

The Online Start Box (OLSB) - Article 1 - Checkpoint - February 2017

This is the first of a series of articles that will keep you informed about the OLSB. I will try answer the most pressing questions as well as inform you of changes and improvements. To view the current list of events go to cva4u.org and click on "Online Start Box" on the left side. Then click the "Select Event" tab.

The OLSB was created for clubs who want to sponsor an event but are challenged either by distance or an appropriate start box location. Some clubs travel hundreds of miles each quarter to service start box-es, others have lost a host for the start box and are unable to find an appropriate alternative. The OLSB allows a club to continue to sponsor these events. Everyone wins when events are kept active and available.

This article will explain how you can manage a minor, spouse, parent, or friend on the OLSB. There has been a concern that moving to a fully computerized version of the start box would exclude some individuals. The OLSB addresses this by providing account connections. This feature was initially created to allow a parent to manage a minor's account and books. My own son keeps IVV books and is no longer a minor.

Each person must create an account and personally sign the athletic waiver. The exception is a parent or guardian can add a minor, and sign the waiver for them. They do this under their own account, but a separate minor account is automatically created. A minor will grow up and take over this account at age 18, without losing any of their history.

Account connections allow couples, and by logical extension, friends and relatives, to manage each others accounts. The management is a single click away with no need to remember additional passwords or account credentials. Account connections are set up once and remain in force till either party cancels the connection. The connection has limits required by basic security concerns, but provides the ability to completely manage a person's OLSB needs. The most important part is managing their walk history and Insert Cards.

Outside of the account connections, the event registration has features that allow a single person to register and pay for others that walk with them. If you have a group walk, one person can register and pay for the group. This helps families and friends that walk together, especially when several in the group do not have smart phones or even a computer at home.

I hope that you find the OLSB a useful tool to help keep these remote and difficult to sponsor events. It is important that we all support those events that are a "labor of love" for the sport, many of which are finding their way onto the OLSB. The OLSB is itself a "labor of love" for the sport.

Happy trails, Chris Zegelin.