



# SIAC/Air+

What is it and how to use it

# What is SIAC and Air+?

- **SIAC (SPORTident Active Card)** is the name of the SI stick to support contactless punching
- **Air+** is the system with SIAC sticks and beacon control units to deliver a complete contactless experience



# How should I wear it?

- In the normal manner, on your finger using an elastic strap.
- But **NOT** near a GPS watch, as this can interfere

# How do I “punch”?

- Just bring your SIAC stick within 50cm of a control
  - Typically wave your hand close over the top of the control as you pass
- Your SIAC stick will flash red and give a sequence of 3 rounds of 3 beeps
  - To check it is your stick beeping, hold it up to your ear



# SIAC BATTERY TEST Control

- SIAC sticks have a built-in battery. To check the battery level, physically punch this control
- The unit should give a confirmation beep if OK
- The SIAC BATTERY TEST control will be located at the Registration desk



# CLEAR and CHECK Controls

- CLEAR control to be punched as normal
  - Your SIAC stick will NOT give its series of confirmation beeps but the control unit will beep as usual
- CHECK control ‘turns on’ the radio in your SIAC stick to enable it to receive the signal from each SI control on the course
  - Your stick will give a series of confirmation beeps here
- Note: a green LED on your stick will flash every 10 seconds when the radio is active



# SIAC TEST Control

- This control is off to one side along the start chute, just for SIAC users, and officials should direct you to it
- By “waving” your SIAC stick over this control you should get 3 rounds of 3 beeps and your SIAC stick will flash red
- This confirms the radio in your SIAC stick has been turned on and is working

# START Control

- Whenever a START Control is used it MUST be physically punched
- This is to ensure that you don't accidentally start too early by getting within range of the control
- There is no START control for this event





# Course Controls

- “Wave” your SIAC stick over each control and you should get 3 rounds of 3 beeps and your SIAC stick will flash red
- Remember when other SIACs are around and lots of beeping is going on, hold your stick close to your ear to check your beeps



# What if it doesn't work?

- If you don't get confirmation beeps and flashes then punch/dip your SIAC stick
- As usual, the SI control unit should beep and flash to confirm that you have dipped
- If the SI control unit doesn't respond either, use the backup pin-punch

# WARNING!

- Whilst on your course, avoid being within 3m of the FINISH line
  - This may accidentally register a 'Finish'
  - As registering a 'Finish' turns off the radio in your SIAC stick to save on battery, "waving" over a control will no longer work
  - You will have to physically dip your SIAC to punch on remaining course controls and also punch/dip at the FINISH

# FINISH Line

- When finishing “wave” your SI stick over the FINISH control
- Your SIAC stick should give the confirmation flash and beeps to register your finish



# SIAC Sequence

- ✓ **SIAC BATTERY TEST:** physically punch/dip
- ✓ **CLEAR:** physically punch
- ✓ **CHECK:** physically punch; turns on the radio
- ✓ **TEST CONTROL:** wave over
- ✓ **START** (if in use): physically punch
- ✓ **Course controls:** wave over
- ✓ **FINISH CONTROL:** wave over

# Summary

- Once started, no need to physically punch controls
- Similar control starting sequence to normal SI sticks with SIAC BATTERY TEST and TEST CONTROL added
- If no SIAC confirmation beeps/flashes, physically punch like normal SI sticks

## SI Air FAQs

### What is SIAC/Air+?

SIAC is a more advanced version of standard Sportident sticks. It stands for SportIdent ActiveCard and has the following advantages over the more traditional SI 8 sticks:

- you don't have to physically punch the control; just get to within 30-50cm of it.
- your stick flashes and beeps as well as the control to confirm that you have "punched".
- Punching response is twice as fast.
- more punches can be recorded on the stick.

Air+ refers to the system which allows SIAC sticks to be used in this contactless mode. Simplistically, this means programming the SI controls in a different way. However there are also often

extra control types set up to enhance the overall experience as is the case at this Carnival.

### Is it fair having both SIAC and non-SIAC sticks at the same event?

Strictly speaking, if you have a SIAC stick you will have an advantage compared to an SI 8 stick as you don't have to stop and physically punch. However the courses have been arranged so that

this advantage is no more than a few seconds per control. Also note, however, that this extra advantage also applies to other technology used for orienteering. For example:

- SI 10 sticks record punches twice as fast and ComCard combined stick/compasses just need to be placed on top of the control; these also confer an advantage.
- Thumb compasses compared to regular compasses can give an advantage.
- different orienteering shoes and clothing can give an advantage.

So the argument on fairness is really just one of degree. If we want the sport to be truly fair, all the equipment should be prescribed or at least available to be used. This Carnival has ensured

that SIAC sticks are available for all who wish to use them, either through personal purchase or hire.

Why does my SIAC stick flash and beep? Specifically 3 rounds of 3 beeps.

This is a confirmation signal that you have punched the SI control; the SI control will also flash and beep as normal. Many users hold the stick up beside their ear to check that it is really their

stick which is beeping! Your SIAC stick should produce this confirmation from every control EXCEPT for the CLEAR control; the reason for this is that subsequent punches will not be registered while

your stick is beeping which can cause problems for the usual CLEAR then CHECK punch that many competitors do. So the CLEAR control has been specifically programmed to prevent this.

How should I wear my SIAC stick?

Many people wear it like a normal SIAC stick but upside down (with the pointer pointing into the palm of the hand). In this way, they can "wave" their hand over the control and then hold it up to

their ear to hear the confirmation beeps.

What is that SIAC battery test control in the Assembly area for?

SIAC sticks have a battery within them. By physically punching this control you should receive a normal confirmation beep from the control station. If you don't then talk to an official about

getting a replacement; without a working battery, you will still be able to use the stick but may need to physically punch each control as you would for the more traditional SI sticks. You may also not

receive confirmation flashes or beeps from your SI stick.



What is the SIAC Test Control for?

After you have Cleared and Checked your SIAC stick (as you would for any SI Stick), your SIAC radio should be turned on (Actually the Check control does this). This needs to be on if you want to be able

to register your punch by waving at the control. If your radio isn't on, you will not hear a confirmation beep/flash from your stick and you will need to physically punch the control. To confirm that

this is the case, you should "wave" your stick within 30cm of the SIAC Test Control and this should give you the confirmation beep/flash from your stick. This control does not get recorded on your stick

nor does it initiate a "Start" of your run; it is just a check that the radio is on and working. Start Officials should direct you here.

Why do I have to stay away from the Finish area while on course or after entering the Start gates?

When you enter the start gates, an official will ask you to punch a Clear control. This is to record that you are running the course so we know who is out there for safety reasons. The Clear

Control also turns on your SIAC radio so you can "wave" rather than physically punch. In order to conserve battery, the Finish control also turns off the SIAC radio. Therefore if you run through

(or too close to the Finish area after you have Checked, you risk having your radio turned off. You will still be able to physically punch controls and the Finish, but you won't be able to register

the punch with a "wave".

Can I register a punch at every control with just a wave?

No. Every control on the course should be registered with just a wave. However controls at the Start and Finish are specifically programmed not to do this to avoid confusion between multiple

competitors. Specifically the following controls must be physically punched:

- SIAC battery test control must be physically punched (as your SIAC radio should be off).

- Clear and Check must be physically punched.

- If you are a late starter (or are directed to use a punching Start by the starting official), the Start control must be physically punched.

What do I do at the Finish?

- The Finish controls are very specific. For SIAC sticks you only need to cross the Finish line as there are special controls that will register when you cross the line. For those not using

SIAC sticks, there will be standard Finish Controls at each end of the "Finish Line"; these controls can be physically punched by any SI stick (including SIACs). In practice you would only do

this if the radio on your SIAC stick wasn't functioning.

What can go wrong and what do I do if it does?

- The most likely scenario here is that you "wave" at a control on course but do not get a confirmation flash/beep from your stick. In this case, you should physically punch your stick. If you

do this and don't get the confirmation flash/beep from either your stick nor from the SI control, then you should use the backup manual punch. It could be any of the following problems:

- your SIAC radio is off (either it wasn't turned on at the Start, you went too close to the Finish area after Clear/Check (this turns off your SIAC radio) or your SIAC radio has malfunctioned.

- the SI control has not been correctly programmed in Air+ mode.

- the SI control has failed (e.g.run out of battery).

If you follow the above procedure, all these scenarios should be catered for.