

FIH World Ranking System

1. Background

The FIH recognised a number of years ago that there was a requirement for an official FIH World Ranking System. The FIH Executive Board implemented an official World Ranking System in July 2003 which has proved highly successful.

Initially it was used to establish rankings and the pool allocation for major FIH and Continental Federation (and their qualifiers). This has ensured that there has been an open and transparent system used to enable the pools to be determined for these events and has overcome the past criticisms in relation to 'fixing' of pools where conscious efforts were made to avoid certain teams playing each other in the round robin stage of a major FIH world level.

Following the successful implementation of the system, the FIH Executive Board has approved its further use to determine quotas and reserve countries for Continental Federations for major events (e.g. Olympic Games). Again, this has been a successful enhancement of the use of the official World Ranking System. It has also significantly enhanced the competitive aspect of Continental Federation Championships.

The current FIH World Ranking System includes all senior national teams of all National Associations who compete at Continental Federation level. Separate rankings are made for men and women.

Rankings take into account all of the following tournaments over a period of four years:

- (i) Olympic Games (including qualifying events)
- (ii) World Cup (including qualifying events)
- (iii) Champions Trophy
- (iv) Champions Challenge
- (v) Continental Federation Championships (including qualifying events)

The current ranking system reflects both current and past performances. However, results from the past are progressively less weighted year by year (25% discount per year over a 4-year cycle) until they are deleted from the calculations.

The current ranking system ensures that a success at a single tournament, even the Olympic Games or World Cup, is not sufficient to make up for poor form in the preceding 3-4 years, and vice versa.

The current ranking system truly reflects a team's performance over a 4-year cycle.

2. Review of World Ranking System

Whilst some minor alterations have been made to the system in the past 5 years wholesale changes have been avoided. However, a complete review of the system has been undertaken in 2008 by the FIH Competitions Committee and as a result changes have been approved by the FIH Executive Board effective from September 2008.

In particular the review considered:

- 2.1 The ranking points allocated to world level events (i.e. Olympics, Olympic Qualifiers, World Cups, World Cup Qualifiers, Champions Trophies and Champions Challenges)
- 2.2 The ranking points allocated to the Champions Trophy and Champions Challenge with a view to making them more equitable in a 4-year cycle.
- 2.3 The Continental Federation weightings of ranking points taking account of results of inter-continental competitions between Nation Associations (including the men's and women's Olympic Qualifiers, 2008) and results within Continental Federation Championships.

2.4 Allocation of points for proposed new world level events, including new format for Champions Challenge I and Champions Challenge II.

3. Outcomes of the Review

3.1 Ranking Points – World Level Events

It was agreed that the ranking points allocated for world level events should remain the same for men and women.

(a) Olympic Games and World Cups

- (i) The current gap between 1st and 2nd at the Olympics and World Cups is from 1,000 points to 800 points. No change was made.
- (ii) Commencing at 13th for Olympics and World Cups the step down of points has been reduced from 50 points to 25 points, starting with 275 points for 13th.
- (iii) Commencing at 19th position the step down has been reduced from 25 points to 10 points.

The basis upon which this change has been made is to provide greater points for the teams in the Olympic Games and World Cup qualifiers. It is considered that this is important as it gives greater incentive and reason for teams to participate and compete in these qualifying tournaments.

Accordingly, the new ranking points for the Olympic Games and World Cups are as follows:

Ranking	Old Points	Proposed New Points
1 st	1000	1000
2 nd	800	800
3 rd	750	750
4 th	700	700
5 th	650	650
6 th	600	600
7 th	550	550
8 th	500	500
9 th	450	450
10 th	400	400
11 th	350	350
12 th	300	300
13 th	250	275
14 th	225	250
15 th	200	225
16 th	175	200
17 th	150	175
18 th	125	150
19 th	100	140
20 th	90	130
21 st	80	120
22 nd	70	110
23 rd	60	100
24 th	50	90
25 th	45	80
26 th	40	70
27 th	35	60
28 th	30	50
29 th	25	40
30 th	20	30

(b) Champions Trophy

To address the ongoing criticism concerning the allocation of world ranking points for the Champions Trophy on an annual basis, the points have been adjusted so that there is equity between points allocated to the Champions Trophy and the Champions Challenge over a two year cycle.

The Champions Trophy points are obtained every year, whereas the Champions Challenge points are only obtained every two years.

The following points have been allocated to address this inequity:

Ranking	Current CTT Points	Current CCh Points	CTT Proposed New Points	CCh Proposed New Points
1 st	300	195	200	190
2 nd	240	150	180	170
3 rd	225	135	170	160
4 th	210	120	160	150
5 th	195	105	150	140
6 th	180	90	140	130

The allocation of the above points will mean that over a two year period in which two Champions Trophies and one Champions Challenge is played the maximum points for the Champions Trophy in that two year cycle will be 400 points compared with the maximum points for the Champions Challenge in the same two year period will be 190 points.

(c) New Format – Champions Challenge I and Champions Challenge II

The format of the Champions Challenge has been approved as from 2009. The new Champions Challenge system will comprise 8 teams in Challenge I and 8 teams in Challenge II as from 2009. A provision has been made for rankings points for this new initiative.

The ranking points available have been allocated on the same principle as set out above for the Champions Trophy and Champions Challenge (as it was). The new points are as follows:

Ranking	CCh I Points	CCh II Points
1 st	190	120
2 nd	170	110
3 rd	160	100
4 th	150	95
5 th	140	90
6 th	130	85
7 th	120	80
8 th	110	75

(d) New World Level Event

It is proposed that a new world level event (up to 16 teams) be organised by the FIH. This will be another event where the top nations are able to gain points as a result of their world rankings, i.e. largely because of their performance at other world level events.

Therefore, the extent of the points allocated could attract criticism that ‘the rich get richer and the poor get poorer’. Therefore, it has been agreed that the points follow those for the Champions Trophy, reducing by 10 points to place 10 (100 points) and thereafter by 5 points, which results in 16th ranked receiving 70 points.

The points for the new world level event are:

Ranking	Proposed Points
1 st	200
2 nd	180
3 rd	170
4 th	160
5 th	150
6 th	140
7 th	130
8 th	120
9 th	110
10 th	100
11 th	95
12 th	90
13 th	85
14 th	80
15 th	75
16 th	70

3.2 Ranking Points – Continental Federations

The ranking points allocated to Continental Federations remain based upon those allocated to Europe.

Two adjustments have been made to the points allocated to Europe.

- To reduce the inequity of points obtained from tournaments which attract ranking points, the ranking points allocated to Continental Federations have been increased with the start point increasing from 500 points to 750 points.
- To give greater relevance to continental points as against the tournaments which attract ranking points, the step down in ranking points has been lessened.

The new starting point for world ranking points is as follows:

Ranking	Old Points	New Points
1 st	500	750
2 nd	400	700
3 rd	375	650
4 th	350	600
5 th	300	550
6 th	275	500
7 th	250	450
8 th	225	400
9 th	200	375
10 th	175	350
11 th	150	325
12 th	125	300
13 th	100	275
14 th	90	250
15 th	80	225
16 th	70	200
17 th	60	185
18 th	50	170
19 th	45	155
20 th	42.5	140
21 st	40	125
22 nd	37.5	110
23 rd	35	95
24 th	32.5	80
25 th	30	75
26 th	27.5	70
27 th	25	65
28 th	22.5	60
29 th	20	55
30 th	17.5	50
31 st	15	45
32 nd	12.5	40
33 rd	10	35
34 th	8	30
35 th	6	25
36 th	4	20

Therefore, the above new ranking points have been allocated to Europe as the starting point for the weightings of the remaining Continental Federations.

A detailed study was made of cross continental information, continental federation information and outcomes tested against some one-one matches played between nations of different continents. As a result the following changes have been made. As the rankings/standards in the respective Continental Federations vary between men and women, separate ranking points are allocated to the respective men's and women's Continental Federation competitions.

The new ranking points for the men's Continental Federation competitions are as follows:

Ranking	Continental Federation Championships										
	Total Pts Allocated	African HF		Asian HF		European HF		Oceania HF		Pan American HF	
		% Pts	Net Pts	% Pts	Net Pts	% Pts	Net Pts	% Pts	Net Pts	% Pts	Net Pts
1st	750	70.0%	525.0	100.0%	750.0	100%	750.0	100.0%	750.0	78.5%	588.8
2nd	700	57.5%	402.5	100.0%	700.0	100%	700.0	80.0%	560.0	78.5%	549.5
3rd	650	28.0%	182.0	100.0%	650.0	100%	650.0	5.5%	35.8	41.0%	266.5
4th	600	28.0%	168.0	100.0%	600.0	100%	600.0	5.5%	33.0	41.0%	246.0
5th	550	23.0%	126.5	90.0%	495.0	100%	550.0	5.5%	30.3	41.0%	225.5
6th	500	23.0%	115.0	90.0%	450.0	100%	500.0	5.5%	27.5	41.0%	205.0
7th	450	8.0%	36.0	40.5%	182.3	100%	450.0	5.5%	24.8	37.0%	166.5
8th	400	8.0%	32.0	40.5%	162.0	100%	400.0	5.5%	22.0	37.0%	148.0
9th	375	8.0%	30.0	40.5%	151.9	100%	375.0			37.0%	138.8
10th	350	8.0%	28.0	40.5%	141.8	100%	350.0			37.0%	129.5
11th	325	8.0%	26.0	22.5%	73.1	100%	325.0			22.3%	72.3
12th	300	8.0%	24.0	22.5%	67.5	100%	300.0			22.3%	66.8
13th	275			22.5%	61.9	100%	275.0			22.3%	61.2
14th	250			22.5%	56.3	100%	250.0			22.3%	55.6
15th	225			22.5%	50.6	100%	225.0			22.3%	50.1
16th	200			22.5%	45.0	100%	200.0			11.0%	22.0
17th	185			22.5%	41.6	100%	185.0			11.0%	20.4
18th	170			22.5%	38.3	100%	170.0			11.0%	18.7
19th	155			22.5%	34.9	100%	155.0			9.0%	14.0
20th	140			22.5%	31.5	100%	140.0			9.0%	12.6
21st	125					100%	125.0				
22nd	110					100%	110.0				
23rd	95					100%	95.0				
24th	80					100%	80.0				
25th	75					100%	75.0				
26th	70					100%	70.0				
27th	65					100%	65.0				
28th	60					100%	60.0				
29th	55					100%	55.0				
30th	50					100%	50.0				
31st	45					100%	45.0				
32nd	40					100%	40.0				
33rd	35					100%	35.0				
34th	30					100%	30.0				
35th	25					100%	25.0				
36th	20					100%	20.0				

The new ranking points for the women's Continental Federation competitions are as follows:

Ranking	Continental Federation Championships										
	Total Pts Allocated	African HF		Asian HF		European HF		Oceania HF		Pan HF	American
		% Pts	Net Pts	% Pts	Net Pts	% Pts	Net Pts	% Pts	Net Pts	% Pts	Net Pts
1st	750	75.0%	562.5	100%	750.0	100%	750.0	100%	750.0	100%	750.0
2nd	700	30.0%	210.0	100%	700.0	100%	700.0	90.0%	630.0	87.5%	612.5
3rd	650	18.0%	117.0	100%	650.0	100%	650.0	5.5%	35.8	75.0%	487.5
4th	600	18.0%	108.0	100%	600.0	100%	600.0	5.5%	33.0	75.0%	450.0
5th	550	14.0%	77.0	60.0%	330.0	100%	550.0	5.5%	30.3	75.0%	412.5
6th	500	14.0%	70.0	37.5%	187.5	100%	500.0	5.5%	27.5	36.0%	180.0
7th	450	6.0%	27.0	37.5%	168.8	100%	450.0	5.5%	24.8	36.0%	162.0
8th	400	6.0%	24.0	37.5%	150.0	100%	400.0	5.5%	22.0	36.0%	144.0
9th	375	6.0%	22.5	24.0%	90.0	100%	375.0			36.0%	135.0
10th	350	6.0%	21.0	24.0%	84.0	100%	350.0			25.0%	87.5
11th	325	6.0%	19.5	24.0%	78.0	100%	325.0			25.0%	81.3
12th	300	6.0%	18.0	24.0%	72.0	100%	300.0			25.0%	75.0
13th	275			24.0%	66.0	100%	275.0			25.0%	68.8
14th	250			24.0%	60.0	100%	250.0			25.0%	62.5
15th	225			24.0%	54.0	100%	225.0			25.0%	56.3
16th	200			24.0%	48.0	100%	200.0			10.0%	20.0
17th	185			24.0%	44.4	100%	185.0			10.0%	18.5
18th	170			24.0%	40.8	100%	170.0			10.0%	17.0
19th	155			24.0%	37.2	100%	155.0			10.0%	15.5
20th	140			24.0%	33.6	100%	140.0			10.0%	14.0
21st	125					100%	125.0				
22nd	110					100%	110.0				
23rd	95					100%	95.0				
24th	80					100%	80.0				
25th	75					100%	75.0				
26th	70					100%	70.0				
27th	65					100%	65.0				
28th	60					100%	60.0				
29th	55					100%	55.0				
30th	50					100%	50.0				
31st	45					100%	45.0				
32nd	40					100%	40.0				
33rd	35					100%	35.0				
34th	30					100%	30.0				
35th	25					100%	25.0				
36th	20					100%	20.0				

4. Summary

The world ranking system has served the FIH extremely well over the past few years. The detailed review has illustrated that the integrity of the system is excellent, particularly in the top ranked 15 nations in the world.

With the advent of the Olympic Qualifiers where significantly more intercontinental matches were played it has been possible to make objective conclusions concerning the relative strengths between countries from the various CFs.

It has been clearly demonstrated that only minor changes are necessary and these changes are set out above.

The current system achieves excellent rankings in the top 15 countries in the world. With the introduction of the expanded Olympic Games Qualifiers and the World Cup Qualifiers this is now extended to at least the top 32 rankings.

The current system is open and transparent. Everyone knows what points they can and cannot earn depending upon the level of participation.

Further, it has been absolutely vital in the administration of the recent Olympic Games Qualifiers (and future World Cup Qualifiers), including the allocation of quotas to Continental Federations for both the direct qualification quotas and the Qualifier quotas). This was so important particularly at the top end of the scale to ensure that the rankings were correct.

The world rankings have been updated at the conclusion of the Olympic Games, 2008 based upon the new ranking points. (Note: The points previously allocated for the current 4-year cycle (2005-2006-2007-2008) have been adjusted to the new ranking points.)

A further review of the world ranking system will be undertaken in 2012 with a view to implement any proposed changes at the conclusion of the Olympic Games, 2012.

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