

## Nordic - SECTION 2

### DRAW, SEEDING AND ASSIGNMENT OF START NUMBERS

#### GENERAL

- 2.1 The start numbers for competitors or teams entered in a competition will be randomly selected by manual or, normally, computer draw, taking into account the requirements for grouping and/or seeding, unless otherwise stated in these Rules. The method of draw must be approved by the TD. Team Captains may attend the Draw, which will be supervised by 2 members of the Competition Jury.
- 2.2 The draw will be held after entries close for the race and not later than 15 hours before the start of the competition. If a competition is to be repeated, or postponed more than 24 hours, the Competition Jury will decide whether a new draw is to be made.
- 2.3 Unless they have a completely separate competition, female competitors shall be placed in separate groups to male competitors and will start either before or after the male groups.
- 2.4 Spare/blank starts may be included in the Start List to accommodate late entries or changes, due to an Official's error, that gain the Competition Jury's approval.
- 2.5 **Substitution of Skiers.** Team Captains may withdraw a skier from a team competition and substitute another skier from the unit squad of 6 up to 30 minutes before the official start time, provided he reports to the start officials with the details. He may not swap skiers between seeding groups nor change the running order in relays.
- 2.6 **Conflicting Demands.** It is neither easy, nor a precise art, to satisfy the conflicting demands of:
  - The ethos of team racing.
  - The merits of elite athletes.
  - The requirement to produce National individual champions and Army or Inter Service team champions from the same competition.
  - The quality of individual athletes not in official teams competing in a team or Championship competition.

#### INDIVIDUAL

- 2.7 **Groups.** There will be between 4 and 8 (normally 6) seeding groups for men and between 2 and 4 (normally 3) for women. The groups need not be equal in size.
- 2.8 **Group Start Order.** The order in which groups start will be decided by the Competition Jury having regard to the anticipated snow conditions. This order will appear on the start list, but it may be changed up to 30 minutes before the start if the Competition Jury considers that changes in weather conditions so dictate e.g. to provide the top seed group with a better classic track. Allocated bib numbers do not change.
- 2.9 **Elite Group/Elite Athletes.** The Championship Committee may declare that certain athletes be classed as an 'elite group'. These will normally be National Squad athletes and Inter-Service Team members, plus others of exceptional merit. There may also be occasions, particularly in non-Championship races, when the Competition Jury or the nature of the competition (i.e. it may be a British National competition) dictates that all athletes of the same category should be placed in the same group, e.g. all Novice athletes.
- 2.10 **Seeding.** To ensure that the ethos of Army ski racing remains based on team racing (see Rule 1.7), team captains are to assign one member of each of their "A" team to Groups 1 to 4. Any additional individuals are to be assigned as evenly as possible to the remaining groups. In a solely individual competition (e.g. 20km Biathlon), team captains are to list their athletes in the desired running order, albeit this may be changed by Rule 2.11.

- 2.11 **Balance within Groups.** The Competition Committee is empowered to move athletes from the group requested by the team captain in Rule 2.10. This is to meet the demands of Rule 2.6 and to ensure that there is a fair balance within groups of athletes from teams in contention for the major championships. This will normally not apply at divisional championships, except to satisfy the demands of a relatively few elite individual athletes.
- 2.11.1 **Example of Rule 2.11.** The 15 km XC is a National individual competition for Men and Junior Men and a team competition for the Inter Service, Marina, SAS, Kentish and Inter Corps Cups:
- 2.11.1.1 The Army team for the Inter Service Championship may have 4 athletes from 4 different units who are all seeded in Group 1. If the RN and RAF teams each come from one unit team, and would thus be seeded throughout Groups 1 to 4, the Race Committee could assign all Inter Service athletes to Group 1.
  - 2.11.1.2 This decision could be unfair to an Army unit team ("X") who are in close contention with the RN or RAF team for the SAS Cup; normally their athletes would be assigned throughout Groups 1 to 4. The Race Committee may thus decide to split equally all Inter Service athletes between Groups 1 and 2 and allow Army team "X" to have two athletes in Group 1 and their other two in Groups 3 and 4.
  - 2.11.1.3 There may then be a degree of unfairness in that Team "X" may be in close contention with another Army team ("Y") for the Kentish Cup or with a team ("Z") for the Marina. In this case changes to the Groups for teams "Y" and "Z" may be necessary to ensure a fair balance. This may then begin to affect the balance for Inter Corps teams.
  - 2.11.1.4 Experience has shown that only the top 4 or 5 teams in any competition will have to have their seeding adjusted and that it will normally be to their advantage.
- 2.12 **Mass Start Competitions.** The Championship Committee will determine in advance whether the assignment of start numbers for a Mass Start will be made either by a standard random draw within seeding groups or by seeding based on the finishing place in a qualifying competition. The start number designates the start position for each competitor; see Rules 3.6.1.4 and 3.6.2.6.
- 2.13 **Pursuit Competitions.**
- 2.13.1 **Biathlon and XC with a Break.** No draw shall be conducted for the Biathlon Pursuit or the second part of XC Pursuit competition with a break. Competitors are assigned start numbers and times based on the results of the qualifying competition. Competitors will start in the same order in which they finished the qualifying competition, beginning with the winner as Start Number 1 at a start time of zero (0); remaining competitors will start at the time they were behind the winner rounded to the nearest second. (See Rule 3.6.1.3 and 3.6.2.3).
  - 2.13.2 **XC without a Break.** A normal draw within seeding groups will be conducted.

## RELAY

- 2.14 Where there is comparative evidence available from earlier competitions or at previous Championships in the same season, teams will be seeded for the assignment of start numbers. Teams will either be seeded into groups, the same size as the number of start lanes, within which a random draw will be made; or, if sufficiently detailed evidence is available, they will be seeded individually. Otherwise a random draw will be made from all teams. HC, as opposed to Guest, teams should all start to the rear of competitive teams.
- 2.15 The assigned start number designates each team's start position.
- 2.16 A relay team consists of 3 or 4 competitors, according to the competition format, of whom each may only ski one leg.