

Proposal for Season Overall Scoring Method

Current rule:

4.3 ECCC Overall Team Points and Rank. ECCC overall team points are the sum of all team points earned from the beginning of the current season to the present. The overall team rank is determined by ranking the ECCC overall team points by division (DI or DII).

No explicit rule for individual points.

Suggested change:

Instead of counting every regular season race or race weekend, count only the best X out of Y regular season (i.e., not conference championship) races/race weekends for both team and individual overall standings. For road season, count only the best six (of eight) regular season weekends. For cyclocross season, count only the best seven (of nine) races. For mountain bike season, count only the best three (of four) regular season weekends.

Motivation and benefits:

The current omnium scoring system encourages teams to travel to every race/race weekend chasing points. This provides an unintentional advantage to centrally-located teams in the conference, which have fewer miles to travel during the season than teams located near the conference boundaries (see attached driving distances spreadsheet), as well as teams with larger budgets. In addition to being generally more expensive, races that are far away for a given team are more disruptive to academics due to the increased travel time. Teams and individuals who can't afford (in either a fiscal or academic sense) to attend every race would be given an opportunity to contend for the season overall against those who can.

Other Benefits

- Season total driving miles may be substantially reduced for *all* teams. Teams that chose to skip their two most distant road season weekends would drive 26-43% fewer miles for the season. (Skipping the single most distant race weekend would save 13-24%.) Beyond the potential cost savings, driving fewer miles is also safer and more environmentally responsible.
- Teams/individuals with smaller budgets would be given freedom to attend only those races that are less costly for them (due to less driving, free housing offers, etc.) and still contend for the season overall.

Potential Drawbacks/Concerns

- Attendance at races/race weekends near the conference boundaries may be reduced. This phenomenon, however, is already seen at "boundary" race weekends (e.g., UVM or Pittsburgh) under the current scoring system that counts every race. Possible decreases in attendance may be offset by teams encouraging more riders to attend the races close to them.
- Periodically great performances may be rewarded more than consistently good ones.

Moreover, conference championships would account for an even larger portion of season overall points. An analysis of the 2008 team and individual (A category) overall standings for road season using the proposed scoring method, however, reveals few major differences, although many points gaps were narrowed (see attached season standings spreadsheet).

Candidate wording:

4.3 ECCC Overall Team Points and Rank. ECCC overall team points are the sum of all team points earned from the beginning of the current season to the present, minus the two lowest scoring weekends (road), two lowest scoring races (cyclocross), or single lowest scoring weekend (MTB) for each team. The overall team rank is determined by ranking the ECCC overall team points by division (DI or DII).

4.8 Individual Points and Standings. ECCC individual overall points are the sum of all individual points earned from the beginning of the current season to the present, minus the two lowest scoring weekends (road), two lowest scoring races (cyclocross), or single lowest scoring weekend (MTB) for each individual. Individual points do not “carry over” to another category if a rider upgrades or downgrades. Only points earned in individual races are included in the calculation of individual overall standings.