

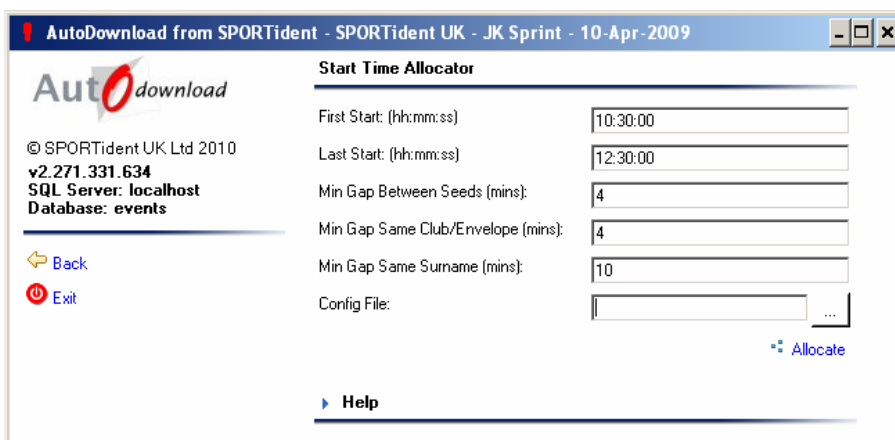
## Start Time Allocator

The Start Time Allocator is an additional module within AutoDownload that is used to allocate start times to entries for an individual event based on a set of configurable rules.

Before the Allocator can be run the following must be set-up for the event:

- Courses (and classes if a class based event). Only “skeleton” information is needed, control information can be loaded at a later stage.
- Entries. The following information is needed for each entry
  - Name
  - Course/Class
  - Club (optional)
  - Start Preference (Very Early, Early, Middle, Late, Very Late, Any, Punching)
  - Envelope Number (optional). Used to group entries together.
  - Seeded (Y/N). Default is no.

### Start Time Allocator Screen



AutoDownload from SPORTident - SPORTident UK - JK Sprint - 10-Apr-2009

**Start Time Allocator**

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v2.271.331.634  
SQL Server: localhost  
Database: events

Back  
Exit

First Start: (hh:mm:ss) 10:30:00  
Last Start: (hh:mm:ss) 12:30:00  
Min Gap Between Seeds (mins): 4  
Min Gap Same Club/Envelope (mins): 4  
Min Gap Same Surname (mins): 10  
Config File: [ ] ...

Allocate

Help

The following parameters can be set:

- First Start – for the event
- Last Start – for the event
- Minimum time gap between seeded entries on the same course
- Minimum time gap between members of the same club or on the same entry form (same envelope number) on the same course
- Minimum time gap for entries with the same surname on the same course
- Config File (optional). Used to flag courses where start times are not to be allocated (e.g. Elite courses where a seeded process is used to determine start times) or courses which need a start time range different to the event wide range (e.g. Junior courses where there should be no start times in the last half an hour)

If there is no minimum gap for seeds, clubs, envelopes and/or surnames the fields can be left blank and 1 minute will be used.

## ***The Allocation Process***

Entries with a start preference of “Punching” are not allocated a start time.

The Start Time Allocator works using whole minutes with a minimum interval of 1.

If entries don't have an envelope number they will be allocated with any of their club mates who also don't have an envelope number. Thus if you just want club allocation don't set any envelope numbers.

For start time allocation all entries are split into groups based on envelope number/club and start preference. The order that the start times are allocated to those groups is determined by the following points. The order of the points is important, i.e. in comparing two groups to see which one to do first, if one group is a higher priority on point 1, then further points are irrelevant.

1. Groups of 5 or larger are allocated in order of the number of entries in descending order (i.e. largest groups first). Groups of 4 or less are treated as if they are the same size.
2. Groups with the larger number of seeds are allocated first.
3. Groups that have been made by envelope number are allocated before those made up of clubs.
4. Envelopes are allocated in number order (first come, first served).

For each group, a random time is allocated for them in their chosen block. Then for each entry a start time on their chosen course is obtained as close as possible to that random time, given times already allocated and rules selected on seed separation etc.

It aims to allocate everyone within each group within  $15 + (\text{select min club/envelope separation} \times (\text{max no of entries on any one course} - 1))$  minutes. Once the Allocator has run it will display any allocations outside this ideal range and give the choice to accept the allocation (Import Start Times) or not. If the "problems" are not acceptable select "No" and then run the Allocator again. Once you have selected to import start times, you can run the Allocator further times if so desired to try and get an even better allocation. Various start list options are available to review accepted allocations including a start time matrix. These can be accessed as part of the core application without the additional Start Time Allocator module.

Start Blocks (Very Early, Early, Middle, etc) time periods are not defined. The blocks sizes are determined by the Allocator taking into account the number of entries that have requested a particular start block. When the Allocator selects a random time for a group it will be within the block, but as it then seeks times for each entry as close as possible to that random time it may stray into other blocks, particularly once the start lists fill up.

## ***Start Time Validator***

If start times are allocated outside of AutoDownload and entries are imported with start times or if individual start times are “manually” changed the Start Time Validator can be run to confirm that all start times comply with the “rules” for the event.