

Setting up USB Ports for MEETWARE3, TIMEWARE3 and POLOWARE3

Note: This procedure covers Windows 7-11.

If you are using a laptop computer with USB ports only, you will use a USB to Serial adapter to connect a pre-2010 Computer Timing Interface (for swim timing) or Polo Interface (for water polo). Computer Timing Interfaces from 2011 onward come with a USB A to USB B cable. In either case, you may need to install the software driver for the USB device before Windows will recognize it. If you purchase a USB to Serial adapter cable, the driver normally comes on a CD or flash drive with the cable. If you purchase a Computer Timing Interface with a USB cable, the driver is included with the MEETWARE3 or TIMEWARE3 Software. If your flash drive gets lost, you can also find links to the drivers at [Tips & Technical Support](#) under Drivers.

For all our software, remember to plug the Computer Timing Interface or Polo Interface *before* opening the software. This allows software to find the correct COM port during the startup sequence.

To confirm the port is active for MEETWARE3 OR TIMEWARE3, go to Utilities/Setup Hardware and look under **Timer Port and Main Scoreboard**. If the field says **None**, click the drop down to see if a COM port is available. If there is, click on the port. Next go Meets/Diagnostics/Deck Cable and make sure the **Marker** box shows **T#**, with the number changing each second.

For POLOWARE3, go to Preferences. In the upper left grid under Port, you can select the active COM port. Set the Game Clock, Shot Clock and Button Port to the same COM port. Run the Hardware Diagnostic to confirm that the data is displayed on all your devices.

These screens will show the available COM ports, but if multiple ports are available, you may not know which one to use. Also, if your laptop gets used with different USB devices when it's not used for timing, you may find that the USB adapter/cable gets assigned to a different COM port the next time you plug it in. If this happens, you will get an error when you start the deck cable diagnostic, timing or running a polo match. Here's a way to quickly determine which COM port has been assigned to your USB cable:

- Have the Computer Timing Interface or Polo Interface connected to the computer's USB port and plugged in to power
- Minimize the IST software you are using
- Right-click on the Windows Start button and select Device Manager.
- Under Ports, you will see one of the following:
 - For a USB A to USB B Cable: **USB Serial Port (COM#)** with # being the port number
 - For a USB to Serial Adapter: **Prolific USB-to-Serial Com Port (COM#)** with # being the port number (or something similar if you didn't buy your adapter from IST)
- Maximize MEETWARE3 or TIMEWARE3, go to Utilities/Setup Hardware and set the Timer Port to the COM# from above. For POLWARE3, go to Preferences. Set the Main Scoreboard, Game Clock, Shot Clock and Button Ports all to the COM# from above.
- To test the port, in MEETWARE3 or TIMEWARE3, go to Meets/Diagnostics/Deck Cable. If the Status is OK and you see the changing number in the Marker box, you're ready to go. For POLOWARE3 go to Match/Hardware Diagnostic to see if your clocks respond to the diagnostic as expected.