



New National Seeding List

A few years ago the EC12 Class developed a National Seeding List (NSL) to set starting fleets for Promotion-Relegation (multi-fleet) regattas. The list is intended to eliminate the need for time wasting seeding races, which can take up most of the morning. For a two-day regatta, seeding races can waste as much as a third of the race time.

The NSL was favorable to seeding heats, but three issues were seen to develop:

1. Skippers sailing in larger fleets earned much higher points than those of smaller fleets
2. Skippers who did not sail in three regattas in a year had much lower points
3. Skippers who sailed in regional regattas got double points which exaggerated 1 & 2 above

The Class Advisory Committee and I have reviewed our NSL formula, we surveyed active skippers, and also studied how other classes handle multi-fleet regattas. We concluded that a properly formulated NSL can work, but should not be made mandatory until it has been tested for at least one year.

What follows is the new NSL, which we feel eliminates the issues discussed above. It is also very simple to follow and maintain.

1. The winner of a regatta will earn 100 points. Last place gets 10 points. The rest of the skippers earn points based on the number of boats they beat using this simple formula:

$$\text{Points} = \frac{90}{\text{number of boats in regatta, less one}} \times \text{boats beaten, plus 10}$$

2. A skipper's best three regattas over the last 12 months are averaged to get the their NSL score.
3. No double points for Regional or National regattas
4. Only regattas with at least 10 boats that start the first race will be counted

PURPOSE:

The National Seeding List is designed to place all EC12 skippers in order of skill level based on past results over a 12-month period. The NSL is then used at multi-fleet regattas to establish starting fleets for the first heats of the P&R format.

The NSL is not intended to determine who is the best skipper in the Country. There is no way to accurately determine something like that. Which is why we have a National Championship Regatta each year. The NSL is simply intended to get the racing action started right away and make the whole regatta more enjoyable and waste less time.

HOW IT WORKS:

Points are awarded to each skipper base on the percentage of boats they beat. The winner beat 100% of the other boats. Regardless of the size of the regatta, the winner will always earn 100 points. The formula is used to find a multiplier for the number of boats beaten.

If there are 10 boats in the regatta, the multiplier is 10. (10 minus 1 is 9, 90 divided by 9 is 10) The winner beat 9 boats, so $9 \times 10 = 90$, plus 10 is 100. Second place beat 8 boats, $8 \times 10 = 80$, plus 10 is 90 and so on down the line. Last place beat nobody, so $0 \times 10 = 0$, plus 10 is 10.

If there are 21 boats in the regatta, the multiplier is 4.5. (21 minus 1 is 20, 90 divided by 20 is 4.5) The winner beat 20 boats, so $20 \times 4.5 = 90$, plus 10 is 100. Second place beat 19 boats, $19 \times 4.5 = 85.5$, plus 10 is 95.5. Third place beat 18 boats, $18 \times 4.5 = 81$, plus 10 is 91, and so on down the line. Again, last place beat nobody, so $0 \times 10 = 0$, plus 10 is 10.

You can see that the more boats in a regatta, the smaller the multiplier. This means there will be more increments in the scores. Second place in a 20-boat regatta is worth more than second place in an 10-boat regatta.

HOW IT IS USED:

When the number of entries in a given regatta grows to be more boats than can be safely or comfortably sailed on the lake at one time, the NSL may be used to set the starting fleets for the P&R racing system. The race staff will simply take the current NSL and list all the entered skippers from top to bottom as shown on the NSL. Then they divide the list into two fleets that will start the first heats of the regatta. A new skipper or a skipper who has no score over the past 12 months will be at the bottom of the list.

It has been demonstrated over time, that the seeding list produces nearly the exact same results as sailing two sets of seeding heats. The benefit is more racing and less wasted time.

We hope that over time, skippers and race staff will see the benefit of the NSL and want to use it in place of randomly selected seeding heats.

ALTERNATIVE USES:

For race staff who prefer to sail seeding heats before the P&R begins, the NSL may be used to set the seeding fleets into two relatively similarly matched fleets of various skill levels. Simply list the entered skippers from top to bottom using the NSL and then count down the list AB, AB, AB... until you have two even fleets and then sail your seeding races.

Continued

OR, you can sail one seeding series and count the scores. The NSL may be used to set the seeding fleets ahead of time. In a 24-boat regatta, for example, there would be two seeding fleets of 12 boats each. Each fleet would sail one seeding race. No adding of scores and then discarding the worst is needed. No time is wasted either. With 24 boats under P&R, there will be 14 boats on the line in each heat with 4 boats moving up and down. All that is needed to run the seeding heats quickly with no delay is to highlight the last 7 finishing spots on each score sheet of the seeding heats. The bottom 7 of each seeding race will be in the B-fleet for the first P&R heat. The top 5 of each seeding race are given a clothespin and will sail in the A-fleet.

This means that there will be 2 firsts, 2 seconds, 2 thirds and so on for the first series of races. These will be counted towards a skipper's overall score in the regatta and may be discarded as one of their worst scores if needed. This "Single Seeding Heat" system will most likely have the same result as sailing two seeding heats, but will be considerably easier to run with no delay at all between seeding heats and regular P&R heats.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

I truly believe this new improved National Seeding List solves most of the negative issues the majority of skippers have voiced. This new NSL does not over weight larger regattas. It does not punish skippers for not sailing in enough regattas or larger regattas. The NSL is easy to maintain and will be updated and posted on the Class website shortly after each 2-day regatta. It will be a valuable resource to race staffs when planning their events as well as being a good indicator for skippers to follow their own performance. I encourage all clubs to at least try the NSL at their next regatta when there will be multiple fleets. We want all our regattas to be fair, but we also want them to be fun. The NSL will place skippers in a starting point based on their past performances and get everyone racing without delays.

For those host clubs who still feel seeding heats are the way to go, I encourage them to try the single seeding heat system above.

We will monitor the results of the new NSL carefully over the 2013 season. Hopefully it will prove to be a success and more and more clubs will embrace its use.

Submitted February 9, 2013. Edited May 10, 2013.

Joe Walter
EC12 Class Secretary