

INTERNATIONAL BLIND SPORTS FEDERATION

SHOWDOWN SPORT COMMITTEE

GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS AWARDING RANKING POINTS



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INTRODUCTION

The present guidelines, set forth by the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee and approved by the IBSA Executive Board, are in force from 18th January 2024, and shall be followed by Organizers of international tournaments meant to award points for the International Ranking List, hereafter referred to as tournaments.

GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Types of Tournaments

There are 4 levels of Showdown Tournaments awarding ranking points:

- National Tournaments;
- International Tournaments (not IBSA sanctioned);
- Top Twelve (not IBSA sanctioned);
- IBSA Sanctioned Events:
 - Para Youth Games;
 - World and Continental Championships;
 - IBSA World Games.

Eligible Players

Players with visual impairment provided by IBSA standards (B1, B2, B3) are allowed to take part in tournaments awarding ranking points.

Documents proving their level of visual impairment must be produced to the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee or to ISAS, depending on the level of the tournament.

For **International Tournaments** and **Top Twelve** the VI documentation to provide may be either:

- 1) For players who have already been classified by IBSA, ISAS Classification Master List will be verified
or
- 2) National classification
or
- 3) Official documents released by a local public body.

It is mandatory to send the VI documentation to the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee and

cc to the Organizer within the tournament's registration deadline.

For **IBSA sanctioned events** it is mandatory to upload the VI documentation in the IBSA Sport Administration System (ISAS) six weeks before the tournament starts.

Coaches/Referees

People being both coaches and referees, from 1st September 2020, they shall decide their role for the next 2 years and communicate their decision to the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee.

Referees

Organizers shall choose referees only from the list provided by the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee.

In agreement with the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee, new referees may be called, provided that their number shall not be greater than 25 percent of the referees present at that tournament.

The number of referees shall be twice the number of tables used in the tournament.

Organizers shall provide referees with accommodation and board, as well as cover their travel costs.

Organizers must offer double/triple/quadruple room accommodation and full board. Travel solutions can be arranged, booked, and sent by Organizers or arranged and booked by the referee. In any case, no final booking must be done without a previous agreement between referee and Organizers.

If the referee buys the tickets by own costs, Organizers must refund the travel costs within a week from the end of the event.

Referees must provide all the necessary documents for the refund: flight tickets/travel

costs receipts, bank account details (name, surname, address, IBAN and BIC).

All technical officials should be paid a per diem (amount which is not less than the one stated in the IBSA COMPETITION - APPLICATION FOR SANCTION APPROVAL) from the day of arrival to the day of departure.

Among the referees, Organizers shall appoint in agreement with IBSA Showdown Sport Committee the Head Referee and the Vice Head Referee for the tournament.

Organizers shall send the list of referees and players (with their nationality) and the match schedule to the Head and Vice Head Referee one week before the tournament. So they can assign the referees to the matches and schedule their work for the event.

Organizational Rules

The balls used shall be chosen between the ones approved by the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee.

If organizers wish to play with a ball which has not been approved, a dispense shall be asked for to the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee. In case of a positive reply, the use of that ball shall be communicated in the invitation to the tournament.

Matches shall be played over a time span no longer than 11 hours per day, plus one hour break to have lunch.

Matches must finish on Saturday. Sunday will be dedicated only to departures.

The set of rules in force must be applied in any International Tournament awarding ranking points.

The minimum scheduled duration of a best of three sets match is 25 minutes.

The minimum scheduled duration of a best of five sets match is 45 minutes.

Appeals

The Appeal Committee has the tasks to make a decision in case of an appeal.

The subject of appeals submitted to the Appeal Committee, must regard only IBSA

Showdown Rules of Play, Equipment Specifications and Team Play Rules.

The Appeal Committee is composed by the Head Referee (or Vice Head Referee), an Organization's delegate and an athlete voted by the public in the technical meeting.

Appeals in the Tournaments must be submitted in writing in English and delivered together with the appeal fee to the Head Referee, within 30 minutes after publication of results. The appeal fee is 50 EUR or equal amount in the local currency. The Appeal Committee will then decide on the matter. The decision must be put into writing as well. If the appeal is rejected, the appeal fee will not be returned and will be cashed in by IBSA Executive Board; if the appeal is accepted the appeal fee will be returned to the appellant.

The decision of the Appeal Committee is final.

Playing System

The Organizer, in consultation with the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee shall determine the playing system of the tournament. The competition must follow the guidelines approved by the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee to award points for the international ranking system.

While making playing systems and schedules for international tournaments, organizers shall refer to the ranking list updated 15 days before the tournament.

The list of players cannot be changed after the refund deadline set by Organizers. The playing system will be based on that list. Absent players will be inserted in the playing system anyway, they will lose their matches by default and no ranking points will be awarded to them at the end of the tournament. Any dispense shall be agreed with the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee.

Mixed tournaments are not allowed. Any dispense shall be agreed with the IBSA Showdown Sport Committee.

One playing system for gentlemen and one for ladies must be developed.

Two types of Playing System may be used: Round-robin or Multi-stage Pool System.

Depending on the number of players, it is allowed to use in the same tournament different types of playing system for ladies and gentlemen, example: ladies playing system round-robin, gentlemen playing system multi-stage pool.

Round-robin System

In the Round-robin system, each participant plays against every other participant once. Players will be inserted in the unique pool, from the first to the last, following the ranking list (see Appendix A).

The schedule of the matches must follow the pattern shown in Appendix B.

All the matches will be played best of 3 sets, except for Top Twelve's matches played best of 5.

Points awarding

- 1 point for a won match
- 0 point for a lost match

In case of 2 or more players with the same points, their placements will be determined by considering the following, in turn:

1) Equal score between 2 athletes:

- a) Results of the matches played by the involved players among them
- b) Set difference concerning matches played by involved players among them
- c) Points difference concerning matches played by involved players among them
- d) Points difference concerning all matches played in the pool among all the players in that pool.
- e) Draw

2) Equal score between 3 or more athletes, the following will be adopted:

- a) Results of the matches played by the involved players among them
- b) Set difference concerning matches played by involved players among them
- c) Points difference concerning matches played by involved players among them
- d) Points difference concerning all matches played in the pool among all the players in that pool.
- e) Draw

It is specified that in the application of point 2 (Equal score between 3 or more athletes), if two athletes remain in a tied situation, point 1 (Equal score between 2 athletes) must be adopted starting from letter a) to determine their final position.

In any group, players from the same Country must play against each other in the first match of the round.

Appendix A

Example of 6 athletes:

RNK	Position
01	1
02	2
03	3
04	4
05	5
06	6...

Appendix B

1) Order of matches in group including 3 players

2-3, 3-1, 1-2

2) Order of matches in group including 4 players

1-4, 2-3, 3-1, 2-4, 4-3, 1-2,

3) Order of matches in a group including 5 players

2-4, 5-3, 4-1, 5-2, 3-1, 4-5, 1-5, 2-3, 3-4, 1-2

4) Order of matches in a group including 6 players

1-6, 2-4, 3-5, 4-1, 2-5, 6-3, 1-5, 2-3, 4-6, 3-1, 6-2, 5-4, 5-6, 3-4, 1-2

5) Order of matches in a group including 7 players

2-7, 3-6, 4-5, 7-1, 6-4, 5-3, 1-6, 2-5, 3-7, 5-1, 6-2, 7-4, 1-4, 2-3, 6-7, 4-2, 3-1, 7-5, 5-6, 4-3, 1-2

6) Order of matches in a group including 8 players

1-8, 2-7, 3-6, 4-5, 8-2, 7-1, 6-4, 5-3, 1-6, 2-5, 3-7, 4-8, 5-1, 2-6, 4-7, 8-3, 1-4, 2-3, 5-8, 6-7, 3-1, 4-2, 7-5, 8-6, 7-8, 6-5, 3-4, 1-2

7) Order of matches in a group including 9 players

2-9, 8-3, 4-6, 7-5, 8-1, 5-2, 3-7, 6-9, 1-9, 2-7, 6-3, 4-8, 5-1, 8-2, 9-4, 6-7, 1-6, 5-3, 4-7, 9-8, 7-1, 2-6, 9-3, 4-5, 1-4, 3-2, 8-5, 7-9, 3-1, 2-4, 9-5, 6-8, 7-8, 5-6, 3-4, 1-2

8) Order of matches in a group including 10 players

1-10, 2-9, 3-8, 4-6, 5-7, 8-1, 2-5, 7-3, 10-4, 9-6, 1-9, 2-7, 3-6, 4-8, 5-10, 5-1, 8-2, 10-3, 4-9, 6-7, 1-6, 2-10, 3-5, 4-7, 8-9, 7-1, 6-2, 9-3, 5-4, 10-8, 1-4, 2-3, 5-8, 7-9, 6-10, 3-1, 4-2, 9-5, 8-6, 10-7, 9-10, 7-8, 6-5, 3-4, 1-2

9) Order of matches in a group including 11 players

2-11, 3-10, 4-9, 5-8, 6-7, 11-1, 10-2, 8-4, 7-5, 9-6, 1-10, 3-11, 4-7, 5-9, 6-8, 9-1, 8-2, 7-3,

11-5, 10-6, 1-8, 2-7, 3-9, 4-11, 10-5, 7-1, 9-2, 8-3, 10-4, 6-11, 1-6, 2-4, 3-5, 8-10, 9-11
4-1, 5-2, 6-3, 10-7, 11-8, 5-1, 2-3, 4-6, 11-7, 8-9, 1-3, 2-6, 5-4, 7-9, 11-10, 9-10, 7-8, 6-5,
3-4, 1-2

10) Order of matches in a group including 12 players

1-12, 2-11, 3-10, 4-9, 5-8, 6-7, 11-1, 10-2, 12-3, 4-8, 7-5, 9-6, 1-10, 2-12, 3-11, 4-7, 5-9,
6-8, 9-1, 8-2, 3-7, 12-4, 11-5, 10-6, 1-8, 2-7, 3-9, 4-11, 5-10, 6-12, 7-1, 9-2, 8-3, 10-4, 12-5,
6-11, 1-6, 2-4, 3-5, 7-12, 8-10, 9-11, 4-1, 5-2, 6-3, 10-7, 11-8, 12-9, 5-1, 2-3, 4-6, 11-7, 8-9,
10-12, 1-3, 2-6, 5-4, 7-9, 8-12, 11-10, 12-11, 9-10, 7-8, 6-5, 3-4, 1-2

Multi-stage Pool System

First round

Pools shall include players selected following the ranking list, according to the pattern hereafter:

- First places: Starting with the first player, in pool A; second player, in pool B, etc until place 1 of the last pool;
- Second places: following a reverse order starting from the last pool to pool A;
- Third places: starting again with pool A etc. (see e.g. in appendix A).

Players who are not in the ranking list shall be included in pools by draw, after players who have ranking points.

From a **minimum of 40 percent** to a **maximum of roughly 60 percent** of the total number of players shall go through to the second round.

Second round

2 or 4 or 8 pools shall be formed, according to the number of players.

The two or four or eight pools will include players taken from the first round according to a cross pattern (see e.g. in Appendix B).

For match sequences within a pool, see Appendix C.

Finals

From quarter-finals, matches shall be played at best of five sets.

Points awarding

- 1 point for a won match
- 0 point for a lost match.

In case of 2 or more players with the same points in the same group, their placements will be determined by considering the following, in turn:

1) Equal score between 2 Athletes:

- f) Results of the matches played by the involved players among them
- g) Set difference concerning matches played by involved players among them
- h) Points difference concerning matches played by involved players among them
- i) Draw

2) Equal score between 3 or more Athletes, the following will be adopted:

- f) Results of the matches played by the involved players among them
- g) Set difference concerning matches played by involved players among them
- h) Points difference concerning matches played by involved players among them
- i) Draw

It is specified that in the application of point 2 (Equal score between 3 or more athletes), if two athletes remain in a tied situation, point 1 (Equal score between 2 athletes) must be adopted starting from letter a) to determine their final position.

Appendix A - Pools First Round

Example 1: 4 pools

RNK - POOL

01 - A1

02 - B1

03 - C1

04 - D1

05 - D2

06 - C2

07 - B2

08 - A2

09 - A3 ...

Example 2: 6 pools

RNK - POOL

01 - A1

- 02 - B1
- 03 - C1
- 04 - D1
- 05 - E1
- 06 - F1
- 07 - F2
- 08 - E2
- 09 - D2
- 10 - C2
- 11 - B2
- 12 - A2
- 13 - A3 ...

Appendix B - Pools Second Round

Example 1:

Pool 1 second round: A1 - C1 - D2 - B2 - A3....

Pool 2 second round: B1 - D1 - C2 - A2 - B3....

Example 2:

Pool 1 second round: A1 - C1 - E1 - F2 - D2 - B2 - A3....

Pool 2 second round: B1 - D1 - F1 - E2 - C2 - A2 - B3....

Final Crossings

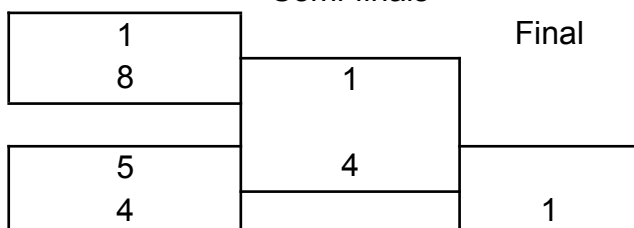
Second Round with 2 Pools	
A	B
1 = A1	2 = B1
4 = A2	3 = B2
6 = A3	5 = B3
7 = A4	8 = B4

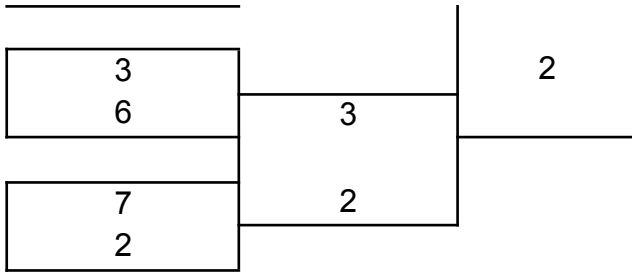
Second Round with 4 Pools			
A	B	C	D
1 = A1	2 = B1	3 = C1	4 = D1
5 = A2	6 = B2	7 = C2	8 = D2

Quarter finals

Semi-finals

Final





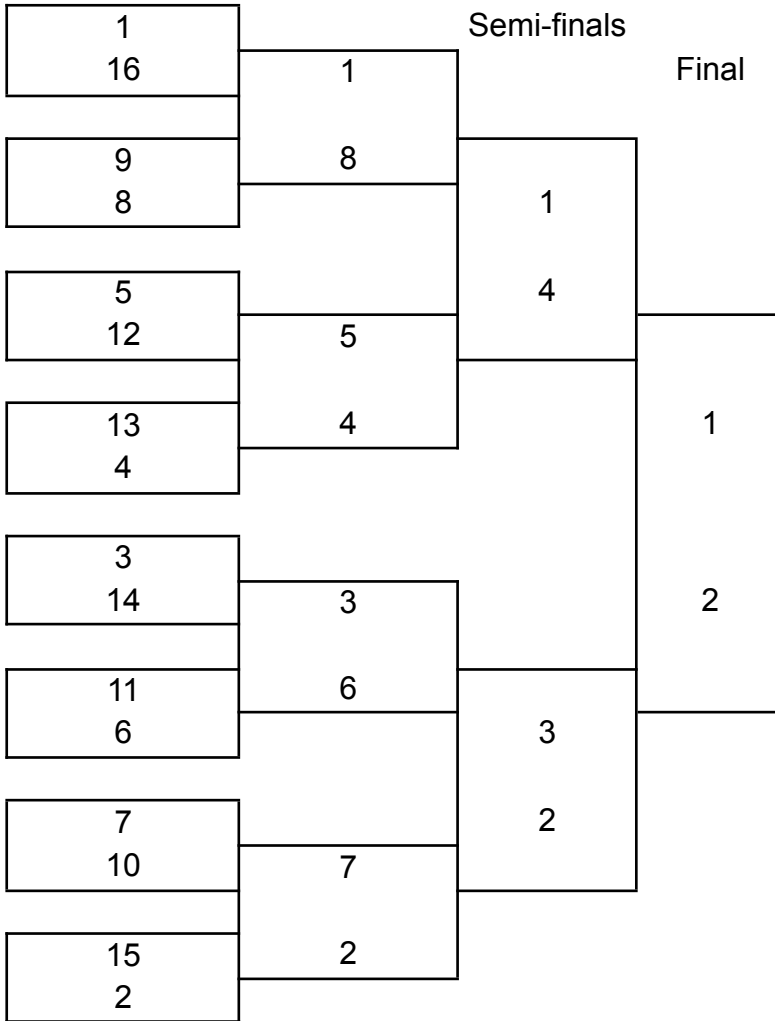
Second Round with 8 Pools							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1 = A1	2 = B1	3 = C1	4 = D1	5 = E1	6 = F1	7 = G1	8 = H1
9 = A2	10 = B2	11 = C2	12 = D2	13 = E2	14 = F2	15 = G2	16 = H2

Eighth finals

Quarter finals

Semi-finals

Final



Appendix C

1) Order of matches in groups including 3 players

Round 1: 2-3

Round 2: 3-1

Round 3: 1-2

2) Order of matches in groups including 4 players

Round 1: 1-4, 2-3

Round 2: 3-1, 2-4

Round 3: 1-2, 4-3

3) Order of matches in a group including 5 players

Round 1: 2-4, 5-3

Round 2: 4-1, 5-2

Round 3: 3-1, 4-5

Round 4: 1-5, 2-3

Round 5: 1-2, 3-4

4) Order of matches in a group including 6 players

Round 1: 1-6, 2-4, 3-5

Round 2: 4-1, 2-5, 6-3

Round 3: 1-5, 2-3, 4-6

Round 4: 3-1, 6-2, 5-4

Round 5: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6

5) Order of matches in a group including 7 players

Round 1: 2-7, 3-6, 4-5

Round 2: 7-1, 6-4, 5-3

Round 3: 1-6, 2-5, 3-7

Round 4: 5-1, 6-2, 7-4

Round 5: 1-4, 2-3, 6-7

Round 6: 4-2, 3-1, 7-5

Round 7: 1-2, 4-3, 5-6

6) Order of matches in a group including 8 players

Round 1: 1-8, 2-7, 3-6, 4-5

Round 2: 8-2, 7-1, 6-4, 5-3

Round 3: 1-6, 2-5, 3-7, 4-8

Round 4: 5-1, 2-6, 4-7, 8-3

Round 5: 1-4, 2-3, 5-8, 6-7

Round 6: 3-1, 4-2, 7-5, 8-6

Round 7: 1-2, 3-4, 6-5, 7-8

7) Order of matches in a group including 9 players

Round 1: 2-9, 8-3, 4-6, 7-5
Round 2: 8-1, 5-2, 3-7, 6-9
Round 3: 1-9, 2-7, 6-3, 4-8
Round 4: 5-1, 8-2, 9-4, 6-7
Round 5: 1-6, 5-3, 4-7, 9-8
Round 6: 7-1, 2-6, 9-3, 4-5
Round 7: 1-4, 3-2, 8-5, 7-9
Round 8: 3-1, 2-4, 9-5, 6-8
Round 9: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

8) Order of matches in a group including 10 players

Round 1: 1-10, 2-9, 3-8, 4-6, 5-7
Round 2: 8-1, 2-5, 7-3, 10-4, 9-6
Round 3: 1-9, 2-7, 3-6, 4-8, 5-10
Round 4: 5-1, 8-2, 10-3, 4-9, 6-7
Round 5: 1-6, 2-10, 3-5, 4-7, 8-9
Round 6: 7-1, 6-2, 9-3, 5-4, 10-8
Round 7: 1-4, 2-3, 5-8, 7-9, 6-10
Round 8: 3-1, 4-2, 9-5, 8-6, 10-7
Round 9: 1-2, 3-4, 6-5, 7-8, 9-10

9) Order of matches in a group including 11 players

Round 01: 2-11, 3-10, 4-9, 5-8, 6-7
Round 02: 11-1, 10-2, 8-4, 7-5, 9-6
Round 03: 1-10, 3-11, 4-7, 5-9, 6-8
Round 04: 9-1, 8-2, 7-3, 11-5, 10-6
Round 05: 1-8, 2-7, 3-9, 4-11, 10-5
Round 06: 7-1, 9-2, 8-3, 10-4, 6-11
Round 07: 1-6, 2-4, 3-5, 8-10, 9-11
Round 08: 4-1, 5-2, 6-3, 10-7, 11-8
Round 09: 5-1, 2-3, 4-6, 11-7, 8-9
Round 10: 1-3, 2-6, 5-4, 7-9, 11-10
Round 11: 1-2, 3-4, 6-5, 7-8, 9-10

10) Order of matches in a group including 12 players

Round 01: 1-12, 2-11, 3-10, 4-9, 5-8, 6-7
Round 02: 11-1, 10-2, 12-3, 4-8, 7-5, 9-6
Round 03: 1-10, 2-12, 3-11, 4-7, 5-9, 6-8
Round 04: 9-1, 8-2, 3-7, 12-4, 11-5, 10-6
Round 05: 1-8, 2-7, 3-9, 4-11, 5-10, 6-12
Round 06: 7-1, 9-2, 8-3, 10-4, 12-5, 6-11
Round 07: 1-6, 2-4, 3-5, 7-12, 8-10, 9-11
Round 08: 4-1, 5-2, 6-3, 10-7, 11-8, 12-9
Round 09: 5-1, 2-3, 4-6, 11-7, 8-9, 10-12
Round 10: 1-3, 2-6, 5-4, 7-9, 8-12, 11-10
Round 11: 1-2, 3-4, 6-5, 7-8, 9-10, 12-11

IBSA Sanctioned Events

For IBSA Sanctioned Events pools and match schedule shall be made according to the ranking list updated at the moment when the list including the names of participants is issued.

In the Continental Championships, if a country does not have enough players to play the Team Competition (depending on coefficients), it is authorized to add to its team the sufficient number of players taken from the ranking list. If a country does not have any athlete in the ranking list, players appointed by the National Federation will be authorized to participate. These players must play only in the Team Competition.

Top Twelve

The match schedule of European Top Twelve shall refer to the ranking list updated to 31 August, prior to the date of the tournament itself.

Players entitled to participate in the Top Twelve are **the best 12 ranked in the IBSA International Ranking List** every 31 August of every year. In case of the withdrawal of participation of one of the entitled players, the Organizer will invite the first next on the ranking list (e.g. 13th, 14th and so on).

Conclusion

In tournaments the first 30 players will be awarded with international ranking points (see: Guidelines for ranking list management).

Bearing in mind the rules mentioned above, the Sport Committee recommendation is to let athletes play as much as possible.

GUIDELINES FOR RANKING LIST MANAGEMENT

Ranking List Management

After a tournament or event ranking points are awarded to the top 30 players.

International Tournament

Final results of the Tournament must be communicated to the Showdown Sport Committee right after the event in order to update the ranking list.

In case a tournament is not taking place in the usual period of the year, points awarded for the previous edition of that tournament are taken away at the scheduled date, unless it is known it will be postponed.

The number of ranking points awarded to the winner of an international tournament is proportional to the number of players included among the top 20 players in the ranking list, before that tournament, as mentioned below:

- a) 1-2 players out of top 20: Tournament **Category I**
- b) 3-5 players out of top 20: Tournament **Category II**
- c) 6-9 players out of top 20: Tournament **Category III**
- d) 10 or more players out of top 20 and Top Twelve: Tournament **Category IV**
- e) IBSA Sanctioned Events: Tournament **Category V**

Points awarding:

Category I Points: 100 80 60 50 45 40 36 32 28 26 24 22 20 18 16 15 14 ...

Category II Points: 200 160 120 100 90 80 72 64 56 52 48 44 40 36 32 30 28 ...

Category III Points: 300 240 180 150 135 120 108 96 84 78 72 66 60 54 48 45 42 ...

Category IV Points: 400 320 240 200 180 160 144 128 112 104 96 88 80 72 64 60 56 ...

Category V Points: 500 400 300 250 225 200 180 160 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 75 70...

In case more players have the same number of ranking points, their respective place is determined:

- a) By the average points/tournaments;
- b) The placement in the previous international tournaments.

National Tournament

Countries who are organizing national championships approved by their federations must follow international IBSA Showdown rules. If not, participating players will not get points for the official ranking system.

Final results and playing system of the Tournament must be communicated to the Showdown Sport Committee right after the event in order to update the ranking list.

In case NC is not taking place, points awarded for the previous year are canceled on 31st of December of the year the NC has not been held.

Category I points will be awarded to the first 30 participants to the NC.

Team Tournaments

In the IBSA Sanctioned Events: IBSA World Games, World Championships and Continental Championships, points will be awarded to the Teams (one for country) following the points of **Category I**.

Points awarding:

Category I Points: 100 80 60 50 45 40 36 32 28 26 24 22 20 18 16 15 14 ...