

Interpreting Your Ski Mountaineering Competition ATHLETE RANKING

The points assigned to a competitor after each race are calculated as a percentage of the finishing time from the highest ranked athlete in the race. That athlete's points are based on their three best races in the previous 365 days. The baseline of this system took the performances of athletes on the ISMF World Cup/World Championships as the starting point for the rankings and this continues to be reflected in the list. Thus the points awarded to any given athlete on the list reflect how far they are behind the best in the world at that time.

Calculating rankings this way has advantages for making up teams. At the same time, it can give the individual athlete reviewing his or her results a better sense of how they might perform against broader fields or in bigger events. The system also does not lower rankings for Canadian athletes who choose to compete internationally (i.e. allows some comparison between 'home' and 'away' performances. You don't have to lose your place in the ranking if you move up to the show in Europe).

The final rankings – published 3 times over the course of a Canadian competition season – will be based on an athlete's four best races in the previous 365 day interval. A penalty is applied (7.5% to 2.5%) where an athlete has only raced one, two, or three races, to account for the fact that any single race might be an anomaly (i.e. the leaders were slowed while breaking trail, etc.) More data points make for fairer rankings.

A note for the future – as the number of Canadian competitors grows - it will make sense to base the points for each individual race off the points and time average of the three highest ranked athletes rather than the single highest ranked athlete. Ideally, this ranking would also be based on more than an athlete's four best races, but the limited number of races available in a given region of Canada at the moment makes it unfair to insist on better attendance at this time.