

Touch Pad Rules

Section 3 Automatic Timing and Judging.

- Art. 1...Automatic Timing Equipment consists of:
Uniform electric Start with a touch pad finish.
Backup systems consist of:
 - a. Semi-Automatic (button(s)) with a uniform electronic start and operated buttons to finish.
 - b. Manual Watch(es) started and stopped by timers.
- Art. 2...**When recorded by a properly operating automatic timing and judging system, the pad time shall be the official time** (computed to the hundredth) and the order of finish shall be determined by the integration of those times.
- Art. 3...The use of automatic relay judging equipment is permissible.
- Art. 4...The backup system, using at least one manual timing device for each lane, shall be operative in all meets. The backup system shall be operative for all races but shall only be used only for lanes in which the automatic equipment malfunctions. The relative order of finish for competitors in lanes in which the equipment functions properly shall not be changed during the integration of backup times. A difference of more than 0.3 seconds between automatic and backup times **may indicate** a *potential* malfunction.

RULE 6, SECTION 3 -- PLAY RULINGS

6.3.2 SITUATION: During an invitational meet using electronic timing and watches as backup, the electronic system shows the overall heat finish as 4,5,6,3,2,7,1 and 8. The referee changes the order of finish to 5,4,6,3,2,7,1 and 8; **(a)** the timing system shows a malfunction in Lanes 4 and 5. **(b)** there is no verifiable timing system malfunction but this is the order referee believes is correct. **RULING:** **(a)** correct procedure and **(b)** incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The referee has the responsibility to determine the need to integrate backup times if he/she would have been notified there was a timing system malfunction. To change order based solely on official's opinion of order and no timing malfunction is not correct.

6.3.4 SITUATION A: When automatic timing is being used the pad time is 1:35.40. There is no backup time and the average of the two watches is 1:34.80. There is no indication of pad malfunction. **RULING:** Official time is 1:35.40 **COMMENT:** In absence of an indication of a malfunction, pad time is official. (6-3-2)

6.3.4 SITUATION B: In the final heat of the 50 yard freestyle, the automatic timing system malfunctions for Lane 5. The backup system of timing for Lane 5. The backup salt be adjusted (6-4-1b) and integrated into the finish order. **RULING:** Correct

procedure. **COMMENT:** Relative order of the malfunctioning lanes cannot be changed during the integration of times.