



# World Rankings

**REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD RANKING SYSTEM AND  
RANKING POINTS**



**Issue record**

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**Applicability**

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Applicability</b>
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**Contents**

1. General .....	3
2. Ranking basis .....	3
3. Counting Competitions.....	3
4. Ranking points .....	4
5. Reference implementation.....	5
6. Frequency of calculation .....	5
TABLE 1 BASE POINTS .....	6
TABLE 2 CONTINENT STRENGTH FACTORS .....	7
ANNEX 1 CALCULATION FORMULAE .....	8
1. World Rankings.....	8
2. Ranking Points .....	8
3. Quantity Functions .....	8



1. **General**

1.1. The IFSC maintains a ranking system for individuals participating in international sport climbing competitions for each of the following disciplines and gender categories:

	<b>Men (Age 15+)</b>	<b>Women (Age 15+)</b>
Boulder	Y	Y
Lead	Y	Y
Speed	Y	Y
Boulder&Lead	Y	Y

These rankings (the *World Rankings*) are also referred to as the *Continuously Updated World Rankings (CUWR)* to distinguish them from seasonal rankings for the World Cup and other competition series.

1.2. A competitor’s *World Rankings* are independent of their license status. i.e., competitors remain eligible for inclusion within the *World Rankings* irrespective of whether their license is currently “active”.

2. **Ranking basis**

2.1. Competitors are ranked in inverse order to the total ranking points gained across the previous twelve (12) month period on a non time-weighted basis.

2.1.1. *World Rankings* are calculated using the “standard competition ranking” methodology. Competitors with an equal number of total ranking points will have the same World Ranking;

2.1.2. A *Counting Result* for the purposes of any *World Ranking* is a placing (ranking) for which ranking points are awarded in the General Result of a qualifying competition (a *Counting Competition*);

2.1.3. Competitors who participate in one or more *Counting Competitions* but who have no *Counting Results* (i.e. who have not been awarded any ranking points) will not appear in the relevant *World Ranking*.

2.2. If a competitor has more than six (6) *Counting Results* in the previous twelve (12) month period, only their six (6) best *Counting Results* will be used when calculating their *World Ranking*.

2.3. For the purposes of Boulder&Lead *World Rankings*:

2.3.1. Competitors must have at least one (1) *Counting Result* in Lead and one (1) *Counting Result* in Boulder. A *Counting Result* in Boulder&Lead can be substituted for either a single Lead *Counting Result* or a single Boulder *Counting Result*;

2.3.2. No more than three (3) *Counting Results* from any single discipline will be used when calculating the *World Ranking*.

3. **Counting Competitions**



- 3.1. Ranking points will only be awarded at competitions which are either:
  - 3.1.1. *World Events*, open to participation by competitors from all currently eligible *Member Federations*. e.g., the World Championships, the World Cup series and specified International Events or Games; or
  - 3.1.2. *Continental Events*, organised by an IFSC *Continental Council* and/or open to participation by competitors from currently eligible *Member Federations* of that *Continental Council*. e.g., the Asian Championships, the European Cup series.
- 3.2. Ranking points will not be awarded at invitational events. i.e., events where participation is at the discretion of the Event Organiser.
- 3.3. The IFSC will publish annually a list of *Counting Competitions*, including the relevant the *Status Factor* values associated with these competitions (or the competition series/league of which they form part), not later than 31 January each year. Any subsequent additions/deletions from this list will require the approval of the IFSC Executive Board and will be published on the IFSC website and communicated directly to all *Member Federations* by the IFSC Sport Department.
4. **Ranking points**
  - 4.1. The number and distribution of ranking points awarded at any *Counting Competition* is determined by three factors:
    - 4.1.1. A *Status Factor* specific to the competition, determining its relative “weight” for the *World Ranking*.
    - 4.1.2. A general *Points Function* for the *World Rankings*, defining a base points value associated with placing (ranking) positions in the *General Result* for a competition.
    - 4.1.3. A *Quantity Function* specific to the competition, modifying the number of placing (ranking) positions for which ranking points will be awarded and the distribution of points as compared with the base points values of the general *Points Function*.
  - 4.2. The *Status Factor* for each *Counting Competition* will be published by the IFSC with the list of *Counting Competitions* at the start of each year.
  - 4.3. The general *Points Function* for the *World Rankings* is set out at Table 1 (*Base Points*). Where two or more competitors have the same placing (ranking) in the *General Result* of a competition, the ranking points awarded to each tied competitor will be averaged for the tied places.
  - 4.4. The *Quantity Function* for *World Events* makes no change to the general *Points Function* for competitors placed (ranked) 80th and better in relevant World Events. Lower ranked competitors will receive no ranking points.
  - 4.5. The *Quantity Function* for *Continental Events* amends the general *Points Function* with the following effects:



- 4.5.1. Irrespective of its inclusion in the list of *Counting Events*, ranking points will be awarded for *Continental Events* only where the number of competitors starting the competition in the relevant discipline and category combination is ten (10) or greater;
- 4.5.2. Subject to paragraph 4.5.1, ranking points will be awarded to competitors placed (ranked) 30th and better, or where the number of competitors starting the competition is less than 60, the top-ranked 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of competitors; and
- 4.5.3. The ranking points awarded for any placing (ranking) will depend upon a *Continent Strength* factor reflecting the relative strength of the relevant Continental Council within the previous year's *World Ranking*. Separate *Continent Strength* factors will be determined for each combination of category and discipline by calculating the total number of ranking points awarded to the best 20 competitors from each *Continental Council* in the *World Ranking* for that category and discipline as at the end of the previous year. Applicable factors are set out at Table 2 (Continent Strength Factors), assigned to each *Continental Council* per their relative strength, i.e. the strongest *Continental Council* (i.e., with the greatest number of points) will be assigned a *Continent Strength* factor of 1.5, the weakest a *Continent Strength* factor of 1.0.
- 4.6. The IFSC will publish annually the calculated *Continental Strength* factors applicable to *Continental Events* for each category and discipline in parallel with publication of the list of *Counting Competitions* for the coming year.
5. **Reference implementation**
  - 5.1. Reference equations for the calculation of ranking points, World Rankings, and Quantity Functions for World Events/Continental Events are set out at Annex 1 (Calculation Formulae).
6. **Frequency of calculation**
  - 6.1. The *World Rankings* are updated daily at 00:00:00 UTC. The ranking points associated with the *General Result* for any relevant competition will be added into the relevant *World Ranking* at midnight UTC on the day the event in which the competition takes place finishes, and the ranking updated as of the following day.

*e.g., If the results for a competition are made official at 20:00:00 hours (UTC) on 31 May 2021 (2021-05-31T20:00:00Z) on the last day of an event, the results from that competition will be included in the World Ranking for the period commencing at midnight UTC (2021-06-01T00:00:00Z) and concluding 12 calendar months later (2022-05-31T23:59:59Z).*
  - 6.2. The *World Ranking* for each category and discipline are published online at <https://ifsc.results.info>

**TABLE 1  
BASE POINTS**

Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
1st	1000	21st	145	41st	14	61st	4
2nd	805	22nd	130	42nd	13	62nd	4
3rd	690	23rd	120	43rd	12	63rd	4
4th	610	24th	105	44th	11	64th	3
5th	545	25th	95	45th	11	65th	3
6th	495	26th	84	46th	10	66th	3
7th	455	27th	73	47th	9	67th	3
8th	415	28th	63	48th	9	68th	3
9th	380	29th	56	49th	8	69th	2
10th	350	30th	48	50th	8	70th	2
11th	325	31st	42	51st	7	71st	2
12th	300	32nd	37	52nd	7	72nd	2
13th	280	33rd	33	53rd	7	73rd	2
14th	260	34th	30	54th	6	74th	2
15th	240	35th	27	55th	6	75th	1
16th	220	36th	24	56th	6	76th	1
17th	205	37th	21	57th	5	77th	1
18th	185	38th	19	58th	5	78th	1
19th	170	39th	17	59th	5	79th	1
20th	155	40th	15	60th	4	80th	1





**TABLE 2**  
**CONTINENT STRENGTH FACTORS**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Continent Strength Factor</b>	1.500	1.375	1.250	1.125	1.000



**ANNEX 1  
CALCULATION FORMULAE**

**1. World Rankings**

1.1. The ranking points awarded to a competitor for any consecutive twelve month period:

$$P = \sum_{k=1}^{|B|} B_k \text{ where } B = \underset{A' \subset A, |A'| \leq n}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{a \in A'} a$$

where:

**A** is the set of ranking points gained by the competitor from their Counting Results for a given discipline over the preceding twelve (12) months

**B** is the set of ranking points used to calculate the World Ranking

**n** is the maximum number of Counting Results allowed to be counted for the World Ranking

**2. Ranking Points**

2.1. The ranking points awarded to a competitor starting in any *Counting Competition* will be calculated according to the following formula:

$$P(r|r \in \mathbb{Z}^+, n|n \in \mathbb{Z}^+) = \frac{\sum_{k=r}^{r+(n-1)} [S_F * p(k) * q(k)]}{n}$$

where:

**r** is the competitor's placing (ranking) in the General Result of the competition

**n** is the number of competitors tied in that rank

$S_F$  represents the Status Factor for the competition

$p(k)$  represents the general Points Function.

$q(k)$  represents the Quantity Function for the competition.

Fractional ranking point values (for competitors in tied places) are rounded down to two decimal places.

Where no competitors are tied in rank (**r**), this formula simplifies to:

$$P(r|r \in \mathbb{Z}^+) = [S_F * p(r) * q(r)]$$

**3. Quantity Functions**

3.1. The Quantity Function for the calculation of ranking points in World Events can be expressed as follow:

$$q(r|r \in \mathbb{Z}^+) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } r > 80 \\ 1 & \text{if } 1 \leq r \leq 80 \end{cases}$$

3.2. The Quantity Function for the calculation of ranking points in Continental Events can be expressed as follow:

$$q(\{r|r \in \mathbb{Z}^+\}, \{n|n \in \mathbb{Z}^+\}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n < 10 \\ 0 & \text{if } r > N \\ C_s * \frac{(N + 1 - r)}{N} & \text{if } n \geq 10 \text{ and } r \leq N \end{cases}$$

where:

$C_s$  is the Continent Strength factor; and

$r$  is the competitor's placing (ranking) in the General Result of the competition

$N$  is the lowest rank (i.e., the greatest cardinal value) for which world ranking points will be awarded at a competition with  $n$  starters calculated as follows:

$$N = \min \left\{ 30, \left\lfloor \binom{n}{2} \right\rfloor \right\}$$