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Frequently Asked Questions

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If I don't have my Membership Card can I still marshal?

Electronic Marshalling system

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Yes.

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While the membership cards are still becoming a normal part of swimming, My Swim Results prints out "Competitor Slips" which will also have the barcode on it so it can be used with the scanners.

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Where do I get the "Competitor Slips"?

They will typically be collected by a club representative from either the announcer or marshalling during warmup sessions. Keep an ear out and there will be announcements.

The "Competitor Slips" are paper – won't they just turn into "Paper Mache" on pool deck?

The paper used is not ordinary paper. The paper used is "water proof" and "tear resistant" – however this should not be taken as an invitation to test its "durability". The paper needs to last the duration of the meet.

The paper is not indestructible. We've had reports of kids tucking it into their bathers and swimming warmups with it before arriving in the marshalling area without any problems. We don't recommend this but it does show that the paper can weather a certain amount of "abuse".

Some competitors put them into plastic name badges with the barcode showing and hang it on a lanyard. Others arrive in marshalling in zip-lock bags indicating that people are thinking about how they might look after the cards or membership slips which is fantastic. (Show your ingenuity to the marshals.) Most come to marshalling plain.

Is marshalling with the "Competitor Slips" different from marshalling with the plastic "membership cards"?

Not really - they both have a barcode on them which the electronic marshalling system accepts.

My "Competitor Slip" has disappeared?

Just head to marshalling as normal and they can manually get you in. Might just take a little longer.

My Sister isn't swimming – can I use my sister's membership card to marshal?

Unfortunately no, the barcode on the card will be your sisters barcode which is different to yours. The marshalling system will be looking for your barcode.



The system said to go to seat "D6" - do I still move forward when the I'm directed to?

Yes, the marshalling seats still work the same way. As the row in front moves off to their race – the marshals will ask everyone to move forward a row.

Just like normal - please let the swimmer in front of you have a chance to move forward before you try and take their seat and always be polite and supportive of your fellow competitors.

Where do I put the "Competitor Slip" while I'm racing?

Take at least a towel to marshalling because it does get cold down there. Leave the card or "Competitor Slip" with your stuff and collect it all again after you have raced.

Some meets may provide a desk or bench to put them on but most of the time they will still be your responsibility to collect with the rest of your stuff after you have raced.

The more important thing is to keep yourself warm in the marshalling area. Not much point "warming up" if you are just going to get cold in the marshalling area.

How do I use the electronic marshalling system?

There will be someone to guide you. Essentially, bring your "membership card" or "Competitor slip" down to marshalling. There will be barcode scanners in the marshalling area where, just like a checkout at a supermarket, it will read the barcode and tell you which heat and lane you are in. The system will also indicate which seat to sit in. Move quickly to your seat and await your race. As the check starter moves a row of kids from the marshalling area out you will be asked to move forward a row just like normal.

What does a competitor slip look like?

A "competitor slip" is similar to the accreditations that you would see competitors with at national or international meets. It is printed onto paper that includes your name, club and list of events. The barcode(s) on the paper is what the electronic marshalling system looks for and they identify the particular swimmer.







I keep asking my coach what my next event is?

Why not collect your competitor slip which will have your list of events on it. The event number is listed beside each event. Look for the marshalling board and when your event number appears (or it's skipped over) then report to your coach before heading down to marshalling.

Can I bring both my "membership card" and "competitor slip" to marshalling?

Don't need to bring both - the scanners in marshalling will check you in using either barcode.

The competitor slip has 2 barcodes on it – which one do I use?

You can choose - they are actually the same code. It's printed twice just to ensure that there is a spare if the paper gets damaged somehow.

Can I use a competitor slip from a previous meet?

The barcode is the same for each meet – so yes. The other information on the competitor slip will be relevant to the previous meet but the barcodes will typically be fine.

What if I try scanning myself in but my event hasn't been called yet?

The system will try give an estimate to how long you would be waiting before your event will be called. It will only be an estimate and you will need to return to be marshalled once your event is open for marshalling.

I've picked up my sisters "competitor slip" rather than mine?

Politely ask a marshal to check you in and prepare for your race. The marshal may also hold onto your sisters "competitor slip" so that when it is her turn to swim – the slip will already be in marshalling waiting for her.

Your sister can have words with you when you see her next. ©

I've finished all my racing for the meet - what do I do with my competitor slip?

Congratulations – hope you did great. Your choice what you do with the piece of paper – after all it is yours. Some swimmers are collecting theirs. Others dispose of them thoughtfully.

The Marshalls do not need them.

Satisfy your own curiosity about the paper. ©

I would like to put my barcode onto my training pass which goes with me everywhere before I get to the meet?

Great idea! The barcode can also be found in the margin of the PDF document of entries which is emailed out after entries close. If you can get that barcode onto an Avery label you will be able to stick it to your training pass. Use a laser printer so the ink doesn't run when it gets wet. The barcode just needs a little bit of "whitespace" at either end of the barcode so the scanners can easily recognize them (5 mm should do the trick).