

# Competition Framework

## Ranking Points System - an introduction

## **New Competition Framework – Ranking Points – an Introduction**

1. The Rules of Racing that came in to effect from April 2018 fully implement the new Competition Framework including the Ranking Index, including, at 3-2.g. reference to the “Personal Ranking Reference Book”. This sets out, in detail, how the Ranking Index works.
2. The purpose of this introduction paper is to summarise how the Ranking Index works.
3. Throughout this introduction paper Regattas and Heads are called “competitions” and categories within that competition are referred to as “events” e.g. Open 8+. Events can be subdivided into “bands” e.g. Beginner, Intermediate & Championship.

### **What is the Ranking Index (RI) and how can competitions use it?**

4. Each competitor will accrue a Ranking Index in rowing and/or sculling and/or coxing.
5. The racing RI is an index applied to each individual competitor based on Ranking Points (RPs) won at their eight most successful events (highest RP scores), discounted for the passing of time, in the five years before the date the RI is calculated.
6. 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 reduced as they age as follows:
  - 12-24 months – 66%
  - 24-36 months – 33%
  - 36-48 months – 15%
  - 48-60 months – 5%
7. If a competitor has not competed in eight events in the preceding five years but has RI points from before that date, then each event RP is reduced to 1 point.
8. When a crew enters an event, the RI for that crew is the sum of all the RIs for the members of that crew (excluding the cox – although coxes will accrue RIs for the purposes of a measurement of their skills).
9. When a competition 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 X invites entries for an Open 8+ event, it receives 24 entries.

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.

10. There is no prescription in the rules as to how this is done – it is up to the competitions to decide.
11. Rowing and sculling have separate RIs.
12. RPs are secured in different models for Regattas and Heads but the scores from each are combined to produce a single combined RI.
13. BROE2 calculates an individual's RI on submission of a competition's results as required under new rule 5-5-6.

**The detail:**

14. The full detail is set out in the Personal Ranking Reference book. This section seeks to summarise that detail and explain why the rules are set as they are.
15. 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 / bands they want to run in their competition.
16. Substitutions to a crew will be permitted as in previous 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 band of the event. For non-banded events, then there is no maximum change in RI.
17. If an athlete competes in more than one event at a competition, then only the highest RI from each completed event, in each discipline, counts towards RI. The purpose of this is to ensure that competitors are not discouraged from entering more than one event each day.
18. 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.
19. J15 and below secure RP's on the same basis but are calculated separately.

20. Competitors in Head of the River Races secure RI points on the basis of a fixed scale generally based on the first 50 finishers in any boat class e.g. Open 4-, W8+ etc. per division. If there are more than 50 finishers in any boat class, then the total RI “available” are apportioned across the total number of finishers.
21. The points scale is not linear rising from 1 points for beating 1 crew to 145 points for beating 49 crews.
22. For Regattas, RPs are secured depending on the number of crews effectively beaten with the point’s allocated coming from the same table as for head races. For example in a three round two lane river regatta:

Win in the first round = 1 point  
Win in the second round = 3 points  
Win in the final = 7 points

23. If a Regatta runs three separate bands in the same event as in the example above, then the more senior bands are assumed to have beaten the lower bands when determining the points allocated. For example:

The winner of the band above won 7 points.

If there was an identical band of eight crews above this the winner would be deemed to have beaten 15 crews (7 in their band and 8 in the band below) and be allocated 20 points.

If there was a third identical band of eight crews above this the winner would be deemed to have beaten 23 crews (7 in their band and 16 in the bands below) and be allocated 39 points.

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

24. The highest allocation of RPs for one race is 145 points. Analysis of the data which is currently available shows that similar numbers of heads and Regatta’s will allocate this maximum but overall very few competitions will generate RPs 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 eight boat classes (separate events) per division and thus the maximum RI per competitor in the winning crew would be 42 (assuming an even distribution).

25. 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. This will not be the end of the process and we will be evaluating the outcomes on an ongoing basis and making incremental changes in an ongoing process using an evidence based approach.

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