



INSTRUCTIONS FOR SECTION TIMERS ON THE MARATHON

1. DUTIES

Your duty is to record the Starting/ Finishing Time (whichever is appropriate) of each Competitor in the **Timer's Back-Up Sheet**, and on the Competitor's **Marathon Time Cards ("Green Cards.")**

2. TIMER BACK-UP SHEET

- (a) Please write, in BLOCK CAPITALS, on each page, the sheet number; the Start or Finish of the Section where you are located and your Name. Also write your Name on the back of each page used.
- (b) **Do not enter a Competitor's number until he or she has arrived** – Competitors may not come in the order that is listed on the Marathon Order of Go. Numbers will be on the vehicle and sometimes the groom will wear a pinney with the number on it.
- (c) Record on the Timer Back-Up Sheet the time of Starting or Finishing – all **SIX** (hours, minutes, seconds) figures from the digital clock. After you have recorded the time on the Timer Back-Up Sheet, record the same time on the Green Card.
- (d) Note any breaks of Pace (**Only** in the Walk Section, and for the Training and Preliminary Level, in Section E, which is **TROT** only), recording the actual length of time of each break of pace, whatever the duration. After the last Obstacle in **Section E**, or over the last 500 metres, whichever is the shorter, competitors may walk or trot only, and may not deviate from the course track. **Please note on your back-up sheet any break of pace, halt, or deviation from the course track. If this occurs, you should contact TD, Head Timer, or Head Judge immediately and advise him/her what has occurred.**

If, at any time, you have any questions or are in doubt about anything, do not hesitate to make a note and report the matter to the Head Timekeeper, Judge or Technical Delegate, by radio, cell phone, or when any one of those officials comes around to you.

Please note that all penalties will be calculated by the Scorers.

3. TIMING

All timing is taken from the nose of the leading horse.

4. OPTIMUM TME DIGITAL CLOCKS

- (a) The Yellow Optimum Time Clock will be handed to you synchronised to the time on all the other clocks, on each Start and Finish. There is nothing you have to do regarding winding or setting the clock.
- (b) There is only one button to press. It says **START/STOP**.



The first time the button is pressed, the clock will “freeze” ONE of the displays, which will be indicated by an arrow beside it; the second press will return this display to the time of day, but will

“freeze” the other display. Thus every time the button is pressed, one display will stop and the other will be running. There is NO RESET of these clocks.

- (c) Periodically the Head Timekeeper may visit you with a master clock to check that your clock is properly synchronised.
- (d) Only the Timekeepers and their assistants appointed by the organiser may operate the Digital Clocks. Under no circumstances may children be allowed to use the clocks.

OTHER DIGITAL CLOCKS

Any type of digital clock can be used for section timing, so long as they all display hours, minutes and seconds. If you receive a clock that does not have a stop/start button that “freezes,” the procedure is a little different at the finish of a section. The procedure at the start is the same.

- (a) At finish, as the nose of the leading horse crosses the finish of a section, you will need to look at the clock, remember the time, and immediately write it down on the back-up sheet. After you have finished writing it on the back-up sheet, then you can write it on the green card.

MARATHON TIME CARDS

These cards, which are usually GREEN, (thus the name “GREEN CARDS”) are carried by all competitors and must be completed in the appropriate place by timekeepers, then initialled and handed back to competitors. Please take note that the Start Time Block is BELOW the Finish Time Block. This is done for mathematical purposes, making subtraction easier. **PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL IN THE CORRECT BLOCK. Please be careful to be absolutely accurate with recording MINUTES. This is where most inadvertent errors are made in timing.**

1. STARTS

The Order of Go for Competition B will show the scheduled Start Times.

- (a) ALL STARTS ARE FROM THE HALT. Ideally the horse’s nose should be on the start line, but common sense must be used and it is often better to let them start a little behind the line to avoid fidgeting. If a horse does not want to stand, it is okay to move around while waiting. The horse must still come to a halt, even a brief one, as or after the starter says “go” and before the horse’s nose passes over the start line.
- (b) Collect the **Green Card** and enter the time you will start the competitor. Confirm the time to the competitor or his groom. The timekeeper must advise the competitor that he has one minute before starting, then 30 seconds, then 15 seconds, and count down from 10 seconds before saying, “go.”
- (c) If a competitor is not ready to start Section A at his scheduled time, the timekeeper MUST record the time that the competitor ACTUALLY presents himself as ready to start. The timekeeper should call the Technical Delegate and advise the competitor that he is late for his start time, and that he must wait and speak to the Technical Delegate, and that he is unable to start him. The next competitor should be started at his own appointed time. The Technical Delegate will arrive and will give the timekeeper the new start time for the late competitor. The competitor will be penalized 0.2 of a penalty per second of the time elapsed between his scheduled start time and the time he was ready to start. The Competitor WILL NOT BE penalized if the Start of A is delayed for organizational reasons.

- (d) In Section D (Walk Section) there **MUST** be a **minimum of 2 minutes** between the start of one competitor and the start of the next competitor, and **MUST** only be started on whole minutes.
- (e) At the **rest areas** after Section D, a competitor must have the full rest period (minimum 10 minutes). He should then be started as soon as practical at the next available whole minute. Any dispute should immediately be referred to the Judge at the rest area. Starts should be spaced by at least four minutes. Sometimes the schedule demands longer periods between competitors, especially when classes change, so that they don't run up on each other. The TD should advise the starter of those periods, and these starting gaps should be observed.

2. FINISHES

- (a) As the nose of the leading horse/s crosses the finish line, press the button on the digital clock to "freeze" the time in the window. Record the time on the Timers Back-Up Sheet using all six figures.
- (b) Collect the competitor's **Marathon Time Cards** and record the time of finishing in the appropriate place (confirming the time with the competitor or his groom), initialling the card before returning it to the Competitor. At the finish of **Section E**, a member of the jury will be available to collect the cards from the competitors. The jury member will have the competitor or groom sign his Green Card.

3. CONTROL SHEETS

The Timer Back-Up Sheets are not collected during the competition, **HOWEVER**, you must turn them in at the end of the marathon, along with whatever other equipment you were issued. All scoring is done by using the **Green Card** collected at the End of **Section E**. If you have any problems, radio or use your cell phone to contact the Head Timekeeper, Technical Delegate or the Scorer. **PLEASE RECORD THE TIME ON YOUR BACK-UP SHEET BEFORE YOU RECORD THE TIME ON THE GREEN CARD.**

4. CONCLUSION

Timekeepers are requested to remain within easy reach of the public address system until officially released by the president of the jury or his representative, usually approx ½ hour after the finish of the marathon and the posting of scores.

5. SPECIAL NOTES

Grooms are required to be on the vehicle whenever they pass through a compulsory turning flag and may only dismount within **30 metres of the last obstacle** or the last 500 metres to the finish. Grooms may dismount to repair harness anywhere on course, other than in the obstacles, provided the vehicle remains stationary.