

Official Time from a split Time

By Tom Cox

Officials Chair

Can I get an official time for a distance less than the distance of an event? The answer is: "yes you can."

Scenario:

Let's say you wanted a 100 free official time and the only freestyle event left in the meet was a 200 free. You need to notify the Meet Referee in writing that you wish to get an official time for your 100 free in the 200 free event. Next you should swim the first 100 as if your coach is right there yelling in your ear.. Oh that's right..he is! And then you have a choice for the last 100. If you're feeling really into it then finish the last 100 even faster or use it as a warm down. Either way you will have to finish the entire 200 without being disqualified. You can do this for any stroke. It's called a split time.

Our rule book defines an official time for this as follows:

An official time for an event or stroke can be achieved only in that event or stroke, or in an initial distance of such event or stroke (e.g., backstroke time must be achieved in a backstroke event or a butterfly time can be achieved in an individual medley event). Regardless of the stroke(s) used, times achieved in freestyle events can be recorded only as freestyle times.

There are some requirements for you to be able to get a split time.

- 1) Notify the Meet Referee in writing of the intent to record an initial split time prior to the finish of the meet.
- 2) Make the written request prior to the swim for relay leadoff splits and for initial backstroke distances in individual backstroke events.
- 3) Compete the initial distance with a legal finish. For example in the backstroke this means you must finish the initial distance on your back and not use the continuous turn.
- 4) Complete the event without being disqualified.
- 5) When automatic timing is used, the swimmer's relay leadoff split shall not count if the second swimmer starts in the water.

If somehow you find yourself at a meet that is not using an automatic timing system and want your official split time to be considered as either a Top Ten or World record you should do the following:

- 1) Notify the Meet Referee prior to your swim.
- 2) Request either two extra stop watches for a Top Ten or three watches for a World record attempt to be used for the initial distance.

As always if you have questions just contact me:

Tacox825@gmail.com