

Relay Take-Off Platform Fact Sheet

What you need to know

- The RTOP senses human contact and not pressure or force.
The RTOP is not affected by:
 - loose blocks/block vibrations
 - weight of the swimmer
 - hop starts
- Three components working together measure a relay exchange:
 1. RTOP triggers the timing console when a swimmer has left the block.
 2. Touchpad triggers the timing console when a swimmer finishes his/her leg of the race.
 3. Timing console (OmniSport® 2000) registers **all** inputs from the RTOPs and touchpads. The timing console compares the last input received from the RTOP to the touchpad to calculate the exchange.

FAQs

Q: What if the swimmer does a hop start?

The RTOP tells the timing console each and every time that the swimmer left the block. The console then compares the last input from the RTOP to the touchpad time.

Q: Is the RTOP affected by block vibrations?

No. The RTOP does not see movement, it sees the human contact.

Q: What if the swimmer places a towel on the block?

That is not recommended. The RTOP is looking for human contact and may trigger early if there is something between the swimmer's skin and the RTOP.

Q: Is the RTOP affected by the weight of the athlete?

No. The RTOP is looking for human contact and not pressure or force to activate it.

Q: What is a safe exchange time and what is a DQ?

0.0 seconds or higher is safe and -.01 or lower is a DQ.

Q: Is the equipment approved by the sanctioning body?

Organizations like the NCAA and FINA do not approve equipment. They write the rules that the equipment needs to meet. The RTOP meets and exceeds all requirements of the NCAA, USA Swimming, FINA and NFHS.