

## Officials Briefing

### Timers

Lane 1 – 1 Home, 2 Visitor

Lane 2 – 2 Home, 1 Visitor

Lane 3 – 1 Home, 2 Visitor

Lane 4 – 2 Home, 1 Visitor

Lane 5 – 1 Home, 2 Visitor

Lane 6 – 2 Home, 1 Visitor

- Review the possibility of starting in transit - Timers should be ready to start their watches while in transit from one side of the pool to the other.
- Circle the middle time
- Be a backup - Start watches even w/o swimmers in lane
- Verify the Swimmer's name (they occasionally swim in the wrong heat)
- Starter should verify that the appropriate number of timers prior to the first event.

### Runners

Plan to collect time sheets, stroke and turn slips, and place judge slips every two events

### Finish/Place Judge

Only for Heat 1 of each event

### Stroke and Turn

- Raise a hand
- Benefit of doubt goes to the swimmer
- Monitor your area of the pool and only your area
- Pay equal attention to each lane in your area

## Starter Tips

- Are the timers ready (is anyone still writing?)
- Can the timers hear you when at the other end?
- Is each block occupied as expected? (reference the program)
- Let the swimmers get situated (goggles, attention) after you call them to step up and before giving the “take your mark” command.
- While it is important not to be too predictable with the length of time between the “take your mark” command and the buzzer, keep in mind that younger swimmers tend to move around a lot or look to the Starter if the duration until start is anything beyond what they are anticipating. Basically, I find it best to get the younger swimmers off the block as quickly as possible. (This helps avoid false starts with younger swimmers)
- Backstroke – Check for toes below the water line/out of the gutter
- False Starts – Recall the swimmers. A swimmer is permitted one false start.
  - Be fair, but keep in mind that many swimmers will not hear the recall and will not be ready to swim again right away.
- Make sure all swimmers are finished swimming before calling the next heat (especially important with 25’s). Look over the entire pool for swimmer activity after each heat to verify.
- Markup the program after each heat and event
- Keep the meet moving especially when weather is expected

## Weather

- Know the forecast prior to meet start.
- Talk with the coaches so that a plan is in place should the weather deteriorate.

## Resources

- League Constitution - <http://libertyswimleague.com/league-info/league-constitution/>
- Stroke and Turn - <http://libertyswimleague.com/stroke-and-turn/>
- USA Swimming Mini Rulebook - <https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/rules-regulations/2021-mini-rulebook.pdf>