



Running an Effective Finish Line

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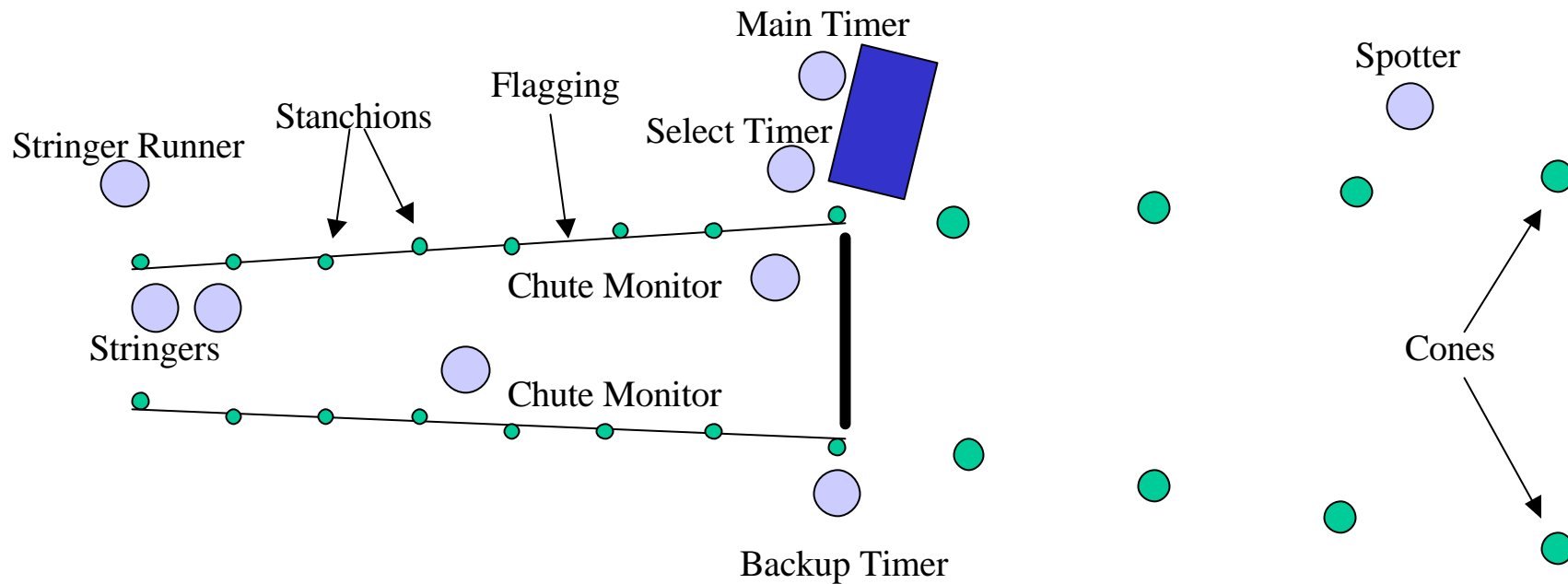
Overview

- Finish line layouts
- Personnel
- Equipment
- Scoring
- Potential problems

Finish Line Layouts

- Single chute
- Double chute
- Multiple open chutes

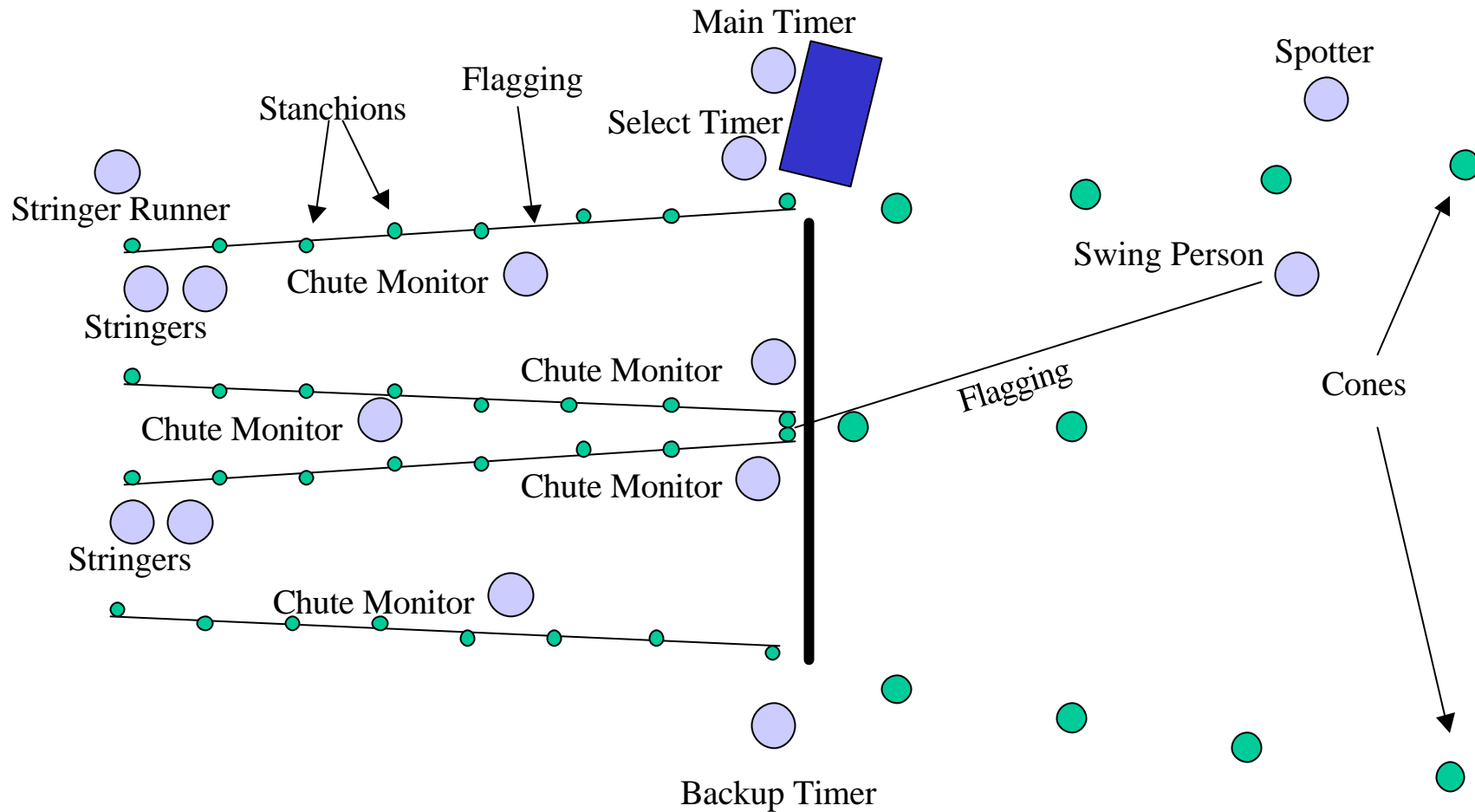
Single Chute Finish



Single Chute Setup

- Chute should be 50-100 feet long
- Stanchions are typically 6-8 feet apart
- Chute should taper from 8-12 feet down to 4-5 feet
- Place cones every 10 feet to guide runners into the chute
- Place timers where they have a clear view of the finish

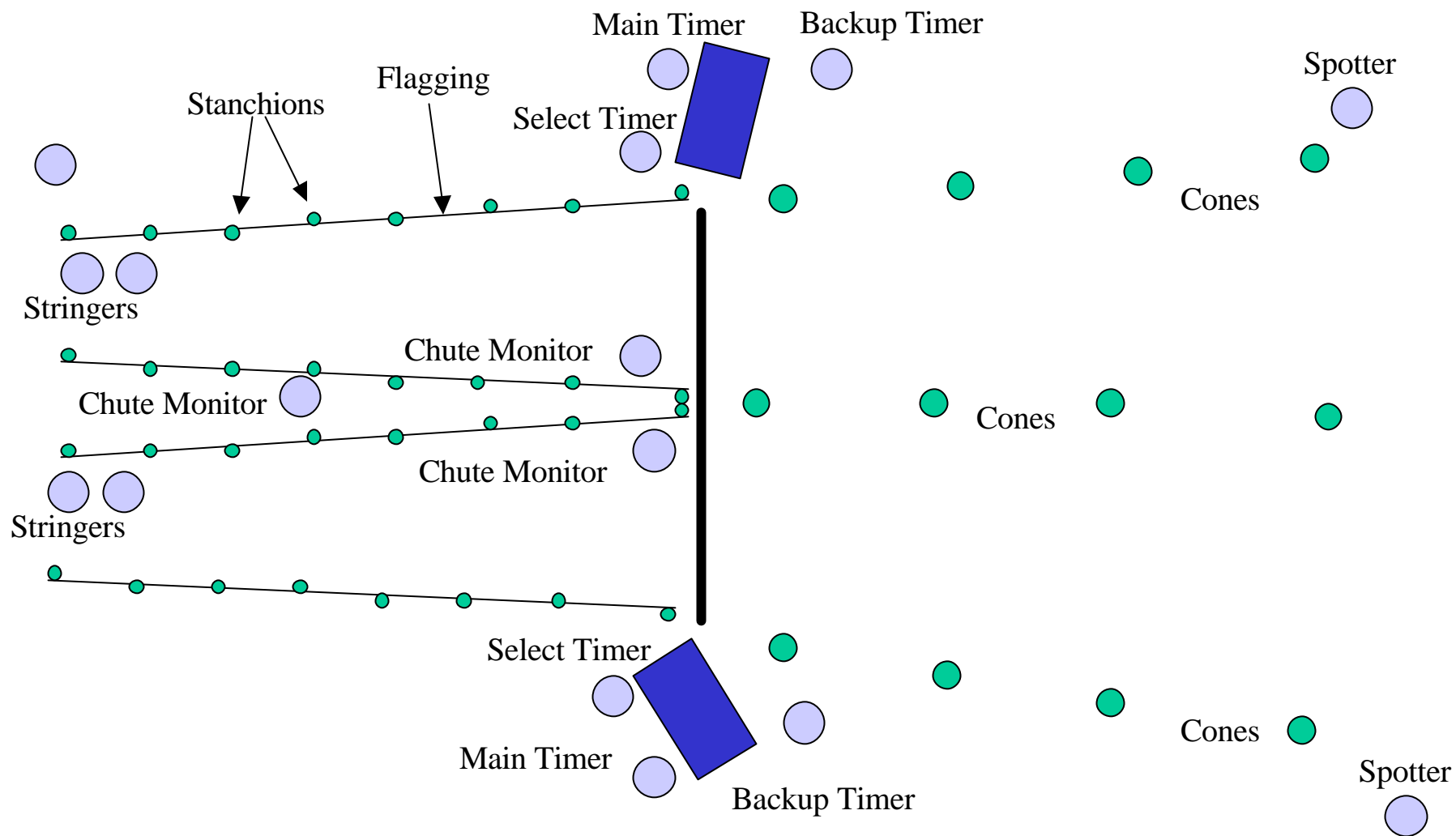
Double Chute Finish



Double Chute Setup

- Setup similar to single chute with an access path tapering to a point in the middle
- Flagging leads to swing person who directs runners to open chute
- Single timing stations
- Single contiguous stringer set

Multiple Chute Finish



Multiple Chute Setup

- Setup similar to double chute, but all chutes are open
- Multiple timing stations
- Multiple stringer sets
- Runners must be segregated by sex, age or other method since each will be scored separately

Results Area

- Should be isolated from finish line
- May need power if computers are used
- Will need tent or shelter if outdoors
- Interruptions must be minimized
- Race participants should not know location

Personnel

- Finish Line Director
- Primary and Secondary timers
- Select timers
- Spotter
- Chute monitors
- Stringers
- Stringer runner
- Swing person
- Results

Finish Line Director

- Coordinate equipment transportation
- Recruit volunteers
- Coordinate with Race Director and registration
- Guide setup and tear-down process
- Should not have assigned tasks, but be available to deal with problems without having to take someone away from an assigned task

Finish Line Tasks

- Assign people to start all timing devices
- Assign people to time first man and woman manually with stop watches
- Fill out any required paperwork (USATF, etc)
- Create volunteer list
- Communicate any special information such as bib number ranges, colors or special divisions to all personnel

Primary and Secondary Timers

- Operate Chronomix or TimeMachine timers
- Start timer at race start
- Time each runner as they cross the finish line using the timing plunger
- Does not turn off equipment unless directed by Finish Line Director
- Brings timing equipment to scorers after final finisher

Select Timers

- Coordinate with spotter to find first male, female and other significant runners
- Key in bib numbers from *selected* runners and hit enter when they cross the finish
- Select timing is totally independent of primary and secondary timing

Spotter

- Coordinate with select timer to find first male, female and other significant runners
- Pick runners that are identifiable and communicate bib number to select timer
- Try to spot bandits and “urge” them not to cross the finish

Chute Monitors

- Lead monitor breaks “ties” at finish
- Maintain runners in finish order
- Keep runners moving towards stringers
- Provide assistance to get sick or injured runners out of chute
- Talk to EMT personnel to coordinate handling of ill or injured

Stringers

- Work as a team, one removes tear-off from runner's bib, the other places it on stringer
- *Do not* gather more than two or three tear-offs in your hand
- Place each tear-off *face down* on stringer
- Keep runner's tear-offs in order
- Close off first string after 20-25 runners
- Close off remainder after 40 or more at convenient intervals
- Verify stringers used are in order

Stringer Runner

- Take each stringer and transport it to scorers
- Verify transported stringers are in order
- Stand in for stringer in the event of problems in the chute

Swing Person

- Closes one chute at a time to running traffic
- Switches chutes when chute starts to back up, or every 40-50 runners
- Coordinates with stringers when chutes are opening and closing

Results

- Possible with a single person, but impractical for all but very small events
- With a computer, two are needed. A reader and someone to data enter
- Best approach uses four people, one to organize, one to enter, a reader, and one to prepare manual results for verification.

Equipment

- Timers
 - Chronomix
 - Time Machine
- Digital clocks
- Stop watches
- Chutes
- Tents
- Scoring PC

Scoring

- Overall
- Masters
- Grand Masters
- Special Divisions (Clydesdale, Survivor)
- Age group

Scoring Worksheet

Male Overall

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Masters (40+)

1. _____
2. _____

Grand Masters (50+)

1. _____
2. _____

Clydesdale

1. _____

14 and Under

1. _____
2. _____

15-19

1. _____
2. _____

20-24

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Female Overall

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Masters (40+)

1. _____
2. _____

Grand Masters (50+)

1. _____
2. _____

Clydesdale

1. _____

14 and Under

1. _____
2. _____

15-19

1. _____
2. _____

20-24

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Manual Scoring

- Ideally one person would write name while the other searched the stringer
- Tear-offs should be numbered to match with times on tape and to help reconcile
- Stop when all award categories are filled

Computerized Scoring

- Use a program such as RunScore or Race Manager
- Don't kid yourself about writing your own
- Name, age, and sex must be entered before you can score
- Bib numbers are entered as stringers arrive
- Enter all bib numbers
- Number tear-offs for validation

Potential Problems

- Lost stringers
- Missing tear-offs
- Incomplete tear-offs
- Bandits
- Missing registration information
- Ill people in the chute

Lost Stringers

- Serious problem
- Makes it impossible to score runners on that stringer
- You can resync times/places for the remainder using select times

Missing Tear-offs

- Remove entire runner's bib and attach it to the stringer
- If scoring manually, age/sex information will need to be retrieved from registration form
- If tear-off was lost after stringer was closed, use select times to resync scoring

Bandits

- “Bandits” are runners without bibs, typically they race without registering
- Have some “turkey tags” handy to place on stringer
- “Encourage” bandits not to enter the chute
- Bandits are ignored in the scoring process

Missing Registration Information

- Real scoring hassle, most common delay cause
- Be sure to educate registration personnel not to give out bibs to runners with incomplete forms
- Make sure registration personnel fill out tear-off information, *do not* expect runners to do it
- Announce runners name or bib over PA and ask them to come to scoring table or room
- Age/sex problems are most common. Ask for birth date on registration form to ease problems

Ill People in Chute

- Not uncommon on warm days
- Educate chute monitor on need to get tear-off back to stringer
- Give pre-race advice about water, etc
- Have EMT near finish, and coordinate transfer of ill or injured

Common Mistakes

- Stringers move up the chute, causing runners to back up
- Dropped or improperly strung tear-offs
- Timers miss runners
- Tear-off is blank
- Runner's put bibs on back, not front
- Fun runners run in with mom and dad
- Registration forms are incomplete

Summary

- Plan for mistakes, have back-up plans available
- Coordinate closely with registration personnel
- Communicate special circumstances to all personnel
- Have plenty of volunteers