

USWRA News Bulletin



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Re: USWRA Supercourse Pacesetter Program

USWRA Supercourse Pacesetter Program

Overview

The USWRA Supercourse Pacesetter Program is an opportunity for participants to be involved in a national handicap ranking system. This is not to be confused with the USWRA Top 100 list. The Top 100 list ranks racers in a class based on finish position. The Pacesetter Program provides a comparison based on your overall race time. Racers can gauge performance with other racers in their class compared to the National Pacesetter and hence with others throughout the nation.

Any current IJSBA or IJSBA-Affiliate promoter and racer may participate in the Pacesetter Program. Promoters that choose to participate need to contact the USWRA. All racers that participate in a recognized Pacesetter event will automatically receive a USWRA Pacesetter handicap.

Handicap results will be posted on www.uswra.com.

As you read this, if it seems confusing, don't worry. We will do all the calculating. All the racer has to do is just race like always. There is no additional cost or effort required on the part of the racer.

What is a handicap?

A handicap represents the percent slower (or faster) that a racer is from the Pacesetter.

How does a racer participate in the USWRA Pacesetter program?

It takes no additional effort or fees on your part as a racer. You just pay your entry fees to your promoter and race like you always do. Your participation will be recognized when the promoter (any IJSBA or IJSBA-Affiliate promoter) who has chosen to participate in the program provides results to the USWRA in the recognized USWRA format. The USWRA will then calculate handicaps for all racers that receive a race time and post them on www.uswra.com.

How does a promoter participate in the USWRA Pacesetter program?

Any IJSBA or IJSBA-Affiliate promoter is eligible to participate in the program. There are no additional fees for the promoter who provides results in the USWRA recognized timing and scoring format¹. This format is compatible with the current Competition Manager or Aquascore scoring programs and will provide detailed rider information. The only requirements are to publicize the race as a USWRA Pacesetter event, provide the requisite sponsor delivery and provide time results to the USWRA.

What is the value for racers to participate?

It gives all racers an opportunity to gauge their performance against other racers in the country. The USWRA Pacesetter Program in conjunction with the USWRA Top 100 list provides the rider with two forms of performance information and comparison.

The Top 100 list is based on your finish position and how you performed for that race against other riders for that event and other events. The Pacesetter program is based on the time it took for you to finish a race and is then compared against the National Pacesetter time or Par-Time.

This Par-Time represents the time it would have taken the recognized National Pacesetter to compete in that race. With a common comparison time, all racer times can be handicapped or compared against each other regardless of where and when an event occurred or what the conditions were.

A rider will receive:

1. A class handicap based on Par-Time for that event.
2. A national handicap based on the National Pacesetter handicap.
3. An average national handicap when the rider participates in more than one event in the season.

What is a National Pacesetter?

The National Pacesetter is the person with the best time/finish in a class at a once-a-year designated National Pacesetter event. This individual receives a handicap of "0" or Par.

Who can attempt to become a National Pacesetter?

For 2005 – The National Pacesetter for 2005 will be the highest placing finisher in the respective class from the 2004 Supercourse National Championship.

For 2006 – There will be a designated National Pacesetter event in 2005.

¹ The timing and scoring format requires lap times and total race times on each racer.

What happens to the other finishers beyond 1st Place at the National Pacesetter event?

All other participants will receive a handicap based on their individual times relative to the 1st place finisher. The following is an example.

The 1st place finisher's race time (Racer A) is 10 minutes and is recognized as the National Pacesetter for that class with a handicap of "0" or Par. The 2nd place finisher's time (Racer B) is 10:05 and is 1% slower than the 1st place finisher and has a handicap of 1. The 3rd place finisher's time (Racer C) is 10:10 and is 2% slower than the 1st place finisher and has a handicap of 2.

All the finishers are grouped together in their finish order within their respective regions. The highest placing finisher for each region within the class (with the lowest handicap) will be recognized as the Region Pacesetter. Each racer in descending order of finish (or next highest handicap) will be the next alternate Region Pacesetter (i.e. 1st Alternate, 2nd Alternate, etc.)

2005 – Regional Pacesetters

Regional Pacesetters for 2005 will be based on class finish order from the 2004 Supercourse National Championship. The winner in the class will receive a handicap of "0". The remaining riders will receive a handicap based on the percent slower time from the winner.

What does the Region Pacesetter do?

The Region Pacesetter is responsible for establishing the Par-Time for a particular class at a particular event.

All racers for that event in that class will be running against the Par-Time set by the Pacesetter in addition to the regular ordered finish for awards. If there are two or more rounds for the weekend, the Pacesetters will run each day to account for any course, weather or other changes that may have occurred.

How does the Region Pacesetter establish the Par-Time?

The promoter will designate and post, before an event begins, who the recognized Region Pacesetter is for each class. All Pacesetters must have run the National Pacesetter Event (except for 2005 season). However, if the Regional Pacesetter is unavailable, the promoter may designate the next alternate Pacesetter for that class.

After the course is set and before racing begins, the designated Regional Pacesetters for each of the classes will run the course or Par-Race and establish the Par-Time for that event. If the National Pacesetter is in attendance, he/she shall also run the Par-Race. Each Pacesetter will receive a staggered start so as not to create interference for any of the other Pacesetters.

There will be one Ski Pacesetter's Par-Race and one Runabout Pacesetter's Par-Race. The Runabout Par-Race will include all sit-down style PWC such as Sport and the 3-D in any configuration. (The 3-D will only be recognized in the Runabout class in any configuration.

If a recognized Pacesetter holds the Regional Pacesetter position for more than one class, he/she shall run the Par-Race only once and the same Par-Time will be used for each of the respective classes. If the National Pacesetter for the class is present and posts a faster time, that time shall be considered the Par-Time for the class.

How are Par-Times derived?

The Par-Race will consist of three laps from start-line to finish-line. The first lap time from the starting gate to the finish-line will be added to the fastest full lap time of the next two laps (finish-line to finish-line) multiplied by the total number of laps for each race to establish the overall Par-Time for that class.

For example, the race is 40 minutes plus two laps. If the Pacesetter's time for the first lap from the start line to finish-line took 1:45 and the next full lap took 2:00 minutes, and the next lap took 2:05 the total Par-Time would be 43:45 = (1:45 + (21 laps x 2:00)).

What does the National Pacesetter do?

This racer carries the distinction of National Pacesetter for one year or until the next National Pacesetter event. The National Pacesetter shall be recognized at any event he/she attends as the event pacesetter for that class. However, the recognized Regional Pacesetter for that class will also run the Par-Race and the faster time of the two will be the recognized Par-Time for that event.

The Regional Pacesetter can set a faster time. If this occurs the Regional Pacesetter's time will be used as the Par-Time for the event; but the National Pacesetter shall retain the distinction of National Pacesetter.

How is a racer's event handicap derived?

After the Par-Race has been run and the Par-Time has been established, racers will run their normal race and receive an event handicap based on their time behind (or ahead of) the Par-Time set by the Pacesetter.

It is possible that riders may be faster than the Par-Time set by the Pacesetter. If this should occur, those riders will receive a "0" for their event handicap.

How is a racer's National handicap derived?

The racer's event handicap will be added to the Region Pacesetter's handicap from the National Pacesetter event to determine their National handicap. For 2005 Region Pacesetter's handicap see 2005 – Region Pacesetters section.

For example, the Region Pacesetter's handicap is "3" and the racer's event handicap was "3". This racer would have a National handicap of "6".

National handicaps will be calculated from the start of a season through the Supercourse National Championship.

What will the racer receive?

In addition to event handicaps, a national handicap for each event and an average national handicap for participating in more than one event per season; the racers with the highest average national handicap in each class will be recognized at the USWRA Awards Ceremony.

For 2006 and beyond, the National Pacesetter will be recognized and receive an award as will the Regional Pacesetters. No alternate awards will be presented.

What is involved in generating the formatted results?

The USWRA will have the software to work in conjunction with the existing Competition Manager and Aquascore scoring programs. This software is applied at the Lap Counter position. It will require a computer and someone with a proficiency in 10-key operation.

The designated Lap Counter will start the timer at the beginning of the race. As each boat crosses the finish line, the boat number is recorded by the Lap Counter using the 10-key pad. As the boat number is entered, a corresponding lap-time will be recorded.

After the race is complete, the 10-keyed information will be processed to produce the lap charts with positions and lap times for each rider. This information can be used to verify the pencil and paper lap charts; after which, results can be entered into Competition Manager or Aquascore.

The 10-keyed data files are forwarded to the USWRA for calculation and verification of handicap values.