



# SCORING BASICS

## 1. THE PRIME DIRECTIVE TO JUDGES IN APPLYING A SCORE:

- Judges are to rank the units.
- Judges are to rate the units by the comparative scores earned during the course of the contest.
- Judges are to aid the units to improve through comments

## 2. THE "SCORE" HAS 3 COMPONENTS: RANKING, RATING, AND SPREAD BETWEEN COMPETITORS

- The actual relevance of ranking, rating and spread occurs during the comparison of **the scores assigned to ALL of the units in the contest.**

## 3. THE SCORING PROCESS INVOLVES 4 STAGES:

- **Impression = Verbal commentary:** Judge forms an impression of where unit falls in the criteria.
- **Analysis = Criteria reference:** Judge uses criteria reference to refine the specific range and begins to compare competitors in that range.
- **Comparison = Sub Caption Tote and Scoring Worksheet:** Judge compares to other units in the range, determines ranking and then determines amount of spread between competitors in each sub-caption.
- **Adjustment = Spread Guidelines:** Judge continues to monitor spreads between competitors during the course of the round and makes minor adjustments when necessary to facilitate the proper spreads **utilizing the "Spread Guidelines:"**

<i>Sub-caption Spreads (tenths)</i>	<i>Insignificant Differences 0 to 1</i>	<i>Slight Differences 2 to 3</i>	<i>Moderate Differences 4 to 6</i>	<i>Significant Differences 7 or more</i>
-------------------------------------	---	----------------------------------	------------------------------------	--

\*( A CLASS equipment and movement 70/130 scoring uses different spread guidelines)

## 4. THE CRITERIA REFERENCE SCALES ARE TOOLS TO ASSIST IN THIS PROCESS. The use of the criteria reference scales do NOT take precedence over the judges' primary responsibility of ranking and rating.

- The actual score has meaning only in relation to other units within the same range. Subdividing any range into "thirds" is a tool to assist in the application of the scale.

### SOCAL A.AA "BOX DIVISIONS" (box 4-5 example)

<i>Some of the criteria some of the time</i>	<b>MOST OF BOX 4 CRITERIA MOST OF THE TIME</b>	<i>All of the criteria most of the time</i>	<b>MOST OF BOX 5 CRITERIA MOST OF THE TIME</b>
<b>60 - 70</b>	<b>71-80</b>	<b>81 - 89</b>	<b>90</b> →
Lower third	Middle third	Upper third	

### WGI A, OPEN & WORLD "BOX DIVISIONS"(box 4-5 example)

<i>Some of the criteria some of the time</i>	<b>MEETS BOX 4 CRITERIA MOST OF THE TIME</b>	<i>All of the criteria all of the time</i>	<b>MEETS ALL OF BOX 5 CRITERIA ALL THE TIME</b>
<b>60 - 70</b>	<b>71-80</b>	<b>81 - 89</b>	<b>90</b> →
Lower third	Middle third	Upper third	<b>All criteria must be met to ENTER this box</b>

# SCORING BASICS

## 5. CONTEST DYNAMICS = QUALITY, NUMBER OF UNITS, AND ORDER OF APPEARANCE

- Scoring is MOST ACCURATE when classification ensures that units with similar skill sets are grouped together.
- A large number of units can force scores up even if they don't fit the standard for that scoring range. *Problems arise when units take this score as "written in stone" and are upset when it goes down (example: WGI Regionals where round can be 15 units)*
- If units are similar, the challenge is accurate rating with proper spread within the limited number of points available for that level of achievement ("over-crowding").
- If units clearly fall into separate neighborhoods, the challenge is accurate reflection of differences through spreads and scoring range.
  - "Significant" differences might be artificially compressed in order to minimize perceived "over-reactions" or one judge/caption "calling the contest."
- In the WGI classes, many units may achieve the criteria for box 4 at mid season but do not meet ALL the criteria for box 5. Because all criteria for box 5 **must be met before entering that box**, scores often "stall" at the middle and top of box 4 ("bottlenecking").
- For the Regional classes, Judges need to be comfortable applying SOCAL A.AA box divisions which allow entry into box 5 when that criteria is met "most of the time."

## 6. OVER-CROWDING / BOTTLENECKING AT ANY AREA OF THE SCALE REDUCES THE EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCURACY OF THE JUDGING PROCESS:

- Criteria can no longer assist with making distinctions between units because majority fall into same descriptive range.
- Spread guidelines can no longer be applied because there isn't enough room.
  - Scoring becomes simply a matter of ranking and actual differences between guards can not be reflected.
  - Increases possibility that spreads will be applied differently and one judge/caption can call the contest.