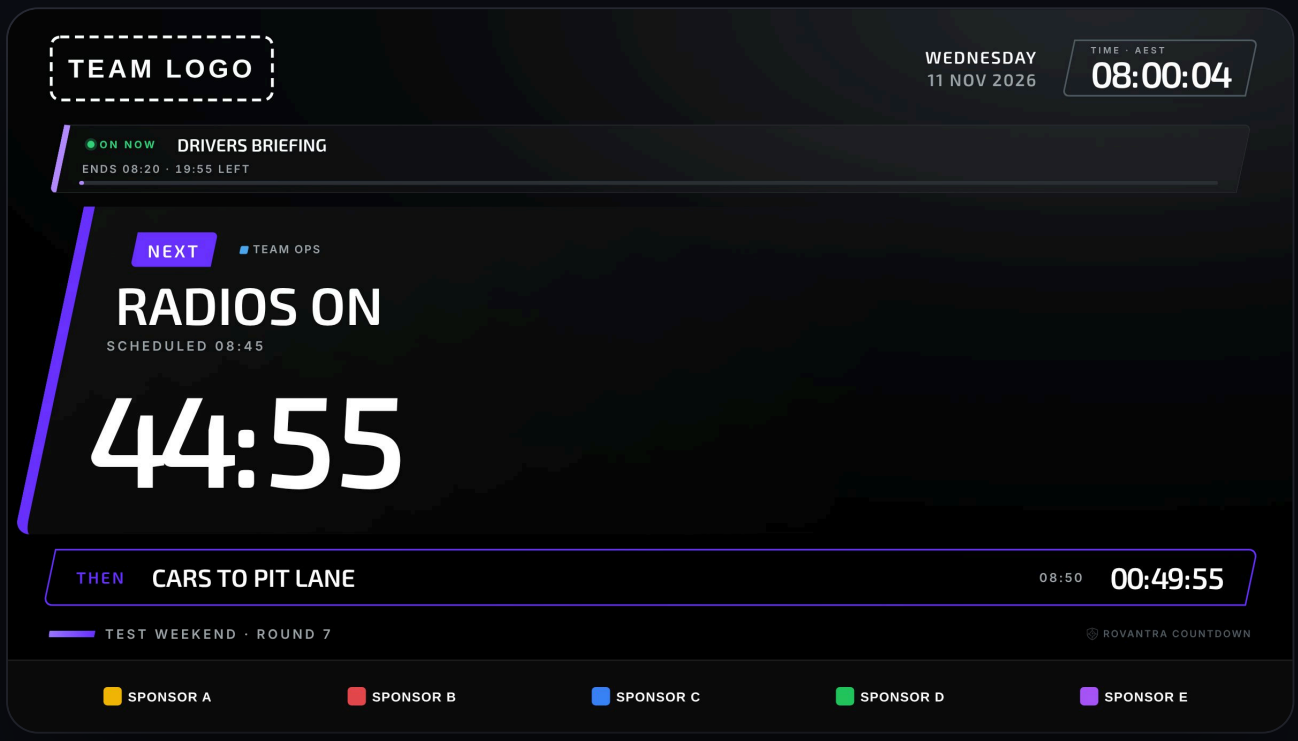
ROVANTRA

User guide

Put your race weekend schedule on every iPad, TV and phone in the garage, with a live countdown to what's next.



Version 1.0 · November 2026
For Rovantra Countdown 1.0 on Windows and Mac

ROVANTRA COUNTDOWN

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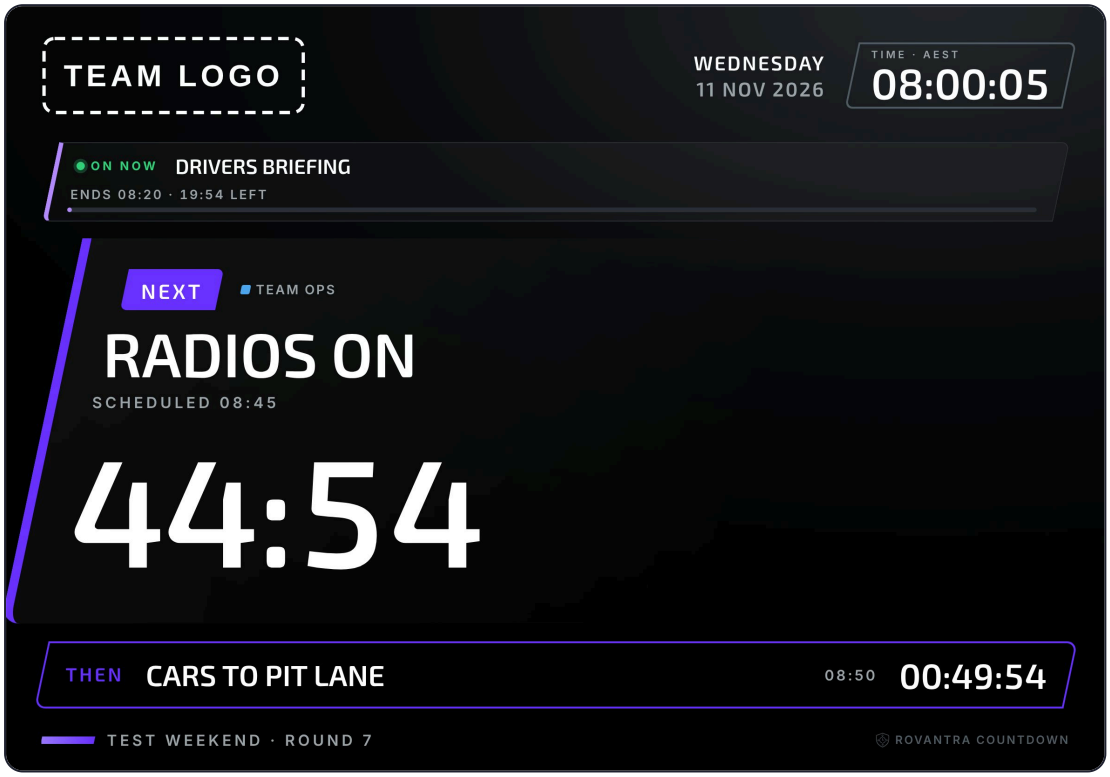
WHO THIS GUIDE IS FOR

Chapters 2 to 8 are for the person who runs the schedule (usually the team manager). Chapter 9 is a one-page guide you can share with crew, drivers and guests who only look at the board.

CHAPTER 1

1 Welcome to Rovantra Countdown

Rovantra Countdown turns your event schedule into a live countdown board. You build the schedule once on your laptop, and every iPad, TV and phone shows what's on now, what's next and how long until it starts.



The Pit Wall layout on an iPad: the item on now, the next item with a big countdown, and the one after.

How it works

1. **The app on your laptop** is where you build and change the schedule. It runs on Windows and Mac.
2. **Boards** are what everyone else sees. They open in a web browser on any iPad, TV or phone, with nothing to install.
3. **Change something in the app** (a session running late, a new briefing time) and every board updates on its own.

Free and Hosted

	FREE	HOSTED
Price	A$0, free download	A$50 a year plus GST (A$55 including GST in Australia), or included with Rovantra Timing
Where boards work	On your laptop's own Wi-Fi or hotspot	Anywhere on the internet, on your team link `your-team.rovantra.com.au/countdown`, plus on your laptop's Wi-Fi
Look	Rovantra Countdown logo, Rovantra purple, your team name in the footer	Your own logos, colours and font, and a sponsor band
Password links	No	**Yes**
Viewer menu	No, every screen shows the default view	**Yes, each person picks their own view**
Offline board file	No	**Yes, for devices with no internet**

Rovantra Countdown is a stand-alone product. It does not connect to Rovantra Timing; the two only share your Rovantra account.

CHAPTER 2

2 Getting started

Sign up and download

1. Go to **rovantra.com.au/countdown** and choose **Download free**.
2. Fill in your name, email, team name and phone, accept the Rovantra Countdown terms and choose **Email me the download link**.
3. Open the email from Rovantra and click **Confirm my email** within 24 hours. Can't find it? Check your junk folder.
4. We then email your download link. Choose **Download Rovantra Countdown** and install it on your laptop (Windows or Mac).

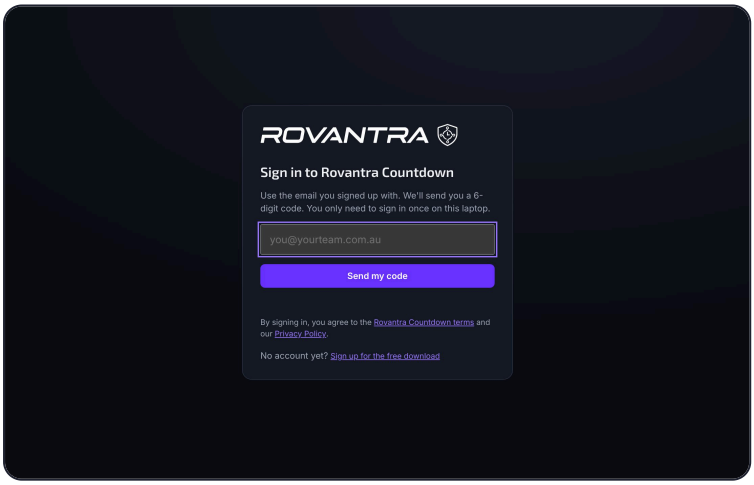
FIRST INSTALL: SECURITY PROMPTS

Version 1.0 is not yet code-signed, so your computer may warn you the first time you open it.

- **Windows:** if "Windows protected your PC" appears, choose **More info**, then **Run anyway**.
- **Mac:** open the .dmg and drag Rovantra Countdown into Applications. If macOS says it can't check the app, open **System Settings › Privacy & Security**, scroll down and choose **Open Anyway**.

Only download Rovantra Countdown from rovantra.com.au or the link in our email.

Sign in



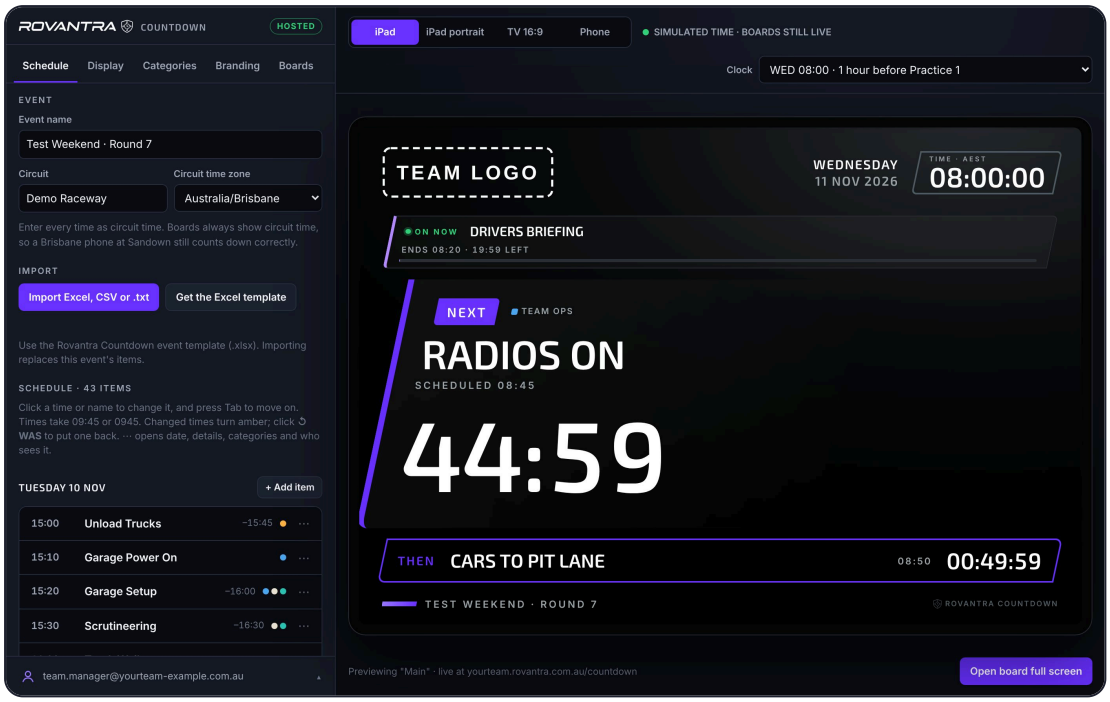
1. Open Rovantra Countdown and type the email address you signed up with.
2. Choose **Send my code**. We'll send you a 6-digit code. It works for 15 minutes.
3. Type the code and choose **Sign in**.

You only need to sign in once on each laptop. Your sign-in is stored securely by Windows or macOS.

To sign out, see your account details, or read the terms and Privacy Policy, click your email address at the bottom left of the app.

CHAPTER 3

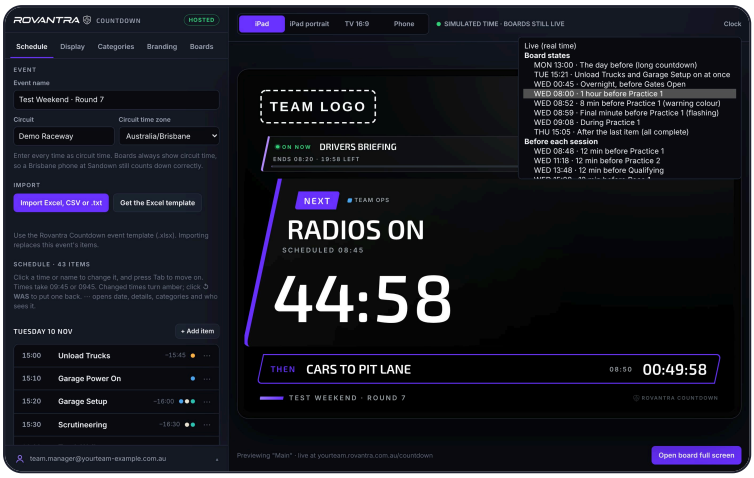
3 The app at a glance



Left: the settings panel with five tabs. Right: a live preview of the board, exactly as viewers will see it.

PART	WHAT IT DOES
Plan badge	Top left: **FREE**, **HOSTED** or **TIMING TRIAL**.
Schedule	Event details, importing from Excel, and every item in the weekend.
Display	How each view looks: layout, theme, page, font, warning time and what it shows.
Categories	Groups such as Sessions, Drivers or a car, and who can see each one.
Branding	Team name, logos, colours, font and sponsor logos (Hosted).
Boards	How screens reach the board: the Wi-Fi board, your team link and the offline board file.
Device buttons	**iPad** **iPad portrait** **TV 16:9** **Phone** change the preview's shape.
Status	**ON THIS LAPTOP** (Free), or **PUBLISHED**, **PUBLISHING...**, **OFFLINE · WILL PUBLISH** or **NOT PUBLISHED** (Hosted).
Clock	Preview the board at any moment of your event (see below).
Open board full screen	Shows the board full screen on this laptop, for example on a TV plugged into it. Press Esc or **Exit board** to return.

Check your boards with the Clock



The **Clock** menu jumps the preview to key moments in your event: the day before, an hour before the first session, the warning colour, the final minute, during a session, two items on at once, overnight and after the last item. There is also a jump to 12 minutes before each session.

This only changes the preview. While it's on, the status reads **SIMULATED TIME · BOARDS STILL LIVE**: your real boards keep showing real time. Choose **Live (real time)** to go back.

CHAPTER 4

4 Build your event schedule

Event details

On the **Schedule** tab, enter the **Event name** (for example "Round 6 · Sandown"), the **Circuit** and the **Circuit time zone**.

> **ALWAYS USE CIRCUIT TIME**
> Enter every time as circuit time. Boards always show circuit time, so a device in another time zone still has an accurate countdown.

Use the Excel event template

The quickest way to load a weekend is the Rovantra Countdown event template. Get it from **rovantra.com.au/countdown/template**, or choose `Get the Excel template` in the app. It has four sheets:

SHEET	WHAT TO FILL IN
How to use	Instructions. Nothing to fill in.
Event	Event name, circuit, time zone (for example Australia/Melbourne) and team.
Categories	One row per group: name, colour (hex, for example #F37032) and who sees it (Everyone, Password only or Editor only).
Schedule	One row per item: **Date** (dd/mm/yyyy), **Time** (24-hour, 09:45 or 0945) and **Name** are required. Optional: Finish, Category 1 to 3, Details, Show on boards (Y/N), Who sees it, Part of session. Day fills itself in.

- **Finish** is optional. Add it for anything that runs for a while (sessions, debriefs, signings, lunch) and boards show it as **ON NOW** with the time left. Items can overlap.
- **Part of session** links build-up items to a session (for example Radios On → Race 1). When that session runs late, its linked items move with it.
- **Keep names short.** "Cars to Marshalling" reads better than "Cars move to the marshalling area".

Import

Choose `Import Excel, CSV or .txt` and pick your file. The app tells you how many items it imported over how many days, any new categories it created, and any rows it skipped because the date, time or name was missing.

> **IMPORTING REPLACES THE SCHEDULE**
> Importing replaces this event's items. Categories with the same name keep their settings.

★ RECOMMENDED: LET AN AI CHATBOT FILL IN THE TEMPLATE

Most events arrive as a PDF, a Word document, an email or someone else's spreadsheet. An AI chatbot such as Claude or ChatGPT can turn these into the Rovantra Countdown template for you in a minute or two.

1. Download the blank Excel template.
2. Open your chatbot and attach the template and your schedule documents (supplementary regs, the official timetable PDF, your team's run sheet).
3. Ask it to fill in the template. For example:

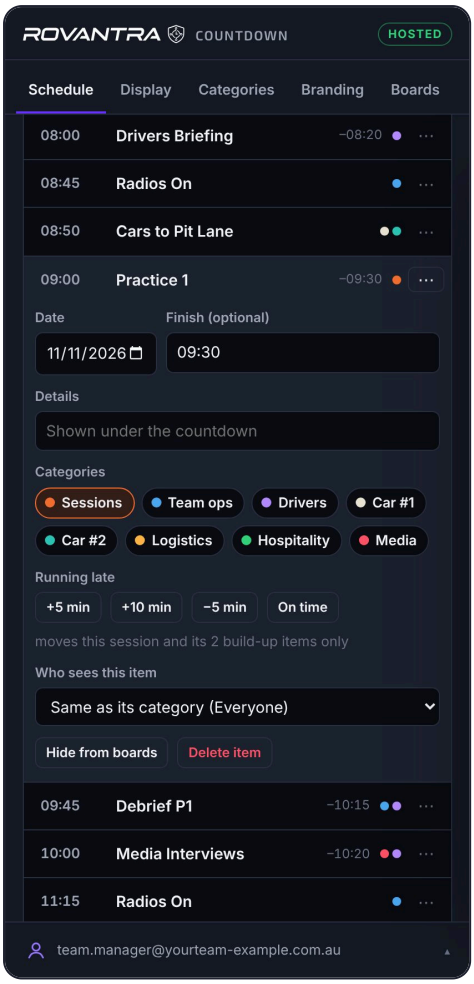
> "Fill in the attached Rovantra Countdown event template using the attached schedule. Put the event name, circuit and time zone on the Event sheet. On the Schedule sheet, add one row per item with Date (dd/mm/yyyy), Time and Finish in 24-hour circuit time, and a short Name. Use the categories Sessions, Team ops, Drivers and Media, and only include items for our team and our class. Keep the sheet and column names exactly as they are and give me back the .xlsx file."

4. Save the file it gives you and import it into Rovantra Countdown.

Double-check all of its work. Chatbots can misread a table, skip a row, mix up days or invent a time. Before you publish, compare every date, time and name in the app with the official timetable, and use the **Clock** preview to step through the weekend. You are responsible for the schedule your team sees.

Only share documents you're allowed to share, and check the chatbot's own privacy settings first. Rovantra has no connection to, and is not responsible for, any third-party chatbot.

Change times and names



An item opened with ⋯

- **Click a time or name** to change it, then press `Tab` to move on. Times take 09:45 or 0945.
- **Changed items turn amber** and show **WAS 09:00**. Click it to put the original back.
- A bar shows how many items changed since import, with **Revert all** and **Keep as new times**.
- Items you add in the app show **NEW**.
- **+ Add item** adds to a day; **+ Add day** starts a new one.

More options (⋯)

- **Date** and **Finish (optional)**.
- **Details**: a short line shown under the countdown. The app warns you if it looks like a phone number or email address, because anyone who can see the item will see them.
- **Categories**: tap to add or remove.
- **Who sees this item**: same as its category, or set it for this item only.
- **Hide from boards** keeps the item in the app but off every board. **Delete item** removes it.

Running late

Open a session with ⋯ and choose **+5 min**, **+10 min** or **−5 min**, and **On time** to clear it. This moves that session and its linked build-up items only, nothing else in the day. Boards show, for example, **DELAYED 10 MIN · NOW 14:10 (WAS 14:00)**.

For an item that isn't a session, use **Part of session** to link it to one (for example Cars to Grid → Race 1), so it moves when that session runs late.

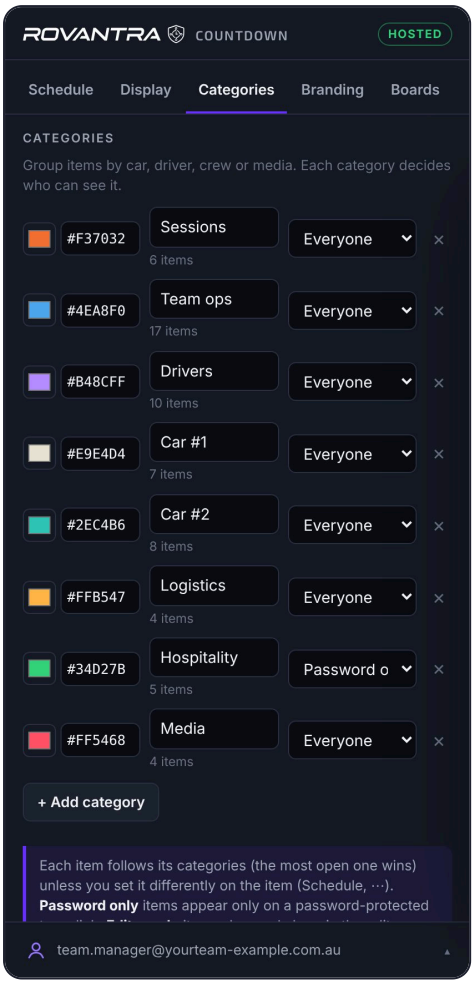
When the event ends

Your event is **wiped automatically** from the laptop (and from the Rovantra server on Hosted) 24 hours after the last item. The app shows the exact time at the bottom of the Schedule tab. Your categories, views and branding stay for the next event.

To clear it sooner, choose **End event and wipe now**, then **Wipe event**. Boards then show **NO EVENT SCHEDULED**. You can run one event at a time.

CHAPTER 5

5 Categories: who sees what



Categories group items by car, driver, crew or media. Each one has a colour, shown as a dot on the board, and decides who can see its items.

SETTING	WHO SEES IT
Everyone	Every board.
Password only	Only viewers who entered the board password on a password-protected team link (Hosted). Never shown on the Wi-Fi board.
Editor only	Only you, in the app. Never on a board or in an exported file. On Hosted it's saved with your event, so your other laptops have it.

An item in more than one category follows the most open one, unless you set **Who sees this item** on the item itself.

Click the colour to change it, type to rename, and use × to delete. **+ Add category** adds a new one.

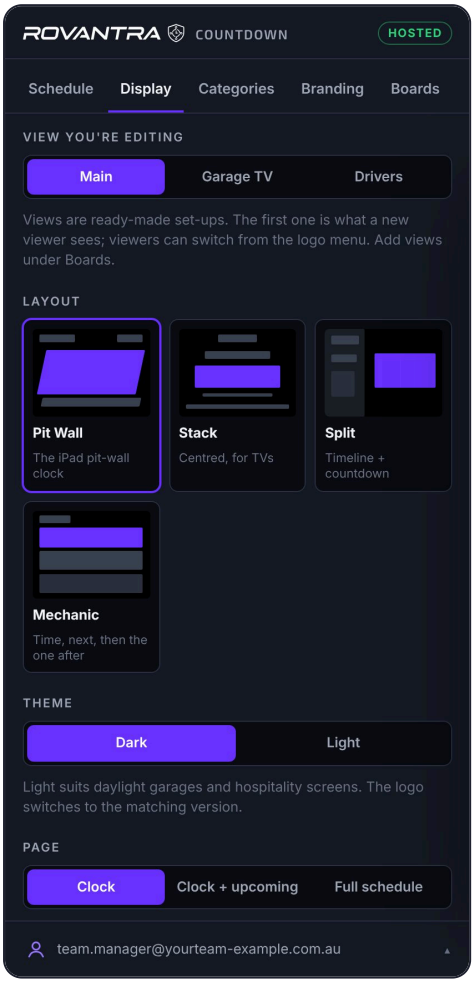
EXAMPLE

Put hospitality and sponsor events in a **Password only** category for guests, and a spare gearbox check in **Editor only** so it's on your list but no one else's.

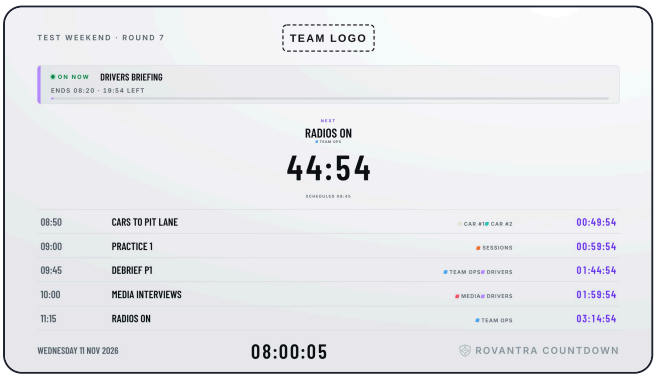
CHAPTER 6

6 Display: views and layouts

A **view** is a ready-made set-up of the board, such as "Main" for the pit wall, "Garage TV" for a big screen, or "Drivers" with only driver items. The first view is what a new viewer sees. On Hosted, viewers can switch between your views from the logo menu. Pick the view you're editing at the top of the **Display** tab, and add or rename views on the **Boards** tab.



SETTING	CHOICES
Layout	**Pit Wall**: the iPad pit-wall clock. **Stack**: centred, for TVs. **Split**: timeline and countdown. **Mechanic**: the time, the next item and the one after, each with the same size timer.
Theme	**Dark**, or **Light** for daylight garages and hospitality screens. The logo switches to the matching version.
Page	**Clock**, **Clock + upcoming** (2 to 6 upcoming items), or **Full schedule**. Not used by Mechanic.
Font	Exo 2, Orbitron, Rajdhani, Barlow Condensed, Chakra Petch, Saira Condensed or JetBrains Mono. Hosted teams can add their own.
Warning	The board turns your team colour 2, 5, 10 or 15 minutes before an item, or Off.
This screen shows	**Everything**, or pick categories to make a screen just for one car, the drivers or media.



Stack, light theme, Clock + upcoming, on a TV.

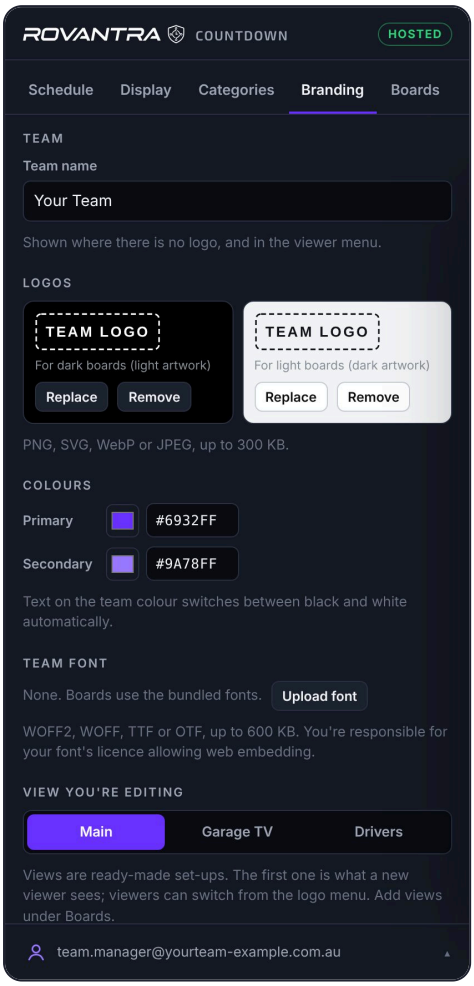


Split, dark theme, during Practice 1.

CHAPTER 7

7 Branding and sponsors HOSTED

On the free plan, boards show the Rovantra Countdown logo in the logo area, Rovantra purple, and your team name in the footer. Your own logos, colours and font come with Hosted, or free with Rovantra Timing.



Team

Team name shows where there is no logo, and in the viewer menu (on Free, in the footer).

Logos

Upload a logo **for dark boards** (light artwork) and one **for light boards** (dark artwork). PNG, SVG, WebP or JPEG, up to 300 KB.

Colours

Primary and **Secondary**. Text on the team colour switches between black and white automatically.

Team font

WOFF2, WOFF, TTF or OTF, up to 600 KB. You're responsible for your font's licence allowing web embedding.

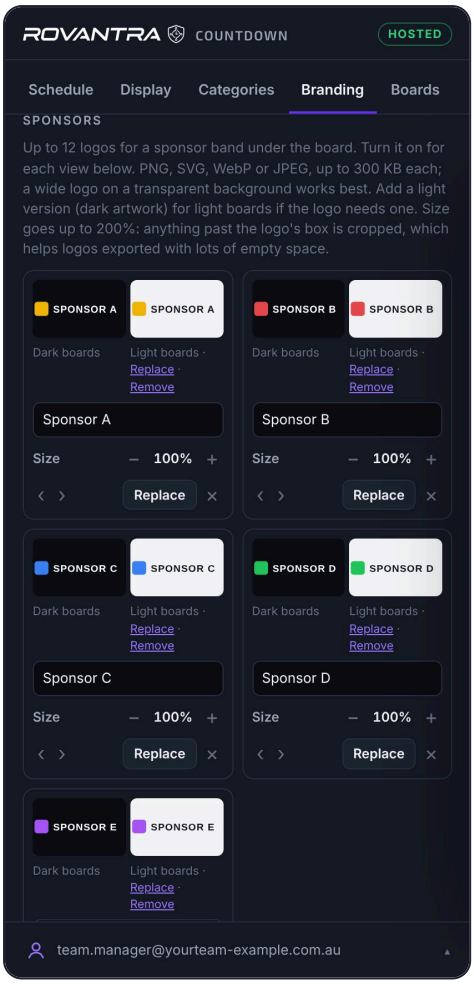
Logo on this view

For each view: show or hide the logo, pick **Match theme**, **Light logo** or **Dark logo**, its position in the logo area, and its size. The dashed box on the preview is the logo area for that layout.

"Rovantra Countdown" credit

Turn the small footer credit on or off.

Sponsor band

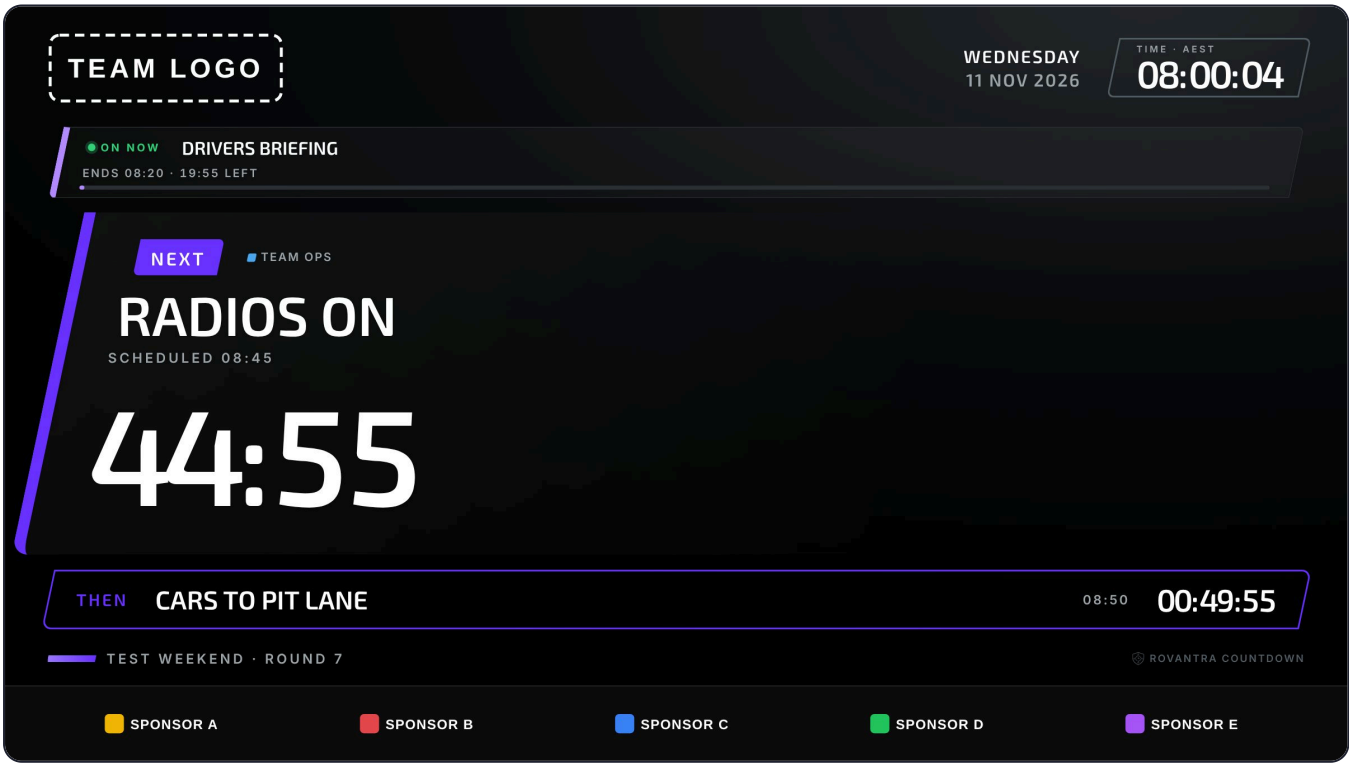


Add up to **12 sponsor logos** on the **Branding** tab with `+ Add sponsor logo`. PNG, SVG, WebP or JPEG, up to 300 KB each. A wide logo on a transparent background works best.

- Add a **light version** (dark artwork) for light boards if the logo needs one.
- **Size** goes from 50% to 200%. Anything past the logo's box is cropped, which helps logos exported with lots of empty space.
- Use ‹ › to change the order.

Then turn on **Show sponsor band** under **Sponsors on this view** for each view that should show it:

OPTION	CHOICES
Style	All in a row, One at a time (5 to 20 seconds each), or Rolling carousel (slow, medium, fast)
Band colours	Follow board, Always dark, Always light
Band height	Small, Medium, Large
White tiles	Puts each logo on a white tile, so dark logos show on dark boards



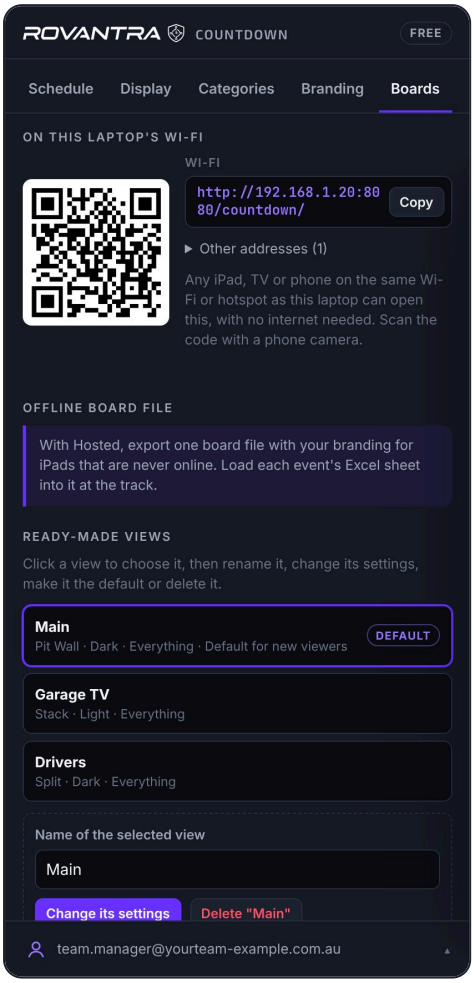
The sponsor band along the bottom of a TV board.

CHAPTER 8

8 Put the board on your screens

Open the **Boards** tab. There are three ways to get the board onto screens.

A. On this laptop's Wi-Fi (Free and Hosted)



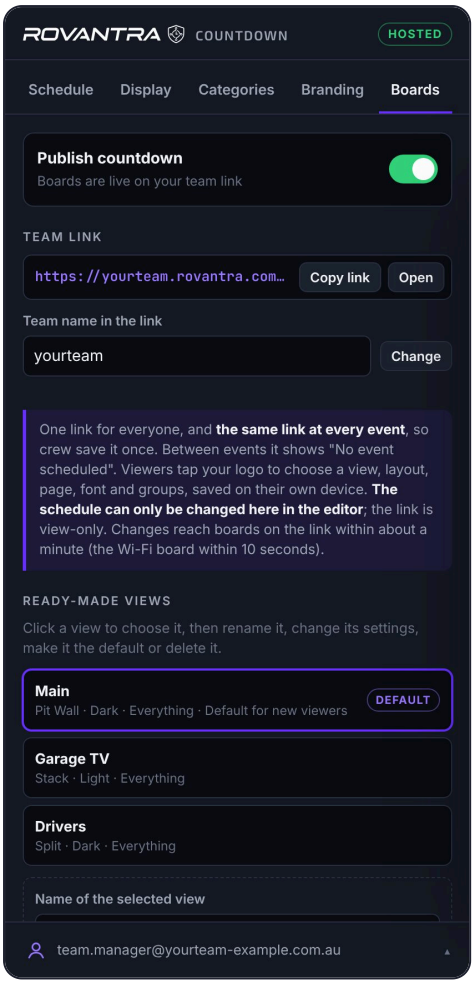
Any iPad, TV or phone on the **same Wi-Fi or hotspot as your laptop** can open the board, with no internet needed. This is handy when the circuit has no mobile signal.

1. Connect the laptop to the garage Wi-Fi, or turn on a phone hotspot and join it with the laptop and every screen.
2. Scan the QR code with a phone camera, or type the link into the screen's browser. It looks like `http://192.168.1.20:8080/countdown/`.
3. Use **Copy** to paste the link into a message to your crew.

Keep the app open: the laptop is the server. Wi-Fi boards check for changes every 10 seconds, and leave out Password-only items.

If the main link doesn't open, try one under **Other addresses**. Virtual adapters and VPNs usually won't work for screens on your Wi-Fi.

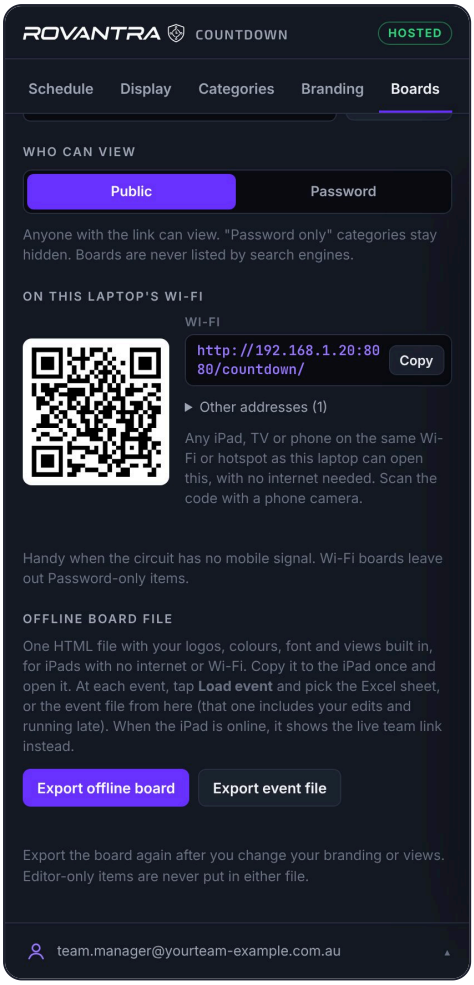
B. Your team link HOSTED



1. Under **Team name in the link**, type a short name (for example `jonesmotorsport`) and choose **Claim**.
2. Turn on **Publish countdown**. When it's off, boards show "Countdown off" with your logo.
3. Share `https://your-team.rovantra.com.au/countdown` with **Copy link**.

It's one link for everyone, and **the same link at every event**, so crew save it once. Between events it shows "No event scheduled". Changes reach boards on the link within about a minute.

The link is view-only. **The schedule can only be changed in the app.**



Who can view

Public: anyone with the link can view. Password-only items stay hidden. Boards are never listed by search engines.

Password: set a board password of at least 4 characters and choose **Save password**. Viewers enter it once, and then see Password-only items too. Changing the password signs out every viewer.

Ready-made views

Click a view to select it, then rename it, choose **Change its settings**, **Make default** or delete it. Type a name and choose **+ Add view** to add one (up to 8).

C. Offline board file HOSTED

For devices with no internet or Wi-Fi at all: iPads, tablets, laptops, phones or a TV's browser. Choose **Export offline board** to save one HTML file with your logos, colours, font and views built in. Copy it to each device once (AirDrop, Files, email or a USB drive) and open it in the browser.

1. At each event, tap **Load event** on the device and pick the event's Excel sheet.
2. Or choose **Export event file** in the app and load that instead. It includes your edits and running late.
3. The board remembers the last event. When the device is online, it shows the live team link instead.

Export the board again after you change your branding or views. Editor-only items are never put in either file.

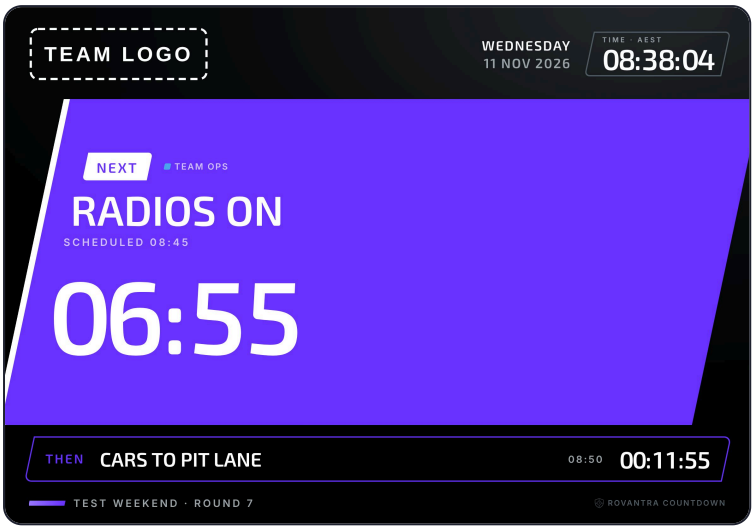
Getting Hosted

On the free plan, the **Team link** section of the Boards tab has **Buy Hosted**. Hosted is A$50 a year plus GST (A$55 including GST in Australia), paid by card through Stripe. It renews every year until you cancel, and there are no change-of-mind refunds. After paying, choose **I've upgraded: check again**. Hosted is included with every Rovantra Timing licence; a Timing trial gets it with a TRIAL mark on boards.

Screen tips

- **iPad and iPhone:** open the link in Safari, then Share › **Add to Home Screen** for a full-screen board with one tap.
- Turn off auto-lock, or plug the screen in. Boards ask the screen to stay awake where the browser allows it.
- **Smart TVs:** open the link in the TV's browser, or plug a laptop or streaming stick in and use full screen.

9 Reading the board



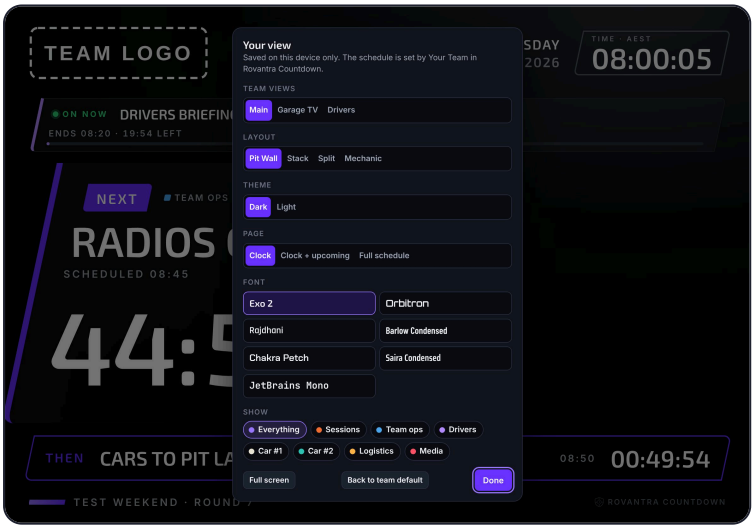
Inside the warning time, the board turns the team colour.



Mechanic layout on a phone.

YOU SEE	IT MEANS
TIME	The time at the circuit, with its time zone (for example AEST). Every board uses circuit time, so the countdown is accurate wherever you are.
ON NOW	Something running now, with when it ends and the time left.
NEXT	The next item, with a big countdown to its start.
THEN / AFTER	The item after that.
Team colour	The next item is close (the warning time the team set). In the final minute the countdown flashes.
DELAYED / BROUGHT FORWARD	The session is running late or early, with the new time and the time it was.
Coloured dots	The item's categories (for example Sessions, Drivers, a car).
DONE	On the Full schedule page, items already finished.
ALL SESSIONS COMPLETE	Nothing else is scheduled for the event.
NO CONNECTION · LAST UPDATED 5 MIN AGO	The screen has lost signal. It keeps counting down on the last schedule it had.

Choose your own view HOSTED

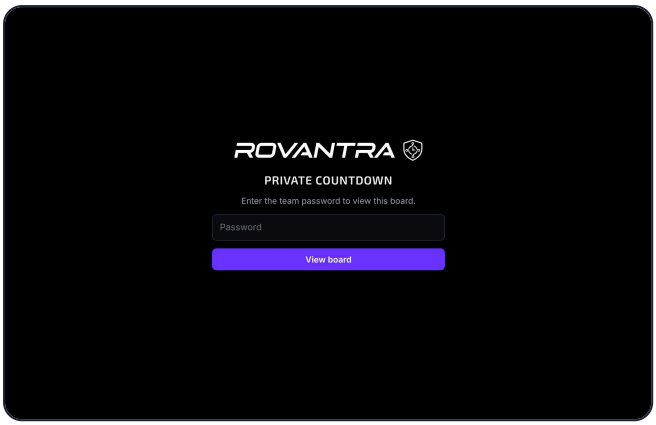


Tap the logo (or anywhere in the header) to open **Your view**. Pick one of the team's views, or your own layout, theme, page, font and which groups to show.

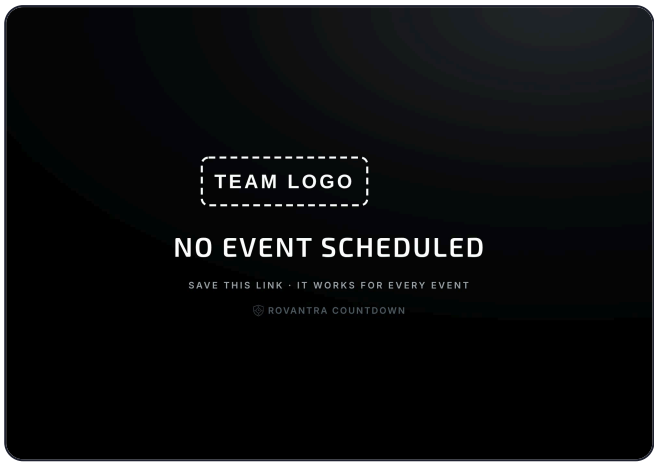
Your choice is saved on your device only. **Back to team default** resets it, and **Full screen** hides the browser bars.

You can't change the schedule from a board. Ask your team manager.

Other screens you might see



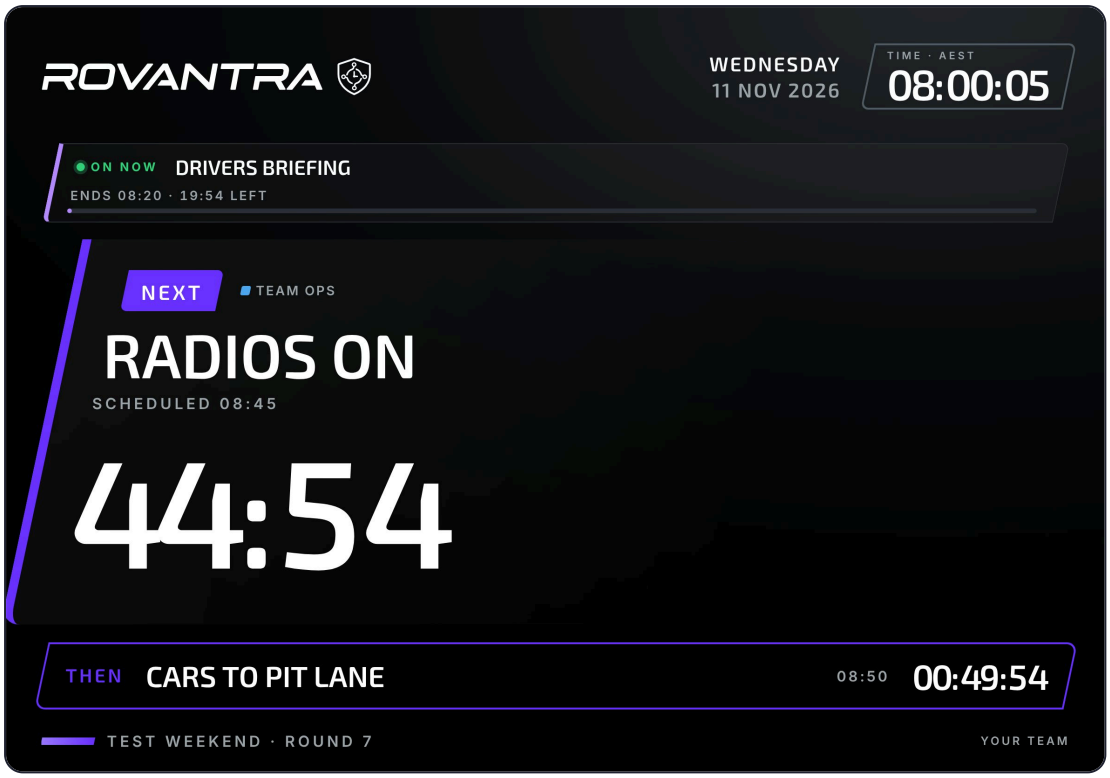
PRIVATE COUNTDOWN: enter the team password to view. Ask the team for it.



NO EVENT SCHEDULED: between events. Keep the link; it works for every event.

MESSAGE	IT MEANS
COUNTDOWN OFF	The team has turned publishing off for now.
NO ITEMS FOR THIS SCREEN	The view only shows certain groups, and none of them have items. Open the menu and choose Everything.
BOARD NOT FOUND	The link is wrong. Check it with the team.
HOSTING HAS ENDED	The team's Hosted plan has ended.

Free boards



On the free plan the board shows the Rovantra Countdown logo, Rovantra purple and the team name in the footer. There is no viewer menu.

CHAPTER 10

10 Race weekend checklist

The week before

- [ ] Fill in the Excel template from the official timetable (or have a chatbot do it, then check it).
- [ ] Import it, and check the event name, circuit and **circuit time zone**.
- [ ] Check categories and who sees them. Put anything private in Password only or Editor only.
- [ ] Step through the weekend with the **Clock** preview.
- [ ] Hosted: turn on **Publish countdown**, and send the team link (and password) to crew, drivers and guests.
- [ ] Hosted with offline devices: export the event file and copy it to them.

At the track

- [ ] Free (or no signal): connect the laptop and screens to the same Wi-Fi or hotspot, and open the Wi-Fi board link or QR code.
- [ ] Keep the laptop charged and Rovantra Countdown open if screens use the Wi-Fi board.
- [ ] Use **Running late** on sessions as the day changes.
- [ ] Check one board after each change (team link: within about a minute; Wi-Fi: within 10 seconds).

After the event

- [ ] Nothing to do: the event wipes itself 24 hours after the last item. Or choose **End event and wipe now**.
- [ ] Your categories, views and branding stay ready for the next round.

CHAPTER 11

11 Troubleshooting

Screens can't open the Wi-Fi board

Make sure the screen is on the **same** Wi-Fi or hotspot as the laptop (not mobile data, and not a guest network that keeps devices apart). Try a link under **Other addresses**. Turn off any VPN on the laptop. Keep the app open.

"The Wi-Fi board couldn't start"

Another app is using port 8080. Close it and restart Rovantra Countdown.

The countdown is off by hours

Check the **Circuit time zone** on the Schedule tab, and that every time in your sheet is circuit time.

Some rows didn't import

Every row needs a Date, a Time and a Name. The import message tells you how many rows it skipped. Check the sheet still has the template's column names (Date, Time, Name).

My change isn't on the team link

Check the status at the top of the preview. **PUBLISHED** means it's sent; boards on the link pick it up within about a minute. **OFFLINE · WILL PUBLISH** means the laptop has no internet: it publishes as soon as it's back online. Make sure **Publish countdown** is on.

Someone can't see an item

Check who sees its category (Categories tab) and the item (⋯). Password-only items need the board password and never show on the Wi-Fi board. Editor-only items never show on boards. Also check the view's **This screen shows**, and that the item isn't hidden from boards.

A viewer's board looks different from mine

On Hosted, viewers can choose their own view. Ask them to open the menu and choose **Back to team default**.

I bought Hosted but the app still says Free

On the Boards tab, choose **I've upgraded: check again**. Make sure you're signed in with the same email you paid with.

Sign-in code didn't arrive

Check your junk folder and that you typed the email you signed up with. Codes work for 15 minutes; choose **Send my code** again for a new one.

CHAPTER 12

12 Plans, privacy and help

Plans

- **Free:** the app for Windows and Mac, with boards on your laptop's Wi-Fi or hotspot.
- **Hosted:** A$50 a year plus GST (A$55 including GST in Australia), yearly, bought in the app. Renews every year until you cancel. No change-of-mind refunds.
- **With Rovantra Timing:** Hosted is included with every Rovantra Timing licence. A Timing trial includes it with a TRIAL mark on boards.

Manage your account at **rovantra.com.au/account**, or from the account menu at the bottom left of the app.

Your data

- Your event is kept on your laptop. On Hosted it's also published to the Rovantra server so your team link works.
- Every event is deleted 24 hours after its last item, from the laptop and the server. Categories, views and branding stay.
- Editor-only items never appear on a board or in an exported file.
- Avoid putting phone numbers or email addresses in item details. The app warns you if it spots one.

Read the full **Rovantra Countdown terms** at rovantra.com.au/countdown/terms and our **Privacy Policy** at rovantra.com.au/privacy.

Get help

> **CONTACT US**
>
> Email **support@rovantra.com.au** with your team name and what you're seeing. A screenshot helps.

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