How seeding works

This document explains how seed points are calculated, from an individual race result through to a racer's published points.

What are seed points?

Seed points are a way of determining the relative ability of competitors in ski races. They are a bit like a golf handicap – the lower the seed points, the better the racer.

Points allow race organisers to work out the correct start order for races. They are also sometimes used to provide information for team or squad selection, or to qualify for entry into certain competitions.

What races are seeded?

The calendar on GBSKI will list all official British calendar competitions, where you will see them marked with a small GB Snowsport logo like this .

Many of these competitions will include seeded races, as indicated by a small 'stopwatch' icon like this .

Only races for age groups U14 and older are considered for seeding. We do not seed races for U10 or U12 age groups. On artificial slopes, we only seed Slalom races. On 'mountain' snow, we also seed Giant Slalom, Super-G, and (for U18 upwards) Downhill.

There are separate seed lists for artificial dry slope (OBARTS), artificial indoor snow (IBARTS) and snow (BASS).

How do I get seed points?

You get seed points by achieving results at seeded races. When you first enter seeded races, you won't have any points. This means that when the race organiser calculates the start order, your position on the start list will be determined by a random draw of all the competitors who have no points yet. This group will usually ski first in races on dry slope, or last in races on snow.

When you start to get results in seeded races, these results are used to calculate your seed points. We will look at the detail of how seed points are calculated later, but for now it is enough to know that better results (including being nearer to the winner's time) mean lower points.

What is a race result?

To get a race result that counts for seeding, you must finish the race. Exactly what "finish" means will depend on the format of the race.

In a Club National race on dry slope for example, you must record a valid time in either the first or second run, and the third run. The best time from your first two runs is added to your time for the third and final run to give you an overall time.

Other race formats require you to complete both runs of a two-run race, whilst others will allow you to achieve a seeded result from each run separately.

From race result to Race Points

Once you have recorded an overall time in your race, we calculate your "Race Points". The calculation uses your time and the race winner's time in a special formula to generate a number that gives a measure of how far behind the winner you finished.

These are the "Race Points", usually shown on race results as just "Points" or abbreviated to "RP".

If you look at any seeded race result, you will see that the winner of the race is given zero Race Points, with everyone else following along behind. The further behind the winner you are, the greater will be your race points.

Race Penalty Point

For each seeded race, we also calculate a Race Penalty Point or "Penalty" (sometimes abbreviated to "RPP").

This calculation uses the current seed points of the five best seeded starters and finishers in the race, as well as the race points of those best five finishers. As the calculation uses the stats of the best competitors, the Penalty is a measure of the 'quality' of the race.

Some races apply a minimum penalty; if the calculated penalty is below the minimum, then the minimum penalty will apply. This happens with a Club National race for example, where the minimum penalty is 10.

Your result

Now we have your Race Points and the Penalty for one race, your overall result from that race is easily calculated by simply adding these two figures together (RP + RPP = RES).

From results to seed points

Every few weeks throughout the season, a new seed list is compiled and published on GBSKI. The calculations for each athlete will use all the results from the season so far, as well as the seed points you had at the end of the previous season (if any).

Your possible seed points are calculated in several different ways, with the best (lowest) being the one that is used for the seed list. Here are the ways the points are calculated for an artificial slope (BARTS) seed list during the season:

- Last season's end-of-season points (the "EOS" or "basic" points)
- Average of best two results this season
- Average of the best result this season and the basic points
- Best single result plus a loading of 20% (minimum load 10)

The calculations for an end-of-season list, and for BASS seed lists on snow are slightly different.

You can find the details about these calculations and all the other rules relating to seeding in the rule books you will find on GBSKI. Just go to www.gbski.com/rules and look for Book III under the BCR and BACR headings.

Why have my seed points gone up?

During the season, as each seed list is compiled, the calculations will always be looking to use the minimum calculated seed point, as we have just seen. When you get to the end of the season however, we no longer simply carry forward the EOS points from last season. This

means that if you haven't achieved a result during the season that improves on your points from last year, you can find that your points go up instead of down.

Apart from that difference in calculating things at the end of the season, any results you achieve during the season won't cause your seed points to increase. For example, if you have a bad day at a race and end up with a result that is 30 points worse than you usually get, this won't cause your seed points to go up.

Summary

We have looked at what seed points are and where they are used, which races are seeded, how results are calculated, and how your results are used to generate seed points. We now have your points worked out and published on the seed list, and we're back round to the beginning for your new points to be used in the draw for start order at your next race!

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