Quick Guide to the USA Swimming Timing Adjustment Rule Change
as of May 1, 2016

The new USA Swimming rule change in 102.24.4B involving a possible **Lane Malfunction** in the electronic timing system eliminates the need for complicated calculations by the Administrative Referee, Adminstrative Official, or Scoring Operator. However, due diligence to provide the swimmer with the most accurate time available is still of paramount importance. These considerations should be followed:

- **Is the primary time invalid?**
- **Is the use of the backup time appropriate?**
- **Should a button or watch backup time be used, and which is the most accurate?**
- **When there is a HEAT MALFUNCTION the differential calculations as required in 102.24.4E are still appropriate.**
- **Remember:**

PROVE THE PAD TIME IS INCORRECT!

USA Swimming Rule 102.24.4A: Automatic Timing – When recorded by properly operating automatic equipment, <u>the pad time shall be the official time</u>. To do this, the Admin Official ***must***

INVESTIGATE

Evidence Needed:
- Button and Watch Times *AND* Order(s) of Finish (OOF)

Ask Questions:
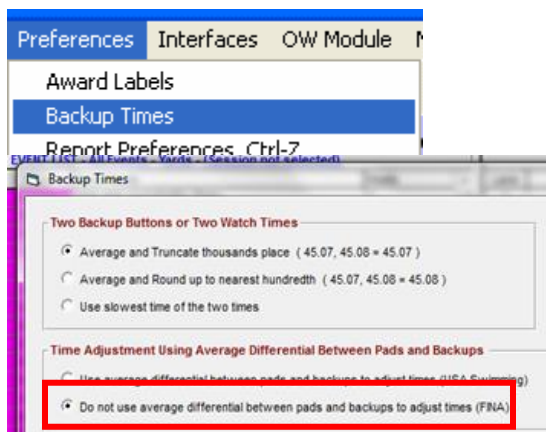- Timers: Accurate buttons and watches; swimmer soft or missed pad touch
- OOF Judges: Accurate order
- Both: Anything peculiar about this situation

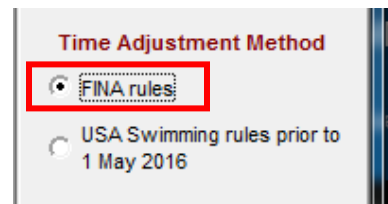## *What is your proof the pad time is not accurate?*

- What is the watch time? Does the watch time support the pad or the button? Was the same Timer using both the watch and button in consideration, therefore it's likely both times will agree?
- What is the order of finish? Does it support the pad or button times?
- Are there two watches/buttons? Was there a separate Timer operating each watch and button (two people – remember USAS Rule 102.17.3)? Are you confident in the Timers?
- Did the Timer report a late or soft touch that would have prevented the pad from getting an official time?

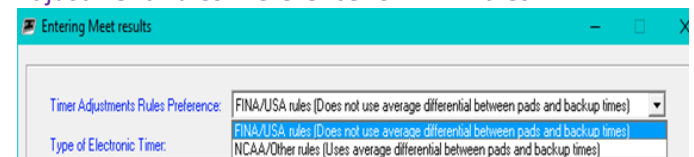## First, make sure the meet is set up to follow USA Swimming/FINA timing rules.

MM 4.0 & **MM 5.0** Preferences on the Run Menu

MM 6.0 on the Setup Screen

TouchPad on the Enter Results screen select Timer Adjustment Rules Preference for FINA rules

Next, consider the different types of times being received and which ones are most accurate for each swimmer.

Lane	Seed Time	Prelims Time	DQ	Exh	DQcode	Backup 1	Backup 2	Backup 3	HPL	PL	AdjStat	
1	1:02.72		☐	☐		1:03.90	1:04.04	1:04.04			?	y
2	1:01.83	NS	☐	☐								
3	1:00.61	1:04.23	☐	☐		1:04.16	1:03.98	1:03.98	3	16		
4	59.05		☐	☐			1:01.90	1:01.82			?	y
5	1:00.03	1:00.67	☐	☐		59.20	1:00.64		1	1	?	g
6	1:01.04		☐	☐		1:02.36	1:02.38	1:02.28			?	y
7	1:02.39	1:03.32	☐	☐		1:03.40	1:03.24	1:03.24	2	10		
8	1:03.25		☐	☐			1:04.87				?	y

In each of these scenarios the pad time is missing or perhaps deemed inaccurate. Using the Timing Adjustment Rules* effective May 1, 2016 this is how to solve the missing pad times for the following lanes:

Lane 1: Two of the three buttons agree (1:04.04). That shall be the official time 102.24.4B(1)

Lane 2: Verify the lane was empty and warrants a No Show

Lanes 3 & 7: There were no reasons to suspect a pad malfunction in these lanes; therefore the pad time is official

Lane 4: Only two valid button times are available, thus the official time shall be 1:01.86, which is the average of the two buttons. 102.24.4B(3)

Lane 5: Backup Button 2 supports the pad time, as does the Order of Finish. Two of the three Timers admitted operational errors. The pad time was ruled as the official time.

Lane 6: Three backup buttons disagree; therefore the valid time will be 1:02.36, which is the middle of the three buttons. 102.24.4B(2)

Lane 8: Only one backup button time is available. That time is supported by Order of Finish and became the official time for that lane. 102.24.4B(4)

*Watch time(s) can be used in place of button and pad times as a swimmer's official time when both the button and pad are deemed inaccurate or are missing. Thorough investigation using Timer and OOF information must prove a watch time to be accurate before inserting the watch time into the computer scoring system.

Use the **Calc Screen** in each of the scoring software programs to automatically make the adjustments. Uncheck the lanes that DO NOT require adjustment from the pad time.

Time Adjustment - #13 Women 100 LC Meter Backstroke - Heat 7

Create Report

☐ Show Heat Malfunction

Lane Adjustment Using Backup Times

Use	Lane	Primary	Button 1	Button 2	Button 3	Button Calc		Adjusted	
☑	1		1:03.90	1:04.04	1:04.04	1:04.04	y	1:04.04	
☐	2	NS						NS	
☐	3	1:04.23	1:04.16	1:03.98	1:03.98			1:04.23	
☑	4			1:01.90	1:01.82	1:01.86	y	1:01.86	
☐	5	1:00.67	59.20	1:00.64				1:00.67	
☑	6		1:02.36	1:02.38	1:02.28	1:02.36	y	1:02.36	
☐	7	1:03.32	1:03.40	1:03.24	1:03.24			1:03.32	
☑	8			1:04.87		1:04.87	y	1:04.87	

If the button(s), watch(es) and/or OOF support the pad time there is nothing more that needs to be done, other than clearing the "?" in the AdjStat column in MM 5.0 and MM 6.0**

**** Click on the "?" and it will automatically change to a "K" for OK – you have verified the primary time for that lane is now accurate.**

4/25/2016