

How to Hand-Number an Open Water Swimmer

1. Guidelines from Safe Sport and the National Officials Committee:

- a. Explain the process and why it is done
- b. Ask permission from the athlete before starting to number
- c. For minor athletes, have a coach or guardian present to observe
- d. Numberers work in pairs (one watching while one numbers) with gender-like athletes (i.e., male-male, female-female)
- e. Sanitize hands after every swimmer.

2. When the swimmer checks in to receive their entry ticket, officials will check finger and toenails.

3. Before numbering, be sure the swimmer's skin is completely clean. No skin lotion, suntan lotion, oil, etc. Alcohol may be used to wipe the skin clean.

4. Check the swimmer's meet check-in tag for the **COMPETITOR'S RACE NUMBER**. The event psych sheet also may be used for reference. The **SECOND** number before the swimmer's name is the race number.

Event 6 Men 10 & Under 1k Open Water				
	Name	Age	Team	Seed Tin
1	45 Logan Boebel	9	WHTN-IL	1
2	46 Thomas Caicedo	10	ACAD-IL	1
3	47 Charlie Cali	10	Chicago Wolfpack-IL	1
4	48 Ivan Goncharko	10	Chicago Wolfpack-IL	1
5	49 Gunner Hinger	9	POSA-IL	6:02

5. Use a permanent **BLACK** Sharpie marker with a broad tip for numbering (at least King size, if not Magnum). You want your numbers to be large and legible for officials and safety personnel on the water (from at least 15 feet away) and at the finish.

- a. Designate your own personal Sharpie for the numbering process.
- b. Make sure your numbers are clear and distinct
- c. If necessary, draw an outline first and then fill it in.
- d. "7" is a hard number to distinguish from a one. You might use the German form



6. In Open Water, swimmers are numbered in three locations on each side of their body

- a. The upper shoulders -- horizontally



- b. The upper arms (shoulder to elbow is your canvas) – vertically
- c. The hands – horizontally with fingers up

