

WHITE WATER



SPRING 1959

RANKING METHODS

It was stated in the Winter issue that, as last year's Slalom results had been so abnormal, some modification to the means for qualification for the Divisions would have to be made. Readers will remember that on the system which has been in use in the past, 1959's Division I would have consisted of only sixteen people. This, although undesirable, is not the reason for the change. The real objection was that approximately twenty were being relegated from Division I whose ability was probably greater than that of some of the six being promoted.

We now come to the question: Do we use the present method for another year, as the rules demand, or do we introduce a new method immediately?

The B.C.U. Slalom Committee have reluctantly decided that the second proposition must be adopted, as failure to do so will result in a chaotic situation for a year. However, it has been borne in mind that the introduction of a new system, against the rules, so to speak, must not result in the relegation of anybody who would not have been relegated on the old system.

Hence a new method of working out results and combining them into a ranking list has been formulated. All last year's results have been calculated to this new method and a ranking list produced.

While such modifications were in progress it was also decided to introduce a Third Division (for Novices) and to continue the Men's and Ladies' Sections into one general Division.

FIRST DIVISION

For each Ranking Slalom. Taking into account only the better run of each competitor, the average of all scores except those that are greater than three times the winner's is calculated and called 100. Then each competitor's score is reduced to a percentage of this average to give the results for that Slalom.

Ranking List. The place of a competitor in the Ranking List is determined by that of the three methods below which gives him the highest place:

- A Best result.
- B Average of best two results less five.
- C Average of best three results less ten.

Relegation. A competitor is relegated to the Second Division if the figure which gives him his place in the Ranking List is

greater than 100 or if he does not obtain a result during the season. (Note: This figure of 100 is subject to review each year).

To illustrate this method, the First Division table in this issue shows the complete method as applied to last year's results. (See pages 14 and 15).

The columns numbered 3 to 8 give the actual times gained in the Slaloms (i.e. time plus penalty). At the foot of each column is the total of all times in that column and the average for that Slalom. This average is then used to prepare the figures for columns 9 to 14. These show the competitor's score as percentage of the average. At the bottom of each of these columns are some more totals which just give a check on the working. They should each add up to 100 times the number of finishers. In fact column 12 does not add up to a nice round figure but this is because one finisher in this Slalom had more than three times the winner's score.

Columns 15, 16 and 17 give the competitor's best result, average of his best two results and average of his best three results. The next three columns then modify these figures by reducing them by either 5 or 10, and column 21 gives the competitor's best figure in columns 18, 19 and 20. Column 22 gives the final order, which is based on column 21. For comparison the very first column contains everybody's percentage worked out by the "old" system. As can be seen, only nine were better than 160%, the relegation figure.

SECOND DIVISION

For each Ranking Slalom the winner's time is taken as 100 (as in previous years) and each competitor's score is reduced to a percentage of this to give his result for that Slalom.

Ranking List. The place of a competitor in the Ranking List is determined by that of the three methods below which gives him the highest place:

- A Best result.
- B Average of best two results less 10.
- C Average of best three results less 20.

Promotion. A competitor is promoted to the First Division immediately he wins a Slalom or at the end of the year if the figure which gives him his position in the Ranking List is lower than 110. (Note: This figure of 110 is subject to review each year).

Relegation. A competitor is relegated to the Third Division if he does not obtain a result during the season unless he has competed during the previous ten years either in the First Division or before the divisional system was introduced.

THIRD DIVISION

No percentage system is being used in the Third Division as it is not intended to produce a Ranking List. However, points will be awarded according to the place obtained in the Slalom.

If there are six competitors or more -

1st place = 6 points

2nd place = 5 points

3rd place = 4 points

4th place = 3 points

5th place = 2 points

and all other finishers 1 point.

If there are fewer than six starters the last person gets 1 point, the next to the last, 2 points, etc.

Immediately a competitor in Div. III gains 7 points during a season, he is promoted to Div. II. Points will not go forward from one season to the next.

Inauguration of New Scheme.

The First Division for 1959 shall consist of all those who gained their place under the old regulations and in addition those who would have gained their place had the 1958 results been calculated according to the new scheme.

That is, next year's Division I will consist of the first nineteen on the Ranking List in this issue, plus those who move up because they won Second Division events during 1958. Bryan Harrison also moves up as he did well on his best three. In addition to the above, some "National Service types" will not be relegated.

The Second Division for 1959 shall consist of those who obtained 200 or better as their ranking figure worked out by the new method on 1958 Div. II results, or who have competed either in Div. I Slaloms or within the last ten years at any Slalom before the divisional system was introduced.

Hence, Second Division for 1959 will consist of:

Mike Wilson (111), John Ferguson (112), Trevor Bridges (118), Chris. Sutton (118), Jim Doxey (122), Harold Barton (124), Bernard Rhodes (127), Roger Hardy (129), Bob Thacker (130), John

Wooley (131), Tony Sowman (134), Ian McPherson (134), David Olerenshaw (135), Clifford Bloxham (135), Roger Hobson (136), Bill Wallhead (137), Jack Spuhler (144), Mike Turney (144), Alan Hubard (146), D. Amos (146), Lincoln Hall (148), Robbie Robbins (152), Charles Sutherland (154), Chris Whiteside (160), Jesse Meats (162), George Milne (163), Les Beecham (163), Mike Keevil (163), Alan Sharples (164), Dave Patrick (166), Ted Owen (169), Chris Barnacle (170), Gerry Chester (172), Peter Setterfield (172), Stephen Chorley (174), Colin Manton (183), Allan Smith (186), Ian Strong (187), David Savage (190), F. Wagner (190), H. Powell (200). Also Sid Wheeler, Don Taylor, Bill Emm and a few other "ex-experts".

All others are in the Third Division, with the exception that ladies who have competed in any Slalom within the last ten years are given the choice of starting in either Div.II or III, but once having made this choice they are subject to the general rules.

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