

Grand Prix Points (also known as World Cup Points or Championship Points)

Grand Prix points award a pre-determined number of points for each place - eg 100 for 1st, 80 for 2nd, 60 for 3rd and so on. They are used in many sports and are easy to calculate and to understand. Points are accumulated for a particular race series or over the course of a season to determine an eventual champion. As a refinement, the worst performance of each competitor is sometimes discarded.

Grand Prix Points systems are easy to administer, but have major limitations. In particular, they do not take into account the strength of the field in an event or the margins between the competitors. As we all know from experience, a close 2nd in a strong field may require a better performance than a win against weaker competition.

Grand Prix Points are no longer used by Ski & Snowboard Australia (SSA) in the selection of the Australian Children's Squad or by NSWACT Alpine in the selection of the NSWACT Alpine Children's Team, but are used to determine race series champions.

FIS Points

The FIS points system is a sophisticated and internationally used points system which has been developed over several decades by Federation Internationale de Ski, the international governing body for competitive snowsports. It calculates a score, known as the "race penalty", for a winning performance by taking into account the quality of the field competing in the event and the margins by which the winner beat the top athletes in the event. The FIS points for everyone else in the race are then determined by how close their time was to the winner's time. This means that a mid-field result in a very strong race may well score better than a win against weaker opposition and that a close 2nd will score better than a distant 2nd.

An athlete's best two results in each discipline over the past 12 months are then averaged to give the athlete's FIS points for that discipline. By disregarding all performances other than the best two in each discipline, the FIS Points system places less emphasis on consistency and more on what an athlete is truly capable of achieving.

By taking into account the strength of the field in each race, the FIS points system also makes it possible to compare results from FIS races around the world and to give every FIS racer an international ranking.

FIS points and FIS point rankings are used by Ski & Snowboard Australia to select national teams and to determine eligibility to compete in events such as the Winter Olympics.

The rules and mathematical formulae by which FIS points are calculated can be found on the FIS website. In essence, the FIS points system assesses the quality of the winning performance by taking into account (A) the FIS points of the 5 highest ranked racers amongst those who finished within the top 10 in the event, (B) the FIS points of the top 5 seeds at the start of the event and (C) the margins (in percentage terms) by which the winner beat the skiers referred to in (A). The FIS points for every other competitor in the event are then determined by adding race points to the race penalty to reflect the margin (in percentage terms) by which they were beaten.

SSA Children's Points

The SSA Children's Points system is closely modelled on the sophisticated and internationally used FIS Points system. SSA Children's Points are calculated for each run in the State Heats and for each run in the Australian Children's Championships. Each athlete's best two results in each discipline (slalom and giant slalom) over the past 12 months are then averaged to give the athlete's SSA Children's Points for that discipline. Each athlete's points for the two disciplines are then averaged to determine the athlete's overall ranking.

SSA Children's Points have been the sole basis on which the Australian Children's Squad is selected since 2009. SSA Children's Points are also used to determine seedings within the squad, start positions in the Australian Children's Championships and eligibility for FIS Children's events where the number of applicants for an event exceeds Australia's quota.

NSWACT Alpine also uses SSA Children's Points to select the NSWACT Alpine Children's Team and first year members of the NSWACT Alpine FIS Junior Team.

The [Points Lists](#) are published on the SSA website - just go to the Alpine homepage and look for "SSA Children's Points" in the menu on the right. The Points Lists are published at the start of each season and updated regularly during the season.

The SSA Children's Points system is administered by the National Points Coordinator and NSW Alpine Secretary, [Greg Lewis](#).