TIMING SERVICES PROVIDED BY LCSC CROSS COUNTRY – INFO SHEET

WHO WE ARE

Dr. Mike Collins is the coach of the team and the creation/development of the timing services is something that he has produced as a means to raise money for the cross country program. It is something that grew over time, however, 18 years ago the costs of purchasing a system were extremely prohibitive, but over time the costs slowly came down and Coach Collins was able to gradually put away monies to lessen the blow at the time of purchase.

The most important thing to convey about "who we are" is that we are NOT a professional timing company. We are a collegiate cross country team and the workers that may come to the events are all members of the team that do this in order to raise money to pay for training shoes and other team needs. We offer this as a service to those that would like to have electronic timing at their events and even though we will do as good and as professional job as possible, we do our best to communicate who we are and are not. This is also reflective in the pricing as our prices are set at a lower rate than any timing company information that we were able to find.

Typically, if we are timing an event you will see a number of members of the team there as it is their responsibility to help make the fundraising possible. Depending on the race, the numbers will vary. Hopefully, in all cases they demonstrate a professional, friendly attitude and help to make you and your participants comfortable and feel good about their experience.

CHIP TIMING BASICS

Our system uses RFID (radio frequency identification) based on transponders (chips/tags) that the participants wear on their ankles or attached to their shoes. When the racer crosses over the mats (special rectangular area with an embedded antenna) their transponder "wakes up" and emits and identification code that is passed to a collection device called a "reader". There are many different systems out there that use this technology. Our system is produced by a company called IPICO. For more information about them go to www.ipicosports.com
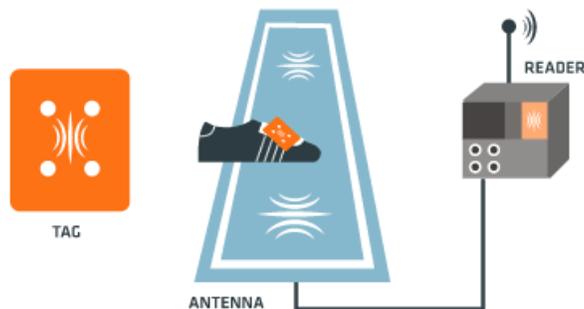
Currently we only have one reader system. This limits some of what we can do. It typically takes multiple readers to get split information, transition information or other timing aspects that happen during a race. Depending on the set up, we can often collect some of the intermittent data, but need to be in a position to have the reader set up at the finish area in order to collect finish times. It is our hope that in the future we will be able to purchase additional readers to help improve the service offerings for timing.

The readers themselves only collect the data on the timing, we use a software package called ELFSCORE in order to actual create finish lists, age group information, etc… For more information on ELFSCORE and the designer go to www.timingiseverything.com

CHIP TIMING VERSUS TRADITIONAL PULL-TAG TIMING

CHIP ADVANTAGES
Larger Races – comfortably can handle large races with a lot of participants. We currently have enough chips to time a 2000 person fun run and/or a 250 person triathlon/duathlon. As time passes we have planned to expand this part of what we have to be able to handle even larger events, if needed.

Faster Results – results can usually be prepared faster. Often times, current overall and age group results can be printed and posted at any point in time during an event once finishers have crossed the timing mats.

More Splits – as indicated above, our current ability to provide splits is limited, but as we expand and/or depending on race course dynamics, we hope to be able to do more of this within the service.

Fewer Timing Volunteers – It will still take volunteers with timing, but the shear numbers needed to collect tags, etc… is much less, especially at big races. However, due to the desire to have a backup in the case of a system failure, there will also be a few volunteers needed to collect backup data.

Less Congested Finish – although chutes are still used to keep runners in order and collect backup info, the finish area is typically much more open.

Athletes Anonymous – an athlete who wants to participate, but does not want to appear in the results can simply not wear their chip.

More Inclusive – races that have fun walkers, or people that run to the finish with family and friends can do so without impacting the finish results (could still be problematic if backup results are being used).

CHIP DISADVANTAGES
Costs – obviously, with using a chip system there is a cost for the service or for purchasing the system as a whole. Depending on the size of the race, using chip timing may not be a financial advantage.

Registration – more work is usually required at registration and pre-registration. The software requires specific information in order to be sure that all athletes are in the right categories and in the right races. Race day registration can be hectic depending on the number of race day registrations you may need to handle. Additionally, there will be a need for personnel to help hand out chips. The chips are specific to bib numbers, so organization and communication is vital to be sure everyone is getting a chip and the

correct chip. Typically on race day pre-registered people would pick up their bib number and show it to the chip distributors to get the right chip. Race day registrations would sign in doing the same thing and their registration information would be given to someone that is inputting their identification information into the system.

Lost Chips – Chips that are lost and not collected must be paid for by the race at a cost of $25.00 per chip. This is typically more of an issue for races that hand out chips the day before a race and then the athlete decides not to compete.

Close Finishes – because the chips are read through the mat antenna's and the chips are placed on a shoe or ankle, it is possible for two people to be crossing the finish line simultaneously, but because of the leg their chip is on, one person finishes in front of the other even if the torso placement may not be the same. This can be eliminated by having participants wear two chips, but this also increases the workload and cost.

Athlete Education – an athlete can neglect to wear their chip or wear it improperly. Chips must be around the ankle or on the shoe. The further from the ground they are, the more likely the reader will not recognize them.

Accidents Happen – athletes can lose their chip during a race. The timing chip can break during a race, usually because of a fall or crash, but can also occur due to improper attachment. Chip timing equipment can fail completely or intermittently during a race. We require 2 volunteers at finish to record bib numbers and 2 more to record times (indicated above in backup).

TIMING APPLICATIONS

Multisports – Triathlons, duathlons, canoe races, stair climbing, etc… Depending on the race we may be able to provide splits. Need to be sure there is a land finish where racers cross the finish mats.

Running/Walking – can handle small, medium, large races using just about any distance desired. The ELFSCORE software can handle multiple distances, relays, different start times, etc…

Cross Country – We are usually able to provide results within minutes of runners completing the race and can provide hard copies to coaches shortly thereafter.

Fast/Accurate – can usually post tentative results during the race and make corrections as needed and create a final list once everyone has finished.

Price – because we are not a "professional" timing company we believe we are very affordably priced compared to the professionals. Our goal with the system is to raise money for the program, so there does come some consideration into the events we do as it does not make much sense for us to invest 30-40 hours to earn a couple hundred dollars, but we will consider any event that might want to utilize our services.

WHAT WE WOULD NEED FROM YOU

Race Information – When/where is race? How many distances? What are the start times (if different)? Estimated number of participants. Race day registration or not?

Registration information – would need to be sure that entry forms and/or entry information provided to us includes first name, last name, address, city, state, zip, email, age (race day), gender, race entered, if teams or other, that specific information, bib numbers (if you are assigning – would STRONGLY request that bib numbers range from 1-2000 for easier chip association), also if you are part of a series or other regional/national race, oftentimes birthdays are used to differentiate people with the same names. It is

preferable that this information be submitted in the form of a spreadsheet with associated header rows. Most online registration sites have the ability to download this info as well.

Lodging – depending on the location of your race and how the fees we are charging are set up, we may need housing or access to housing. With many races starting early and depending on the distance, there can be substantial set up time for us, especially if we are handling race day registrations. Please check ahead of time as there are often ways of working around this expense.

Shelter – often we will bring our own tents, etc… to protect workers and equipment from potential inclimate weather, but having access to another sheltered area is often helpful in compiling results.

Power – we need access to a 110V or generator with standard 3-prong outlet. Please double check that all outlets are in working condition. We can also bring our own generator for an additional charge.

Tables/Chairs – will need at least two 2x8 tables and 3-4 chairs. Depending on where the registration area is compared to the finish line, we may need more or may need to transfer these to the finish area. Be aware that both areas need access to power.

Finish Area – need to have an area that can be coned off or protected from participants. Additionally, a chute in order to organize and collect chips from participants.

Volunteers – each race is different, but would expect to need 3-6 people to help with chip distribution and collection. An additional 2-4 people to collect backup data, in the event of a system failure.

Bibs – if you are supplying the bib numbers for the race we prefer that the numbers range from 1-2000 for runs and 1001 – 1250 for duathlons and triathlons. We can adjust the chips to meet any bib number, but it helps to eliminate confusion and mistakes if the chips correspond to the numbers. It is also good to have the pull tag bibs. Even though they usually aren't necessary, they are nice to have for back up purposes to confirm that racers finished in the correct spot.

WHAT WE NORMALLY PROVIDE

Registration – If your group is handling pre-race registration, we can provide you with the info that we need and the format that helps to make the transition into the ELFSCORE software smoother.

Race Planning Assistance – We have worked many races over the years and can help you plan your event, especially with some of the unique characteristics that will be required for chip timing. Feel free to ask for assistance.

Timing Equipment – we will bring the chip timing equipment including the reader, mats, and battery backup. We will also bring a printing hand timer for backup time collection.

Computer Equipment – we typically bring two laptop computers, USB drives, a laser printer, along with cables and supplies for networking. Depending on the computer needs, it is possible to have a computer set up for live results so a race announcer can inform spectators of current leaders, winners, etc… during the race.

Reports – we like to post unofficial result reports during the race. As a collegiate athletic team ourselves we know athletes like to know results and be able to see how they did. It also helps to locate any mistakes or other issues that may need to be fixed before results are made official (IE – gender, age, category,…).

Electronic Copies – depending on the location, electronic versions of the results can be sent almost immediately if WIFI or other internet capable access is available.

TYPICAL FEES

Please note: these are generalized costs for using the LCSC Cross Country Team as your timing service. Depending on the unique variables of each race, costs could potentially go up or down. We have only tried to create a general "ballpark" figure here so that events considering us can get a general idea of whether or not we might be fiscally possible for them. Additionally, as mentioned earlier, even though our livelihood is not dependent on the income we make from timing events, we do need to evaluate the pros and cons of each event in order to best economize what we do.

Also note: we also have our own race schedule. So along with that and other races we are timing, we are often limited in our availability to do other events.

General Fees (different races, locale, participation, etc… can all affect prices below)

Pre-Registration:	$2.50 per registration
Race Day/late Registration:	$3.50 per registration
Clock Rental:	$25.00 (only one clock, so only one race start time is visible for finishers)
Generator Rental:	$25.00
Multiple Race Distances:	$25.00 per race for 2nd, 3rd, … distances
Multiple Race Start Times:	$10.00 per starting time (outside of initial race) – please check on wave start races.
Lost Chips:	$25.00 per chip
Additional Race Supplies	(cones, fencing,…) Check with coach Collins