

Important Information for Users of Automatic Officiating Equipment

Competition organisers need to recognise the importance of ensuring all equipment is correctly set up in advance of competitions.

This advice follows a recent incident whereby the Daktronics system was incorrectly set up resulting in a delay in the start of the timing system. This delay can be observed by comparing automatically recorded times with those of timekeepers using manual stopwatches. Normally times recorded by timekeepers are quicker than primary times recorded by the Automatic Officiating Equipment (AOE). However, should the times recorded by the AOE be consistently quicker than those of the timekeepers it is likely that the equipment has not been connected correctly.

Daktronics Start boxes provide 2 sockets for connection to the various AOE Timing systems available. It is imperative the correct socket is used depending upon the type of timing system being used.

“Daktronics would like to state; when connecting the HS200 horn start, there are two options, normally Open and Normally Closed, labeled Daktronics and Other. It is imperative the start cable is connected to Daktronics – normally open [when connected to Daktronics equipment]

However if the system were to be connected to other – normally closed, Daktronics would agree it would reasonable to expect a time quicker of approx -0.39 seconds. We would like to define this as:

Normally Closed – when the Starter depresses the microphone the ‘contact’ is opened, this will sound the ‘beep’ of the horn and alert the swimmers. However the timer will not start until the signal pulse is then closed. A normal tone (long tone) pulse is 0.396 seconds, therefore resulting in times consistently 0.39 seconds quicker. “

In short a Daktronics box connected to Daktronics or Colorado Timing must be connected to the N/O socket.

The same start box connected to Omega timing must be connected to the N/C socket.

British Swimming Technical Swimming Committee

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