

# Competition Framework

## Ranking Points System - an introduction

## Competition Review – Ranking Points System – an Introduction

1. The proposed Rules of Racing to come in to effect from April 2017 include further rules in relation to the Ranking Index, including, at 3-4.e. reference to the “Personal Ranking Reference Book”. This sets out in detail how the Ranking Index works. The mechanics of this document are generally correct but we recognise that it still needs some refinement as we continue to refine and test the system during this phase of development.
2. The purpose of this introduction paper is to summarise how the Ranking Index will work.
3. Development of the online entry system through which entries for events will be made (BROE2) is now in testing phase and the detail of how the Ranking Index (RI) will operate for 2017 is settled.
4. Data from those events which chose to run under BROE2 in 2017 will be used to refine the RI points (RPs) for 2018 onwards. This applies to both Heads and Regattas.
5. Throughout this introduction paper Regattas and Heads are called “competitions” and categories within that competition e.g. what would currently be open IM3 8+, are referred to as “events”.

### What is the Ranking Index and how can events use it?

6. Each competitor will accrue two RIs in each of rowing and/or sculling – a lifetime RI (which does not reduce over time – *the purpose being a measurement of lifetime achievement*), and a racing RI (which does reduce over time – *used for the purposes of current competition*).
7. The racing RI is an index applied to each individual competitor based on RP’s won at their 8 most successful events (highest RP scores), discounted for the passing of time, in the five years before the date the RI is calculated.
8. If a competitor has secured RPs within the 12 months from the date the RI is calculated, then these are treated as 100% of value. The value of RP’s secured are then weighted for preceding years as follows:
  - 12-24 months – 66%
  - 24-36 months – 33%
  - 36-48 months – 15%
  - 48-60 months – 5%

9. If a competitor has not competed in 8 events in the preceding five years but has RI points from before that date, then each event RP is reduced to 1 point.
10. When a crew enters an event, the RI for that crew is the sum of all the RPs for the members of that crew (excluding the cox – although coxes will accrue RPs for the purposes of a measurement of their skills).
11. When a competition (Regatta or Head) invites entries it can still advertise a series of different standard events but the entries to each event will be determined by how the competition decides to split up its entries. For example:

Regatta A invites entries for an Open 8+ event, it receives 24 entries. Under the current system these might have been entries in IM1, IM2 and IM3 – with varying numbers of entries and skill levels in each event.

Under the RI system the Regatta can run three separate events, A, B and C with, say, the top 8 RI crews in A, next 8 in B and lowest 8 in C.
12. There is no prescription in the rules as to how this is done – it is up to the Regatta to decide.
13. Rowing and sculling have separate RIs.
14. RPs are secured in different models for Regattas and Heads but the scores from each are combined to produce a single combined RI.
15. For 2017 and maybe the head season for 2018, although we would prefer competitions to use the combined RI, they can use the RI combined with old points if they so choose.
16. We are also considering, for 2017 and maybe 2018 head season, allowing competitions to base a crews ranking on the basis of RPs from Head events only. This is because the current data is more detailed for Heads than it is for Regattas because Regattas have not been making full returns of results to BR. Although the requirement for Regattas to make full returns was included in the Rules of Racing effective from 1 April 2016 it was not strictly imposed. The rule (now 5-5-6) will be strictly imposed for 2017 season.
17. BROE2 calculates an individual's RI on submission of a competition's results (as required under new rule 5-5-6 and when an individual's RI changes they will receive an email advising them of the change and why it has been made.

**The detail:**

18. The full detail is set out in the Personal Ranking Reference Handbook. This section seeks to summarise that detail and explain why the rules are set as they are.
19. The RI is calculated as at midnight 8 days before the close of entries for a competition. This is so that a competition can see what entries they have and decide what events they want to run in their competition.
20. Substitutions to a crew will be permitted as in the current rules of racing (after closure of entries up to 50% before the first race) but any substitutions must not result in a change of the crew total RI of more than +25% of the highest ranked crew in that event. Currently, say, an IM1 crew might include 1 IM1 athlete and three IM2 athletes – so they could substitute two more IM1 athletes. The purpose of this new rule is to replicate this but keep it in control.
21. If an athlete competes in more than one event in each competition, then only the highest RI from each completed event, on each day of a competition, counts towards RI (sweep and sculling both accrue RI though). The purpose of this is to ensure that competitors are not discouraged from entering more than one event each day.
22. RPs are secured in the same manner for all competitors racing in events from J16 upwards through to the upper level of Masters competition. This means that, for example, talented J16 or Masters crews can compete on an equal level with Senior, U23 crews – if their RI is similar they should be of similar speed. This also matches the existing rule that J15 and above can compete in senior events.
23. J15 and below secure RI using boat types of J15 and below. The purpose of this is to allow J12 to J15 crews to compete together – this will apply in Heads only.
24. For Regattas, RPs are secured for every round won in an event (if an athlete loses in round 1 they do not secure any RPs). The RPs increase in each round as follows – by example of a three round event:  
  
Win 1<sup>st</sup> round = 1 RI point  
Win 2<sup>nd</sup> round = + 2 RI points – total 3  
Win 3<sup>rd</sup> round = + 3 RI points – total 6
25. If a Regatta runs three separate events in the same boat class as in the example above, then the more senior events have a weighting added. For example:

The Group C event would accrue RI as in the example immediately above.

Group B would be

Win 1<sup>st</sup> round = 2 RI point  
Win 2<sup>nd</sup> round = + 4 RI points – total 6  
Win 3<sup>rd</sup> round = + 6 RI points – total 12

Group A would be

Win 1<sup>st</sup> round = 4 RI point  
Win 2<sup>nd</sup> round = + 8 RI points – total 12  
Win 3<sup>rd</sup> round = + 16 RI points – total 28

The purpose of this weighting is to reflect the quality of competition at the higher levels.

26. Competitors in Head of the River Races secure RI on the basis of a fixed scale generally based on the first 50 finishers in any boat class e.g. Open 4-, W8+ etc. If there are more than 50 finishers in any boat class, then the total RI “available” are apportioned across the total number of finishers.
27. The highest RI is 145 points. On first impression this is a very high RI compared to those which might be secured at a Regatta. However, analysis of the data which is currently available shows that only a very few Head races will generate RI this high – the average from a boat class in a Head race is in the order of 20 to 30 maximum. For example:

A small boats Head with an entry of 400 boats in two divisions (200 per division) in Open and W 2-, 2x, 1x and 4x would have 8 boat classes (separate events) per division and thus the maximum RI per competitor in the winning crew would be 42 (assuming an even distribution).
28. Throughout the consultations the relationship between Regatta and Head RPs has been the most contentious and, in the absence of real data, the most difficult parameter to set. We recognise that these levels might not yet be correct and might require adjustment for 2018 onwards, on the basis of real data secured in 2017. This is the reason that, for 2017 and Head season 2018, we are considering allowing competitions to run on a combination of the new Ranking Points System (Combined RI or Head RI only) or the Old Points System the basis of Head or Regatta RI if that is what they choose to do. The aim though would be to have a fully balanced single RI running for 2018.
29. This introduction paper is not intended to be a detailed description of every aspect of the Ranking Index – it is intended to bring a level of clarity to how the system is

intended to operate. There will inevitably be changes as events start to run on BROE2 and “glitches” are identified but we are satisfied that we should have a fully operational and robust system in place ready for April 2018. A number of events have already used BROE2 to successfully manage entries and the system will be rolled out to even more events over coming months.

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