

Talking points of the new scoring system

Q: Why did you change the scoring system?

A: The new point system favors increased participation amongst various members of a field, regardless of sex or age. The number of potential entrants into the "individual events" has been increase from 1 to 4 individuals. Every entrant scores, (provided they are not DQ'ed). This scoring system encourages participation from not just the superstar at each filed, but from a much larger number of competitors. Since 4 competitors can score in each individual event, it is advantageous for each team to enter all 4 persons. Those 2nd, 3rd, and 4th competitors for each team become increasingly important. Fill up the events with whomever you can. It's your team, you decide.

The points for finishes will be as follows:

1-20

2-17

3-14

4-12

5-11

6-10

7-9

8-8

9-7

10-6

11 through 48 get 3 points each

Q: How come women (or age groups) don't score, that doesn't seem fair?

A: We believe that the new scoring system approaches scoring in a gender and age neutral way, and looks at our corps as being composed of LIFEGUARDS who all take and pass the same test regardless of sex or age.

We believe that to score women or age groups separately makes a negative assumption that older or female guards just can't be competitive.

Tell the 45-year-old pair that wins the row that they are too old to be competitive after they win the event. Tell the girl that wins the ocean swim that she's just a girl and must compete only against other women. Try to convince the team that has the 90-pound female victim that women are not able to compete with the men and should therefore be counted separately.

The truth is, every team will have its strong suits. We are all lifeguards, and while some fields may have youth on their side, this is tempered by the wisdom and experience that come with age. Isn't this one of the main arguments we use when defending the composition of our lifeguard corps to the State? Do these words only apply then, or do we actually believe them!

Q: I don't like the new system. Who can I complain to?

A: Keep your complaints to yourself. Instead, join the committee, and show up to the meetings. Your voice will be heard, and your vote will count. You can be involved in the countless hours of debate we went through next year.

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