

# Chief Finish Judge Clinic

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## A. A LITTLE HISTORY

Imagine a day before the computer and modern electronics. Swim Clubs arrived at a swim meet carrying all their entries on pre-filled cards. The clerk of course took all those cards, melded them by times-entered and manually seeded the meet. All times of the swimmers were manual. At the end of each race the cards were brought to the Chief Finish Judge who assigned the official time. The Chief Finish Judge lived up to that name by placing all the cards from an event into the order of finish. This stack of cards was brought to the meet office where a small army of volunteer typists prepared the lists for posting and publication. **THE CHIEF FINISH JUDGE WAS THE AUTHORITY THAT GAVE SWIMMERS AN OFFICIAL TIME AND LISTED THE CORRECT ORDER OF FINISH OF ALL SWIMMERS.**

Much has changed. The computer and electronics have made major changes. Finish judges on the pool deck are not used in Canada. A valid automatic timing system is now the final word on official time and placing UNLESS errors are detected and the time must be based on the back-up times. At most meets now the role of the Chief Finish Judge is to compare manual or semi-automatic (plungers) times with the primary electronics time and to make changes only if a pre-determined discrepancy (usually .30) is detected. Increasingly, at those pools with both primary and back-up electronics, the role of the Chief Finish Judge has been replaced by that of the Chief Judge Electronics who works with the Electronics Operators and declares each race official after a brief comparison to ensure that there is no reason to question the validity of the primary system.

Perhaps in some future time all pools will be equipped with state-of-the art primary and back-up electronic systems. Until such time, the Chief Finish Judge continues to play a vital, if somewhat modified, role, in determining the validity of swimmers' times.

## B. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- Calculator
- Elastic bands
- Stapler and staples
- Sharp pencils
- Rule book for reference
- Extra finish cards or blank paper

## C. THE ROLE AND LOCATION

### 1. The Role

Sections of the Rule Book of particular interest to the Chief Finish Judge are:

- SW 10 Chief Finish Judge
- SW 11 Timing
- SW 13 Automatic Officiating Procedure
- SW 3.2.3 Equal times
- CSW 1.2.4.1 No Finish Judges in Canada

**SW10.1** - *The Chief Finish Judge shall assign each Finish Judge his position and the placing to be determined.*

- This Fina rule applies to those federations where Finish Judges are still used. In Canada, the use of Finish Judges has been eliminated in all sanctioned meets:

**CSW 1.2.4.1** - *Use of Finish Judges has been eliminated in all sanctioned meets. However, a Chief Finish Judge is required.*

**SW10.2** - *After the race, the Chief Finish Judge shall collect the signed results sheets from each finish judge and establish the result and placing which will be sent directly to the referee.*

- The Chief Finish Judge's primary responsibility is the determination of the official placings and results of a race.

**SW10.3** – *When Automatic Officiating Equipment is used to judge the finish of a race, the Chief Finish Judge must report the order of finish recorded by the Equipment after each race.*

- Electronic times are automatically official and cannot be overruled by manual times (watches) or semi-automatic times (plungers) if there is no failure of the electronic system or evidence of a light touch (difference of .30)

### 2. The Location

The Chief Finish Judge is usually located in a room to the side of the deck, or in an area free of excess traffic, noise or air turbulence that can blow papers around. There should be easy access from the deck for receipt of cards, Timekeeper sheets, and/or electronic tapes.

There should be easy access to the Referee for resolution of time / place discrepancies.

If possible, there should also be easy access to the Chief Judge Electronics, and to Desk Control (Chief Recorder/Scorer, Meet Office). Some meets may now combine the roles of Chief Finish Judge and Chief Judge Electronics.

## D. PERFORMANCE OF THE POSITION

### 1. *Before the Meet Begins*

- a) Ask how the Referee wishes time / place discrepancies to be handled.
  - Would he like you to solve them according to the rules, and then advise him of the decision for his approval?
- b) How does the Referee want to handle the signing of each event's results (**SW 2.9.1**)?
- c) Introduce yourself to the other key officials with whom you interact:
  - Clerk of Course
  - Chief Timekeeper
  - Recorder / Scorer (Desk Control)
  - Chief Judge Electronics
- d) How will combined events be indicated on the cards or sheets?
- e) Ensure the Chief Timekeeper briefs his Timekeepers regarding where on the cards the splits and times are to be recorded.
  - Chief Timekeeper and/or Referee will brief the Timers.
- f) How will you receive the electronic tapes / printouts?
- g) How will the Chief Judge Electronics notify you of any problems?
- h) Are there Runners in place, if needed?
  - If pre-seeded event sheets are being used, often an assistant Chief Finish Judge can be assigned to collect them.
- i) Any special requirements for the Recorder / Scorer or the office?
- j) How and when would the office like to receive time cards or sheets? *i.e.* distance events.
- k) Check out your working space, and ensure equipment required is available.

### 2. *During the Meet (SW11)*

**SW 11.1** ... *Times recorded by Automatic Equipment shall be used to determine the winner, all placings and the time applicable to each lane. The placings and times so determined shall have precedence over the decisions of human judges and timekeepers. In the event that a breakdown of the Automatic Equipment occurs or that it is clearly indicated that there has been a failure of the Equipment, the decisions of the human judges and recordings of the human timekeepers shall be official. [ SW 13.3 ]*

**SW 13.3.1** *The official time for all swimmers having an Automatic Equipment time will be that time.*

**SW13.3.2** *The official time for all swimmers not having an Automatic Equipment time will be the three digital watches or the Semi-Automatic Equipment time.*

- Apply these procedures if the Chief Judge Electronics or Timekeepers have indicated a “light touch”. Remember: there may be no need to adjust, but a careful look is required.

**SW 11.2** *When Automatic Equipment is used, the results shall be recorded only to 1/100 of a second. When timing to 1/1000 of a second is available, the third digit shall not be recorded or used to determine time or placement. In the event of equal times, all swimmers who have recorded the same time at 1/100 of a second shall be accorded the same placing. Times displayed on the electronic scoreboard should show only to 1/100 of a second.*

**SW 11.4** *Should a swimmer be disqualified during or following an event, such disqualification should be recorded in the official results, but no time or place shall be recorded or announced.*

- At most meets you will leave the official time empty and place the card at the end of the event. Ensure the **DQ** is clearly marked.

**SW 11.5** *In the case of a relay disqualification, legal splits up to the time of the disqualification shall be recorded in the official results.*

**SW 11.6** *All 50 meter and 100 meter splits shall be recorded for lead-off swimmers during relays and published in the official results.*

### 3. Calculating Manual Times

**SW 11.3** *Any timing device that is terminated by an official shall be considered a watch. (...) Manual timing shall be registered to 1/100 of a second. Where no Automatic Equipment is used, the official manual time shall be determined as follows.*

- If all three watches agree, this is the official time.

**SW 11.3.1** *If two of the three watches record the same time and the third disagrees, then the two identical times shall be the official time.*

- **1:02.66**, 1:02.76, **1:02.66** The official time is 1:02.66

*If all three watches disagree, the watch recording the intermediate time shall be the official time.*

- 1:02.60, **1:02.76**, 1:02.94 The official time is 1:02.76

*If only two watches are being used, the arithmetic average to the slowest hundredth shall be the official time.*

- 1:02.65 , 1:02.76 The official time is  $(.65+.76) / 2 = 0.705$ , rounded up becomes 0.71, = O.T. of **1:02.71**
- REMEMBER:
  - When obliged to round off it is to the slowest 1/100<sup>th</sup>.
  - Any problems the Chief Finish Judge is unable to resolve are referred to the Referee.
  - If working under old-time conditions, the CFJ will place the time cards in sequence (fastest to slowest)
  - If the time sequence is not the same as the official placing, follow the procedure established with the Referee during the pre-meet briefing. This may be when

the Recorder/Scorer or Desk Control brings the result sheets to the Referee to review and sign.

- If the Official times are identical, the swimmers shall be TIED (“TI”)

#### **4. Failure of Automatic Judging and/or Timing System**

**SW 13.1** *When Automatic Officiating Equipment is used (see FR 4) in any competition, the placing and time so determined and relay take-offs judged by such Equipment shall have precedence over the Timekeepers.*

**SW 13.2** *When the Automatic Equipment fails to record the place and/or time of one or more swimmers in a given race, then:*

- The Chief Judge Electronics may indicate a **malfunction or inactivation** of the equipment (light touch) by a note on the computer print out. In such cases, the Chief Finish Judge should use the manual times and mark the time card **(MT) Manual Time**.
  - Should the Chief Finish Judge see a **discrepancy of .30 seconds or greater** between an automatic time and the manual time, it should be viewed as a *possible* malfunction of the electronics, and reviewed with the Referee or dealt with as determined in the pre-meet briefing.

**SW 13.2.1** *Record all available Automatic Equipment times and places.*

**SW 13.2.2** *Record all human times and places.*

**SW 13.2.3** *The official place will be determined as follows:*

**SW 13.2.3.1** *A swimmer with an Automatic Equipment time and place must retain his relative order when compared with the other swimmers having an Automatic Equipment time and place within that race.*

**SW 13.2.3.2** *A swimmer not having an Automatic Equipment place but having an Automatic Equipment time will establish his relative order by comparing his Automatic Equipment time with the Automatic Equipment times of the other swimmers.*

**SW 13.2.3.3** *A swimmer having neither an Automatic Equipment place nor an Automatic Equipment time shall establish his relative order by the time recorded by the Semi-Automatic Equipment or by three digital watches.*

- **REMEMBER:** If automatic equipment fails or is not activated by the swimmer, the time from three digital watches (see [Section III](#) above) is official.

## 5. Swim Off

**SW 3.2.3** *In the event that swimmers from the same or different heats have equal times registered to 1/100 second for either the eighth place or sixteenth place, there shall be swim-off to determine which swimmer shall advance to the appropriate finals. Such swim-off shall take place not less than one hour after all involved swimmers have completed their heat. Another swim-off shall take place if equal times are registered again.*

- Notify the Referee or Meet Manager, in the method determined during the pre-meet briefings.
- Record the placing within the event on each card. When swimmers from different heats have the same official time, whether automatic, manual, or Referee's decision, they shall all be  tied  in their relative order of finish. Ties take up the same number of placings as the number of swimmers involved in the tie:

<b>Placing</b>	<b>Official Time</b>	
1	1:00.01	
2	1:00.12	TI
2	1:00.12	TI
4	1:02.43	

- When entering the placings, ensure that the markers are also indicated, placing these at the bottom of your cards, results sheets, and/or electronic printouts:
  - **EX**      Exhibition swims
  - **OS**      Official splits
  - **DQ**      Disqualifications

## E. AFTER THE MEET

If you are using cards, finish sheets, or electronic printouts, bundle them and forward as directed – usually to the Recorder / Scorer or Desk Control in the Meet Office.

Ensure the Referee will be available for the time required to complete the results, in the event you require his approval or decision to resolve a problem.

Check with the Referee, Recorder / Scorer, and/or Office for any out-standing problems.

Return all meet materials: pens, pencils, staplers, etc.

**Continue now to exercise for the Chief Finish Judge.**

## F. EXERCISES FOR THE CHIEF FINISH JUDGE

### Electronic Timing

1. Times secured by automatic timing equipment shall be recorded to the 100<sup>th</sup> of a second only. If this results in identical times then the swimmers are tied for both time and place; regardless of their placing by the system.
  - a) Determining the official place and time in a heat or final:
    - If, in the judgment of the Referee, the automatic system fails in timing and/or placing (after consultation with the Chief Judge Electronics and the Chief Finish Judge ) **The swimmer shall be given the back-up time (manual or semi-automatic).** (SW 13.3.2)
  - b) Determining the order of finish for the combined heats of one event:
    - Order is determined by comparing the competitor's official times (electronic or back-up).
    - All swimmers with the same official time shall be TIED.

#### Example 1

SWIMMER	MACHINE TIME	MACHINE PLACE	OFFICIAL TIME	PLACE
A	1:04.371	1	1:04.37	1 TI
B	1:04.372	2	1:04.37	1 TI
C	1:05.012	3	1:05.01	3
D	1:05.854	4	1:05.85	4

#### Example 2

SWIMMER	MACHINE TIME	MACHINE PLACE	BACK-UP TIME	BACK-UP PLACE	OFFICIAL TIME & PLACE
A	1:01.21	1		1	1:01.21 1
B	1:01.47	2		2	1:01.47 2
C	-	-	1:01.12	3	1:01.12 MT 3
D	1:02.15	3		4	1:02.15 4

#### Example 3:

SWIMMER	MACHINE TIME	MACHINE PLACE	BACK-UP TIME	BACK-UP PLACE	OFFICIAL TIME & PLACE
A	1:00.59	1		2	1:00.59 RD T 1
B		-	1:00.60	1	1:00.59 RD T 1
C	1:01.10	2	1:01.12	3	1:01.10 3
D	1:01.56	3		4	1:01.56 3



c) Electronic time integration:

- Write down the integrated places and times;
- After the time, show **RD** (Referee's decision) or **TI** (Tie) if applicable.

**Example:  
Event 1  
Heat 1**

Swimmer	Electronic		Back-Up		Integrated Place	Result Time
	Place	Time	Place	Time		
A	1	1:00.12	1	1:00.02	1	1:00.12
B	2	1:00.34	2	1:00.36	2	1:00.34
C	3	1:01.06	3	1:01.14	3	1:01.06
D	-	-	4	1:02.38	4	1:02.38 <b>MT</b>
E	4	1:03.64	5	1:03.75	5	1:03.64

**Example:  
Event 2  
Heat 1**

Swimmer	Electronic		Back-Up		Integrated Place	Result Time
	Place	Time	Place	Time		
A	1	1:00.12	1	1:00.09	1	1:00.12
B	2	1:00.34	2	1:00.31	2	1:00.34
C	3	1:01.06	3	1:01.04	3	1:01.06 <b>RD</b>
D	-	-	4	1:01.06	3	1:01.06 <b>MT RD</b>
E	4	1:01.17	5	1:01.14	5	1:01.17

**Example:  
Event 2  
Heat 2**

Swimmer	Electronic		Back-Up		Integrated Place	Result Time
	Place	Time	Place	Time		
	1	1:00.12	1	1:00.09	See footnote	1:00.12
G	2	1:00.34	2	1:00.32		1:00.34
H <sup>1</sup>	-	-	3	1:01.00		1:01.00
I <sup>1</sup>	-	-	4	1:01.00		1:01.00
J	3	1:01.18	5	1:01.14		1:01.18

<sup>1</sup> Swimmers H and I:

- If two times, use backup placings; **MT** on both, and **RD** to indicate H is 3<sup>rd</sup>, I is 4<sup>th</sup>.
- If three times, use backup times; indicate **MT** and **TI** on both.
- If two times on one, three times on the other, use backup times; indicate **MT** and **TI** on both.

**Example:  
Event 2  
Heat 3**

Swimmer	Electronic		Back-Up		Integrated Place	Result Time
	Place	Time	Place	Time		
K	1	1:00.01	1	1:00.00	1	1:00.01
L	2	1:00.96	2	1:00.88	2	1:00.96
M	3	1:01.00	3	1:00.92	3	1:01.00
N	4	1:02.34	4	1:02.43	4	1:02.34
O	5	1:03.62	5	1:03.78	5	1:03.62

- Situation: You are using a six (6) lane pool, with HEATS and FINALS. Place Event 2, Heats 1, 2 and 3 in **Finals A** and **Consolations B**.

<i>PLACE</i>	<i>SWIMMER</i>	<i>INTEGRATED TIME</i>
<b>FINALS - A</b>		
1	K	1:00.01
2	A	1:00.12 <b>TI</b>
2	F	1:00.12 <b>TI</b>
4	B	1:00.34 <b>TI</b>
4	G	1:00.34 <b>TI</b>
6	L	1:00.96
<b>CONSOLATIONS - B</b>		
7	H	1:01.00 <b>TI</b>
7	I	1:01.00 <b>TI</b>
7	M	1:01.00 <b>TI</b>
10	C	1:01.06 <b>RD</b>
11	D	1:01.06 <b>RD</b>
12	E	1:01.17
<b>ALTERNATES</b>		
13	J	1:01.18
14	N	1:02.34

- A and F are Tied because they are in different heats; lanes assigned by draw.
- B and G are Tied because they are in different heats; lanes assigned by draw.
- H, I and M are Tied; if H and I were **RD**, lane assignment is by placement in the heat.
- If we had a TIE between L and H, we would require a swim-off for last place in Finals, or would need to find some other way of resolving it.
- If we had a TIE between E and J, we would require a swim-off for last place in Consolations, or would need to find some other way of resolving it.

**Continue to Chief Judge Electronics Supplement**

## **G. CHIEF JUDGE ELECTRONICS (SUPPLEMENT)**

### **CSW 2.13.1.2 Chief Judge Electronics**

- a) *Shall oversee the operation of any SNC approved Automatic Officiating Equipment.*
- b) *Shall determine if the Automatic Officiating Equipment is in error and advise the referee of any malfunction or light touch.*
- This is done by a note written on the electronic printout.
- c) *Shall observe the touches of all swimmers and note any cases in which the Automatic Officiating Equipment fails to properly record the touch.*
- This may happen on occasion when younger swimmers fail to de-activate the touch pad.
- d) *Shall be positioned with the Automatic Officiating Equipment near the finish end with an unobstructed view of the finish of each lane.*
- e) *Shall be fully familiar with the rules of swimming and the operation of the Automatic Officiating Equipment.*
- f) *Shall ensure that the Automatic Officiating Equipment is activated manually to obtain placings when the system has failed to be activated by the starting signal.*

### **CSW 2.13.1.3 Electronics Operator**

*Shall operate, or assist in the operation of any SNC approved Automatic Officiating Equipment.*