time. These three times must be provided to the AO or meet referee who will determine the official time that can be added to SWIMS.

- 50 M Pool and 200 Relay Lead-offs: If a relay lead-off split for a 200 distance relay is requested in a 50 m pool, the request must be made to the referee before the event. Three additional watches are required to provide a manual timing system for this lead-off split. The official time as determined by the AO or referee may be added to the meet file as a separate event or requested from the NTV officer after the meet.