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

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!

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.

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 time.

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. ten 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 in the following cases:

- Only a few controls are not registered on the main SIAC, e.g. controls 3 and 12 out of 19 controls.
- The competitor lost his/her main SIAC.
- The main SIAC was not activated by mistake.
- The main SIAC showed signs of breaking down (e.g. didn't pass the battery test) before the start.
- The main SIAC didn't work properly through the fault of the competitor. For example, the SIAC was mounted in a wrong place (e.g. next to a LED lamp).
- The competitor claims that the main SIAC didn't work during the competition but no fault can be detected after the race.

Where do competitors carry the backup SIAC?

To make sure that all controls are recorded by the backup SIAC from the beginning it is best to carry the backup SIAC 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:
The flashing tip of the backup SIAC could be covered by tape so as to avoid seeing its optical signal (not shown on photo).

on a finger of the same hand:

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 or in the pocket of the jersey), 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.

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

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 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).

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).

How is a backup SIAC read out when the main SIAC failed?

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, in the case of SIAC failure, 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".

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.

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 to use a backup SIAC.

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.

What extra work is there for the organiser 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. *
- 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.

* For details please see document *SPORTident support for MTBO*:
 www.sportident.com/images/PDF/6_si_information_technical/1_SI_system_general/si_mtbo2018.pdf
 or www.mtbo-commission.com/uploads/1/5/9/9/15996872/si-air__mtbo-support2018.pdf

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