

# **Guidelines for Scoring at Cape Western Area Scout Competitions**

## **Object:**

To ensure that scoring mistakes at Scout competitions are minimised.

## **Justification:**

There has been the odd Area competition in the past where scoring errors have been found after the prize giving. This is always a real nuisance to correct, especially if one (or more) of the top teams is involved. It is also embarrassing to the Chief Judge and Scorer if an error is discovered after the prize giving.

The below guidelines document the ideal scoring scenario.

## **Guidelines:**

1. Care is taken by the Chief Judge in choosing the right person to score at a competition. The Scorer is a disciplined person who strives for complete accuracy, to the point of being pedantic. A Scorer, who has it in the back of his head that a mistake made to the betterment or detriment of a weak team does not matter, is not a suitable Scorer.
2. The Scorer is not a judge. This is so that he maintains absolute impartiality, but more importantly, is not rushed, which may contribute to scoring mistakes.
3. The Scorer has only one job, that being of scoring. He does not provide transport, run errands, cook, etc.
4. After a judge scores a test, he hands the score sheet to the Chief Judge, unless he explicitly states that this is not necessary in which case it is handed to the Scorer.
5. The Scorer checks all additions on all score sheets for all teams/Patrols and for all tests. Totals are filled in by the judge out in the field or back at HQ or in a quiet place.
6. The Chief Judge or Scorer rejects any score sheet from a judge that has not been totalled.
7. The Scorer checks that each total for each test is brought down (or across, depending on the type of judge score sheet) to the correct column at the bottom (or right) of the score sheet. ie. Team 3's result must not be recorded in team 4's column.
8. The Scorer must not make any assumptions from the score sheet. More specifically:
  - a). A team that has nothing filled in on the judge's score sheet, did not necessarily score zero. This is investigated.
  - b). If only one section of a test is marked (eg. Patrol Fall in) on the score sheet and the rest is blank for that same team, then the rest of the test not being fully scored is investigated.
9. The Scorer does not divulge "how teams are doing" during the competition, unless explicitly asked to do so by the Chief Judge. This is to ensure that there is no sub-conscious (or worse still conscious) bias of judges.
10. The Chief Judge discourages other judges from trying to extricate information out of the Scorer such as where teams are placed during the competition.
11. The Scorer and auditor, who is appointed by the Chief Judge, check all results that are transferred from the judge mark sheets to the Scorer's system, for correctness.
12. When once all marks for all tests are known, the marks of at least the top 5 teams are checked for being reasonable. The Scorer and auditor carry out this process. Any zeros or low scores noted for the top teams are investigated.
13. A Team/Patrol mark sheet is handed to all PL's before the prize giving at a PL's-only meeting. The rest of the Patrol is not present. No totals and positions are filled in on the mark sheet. The PL may query any anomalies and any errors may be corrected before the prize giving. It is not the intention that PL's

huddle together and compare notes at this time. This practice is discouraged because the winner of the competition should only be known at the final presentation where the whole competition, judges and parents are present.

14. The competition is designed so that there is no time constraint for generating the above special mark sheets for the PL.
15. The mark sheet with no totals and positions is collected from each PL. This is because a PL who has not queried his mark sheet may actually have a mark changed (eg. Team marks may have been swapped or a team given credit, when none was due for non-participation in a test).
16. The combination of a computer and a spreadsheet should not be used. A spreadsheet is too prone to error, in that formulas and sorts can be wrong or be inadvertently corrupted during the competition. The use of a spreadsheet is not impossible, but prone to error and is discouraged.
17. An ad hoc test thrown in by the Chief Judge at the end of the competition to make up time, can be the cause of a potential error. There is a chance that the Scorer who is now rushed, makes a mistake in redesigning the mark sheet to be handed to PL's at the prize giving.
18. All Area competitions are scored on a computer using the field proven software that is available from Area HQ or the Assistant Area Commissioner for the Scout Programme.
19. The goal of the Chief Judge and Scorer is that a final mark sheet is made available to all teams with all positions calculated. This is handed to the PL's at the prize giving or immediately afterwards when interest is still at a peak. This is quite possible and reasonable for a competition with over 50 teams if the computer software available from HQ is used.

### **Conclusion**

If the above guidelines are followed it is believed that errors are minimised to the point of being none.

It should also be borne in mind that these are guidelines to the Chief Judge and Scorer and should be carefully considered before being discarded as irrelevant. These guidelines have been very carefully thought through and incorporate the skills and lessons learnt over many years. You are encouraged to follow them.