PRECISION TIME SYSTEMS

Generation 6 Platform — Introduction and Instructions

To: NBA Game Operations Staff
From: Steve Truckenbrod, Precision Time Systems
Re: Introduction to the Generation 6 Precision Time Platform

We are pleased to introduce our new Generation 6 Precision Time platform, which will be in service for the remainder of the current season and going forward. We are confident that you will find the improvements significant and beneficial in both the setup and day-to-day operation of this system.

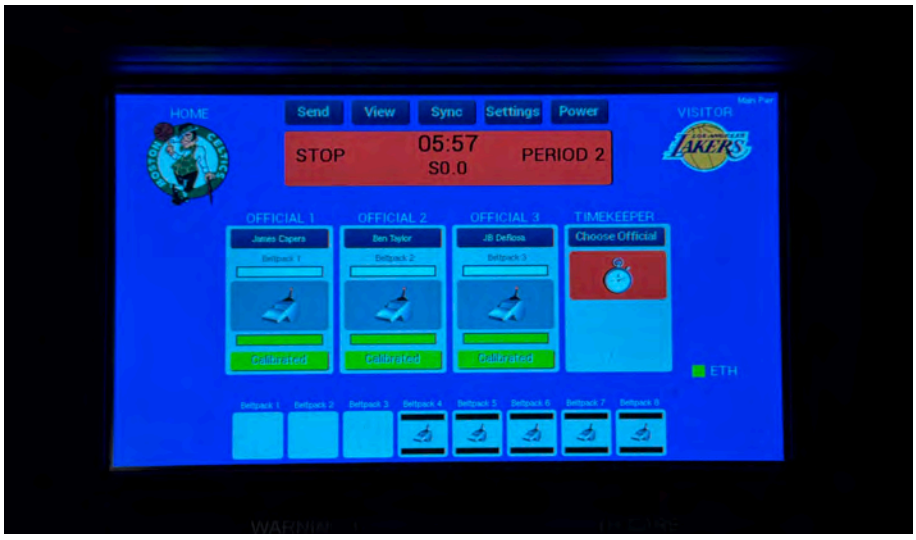
The Generation 6 platform arrives alongside a complete re-working of the whistle detection algorithm in the belt pack firmware that is already in use this season. Together, these improvements are expected to deliver the most accurate and reliable performance in our history.

The changes outlined below are intuitive for anyone familiar with the current Generation 5 setup. Your transition to the new platform should be virtually seamless. Please review the following highlights at your earliest convenience.

1. Physical Changes

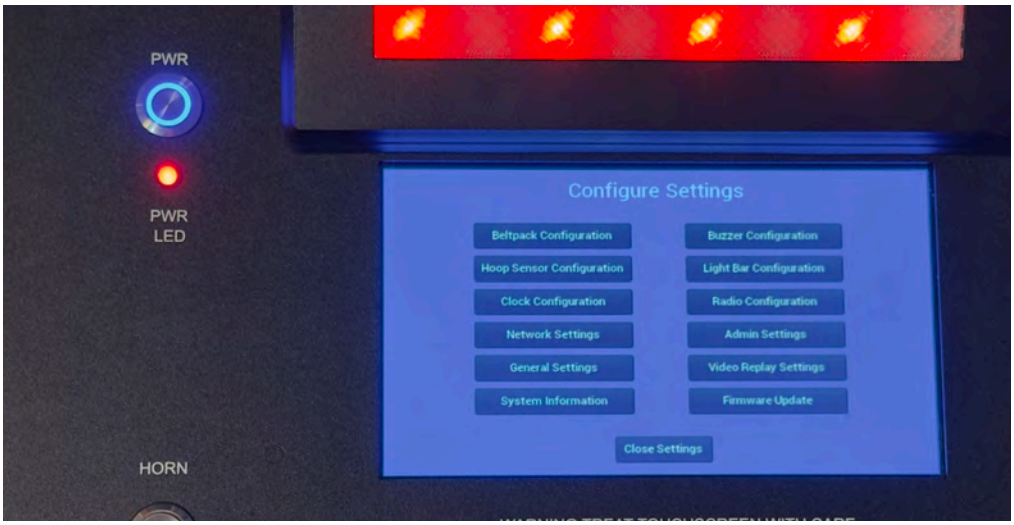
The Generation 6 base station introduces several hardware refinements designed to improve usability and durability in an arena environment:

- Brighter, more visible touchscreen — enhanced display for improved readability under all lighting conditions.



Brighter touchscreen, raised light bar and internal antenna

- No passwords required for most settings — access to commonly needed configuration options is now direct, reducing setup time on game day.



Password protection eliminated for almost all settings

- Raised light bar with adjustable settings — provides better at-a-glance visibility from a distance, with the ability to adjust brightness as needed.



Adjustable light bar settings

- Internal antenna located within the light bar — repositioning the antenna internally reduces the risk of physical damage during transport and setup.

- Adjustable rear feet — allow the base station to be angled for optimal viewing of the touchscreen from the timekeeper's position.

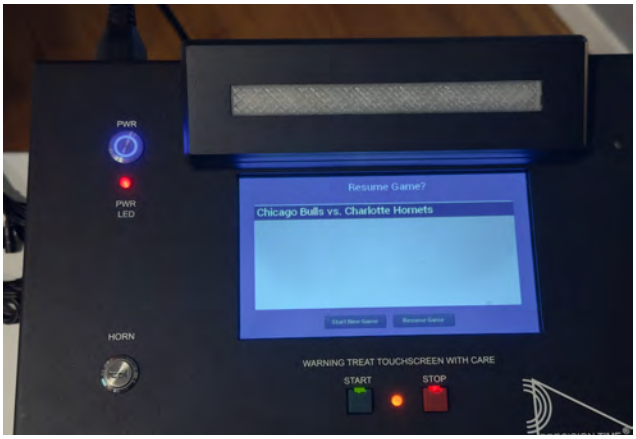


Adjustable rear feat and unchanged scoreboard connections

2. Functionality Upgrades

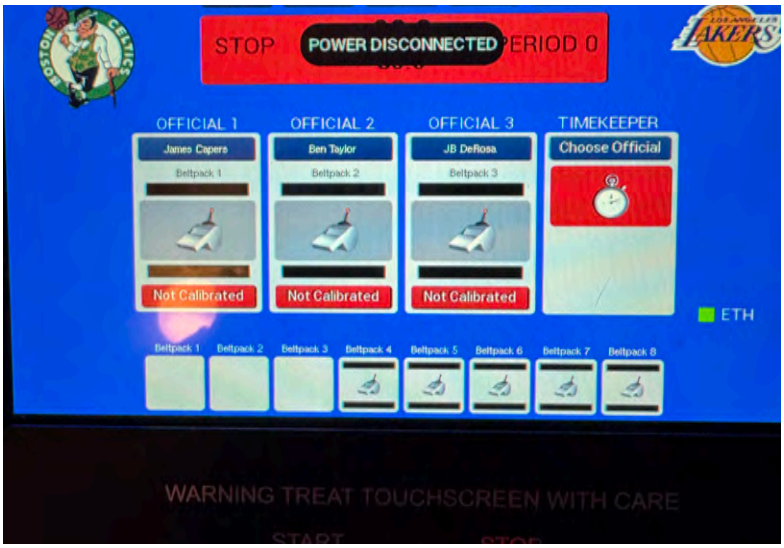
In addition to the physical improvements, the Generation 6 platform includes meaningful upgrades to system performance and operational reliability:

- Significantly reduced boot-up times — the system reaches operational readiness exponentially faster than previous generations, usually with 12 seconds.
- Resume Game option — if the base station needs to be reset or rebooted during a game, operators can now resume the game in progress rather than starting from scratch.



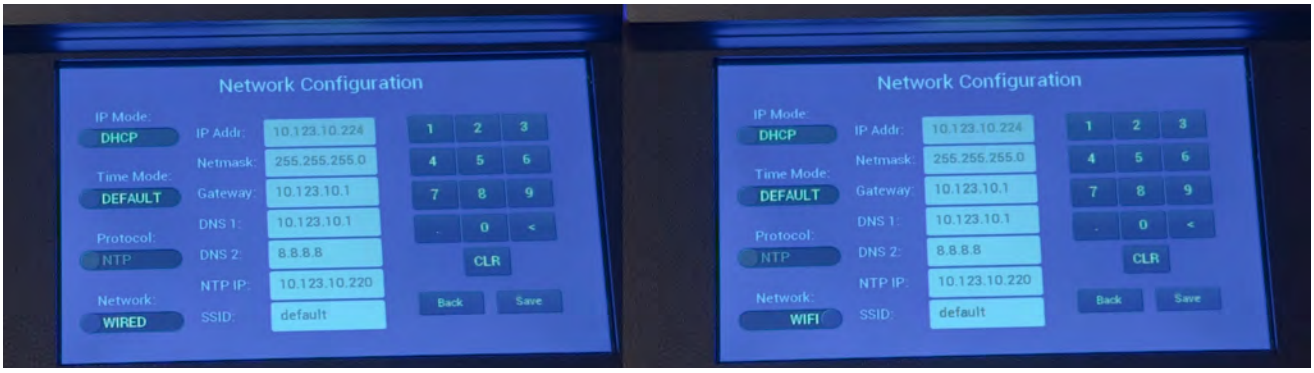
Resume Game or Start New Game Options

- Internal battery warning indicator — the system will display a visible alert if the base station is running on its internal backup battery, prompting staff to verify that the unit is properly connected to primary power.



Internal Battery Warning Indicator, disappears when power is re-enabled

- Flexible network connectivity — the Generation 6 base station supports easy switching between Static IP, DHCP, and Wi-Fi. The system will automatically search for available Wi-Fi networks, and also allows manual entry of hidden Wi-Fi networks as need



Flexible network connectivity, just toggle and save, then follow the prompts

- A live clock on the home screen — the Generation 6 replaces the “stopped clock time” with a synchronized game clock to provide “real time” game clock status for timekeepers.

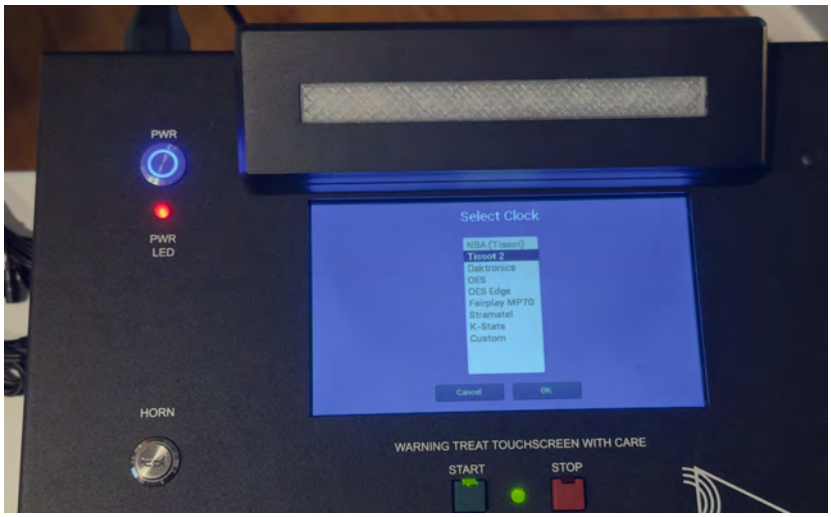


Live Clock Video

3. Setup Procedures

3.1 Scoreboard Connection

The connection procedure for the Tissot scoreboard system is unchanged from Generation 5. Please note: when selecting the clock configuration in settings, use 'Tissot 2' as the appropriate option to pair with the new Tissot clock format



Tap Tissot 2 to pair with the new Tissot clock format

3.2 Manual Game Setup

The manual game setup process has been streamlined with the following changes:

- Belt pack assignment — to assign a belt pack to a referee, simply tap the desired belt pack and then tap the referee window you wish to assign it to. The drag-and-drop method used in Generation 5 has been replaced by this simpler tap-to-assign approach
- Returning a belt pack to the Bullpen — the same tap-to-assign procedure applies. Tap the belt pack and then tap the Bullpen to return it.
- Scrolling through officials — use the up and down arrows on the right side of the list to navigate the officials roster. Swiping is no longer used for this function.



Use the arrows to the right to navigate the official roster

- Whistle settings — whistle sensitivity settings remain accessible within each assigned referee window, consistent with the Generation 5 interface.
- Timekeeper entry — timekeepers must now be entered and selected manually. The system no longer uploads timekeeper assignments automatically.



Tap, Add, Enter Timekeeper Manually

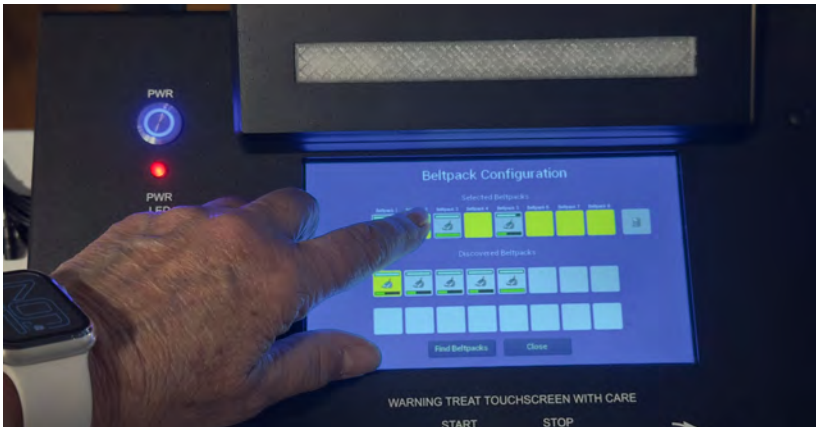
- Scoreboard operator and shot clock operator — entry fields for these positions have been removed from the setup interface.

3.3 Calibration Procedure

The belt pack calibration procedure remains the same as in Generation 5. Use the calibration icon within each referee window to open the calibration screen. Upon a successful calibration score, the icon will change from red to green, confirming that the belt pack has been calibrated for the game.

3.4 Replacing Belt Packs

The belt pack replacement procedure is unchanged from Generation 5, with one exception: assignment and re-assignment now use the tap-to-assign method described in Section 3.2, rather than drag and drop.



No more dragging…just tap to assign

3.5 Replay Center Connectivity

Generation 6 replaces the USB dongle used in previous generations with a direct-connect DB9 serial port on the rear panel of the base station, labeled **Data Out**. The DB9 port supports the RS-422 protocol. Connect the DB9 cable from the Data Out port to the designated input on the replay center system.



Plug the DB-9 serial cable into the Data Out port

4. Additional Changes

- Sync button replaces Radio Reset — if belt packs lose connectivity with the base station, use the Sync button to recall and reconnect them. This replaces the Radio Reset function from Generation 5.

5. Contact Information

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Precision Time Systems support team with any questions or concerns regarding this transition. We are committed to ensuring your experience with the Generation 6 platform is smooth and successful.

Email: support@precisiontime.com

Support Line: 781-277-0784