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Virginia-Maryland Triathlon Series Race Timer

The Virginia-Maryland Triathlon Series is looking for 1-2 individuals to join our team as part-time race timers! Race timers are the glue that hold the event together, so we are interested in people who share the same passion for excellent events as we do. We are looking for persons who are detailed oriented, able to multitask and problem-solve in a time sensitive environment, and follow directions. Friendliness and patience are critical, as customer service is a high priority on our team.

This is a part time position with work falling between Fridays and Sundays. Candidate must have reliable transportation as travel is involved. General job duties include managing packet pick up and race day registration, educating volunteers, managing the finish line, race day timing and posting results. It is a fast-paced environment with a great group of people. We are interested in someone who wishes to be a part of our team rather than someone whose main focus is making extra money. Pay is based on the event with lodging and meals provided at the event.

All interested candidates should read over the FAQs on the following page. If you are still interested, send your resume to JJ Grimland at jj@vtsmts.com with a paragraph outlining why you are interested in the specific position and what makes you a good candidate for it. Inquiries about the job that are not covered in the FAQ document can also be emailed to JJ at the above email address. Thanks!

Virginia-Maryland Triathlon Series Race Timer FAQ

1. What is the time commitment involved?

Well, that depends on the number of timers we have and how many races those timers want to work. Realistically, each timer can expect to work 5-9 weekends during the racing season (March-October). If a person times less than five weekends a season, then that person runs the risk of having their skills get rusty. More than 12 weekends during the season and people run the risk of getting burned out.

Schedules are completed the fall/winter prior to the season. The 2015 schedule is already set, so we would bring you into races this year to complement the team and get you trained up to work independently in the 2016 racing season. Typically, the schedule goes out to each timer in order of seniority and they sign up for what races they want. Timers are always free to switch and trade races. There are two timer slots at most races, with the exception of a few smaller races.

Timers need to be at packet pick-up (PPU) two hours before it starts the day before the race. So if PPU starts at 2:00 on a Friday afternoon, then the timer would need to be there at Noon on that Friday. If PPU starts at 3:00 on Saturday, then the timer needs to be there at 1:00 on Saturday, etc....Keep in mind travel time. I live in Southern Maryland, so I typically have to take Friday off from my "regular" job for any Saturday race I time.

Timers run PPU the day before the race. There is also usually 30-60 minutes worth of changes or updates to make that night in the hotel room. They also run PPU the morning before the race, time the race, post results on the web and then pack up all the timing/finish line equipment after the race. If it is a double race weekend, then the timer works from Friday PPU to Sunday after the race, and runs PPU on Saturday afternoon as well.

2. What does it pay?

Pay ranges from \$250-\$600 per weekend depending on the size, distance and number of races on the weekend. Hotel accommodations and dinner the night before the race are provided. Breakfast and lunch are hard because it is so early in the morning and we are at the race site, so we usually just eat whatever is at the race site. We do often share hotel rooms with another same sex staffer. Mileage is not covered. You are considered an independent contractor, so taxes are not taken out.

3. This sounds hard, how do I learn how to be a great race timer?

Those that we think would be good timers and a good fit with the team would attend a weekend of timing training. You would then work with another timer the first 4-5 races to make sure you are comfortable and to be there if there are problems or questions. Someone is always available by phone if you are at a race and are having difficulties that you can't trouble shoot on your own or with the timing manual.

There is a learning curve to timing skills, and it does take an investment in time to train someone. Therefore, we prefer to hire people that are willing to do this for more than just one season. *There is an agreement each timer signs with a two year non-compete agreement (i.e. timers will not time races for another timing/race management organization for a period of two years).*

4. Can I still race during the summer?

Of course! However, you can't race a specific race if you are the one signed up to time the race(s) that weekend, so if you really want to race it, don't sign up for it. We do offer something called "option C." If you option C a race you can race for free; however, in return you have to help set up before the race or tear down after the race, depending on what the team needs more.

5. What qualifications/requirements or experience are you looking for?

Honestly, the ideal person is someone who has excellent critical thinking and problem solving skills, this person probably also likes numbers, puzzles, logic problems, etc., but also friendly, patient and able to multi-task. Also, someone a teensy bit OCD comes in handy as well. However, I have seen people who are none of these things become successful timers, and nothing counts as much as desire, motivation and a good work ethic.

When things go like they are supposed to, timing is pretty straight forward and easy. However, there are a lot of moving pieces and when the unexpected happens, like the back-up time machine goes out or every female in a certain age group is 3 minutes off that things get interesting. Can you solve simultaneously solve multiple problems under pressure to get the correct results out on time? Can you, while internally stressed, still smile, politely answer athlete questions, and work the results to get the job done? That's the job and nobody can do that at first, but after half a season most people can and they enjoy doing it. Most timers aren't perfect all the time, but we learn to do excel at it and enjoy the interaction (some better than others). Having said that, those stressful moments are short and fleeting and far overshadowed by the all the great people you get to meet and how much fun we have as a team on race weekends.