

Sprint Timer User Guide

Overview

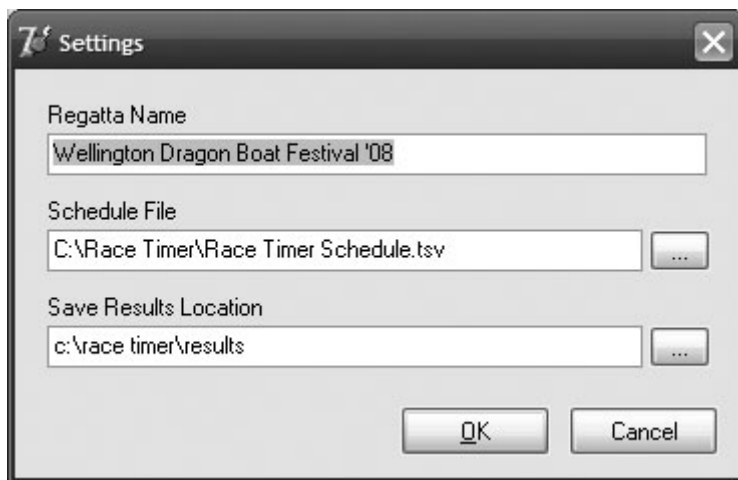
SprintTimer is a simple application used for timing races in lanes, such as Waka Ama, Rowing, Sprints and Canoe Racing.

It supports up to 9 lanes.

Race results and times are important. Do not attempt to time a race without a practice run first. If you attempt to use the race timer with no prior experience, you are risking problems on the day. At the minimum you need to read through this manual and have a practice run, prior to the event, so that you become familiar with the procedures.

Setup

To setup the event details, use the **File > Settings** menu option



Regatta Name

The name of the event that will print on all the results sheets

Schedule File

The schedule file is a list of all the race numbers and race names, you can create in excel

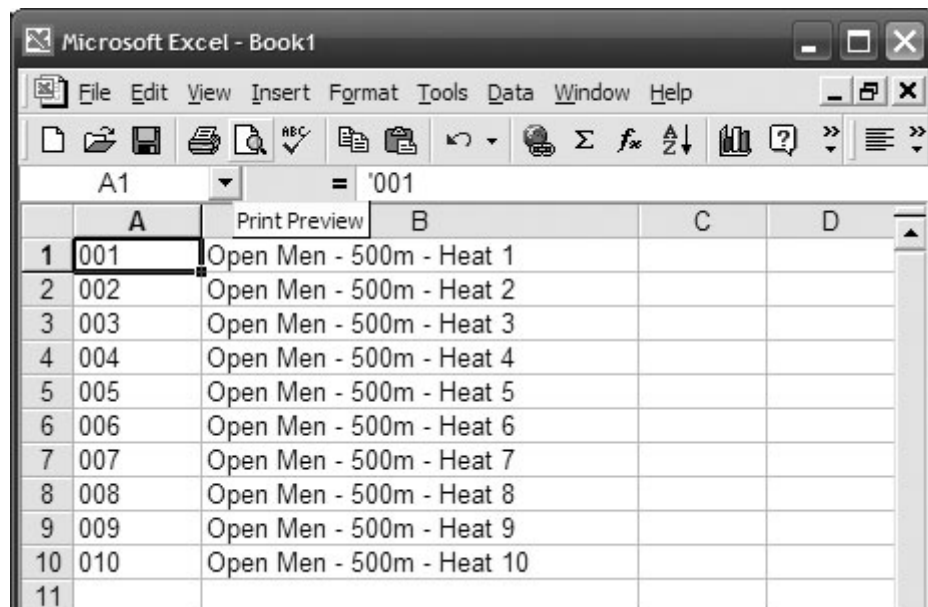
Save Results Location

Is a folder on the computer where the results files that are generated will be saved

Creating a Schedule File

Create a excel sheet and make a list of race numbers and race names.

The race numbers can be up to be 3 characters long and the race name can be what ever you like



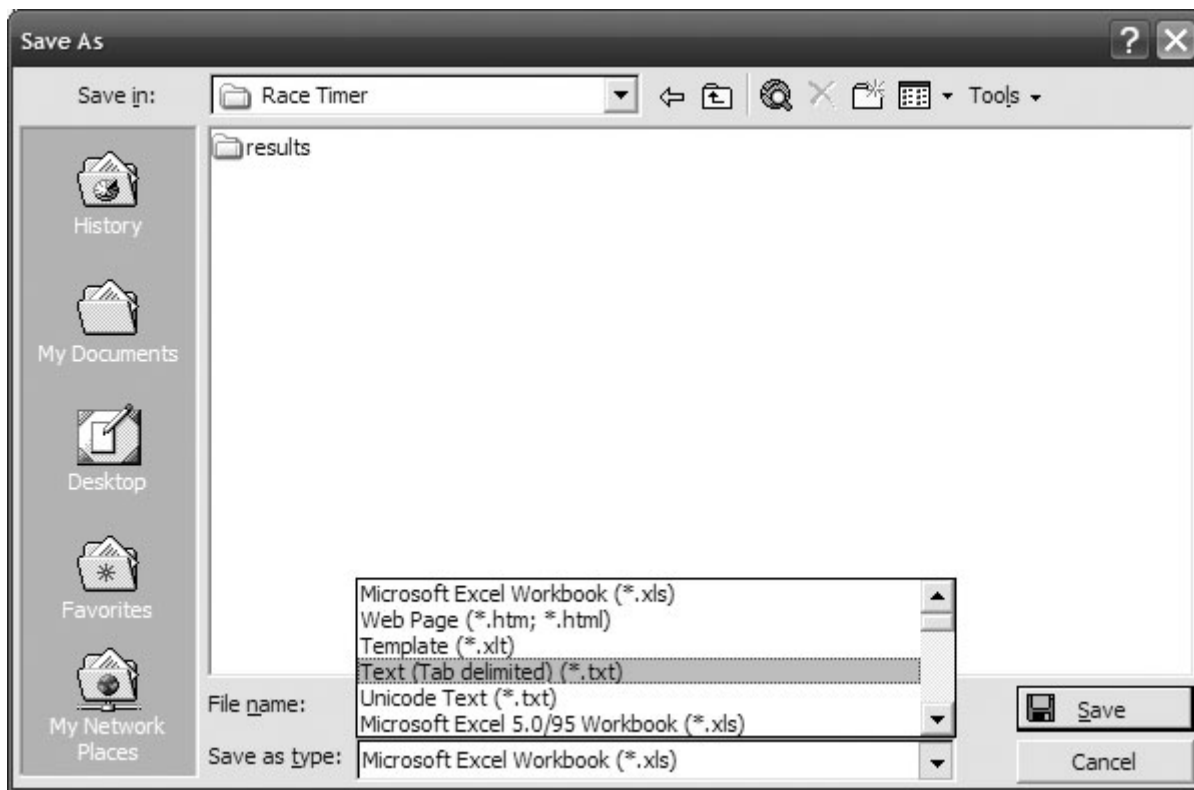
The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel window titled 'Microsoft Excel - Book1'. The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Tools, Data, Window, and Help. The toolbar contains various icons for file operations and calculations. The active cell is A1, which contains the text '001'. The formula bar shows '= '001'. The worksheet has columns A, B, C, and D, and rows 1 through 11. The data in the worksheet is as follows:

	A	B	C	D
1	001	Open Men - 500m - Heat 1		
2	002	Open Men - 500m - Heat 2		
3	003	Open Men - 500m - Heat 3		
4	004	Open Men - 500m - Heat 4		
5	005	Open Men - 500m - Heat 5		
6	006	Open Men - 500m - Heat 6		
7	007	Open Men - 500m - Heat 7		
8	008	Open Men - 500m - Heat 8		
9	009	Open Men - 500m - Heat 9		
10	010	Open Men - 500m - Heat 10		
11				

In excel take, **File > Save As** from the menu

When the **Save As** window is displayed, set the **Save as type** to **Text (Tab delimited) (*.txt)**.

You can name the schedule file anything you like.



Once you have created the schedule file, open the Race Timer and select **File > Settings** from the menu.

In the **Settings** window select the race schedule file that you created

Timing a Race

SprintTimer is designed to record the finish times of the race, and for the finish order to be entered afterwards

To time a race we recommend that you have at least 3 people

1. Timer - runs the race timer (good eyesight is a pre-requisite)
2. Spotter - calls the finish order (good eyesight is a pre-requisite)
3. Recorder - Writes down the finish order as it is being called

This is of course dependent on the number of lanes you have, if you are running more than 4 lanes and the lanes are wide (eg 10m for canoe racing), we recommend a couple of spotters, and if you have less than 4 lanes or your lanes are narrow (1.5m for running) you could just have one person who does spotting and writing.

It is up to you to find the best combination for your venue.

If you are using **SprintTimer** as your primary timing system, you will also need a person with a stopwatch. Their job is to record the time of the first team that crosses the line. This can be

compared with the **SprintTimer** results, to ensure the start was recorded accurately.

Step 1 - Confirm Race Number

Confirm the race number that is starting. If you have loaded a schedule file, you can select it from the drop down list, otherwise you will need to type it in.

It is very important to get the race number correct, or you will cause confusion when the results are released.

The screenshot shows the Startline Race Timer software interface. The title bar reads "Race Timer - Wellington Dragon Boat Festival '08". The interface includes a "Race" dropdown menu, a "Next" button, and a "Ready" button. The "Event" field displays "001 - 500m - Heat 2". A list of race numbers (001 to 007) is shown in a dropdown menu. The "Lane" column lists lanes 1 through 12, and the "Official Results" column is empty. The "Start" button is visible, along with a "Stop" button and a "Lap" button. A digital timer displays "00:00.00". The "Finish Order" button is also present. The "Publish Results" button is at the bottom right. The Startline logo and "Race Timer" text are at the bottom.

Lane	Official Results
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	

Step 2 - Ready

Just prior to the start of the race, you need to press the Ready button. This clears the previous race and resets the timer.

Step 3 - Start

As soon as the race begins click the Start button. You can do this with the mouse or you can also use the Space Bar, or if you have a handheld trigger this can be used too.

Step 4 -Time Lanes

As each team cross the finish line press the Space Bar (or press the handheld trigger)

A time will be recorded for that team. If you press the button by mistake just press it again when the team does cross the line and we can remove the incorrect time after the race is complete.

What we do here is place a bit of string vertically in front of the finish line, and take a point in the distance and the person doing the timing, can line them up to give our true finish line. This is usually a small distance in front of the marked finish line so that if the buoys drift, the same finish line will still apply to all races, giving consistency.

Race Timer - Wellington Dragon Boat Festival '08

File Help

Race 003 Next Cancel

Event Open Men - 500m - Heat 3

S	Lane	Captured Times
1	0	01:21.43
2	0	01:23.84
3	0	01:25.45
4	0	01:26.76
5	0	01:28.61
6	0	01:30.15
7		
8		
9		

01:34.51

>>

Finish Order

Lane	Official Results
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	

Start Stop

Lap

Publish Results

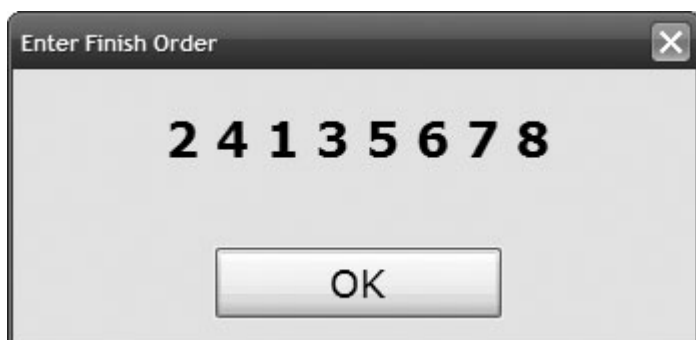
Startline™ Race Timer

Step 5- Stop Race

Once you have confirmed that the last team has crossed the line, you can click on the Stop button. This will stop the timer. This will also allow you to change the race number if you have got it wrong.

Step 6 - Finish Order

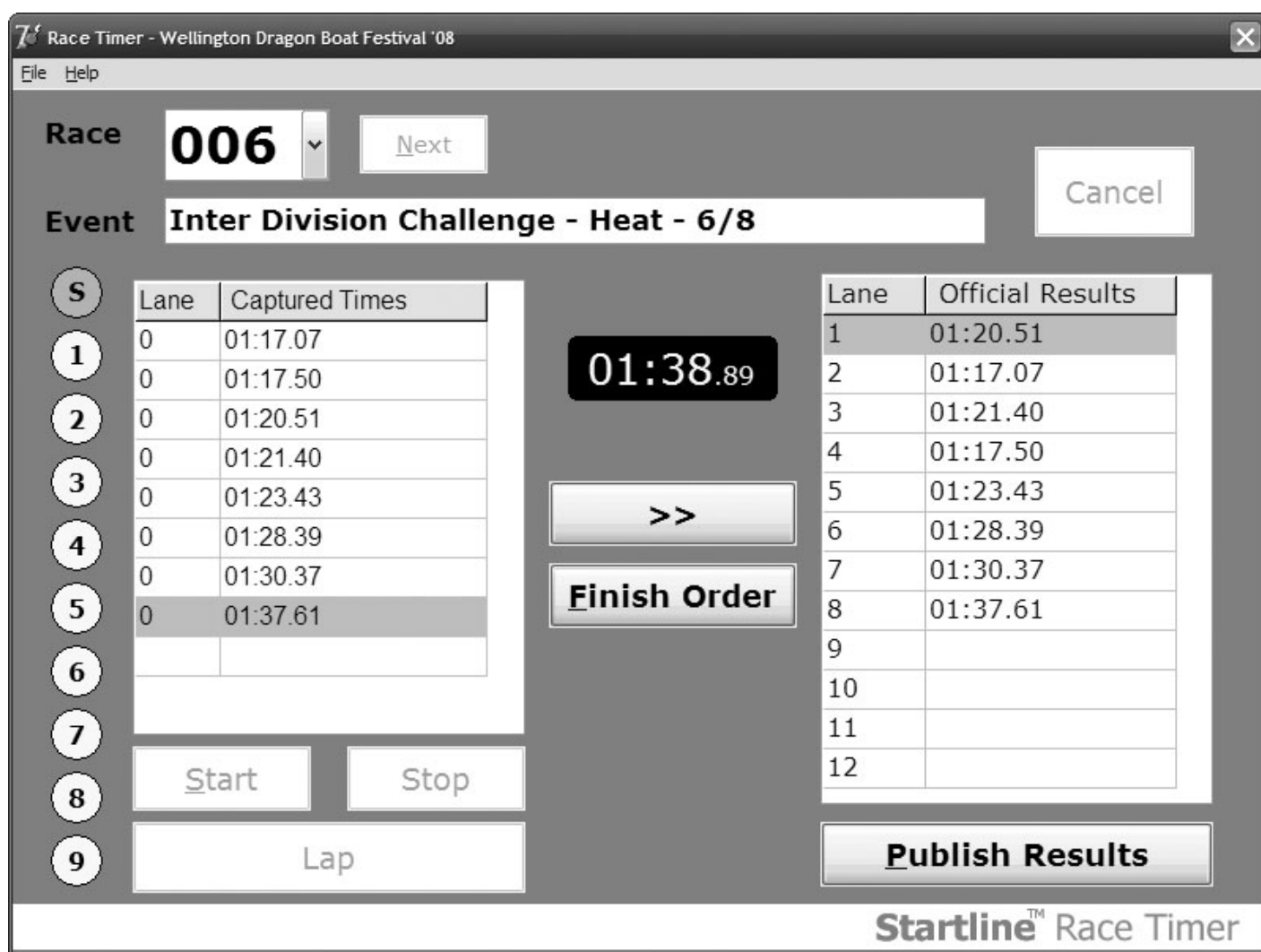
You can now enter the finish order into the system. Click the Finish Order button and key in the finish order. Double check the finish order before you press OK



Step 7 - Publish Results

The last step in the process is to publish the results. This saves the results into a file that can be imported into other systems, and also prints a copy for your records.

Once you have published the results, you can run through the whole cycle again for the next race.



Special Cases

Missed Start

Press the start as soon after the race started as possible. Either resort to backup or make an estimation of the time elapsed since the start was missed. Adjust the start time

Pressed Start early

Press start again when race does start, then removes incorrect start

Missed finisher time (too close)

Type in the finish order but leave out the lane number of the finisher who you missed, then add their time in using RaceManager, make up a time between the previous and next finisher.

Recorded extra time

Remove the extra time from the results before typing in the finish order

Pushed wrong button, hit start instead of finish

Edit the time and change from Start to Lap

Revision #2

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