Update to Changes to BASS Seeding regulations, with effect from November 2018

As announced on 25th June 2018 the BASS Seeding system has changed and will take effect for the start of the snow season 2018/19.

The June announcement highlighted the process by which the various seed lists were to be adjusted but, whilst correctly highlighting the principle of creating equivalence between age groups, erroneously stated the lists would be adjusted BY an absolute figure rather than TO an equivalence value. This syntactical error was identified in the correct application of the seed point adjustment process. Thus, for clarity the process applied is:

At the start of the season, the points for all U14 and U16 on the 2018 end-of-season list will be adjusted so that they are equivalent to those of the older age group in each event discipline. This provides an equitable platform for starting the 2019 season.

The adjustment for U14 technical will be to place the best at 125 points (rather than the previous 160), and for U14 Super-G and all U16 events it will place the best at 105 points (rather than the previous 120). After that, no age-related minimum penalty or end-of-season adjustments will be applied.

The corrected original announcement can be found below.

Changes to BASS Seeding regulations, with effect from November 2018

What. The British Alpine Seeding System (BASS) is being changed to one unified list for each gender, irrespective of age. These changes are designed to provide a simpler framework for running seeded competitions, to make seed points consistent regardless of competitor age, and to prevent calendar races from ending up with so few finishers that they cannot be seeded.

When. These changes will come into effect for the start of the Winter snow season 2018/19.

Why. Currently many races/categories cannot be seeded due to insufficient numbers within the event and comparison of abilities between age groups is difficult when using unaligned seeding systems. The current system is complex and makes the production of results very time consuming when several races/categories are run on the same course. Importantly by combining the seed lists more races and events will have enough racer results to generate valid seed points, make the production of results easier and help small events survive, leading to more racing opportunities.

How. At the start of the season, the points for all U14 and U16 on the 2018 end-of-season list will be adjusted so that they are equivalent to those of the older age group in each event discipline. This provides an equitable platform for starting the 2019 season. The adjustment for U14 technical will be to 125, and for U14 Super-G and all U16 events it will be to 105, calculated by comparison of the best in each age category. After that, age-related minimum penalty or end-of-season adjustments will not be applied.

Impact on Rules and Start Lists.

In simple terms, the changes will allow all competitors to be seeded together regardless of age category. Everyone will take part in the same race, and the Race Penalty Point will be calculated using the results and points from all competitors.

To allow continued provision of two separate single-run seeding opportunities for U14s in a race where the groups are being run together, they will still have to be drawn as a separate group within the context of the whole race.

The draw for the first run will first consider all those in U16 and older age groups. The U14s, irrespective of seed points relative to the older groups, will then be drawn to follow on from those older racers. For the second run, the older age groups will be drawn as one group based on the results of their first run as usual (including bibo reversal). This will be followed by all the U14s as a group, in the opposite order to their first run (flip the entire group). Seed points for the U14 will still be calculated from each run (Race points and Race penalty are proportionate to the winners time so whether drawn from each of the two runs or the two runs combined the difference will be marginal).

It should be noted that although the regulations are changing to allow age groups to be run and seeded together, this is not mandatory. It is recognised that there are still circumstances where restricted age groups take part, for example at the larger championship events. In these cases, as all the seed points are deemed 'equivalent', it is perfectly acceptable to run single age group races, or races incorporating just U14 and U16. ROCs may also find that where they were previously splitting races by age group (e.g. U14 and U16 upwards) it is now better in seeding terms to split by gender to bring all the age groups together to share the benefits of unified seeding.