

Volunteering for DASH

A Guide to Meet Volunteering

All families are required to work four sessions for the short course season and six sessions for the long course season. In order to ensure that we have adequate coverage for all of our meet obligations, families are only allowed to sign up for two slots for the first meet. If slots are still available two weeks before the meet, families can request to take over more slots for one meet. You will be asked to sign up for a job and a work session. Meets will have two or three sessions per day and each is approximately four hours long depending on the length of the meet. Consult the meet invitation for exact times of warm ups.

How to Sign up

After the initial posting of the sign up sheets, the volunteer slots will be posted on the IC Eels website. Please consult the website and if you see an empty slot you would like to fill, simply email the session time and job to Schroeder.deb@mchsi.com.

Other Ways to Fulfill Work Requirements

There are other ways to get work credit. Working as an official at any home meets will count toward your work credit. Also apprenticing as an official at home meets will also count toward your volunteer requirement. Finally, there are some spots available for the preparation of food for concessions or hospitality. Contact the meet director if you would like to explore this as a way to fulfill your work requirement.

Descriptions for Volunteering Positions

Announcer

Provides the voice of the meet. You will announce the events and the participants in each heat, along with any other pertinent information as needed. An announcer is needed for each session. Begin 1 hour prior to start of competition.

Awards

This is a job for someone who likes to keep things orderly. To work with awards, you will take results from the Computer Operator and organize ribbons and trophies for distribution. Begin at start of competition.

Console operator

This person will operate the timing console. All Mercer meets utilize the Daktronics console unit. Meets at the University use the Colorado timing system. This console is a little different from the Daktronics unit we use at Mercer but should be familiar enough for someone to operate after a few minutes of hands-on orientation. Begin 1 hour prior to competition.

Clerk of Course

When meets sessions include younger swimmers, often a clerk of course is used to line up the swimmers and assist them getting into the proper lanes. For DASH meets, a clerk of course is only used for the Weber Invitational. Begin 20 minutes prior to competition.

Computer operator

Will run the Meet Manager software- importing times, printing results, etc. In championship meets, there will be someone onsite to serve as the Timing Judge (making modifications to the times as per the USAS regulations). When circumstances permit, you may be called upon to assist with seeding events for later sessions. Begin 1 hour prior to competition.

Coaches' check-in:

Before and during the very first session of a meet, we will need someone to man the coaches' check-in table. The coaches have to sign-in and show their coaching credentials prior to be allowed on deck to work with their swimmers. Begin 20 minutes prior to warm-up.

Concessions

As the name implies, this involves selling and/or preparing food. Please observe the start and end times of these work sessions as they may be different from the beginning and end times of the actual meet sessions. Begin 1 hour prior to competition.

Head timer:

The head timer helps to coordinate the lane timers and provides a third watch time for the heat winner and maintains an extra stopwatch in case equipment or operator error requires a back-up watch. Begin 20 minutes prior to competition.

Lane timers

Primary duty is to operate a stopwatch and electronic back-up button. You serve as the secondary and tertiary back up to the primary (electronic pad) timing system. At our home meets, we will supply all of the timers (16 timers per session). At championship meets, timer slots are allocated based on the number of swimmers each team has present at each session, which means that the larger teams will supply two timers per session. Two additional slots will be set aside (*) to cover any gaps in the number of timers we may need to run the meet. Begin 20 minutes prior to competition.

Merchandise Sales

Assist with the sale of programs, swim merchandise, and meet t-shirts. These operations will be scaled back considerably compared to our larger meets at Mercer (Weber in December and the Long Course State Championships in August). Begin 15 minutes prior to warm-up.

Program Sales

Due to heavy traffic, one person will be assigned to sale programs the first day of a meet. On subsequent day, this duty will be included in concession sales. Begin 15 minutes prior to warm-up.

Proof of times

(Championship Meets Only) Swimmers who fail to make the minimum qualifying time are required by USAS regulations to provide proof that they achieved said times at some point. The USAS SWIMS database verifies most of these proofs prior to the meet. Swimmers achieving qualifying times from non-USAS sanctioned meets (HS duals for example) should have some verification with them. If they cannot supply such validation they are subject to a fine. Begin at start of competition.

Runner

As the name implies, this person will pick up lane timer sheets and deliver them to the timing table, post results, and carry out other such duties as needed. This is a good job for a responsible young person. Begin at start of competition.

Safety Marshal

USAS regulations require a safety marshal to be on site during a meet. From warm-ups until the session ends, you will be ensuring that the swimmers, coaches, and spectators adhere to certain standards of safe behavior. According to a new rule, you do not have to be registered with USAS to fill this position. For all of our meets, there will also be a trained lifeguard on duty. Begin 15 minutes prior to warm-up.

Set-up

We will need a certain number of persons to assist with set-up on Thursday evening. We will set-up the pool and test the equipment so that all will be ready come Friday AM. Begin as instructed prior to meet.

Takedown

At the conclusion of meets, we need folks to assist with returning the facility to its pre-meet condition. Begin at end of meet.