Coca Cola v. Pepsi Comparison

Manual Race Timing Using ‘Tap on a Tablet’ – What they don’t tell you.

If you are timing a small race for fun with fewer than 50 people, manual tablet timing systems work. They are better than a stop watch.

However, if you are taking other people’s money to time a race, consider these risks:

1. When the weather changes and you are out in the open, heavy rain drops hitting the tablet and false finishing participants. Races have been known to be lost this way. See the picture above, all the bib squares in the open for rain to hit and score a finish time.
2. Tablets that tap-tap to time important races can be stress creators. Hunting and pecking causes end of the day headaches. Often the tap is not taken and must be done repetitively. Disappointed participants that paid good money and do not get a time hurts your reputation.
3. Tablets screens crack when dropped. Races have been lost this way too.
4. Sun light dims the screen making stress hunting for the bib number to tap high.
5. The time produced by a tap Tablet is not highly accurate. According to the USAF, Edwards AFB, manual timing is 2 seconds in- accurate on a good day. When the flow of people increases, tablet time accuracy suffers even more. It is difficult to keep up with the flow of finishers.

An old laborer saying is, “If you are being paid to work, show up with the right tools.” Attempting to save a little money in hardware shorts your customer. Consider using a tough tablet with RFID chip timing like Orbiter. With Orbiter there is no need for tapping, bright in direct sun light, rain, and drop proof. As a back-up, Orbiter has a non-tap manual entry system is included too.

Summary: For important races, Tap Tablets cause extra stress and increase risk of losing a race. If money is a reason, the Orbiter RFID Groot at $ 950.00 is an alternative solution.

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