

GUIDELINES

about the use of backup SI Active Cards (SIACs) - SPORTident Air+

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

The SIAC is considered to be part of the competitor's personal sports equipment like a bike and a helmet. Generally, it is therefore each competitor's responsibility to make sure that his/her (primary) SIAC functions properly. However, as with all new technology, it may be difficult to establish with certainty that it is really the competitor's fault when a SIAC stops working during a race. So in the very unlikely case of the SIAC's failure, a backup SIAC can be used to prove that the competitor visited all controls.

Please note that this is an exceptional circumstance and not the rule! Using a backup SIAC does not mean that the punches from the primary SIAC and the backup SIAC will be merged to form the punching record by default.

If a SPORTident unit/station at a control is not working, or appears not to be working, competitors must use the backup provided (e.g. pin punches at the control) according to rule 20.5. A backup SIAC is no help in this case!

1 What is the backup SIAC?

It is like a normal SIAC, but it has only an optical signal and no acoustic signal. It is a silent SIAC (no beep) so that competitors only hear one acoustic signal, the one from the main (primary) SIAC.

2 Why is there a backup SIAC in MTBO?

For major MTBO events it is compulsory to use the BS11-BS stations with a working range of 1.80 m. These stations don't have a "hole", so direct punching (inserting the SIAC into the hole) as a fall-back option to register at controls is not possible. When the main SIAC stops working, the backup SIAC enables contactless punching and competitors can continue their race without losing significant time.

3 When will the backup SIAC come into action?

As the name suggests, the data recorded in the backup SIAC will only be used in exceptional circumstances when the main SIAC did not work properly, i.e. in the case of failure of the main SIAC during the competition.

Examples:

- The main SIAC stopped working after e.g. 10 controls and didn't register the remaining controls.
- The main SIAC can't be read out.
- The main SIAC is clearly faulty after the competition (empty battery etc.).

The backup SIAC cannot be used to rank a competitor if he/she lost his/her main card.

4 Will the backup SIAC be read out by default?

No, the backup SIAC will only be read out:

1. in the case of SIAC failure as mentioned in point 3
2. if one or more punches are missing on the main card and the athlete claims to have punched the missing control/s.

In the second case, the organiser has to merge the punches from the two cards to form the punching records (see 9).

However, if it becomes clear that not a technical problem but the competitor's use of the backup SIAC (e.g. the competitor carried the main SIAC on the right arm and the backup SIAC on the left arm) is the reason for the missing punch/es, the punches from the two cards will not be merged to form the punching record.

5 Where do competitors carry the backup SIAC?

To make sure that all controls are recorded by the backup SIAC from the beginning, the backup SIAC must be carried as close as possible to the main SIAC (see examples in pictures).



*on the bike
(in a 2nd mounting holder):
"hidden" under the mapholder*



on the arm:



on fingers of the same hand:

The flashing tip of the backup SIAC could be covered by tape so as to avoid seeing its optical signal (as shown on right photo).

Competitors who mainly check the optical signal might be confused by two flashing SIACs. Unless the backup SIAC is carried out of sight (e.g. under the mapholder), it is recommended to cover the flashing tip of the backup SIAC by tape or similar.

As with all SIACs, competitors must not carry the backup SIAC on the same arm as a GPS or GPS-device (e.g. watch) and it must not be mounted next to a LED lamp or its battery leads.

6 What is there to do with the backup SIAC before the start?

The backup SIAC must be prepared for use before the start in the same way as the primary SIAC:

1. SIAC battery test; 2. CLEAR; 3. CHECK (activation); 4. SIAC test

7 What does a competitor do when the main SIAC stops working during the competition?

If the main SIAC does not give a feedback signal when in the required proximity of a control, it must be assumed that this SIAC has stopped working. Thanks to the backup SIAC the competitor can just ride on, the backup SIAC will continue recording the visits to the controls. This will be confirmed by the optical feedback signal of the backup SIAC.

If the backup SIAC has been carried out of sight (e.g. under the mapholder), it is advisable that the competitor puts the backup SIAC in a place where he/she can detect the optical feedback (flashing).

If neither the main SIAC nor the backup SIAC give a feedback when in the required proximity of a control, it must be assumed that the unit/station at the control is not working. In this case, competitors must use the backup provided (e.g. pin punches at the control) according to rule 20.5.

8 What happens at the readout with the backup SIAC?

In most cases: nothing! The backup SIAC will only be read out when it is established that the main SIAC stopped working properly during the competition (= failure of SIAC) or when one or more punches are missing on the main card and the athlete claims to have punched the missing control/s (see 4).

9 How is a backup SIAC read out?

Basically a backup SIAC is read out in the same way as all SIACs. However, as it is not possible to assign two different SIACs to the same competitor, the best practise is to use SI-Config+ or a printout set to read the backup SIAC. The relevant punches will then have to be added to the timing software “manually”.

10 Where is the backup SIAC available?

SPORTident supplies the organisers of major MTBO events with the backup SIACs. *

The organisers then equip each competitor with a backup SIAC. Backup SIACs are not for sale.

11 Is it compulsory to use a backup SIAC?

No, it is not a must – neither for organisers nor for competitors – to use a backup SIAC. However, although there have been extremely few failures of SIACs, the MTBO Commission strongly advises organisers to provide competitors with a backup SIAC and competitors to use it.

12 Why does the MTBO Commission recommend using a backup SIAC?

- A backup SIAC is the most ideal fall-back option as it is easy to use for both competitors and organisers.
- According to rule 20.5 “other evidence may be used to prove that the competitor visited the control”. This evidence could be from control officials, cameras, GPS watches etc. However, it is fairest that all competitors are equipped with the same type of backup, namely the backup SIAC.
- For organisers it is little effort to provide backup SIACs to avoid a competitor’s non-classification at a major event.

13 Are private backup SIACs allowed?

No, they aren’t. For reasons of fairness (to give all competitors the same chance), a backup SIAC will only be read out if the organiser provided a backup SIAC to all competitors.

14 What extra work & cost is there for organisers to equip competitors with a backup SIAC?

Providing the service of backup SIACs does not involve a lot of work:

- SPORTident supplies the organiser with the specially identified set of SIACs to be used as backup. For details, organisers are asked to contact SPORTident.
- The organiser hands out the requested number of backup SIACs to the teams / competitors when the participants collect their material on the first day of the event. It is not necessary to assign the backup SIACs to the competitors, but it is advisable to note how many backup SIACs are given out to each team and to have the recipients sign.
- The organiser usually has to pay a small rental fee to SPORTident for the backup SIAC, but it is only a few Euros per competitor for the whole event and it should be covered by the accreditation fee.