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So just what exactly does AREEP do?

When you arrive at the race and see us, you might wonder what we are doing or be curious as to what is our role and what is the role of race director. Here's some helpful information to make you a more informed participant.

HOW AREEP BECOMES INVOLVED

Typically, an event approaches us either needing a timer or looking for a general quote for the varied services we provide. Depending upon the extent of desired services, this may either occur via phone, email, or in-person.

Once a quote is furnished, the event decides what components/services they would like AREEP to provide. This can include just renting our sound system or having us time the event, or on a larger level, having us supply equipment for the race, handle pre-registration, build the event a website, coordinate their volunteers, and design a course.

It is for this reason that you may notice we have different setups at different events. Some races want the pennants leading runners to the finish, chip timing with live results scrolling on our projection screen, and music. Based upon the event and its budget, some events may not request these services – or they may get them from other vendors.

RACE DAY

Depending upon our level of involvement, AREEP usually arrives at the event two hours prior to the start. It takes about 20 minutes to setup the finish line structure and general equipment (pennants, stanchions, stakes, ropes, etc.) and about 10 minutes to setup the chip timing system. AREEP supplies its own staff to handle the technical aspects, bringing more people when our extent of services requires it. Generally we have 3-5 trained staff members at every event, with more for larger races.

As runners register, we are typing in their information into our results program. Depending upon the size of the race, we will have anywhere from two to six laptops on-site to expedite this process and also for back-up purposes. In addition, we always videotape the finish line so that the bib and clock are visible. This provides both a backup and a nice touch too – we've seen some great finishes!

THE DATA COMPONENT

For races that we do not handle pre-registration, the event emails us a spreadsheet of all participants the night before the race. This allows them ample time to get all those last minute entrants who send their applications in after the postmark deadline – you know who you are. ☺

We import the data into our system and if we are using chips, we merge our chip data with the runners' information based upon bib so that each chip accurately corresponds to the appropriate runner. We simulate the race in our software to make sure that the results and awards listings are correct and display the correct information. We don't verify that you spelled your name properly, so make sure you write legibly or type it correctly when registering by mail or online.

THE CHIP TIMING EXPERIENCE

Chip timing is a tremendous asset for both the event timer and race participant. Entrants no longer have to worry about other runners passing them in the chute, their tear tag getting ripped off, waiting around in corrals, and *waiting*, itself. Race timers, as well, no longer have to worry about participants finishing twice (because someone decided to run back in with his/her brother), bandits, runners crossing the line but then ducking out of the chute, and the joy of multiple chutes and spindling tags.

Chips, however, revolutionize the timing experience because it removes human error from the equation. Your chip contains a unique code that corresponds to your bib number. When you cross a set of mats, the system registers your chip code and what time of day (TOD) it is. If there are start mats, your net time is calculated by subtracting the start TOD from the finish TOD. If there are not start mats, a variable in the system is set to indicate what time the race started, and that is subtracted from everyone's finishing time. So long as a competent company that knows how to use the system is handling the event, you can rest assured that your time will be accurate – and the results processed instantly.

We typically post results every 50 finishers because that is how many fit on a sheet of paper. When using our live results projection, finishers' names and time appear on the projection screen literally as the runners cross the mats.