

United States Ski Mountaineering Association

National Points and Ranking Rules & Regulations



The USSMA National Ranking System is used to rank USSMA athletes. Based on the ISMF points system, the points formula takes into account course difficulty, quality of field and the racer's time behind the winner. Racers will only obtain points at races designated as USSMA Sanctioned Races (denoted by the USSMA logo on the USSMA Event calendar and published in a separate document mid-December).

The goal of the rankings is to accurately rank competitive ski mountaineering racers in the US, to select racers for elite training camps, selection to the National Team, and financial support. Event promoters wishing to host USSMA events will have courses certified at specific level (HC-Cat 2 as outlined below). Additionally, sponsors gain an objective measure of racers' results.

Race Category Requirements:

- **High Category (HC):** National Championships, World Championship selection events, National Finals, NorAm Championships, World Cup Races
- **Category 1:** Courses with *at least* four of the following: 5,500+ vertical, winning race time of 2+ hours, 7+ transitions, multiple or extended portions of the course with skis on pack, 66% (or greater) of ascents off-piste w/kick-turns), required use of via ferrata or ropes for ascending.
- **Category 2:** Courses characterized by the following: approximately 5,000 ft. vertical, 5-10 transitions, 50% off-piste, winning time of 1.5 hours or greater.

* Events that fall outside of the exact definitions above may be categorized at any level at the discretion of the USSMA technical delegate or USSMA competition director. (For example a lack of snow or avalanche danger that alters the vertical or number of transitions will not lower the category of the event. A course with an hour of technical boot packing and only an hour of skiing could be classified as Category 1.)

Qualified Racers - Racers whom are US citizens and have a valid USSMA license. All participants in USSMA sanctioned races **MUST** have a valid license for the current season. Only Qualified Racers will accumulate USSMA Race Points. When assigning USSMA Race Points, any racers not meeting the Qualified Racer requirement will be removed from consideration and finish place reassigned.

USSMA National Points Ranking - Race Points performances of each Qualified Racer will be accumulated and ranked from highest to lowest to establish the National Points Ranking. Any ties in the National Points Ranking will be broken by the average Points Time from the corresponding performances. There will be an Overall Points Ranking as well as Points Rankings for Individual, Vertical and Sprint Disciplines.

USSMA Race Disciplines - Individual, Team, Vertical, and Sprint. The Point Ranking for Individual, Vertical and Sprint Disciplines is comprised of the cumulative points scored in each Discipline. There will not be a Team Points Ranking.

USSMA Overall Point Ranking – The Overall Point Ranking will be made up of the sum of a Qualified Racer’s best point totals for the following races: 5 Individual, 2 Team, 2 Vertical and 2 Sprint.

Age Divisions

- Cadet (U17): shortened course with a maximum age of 17 years.
- Junior (18, 19, 20): full distance race course with a maximum age of 20 years.
- Espoir (21, 22, 23): full distance race course with a maximum age of 23 years.
- Open: full distance race course for all men and women 21 years old and older.
- Masters: full distance race course with a minimum age of 45 years.

Rankings will be calculated separately for male/female in all Age Divisions. It is possible for a Qualified Racer score points in multiple Divisions. For example, an Espoir racer can score in both the Open and Espoir Divisions.

For the sports season N-1/N (e.g. 2017-2018), the age taken into account is the age as of December 31 of year N (e.g. 2018).

Time Points - Calculated as $100 * T_0 / T_x$ where T_0 is the time of the first Qualified Racer and T_x is the time of the racer being ranked. T_0 and T_x have the units of seconds. Time Points will be rounded to two decimal places.

USSMA Race Points - The top 30 Qualified Racers will accumulate points at USSMA Points Races. Total race times (finish time plus any penalty time) will be ordered from fastest to slowest and assigned a finishing place. Race Points are awarded according to the following table.

Place	HC Points	Cat 1 Points	Cat 2 Points		Place	HC Points	Cat 2 Points	Cat 2 Points
1	100	90	80		16	15	13.5	12
2	80	72	64		17	14	12.6	11.2
3	60	54	48		18	13	11.7	10.4
4	50	45	40		19	12	10.8	9.6
5	45	40.5	36		20	11	9.9	8.8
6	40	36	32		21	10	9	8
7	36	32.4	28.8		22	9	8.1	7.2
8	32	28.8	25.6		23	8	7.2	6.4
9	29	26.1	23.2		24	7	6.3	5.6
10	26	23.4	20.8		25	6	5.4	4.8
11	24	21.6	19.2		26	5	4.5	4
12	22	19.8	17.6		27	4	3.6	3.2
13	20	18	16		28	3	2.7	2.4
14	18	16.2	14.4		29	2	1.8	1.6
15	16	14.4	12.8		30	1	0.9	0.8

USSMA Cup Races – USSMA Race Points for USSMA Cup Races will be scored at 1.5x HC Points.

USSMA National Championships – USSMA Race Points for USSMA National Championships will be scored at 2x HC Points.

*For Team events, a Qualified Racer may race with a Non-Qualified Racer and obtain Race Points. The Non-Qualified Racer will not earn Race Points.

*A coed race team (a team consisting of one Female and one Male) **will not** earn USSMA Race Points.

*A team consisting of a racers in different Age Divisions may only score points in the Division of the oldest teammate. For example, a team of a Junior Racer and and Espoir Racer may only score points in the Espoir Division.