

Weighting Factors and Contest Factors ...What Does It All Mean?

NOTE: The terms contest, meet and event are used somewhat interchangeably.

GENERAL

The NAR promulgates the United States Model Rocket Sporting Code (USMRSC), affectionately known as the 'Pink Book', which governs NAR sanctioned model rocket competition in the United States. An online version is available on the NAR web site. There is a link on the TCC home page (<http://www.tccnar.us>). You can also download the document.

Contest Directors must be very familiar with the Pink Book. Read from About the Sporting Code through section 18: Provisional Competition. Also read the rules for the events you are hosting.

Any NAR section or member can request a contest sanction from their Regional Contest Board Chairman. Texas is in the Southwest Region and our chairman is Terry White.

The NAR contest year runs from 1 JUL to 30 JUN of each year. (Rule 6.2)

COMPETITION POINTS

Competition Points are awarded for places 1-4, and for Flight Points (Rule 13.1)

10 points per event for placing first

6 points per event for placing second

4 points per event for placing third

2 points per event for placing fourth

1 point per event for making at least one qualified, official flight (flight points)

WEIGHTING FACTORS AND CONTEST FACTORS

Each event in a contest has a Weighting Factor (Rule 13.3) and each contest has a maximum Contest Factor (Rule 13.4). Points for each event are calculated by multiplying the Competition Points by the event Weighting Factor by the meet Contest Factor. Thus the NAR limits the points that can be won at a particular contest.

There are four types of contests which can be sanctioned. Record Trials and the national meet (NARAM) are special cases that are treated separately. Each contest type has a contest factor assigned and a maximum number of weighting factors.

Section 1 CF and 40 WF

Local 1 CF and 40 WF

Open 2 CF and 60 WF

Regional 3 and 80 WF

SCORING

Rule 13.5 reads in part: For example, a contestant places first in Scale Competition at an Open Meet. First place gives the contestant 10 points; Scale has a Weighting Factor of 32; and an Open Meet has a Contest Factor of 2. Multiply $10 \times 32 \times 2$ to obtain the number of competition points to be awarded to the contestant for the event: 640 points.

Here is the sticky point for scheduling contests. Each NAR section and member can only host/compete in a total of 12 contest factors in a contest year. If four sections each host a regional in a year, each would have only used 3 contest factors. However, if each section had at least 1 member who officially represented that section in each regional, then each section would have used up all 12 contest factors. To maximize points, each section must carefully monitor which contests their members enter as officially representing the section. The more members who are competing, the more points are won.

Thus, the NAR regulates (to some extent) the number of points that one section/member can win in a contest year. A section or member has only 12 contest factors per contest year. When even ONE section member officially represents a section that section and the member are each charged for the contest factors for that meet.

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