

Series scoring for individual events

Athletpath suggested system for scoring an individual series event with 6 or greater total events in the series.

System basis

Our system recommendation is based on the FIS World Cup Scoring (downhill skiing) system. FIS went through four systems from 1967 through 1992. Most of these systems were too complicated for both competitors and fans to follow, so an effort was made over time to simplify the system to an easily understandable method. Their problem mirrors that of many ranked-finish sports with a series ranking championship.

Goals

For any scoring system a race director should ask themselves what their goals are, and to make sure the system rewards behaviours consistent with those goals. We defined several common goals when addressing the problem of series scoring.

- **Series participation** - Encourage participation in as many events as possible by each competitor. We want as many racers as possible to feel encouraged by the series points race to participate in subsequent events and improve their placing.
- **Simplicity** - A scoring system should be easy to understand so that competitors feel engaged by the system and know what they need to do in a particular race to achieve their goals.

Individual race points

FIS prescribes a points system where higher-placed individuals in each race are given a disproportionate number of points. This is generally a preferred method over a linear points allocation because it rewards each competitor for fighting hard for places in each contest, and provides a method for dramatic comebacks in series standings while still cushioning consistently high-performing individuals from a bad outing in a scoring race (a race where their points are counted instead of dropped).

The system also scores to 30 places, which allows a large number of competitors to accrue points for the season and see their name listed in series standings.

Points schedule by place

1 st	2 nd	3 th	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 st	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th
100	80	60	50	45	40	36	32	29	26	24	22	20	18	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Another feature of the system is that more points are allotted for a higher place. This is a preferable method to a “lowest points wins” system, as it allows for a “points cut-off” whereby racers past a certain place can receive zero points. This avoids the need for an arbitrary points assignment for a DNF (did not finish) or DNS (did not start). This also avoids a situation where a skilled racer could have a poor showing in a points scoring race and effectively wipe out their chances at a series victory.

Dropping races

FIS drops no races in their 35 (avg) race season, with each racer keeping any points they score, but the system can easily allow for counting only a certain number of a racer’s best results. This can be a useful feature, as it allows a racer to miss a few races but still remain competitive in the series. Generally the more races in the series the less need dropping races. In an 8 race series we recommend taking a racer’s six highest placings.

Upgrading categories

In a series where there are multiple categories, a race director may want to allow a competitor in a lower category to “take” points with them to a higher category to encourage racers to self-assign to their proper category. If a race director chooses to do this for their series, we recommend that a racer be able to take $\frac{1}{4}$ of their two best finishes from the immediately preceding category to the next higher. This means that, all placings being equal, an upgrading racer who had won two races at the lower category would rank 11th place in the new category and no better than a tie for 4th in the most extreme case.

By limiting to the best two races, this system encourages racers to choose quickly if they need to upgrade, while still allowing a benefit for a late-season upgrade.

Downgrading categories

We recommend that a racer not to be able to take points with them while downgrading categories, as they *should* be able to score points easily in the new, lower, category. If a race director chooses to allow racers to take points with them down a category, then we suggest that they take their points down at par.