

The Online Start Box (OLSB) - Article 2 - Checkpoint - March 2017

This is the second of a series of articles that will help you understand the capabilities of the OLSB (Online Start Box). This article will talk about insert cards and how to handle special programs. The OLSB does not use generic AVA insert cards. The cards and stamps are computer generated.

The insert cards are pictures. This makes it easy for the computer to save and print the cards. A beautiful result can be achieved by sending the picture to any photo service (Walgreens, Costco) and printing a 4 by 6 photo. You can also download the insert card as a PDF document. This is compatible with every computer system without the need for photo handling tools. You can collect up to 8 events on a card.

There are several features on the card that are there to maintain the integrity of the IVV awards program. Most of these features just help you avoid confusion if you are handling cards for several people. Note that each card is personalized, and is specific to a set of books. This is very important when creating cards for special programs where the stamps on the card for any one program will differ from another. A point to note, once a card has been printed, its contents are locked and no more events can be added to that specific card. This prevents the confusion of having duplicate stamps for an event. To fill up a card with 8 events requires that you wait until the card is full before downloading and printing it.

Most people keep IVV distance and event books and the default is that those insert cards are automatically issued when you complete an event. You have the ability to set the date and the distance in the completion form, and those values are printed on the card for you. This way you do not have to remember the information, the OLSB system keeps it for you.

Special programs are separate for the IVV distance and event books. The OLSB has the ability to create cards for any special program, be it from AVA, a club, or any Volkssport organization. There are two standard lists (AVA, and existing programs), with the ability for a user to add a special program if it is not on one of the lists.

As a user, it is advisable to setup your personal list of special programs in advance of completing an event on the OLSB. This is done under 'My Account' while logged into the web site (cva4u.org). The advantage is that the completion form is much easier to fill out. Your personal list of special programs are presented first instead of having to search a list that is much larger.

The OLSB is comprehensive when dealing with insert cards. The results look good with information about the event in small type below the event stamp. We welcome ideas about how to improve the OLSB insert cards, but for now the bases are covered.