

# THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR TIMERS

**THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING TO BE A TIMER:** Your work is important because the times you will record may mean penalties in the various sections of the Marathon, the most important part of the competition. Do plan to attend a briefing so your responsibilities and current rules can be explained under the supervision of the Technical Delegate or Head Timer.

**THE OBJECT OF THE MARATHON SECTIONS:** The marathon is divided into several sections, usually 3 or 5. Competitors have to drive each section within a certain length of time or incur penalties. Some sections have penalties for driving too fast as well as too slowly.

**UPON ARRIVING AT THE EVENT:** Report to the Secretary and pick up your equipment before the start of the marathon:

Clipboard  
time schedule and list of competitors  
pencils  
time clock

You may wish to bring a chair, hat, sunscreen, a raincoat, snacks or beverages (non-alcoholic, please!) to make your day more comfortable. You will be given directions and/or taken to your location.

**TIMING EQUIPMENT:** Your timing clock will be synchronized with all the other clocks when it is given to you. White, brick size WHARTON CHRONOGRAPHS are most commonly used, however, you may be using a stopwatch type of chronograph. Instructions below are for the Wharton Chronographs. The button on the top when pressed "freezes" the time in the window. When pressed again, the time reverts to the correct time of day. When the time is frozen, it is possible to tell that the clock is running by watching the colon dots between the hours, minutes and seconds; these will blink continuously. Periodically your clock will be checked to see that it is still properly synchronized. If you believe that your clock is not performing correctly, please notify the Technical Delegate, a Judge or the Head Timer immediately.

**DUTIES:** Your job is to record the starting or finishing times of each competitor on the Green Card carried by each competitor and on the Timers Back-up Sheet.

- a. Write clearly. Please make sure that "4" does not look like a "9" or a "7" like a "1". Us all 6 digits - i.e. "09:13:00".
- b. Fill in the top of your Backup Sheet.
- c. Verify the competitor's number as you see each one. They may not arrive in the same order as your time schedule indicates.
- d. **STARTING:** Record the time competitor has been told to start. **FINISHING:** Record the actual time of finish. Be exact. The competitor's score depends on your accuracy.
- e. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to make a note in the remarks column and report to the Head Timer or Technical Delegate when he comes around.

**ALL FINISH TIMING IS TAKEN WHEN THE NOSE OF THE FOREMOST HORSE CROSSES THE LINE.**

**STARTS:**

- a. The competitor should report to you two minutes before his scheduled starting time. You should ask for his green card and write in the time that he will be starting in the box with the 2 sets of colons. Always start the competitor on a whole minute.
- b. All starts are from the halt. This does not mean that the horse must be absolutely immobile, but the competitor must not gain any advantage from a flying start, nor cross the line before the signal is given. If the start is in any way false, the time advantage gained should be noted in the "remarks" column on the Backup Sheet.
- c. Warn the competitor that he has 1 minute before starting, then 30 seconds, then 15 seconds, then count down very clearly and formally from 10 seconds (example: when the clock reads 9:16:50 - start counting down the final 10 seconds. It is sort of like thinking backwards! It helps to not look at the clock when counting down.)
- d. If you are starting a section after a rest halt, coordinate with the rest steward to ensure that the competitor has the mandatory 10 minutes in the rest area before being restarted.
- e. If two competitors finish the previous section very close together, it is advisable to let the fastest competitor start the next section before the slower one.
- f. At the start of A, if a competitor has failed to report within one minute of the starting time on the timetable, the competitor may be eliminated. A judge should be called to make this determination.

**FINISHING:**

- a. As the lead horse moves past the finish line, press the button on the clock which will freeze the time in the window. Ask the competitor for his Green Card and record the EXACT TIME on the card and initial. Say the time aloud to verify with the competitor. Give the card back to the competitor. Then record the time on the Timers' Backup Sheet. Press the button and the Wharton clock will return to the correct time.
- b. Verify the competitor's number as he comes in. Do not assume that they will come in the same order as your schedule.
- c. Write clearly! The competitor may ask you to clarify your writing if he feels it may be misinterpreted by the scorer or judge.

After the last competitor has passed, please report back to the secretary and turn in your equipment. You may be requested to remain in easy reach of the scoring area until officially released by the President of the Jury or his representative.