

## Rule Modification Questions and Answers

Q) It was our understanding that each category was to have the same scoring or point structure to eliminate gamesmanship of moving riders to JV 1 or Varsity that do not belong there. 8.2 appears to reward those riders that go to those two categories.

A) We went back and forth on this and ultimately felt it was best to keep the point differential in place to help with staging over the course of the season and to keep the same increased level of importance at the state championship race with regard to JV1 and Varsity racers. For staging it was important to have the points differential so that if a rider moves up/down throughout the season, they would carry points with them that better reflected their abilities. As an example, if a top JV1 racer moved up to Varsity, their lower total points would prevent them from being placed at the very front of the varsity category and bumping down faster varsity racers. On the flip side, someone moving down from JV1 to JV2 would in theory be a faster racer and their higher point total would place them up toward the front of the JV2 category. The overall idea is that the points and their varying value would equalize the ability differences as racers move between categories.

When it comes to the state championship race, we felt it was still important to keep Varsity and JV1 with a higher point value to keep those categories in alignment with what we have always done in the past.

We did discuss the potential for gamesmanship and while this has always been an issue we have had to deal with, the fact that there are no team points/awards throughout the season reduces the potential for this. At the state championship race, the limit of 4/3 (D1 and D2 respectively) Varsity racers will further limit the ability for some teams to game the system and the requirement to split JV1 and JV2 evenly is another control. Points differentials also help prevent this. At a certain point, a higher placement in a lower category comes with more points than a lower placement in a higher category. For example a 11th place Varsity will receive 495 points, compared to a 6th place JV1 at 496 compared to a 1st place JV2 with 500 points.

Finally, we will be watching for gamesmanship and “sandbagging” for points and intervene if necessary.

Ultimately we hope that teams will place the riders appropriately based on the student-athletes ability and personal desires.

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Q) A 9th grader is not allowed into JV 2 but is allowed into JV 1?

A) Correct. We have never allowed Freshman to race Sophomore (back when that was a category) and JV2. This is due to the fact that the lap counts are the same and points are the same so therefore there is no reason to have them race in that category. Additionally we need maximum capacity for the 10th, 11th and 12th graders who are not in Varsity and will be in either JV2 or JV1.

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Q) Who do we provide the team roster to?

A) We are working on the best system to collect this information. Most likely it will either be a Google Form that each TD will fill out or a pre-populated spreadsheet that would require category placements and rider rankings for staging. Stay tuned over the next week for more details.

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Q) How do we handle athletes that are only participating in 1 or 2 races? Should we include them on the roster for race 1 or wait and send a new team roster before the race with additional athletes participation?

A) Yes, we would need them on the roster for any race they are attending so that we can add them into the scoring software accordingly and assign race plates for the correct category. If they are not going to be at a subsequent race we don't need to be notified, we would just need notification for category changes or new riders that had not already been assigned to a category. If they don't attend a race until later in the season, this would be submitted with the "roster change" form prior to that race.

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Q) What will the process be for submitting our category placements for high school students?

A) See above.

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Q) Will freshmen be allowed to be placed in higher categories based on the coach's judgement?

A) Yes, Freshman are eligible for JV1 or Varsity but not JV2 (see above for further explanation).

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Q) Please explain this quote from the rulebook: "Racers who are in either Freshman or Varsity will need to be split evenly between JV1 and JV2 keeping in mind that 9th graders are not eligible to race in JV2." Does this mean that we must divide our JV I and JV II in half - what if the majority of the riders are JVII, will some have to be placed in the JVI race?

A) This was a typo. It should have read, "Racers who are not in either Freshman or Varsity..." (see above for further explanation)

Yes, the remaining racers should be split between JV1 and JV2 equally. This is not much different than what the CPT has always done in the past. It is also the best way for us to equalize the size of the categories.

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Q) Please explain why IICL/NICA has decided to only allow up to eight riders (four male/ four female) to race in the varsity category.

A) This is done to control the field size. In theory we could have 96 varsity racers if each team takes all their allotted slots. Also, the limit is in place to create the same type of importance that has always been in place for Varsity through the CPT process. Teams won't be able to game the system by stacking the Varsity field and will need to determine their top racers to place in Varsity for the state championship race. The petition process is still available for extraordinary situations, but expansion of the varsity fields will be unlikely to be approved until current season results are available.

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Q) If a rider is not at a race, can another rider move to that position/category? This allows riders to switch back and forth during the season. If a rider races in JVII two times and JVI two times, where would s/he race in the state championships? Seems a bit odd that we would allow this.

A) Yes, this new system was specifically designed to allow for moving riders between categories throughout the season. This way a team could provide a rider the opportunity to race a higher category if they wanted to and to give that team director quantitative information for deciding their top 4/3 racers to place in the state championship race. Keeping in mind the qualifying rule of racing at least 2 regular season races in JV1 or Varsity and also the fact that points from the top 3 regular season races will determine staging position at the state championship. Assuming a rider raced at least two races in Varsity or JV1, the TD could place them in either for the state championship race.

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Q) Please explain the following rule, as it reads that we can (possibly) add more riders to the varsity category: RULE 3.6. PETITIONING FOR A PLACEMENT CRITERIA EXCEPTION. If we as coaches can place our riders where we deem appropriate, then there is no need for a petition. When would we use this petition?

A) We always expect there to be petitions for exceptions and this process remains in place for this eventuality. There may certainly be situations that would justify adding spots to Varsity, but they would need to be substantiated with results and based on extenuating circumstances. There should be no problem identifying the top 4/3 riders on each team over the course of the season. We will be very conservative about approving any additional Varsity or JV1 spots due to the potential for gamesmanship. This is one of the reasons we are allowing for category changes during the season so that teams can determine who their top racers are for the final state championship race.

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Q) "League officials have complete and total discretion for the implementation of the rules regarding appropriate sporting behavior." Will these rules be posted and made available to Team Directors? We have searched on the IICL website and cannot find them.

A) I reworded this to better reflect the intent as follows: "League officials have complete and total discretion for the implementation/enforcement of the rules, enforcement of the Coaches Code of Conduct and enforcement of the Parent's Code of Conduct."  
All rules, Code of Conduct and race processes are now included in this one document.  
There are no other documents to reference.