

Guidance for competition organisers running handicap racing where a gap of 10 seconds or more exists between teams.

While the Farmtek EJS timing system allows a gap of more than 10 seconds to be inputted to the system, the system is hard programmed to a maximum 10 second gap. As such, even where a gap of 10 or more seconds is entered, the handicap will commence countdown at 10 seconds. This clearly presents a problem where a handicap gap in excess of 10 seconds exists either in normal handicap racing or in Championship racing formats.

The following guidance is offered to competition organisers to consider managing this issue where it arises.

As a first preference, where a handicap gap between teams exceeds 10 seconds, competition organisers should look to separate the teams into more than one division consisting of teams that are within the 10 second racing gap. This would allow all racing to be operable using the EJS timing system. It is recommended that this option should be used even where a division of two teams may be created.

Where the above is not possible, competition organisers are encouraged to consider whether it is possible to separate teams into more than one division. That is, those teams entered with an entry time creating a handicap gap of less than 10 seconds should be grouped together to run as a single division. This will ensure the majority of teams entered are able to compete using the EJS timing system to determine/run the handicap system. The racing for the remaining teams will need to operate using a manual handicap start as outline below.

Where a manual handicap start is required, that is entered teams have an entry gap of 10 seconds or more competition organisers will need to revert to the use of manual starting to support the operation of the EJS timing system. Where this approach is required, a stopwatch will be used to determine/announce the start for the faster team where the gap is in excess of 10 seconds. This will be done through the use of a designated official whose role, for these races, is solely to count the seconds allocated to the handicap start. That is, where the gap is 15 seconds, the designated official will commence a countdown from 5 seconds, counting down out loud each second from 10 to 0 seconds. False start detection will be manual but breakout still applies.