



BAC Sharks HOME Meet Volunteer Information

Youth swim meets cannot function without enthusiastic and detail-oriented volunteers. Given the size of the program, this year BAC will add a family volunteering requirement dependent upon the level of swimmer(s) that each family has enrolled in the program as well as an “opt out” payment option of \$300 for families who know in advance that they will struggle to meet volunteering commitments.

BAC Swim will request parental volunteers based on your child’s swimming level. For parents with all children in the FINS practice group, BAC politely asks for 1 volunteering commitment per family (means either parent can support) over the course of our internal Blue & White Meet, any one of the three HOME dual meets, or in support of any of the four Mini Meets that take place off-site during the course of the season. For families with children in the other practice groups (TIGERSHARKS, HAMMERHEADS, JAWS), BAC requests 2 volunteering commitments (again, either parent or both can support) over the span of the season. Why the difference? Since FINS kids only swim at home meets, parents as such have half the opportunities to watch meets and enjoy the BAC swim experience so in turn are asked to support half the volunteering requirements. In other words, half the meets means half the work.

Here is a brief description of the volunteer opportunities (there are 19 total) at each meet:

1) CHECK-IN (Blue & White meet only)

Two volunteers will volunteer at a swimmer check-in table, and hand out previously ordered swimmer apparel.

2) TIMERS (2 per lane; 12 total per meet)

Timers are the lifeblood of each meet. The goal of each timing team is to accurately record and report 2 manual times (via stopwatch) for each event that back up the automated time generated by each lane’s touch pad. For 50- and 100-meter races, each TIMER is responsible for starting a stopwatch at the starting signal of each race and then stopping the watch when any part of the swimmer’s body touches the wall or pad at the race’s conclusion. For 25-meter events (i.e. one length of the pool), all TIMERS move to the opposite end and each TIMER also operates a timing plunger in addition to the stopwatch. The plungers serve to replace the automated touch pads which only exist at one end of the pool. At the end of each race, one TIMER per lane is responsible for legibly recording both stopwatch times on an event sheet and handing that sheet to the RUNNER at the appropriate time. Each TIMER shall report any timing issues or problems promptly to race officials and to utilize the BACKUP timer as needed. Each TIMER should remain in the assigned lane unless relieved by the FLOATING timer.

Don’t worry or feel apprehensive about volunteering to time if you’re inexperienced!! BAC will generally try to pair newer volunteers with more experienced timers to ensure good on-the-job training. It’s fun and you get the benefit of being really close to the action!

3) BACKUP TIMER (1 per meet)

The BACKUP timer is there to provide another time in the event of an error, miss, mistake, etc. that may occur at any point in the meet. The BACKUP timer starts a stopwatch at the start of every race and steps in to temporarily take the place of any meet TIMER upon request (usually a raised hand) in order to ensure that two times are recorded in that lane for any particular race or heat.



4) FLOATING TIMER (1)

The FLOATING timer volunteers as the “event of emergency” or “life has intervened” timer. If any TIMER is late or cannot attend the meet the FLOATING timer steps in as a replacement. If all TIMERS attend the meet as scheduled, the FLOATING timer will remain available during the meet to provide short term relief (like for bathroom or water breaks) for the regular timers as needed. FLOATING timers should be proactive and offer relief to the regular TIMERS periodically especially in hot weather. FLOATING timers receive full volunteering credit even if he or she doesn’t end up timing or relieving anyone during the meet!

5) RUNNER (1)

This volunteer ensures that the race results get delivered to the person in charge of the timing system. The RUNNER collects the TIMER sheets after every event (not heat) and delivers them to the timing official(s). This is a good, straightforward role for an inexperienced volunteer.

6) FINZONE WRANGLER (1)

This volunteer sets up shop in one of the tents behind the blocks (east side of pool) and assists in making sure younger swimmers (typically FINS) get to the right place/lane in time at home meets. Bring patience and a sharpie!! The goal is to take marshalling pressure off of the coaches and older swimmers so that they can more closely focus on the races, coaching, and the meet itself. FINZONE is a perfect role for newer parents as a way to learn the ropes of a BAC home swim meet in addition to learning a lot of names in the program.

7) ORDER OF FINISH (1)

This volunteer directly assists the meet officials. The ORDER volunteer writes down the order of finish for each race or heat by lane number (e.g. 3,5,4,2,1,6) and report them to meet officials so as to ensure correct results in the event of a plunger or touch pad malfunction.

8) AWARDS (2)

These volunteers will label, organize, and distribute awards to swimmers on both teams as results become available.