

WORLD FREESTYLE SKATEBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
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14776 Brandenburg an der Havel  
Germany  
[www.world-freestyle.com](http://www.world-freestyle.com)



## WFSC 2024 Scoring System Updates 2024

Dear freestylers,

As the upcoming event approaches, a review of the 2023 scoring data and an update to the scoring system is needed.

In the previous year, our focus was on highlighting clean, well-executed runs with a strong composition, synchronized with the music, in an aesthetically pleasing way. We were pleased that our competitors adhered to this objective, providing the audience with an enjoyable and entertaining show.

Even though the goal was largely achieved, it became apparent that the lower-skilled skaters relied too much on the A-Score. This resulted in performances with minimal tricks being ranked higher than warranted. While an abundance of tricks adds excitement, it created a situation where the risk was high, and the reward was low, which is not the direction we want to be heading towards.

The data revealed that the culprit is the flawless run bonus, which we will target the most, but it is essential to take a moment to evaluate other criteria as well. Moving forward, we aim to strike a balance that ensures a fair and engaging competition for all participants.

### (T)echnical-Score

#### Single Trick Score

Determining the difficulty of a trick may seem like a straightforward question, but skaters provide a diverse range of valid answers. Factors such as the number of rotations, foot positions, clockwise or counterclockwise rotations, and various balance points all contribute to the complexity of a trick. What comes naturally to some skaters may be a challenge for others.

Given the subjective nature of this assessment, achieving a true consensus on trick difficulty is challenging. Therefore, we rely on the wealth of experience from our judges to establish a common ground. Each judge's unique perspective and expertise contribute to a comprehensive evaluation that acknowledges the individual nuances and challenges posed by different tricks.

Here are some interesting facts about the events single trick scores:

Division	Min	Max	Average	Runtime
Pros	18	56	43	120s
Sponsored AMs	15	40	30	90s
Amateurs	9	33	19	90s
Masters	4	22	12	110s
Woman	1	24	9	90s
Rookies	2	8	6	60s

The skill gap remains rather large but as of right now the assessment of a trick's difficulty seem fine so

- no changes

### Consistency Score

- 1 for minor failure
- 2 for losing the board
- 3 for falling down

Inconsistent Skaters had a tough time qualifying for the finals but in light of our significant reduction in the flawless run bonus, it is advisable to approach adjustments methodically to avoid overcompensation and inadvertently shifting the focus from well-executed runs to a best trick jam once again. Taking one step at a time will ensure a balanced and effective refinement of the scoring system.

- no changes

### Footwork [20]

It's the essence of Freestyle skateboarding and without footwork its very difficult to place well.

Division	Min	Max	Average
Pros	3	17	11
Sponsored AMs	7	16	13
Amateurs	3	12	8
Masters	4	13	8
Woman	2	16	7
Rookies	0	11	4

It's noteworthy that footwork holds significant value in sponsored amateur (AM) skating. This observation comes as no surprise, considering that many sponsored AMs belong to a new generation of skaters who discovered and fell in love with freestyle through social media platforms which placed footwork in the spotlight, serving as a distinguishing factor from other styles of skateboarding.

We like where it's at. so

- no changes

## (A)rtistic Score

### Variety and innovation [30]

### Balanced trick selection [20]

Division	Min	Max	Average
Pros	2	15	10
Sponsored AMs	8	13	11
Amateurs	5	12	7
Masters	3	9	7
Woman	1	10	5
Rookies	2	5	4

Assessing trick difficulty is already a challenging task, but creating an overarching structure for trick categories presents an even greater difficulty. Our competitors have made commendable efforts in showcasing various angles of attack on the board, yet there is still room for further development.

The prominent issue at hand is determining how diverse a run needs to be to avoid appearing one-dimensional. It's essential to acknowledge that reducing trick variety could significantly benefit specialized skaters, resulting in a less comparable field.

This criterion is most likely to change in the future and we are closely monitoring it to ensure a fair and dynamic assessment of skater performances.

so

- no changes

### Rare or new ticks & combos [10]

Division	Min	Max	Average
Pros	1	6	3
Sponsored AMs	1	5	2
Amateurs	0	4	2
Masters	0	4	2
Woman	0	3	1
Rookies	0	1	0,5

One significant advantage of becoming a trick specialist is the remarkable depth and novelty that arises from dedicating one's skating to a specific area of interest. This specialization requires time, and it's understandable that in less competitive fields, skaters may either not have had the time to discover something truly inspiring or face challenges in effectively presenting their skills as a whole.

Our approach is to appreciate and provide opportunities for specialists to excel without overshadowing the entire field. We believe in giving these dedicated skaters a fair chance to showcase their unique skills and contribute to the diversity and richness of the sport.

So, no changes.

### Music choice and synchronization [20]

#### The music fit the run [10]

Division	Min	Max	Average
Pros	4	8	6
Sponsored AMs	4	8	7
Amateurs	3	8	4
Masters	3	7	5
Woman	2	7	4
Rookies	2	6	3

#### Music sync [10]

Division	Min	Max	Average
Pros	0	6	3
Sponsored AMs	1	6	3
Amateurs	0	7	2
Masters	2	6	3
Woman	0	6	3
Rookies	0	4	2

The incorporation of music into the judging criteria has left a lasting impression. Skaters universally embraced this new dimension in competitive skateboarding. Despite witnessing exceptional performances, we recognize there is still room for improvement.

Considering the inherent connection between sync and music fit, we have decided to merge both criteria into a single evaluation category. It's important to note that while they are combined, the point values will remain unchanged.

No changes.

## Run Composition [25]

### The run was structured well [15]

Division	Min	Max	Average
Pros	2	12	8
Sponsored AMs	5	12	10
Amateurs	4	10	6
Masters	3	9	6
Woman	1	8	5
Rookies	2	5	4

Providing a slight edge to younger talents over more seasoned competitors acknowledges the challenge of transitioning from a long-established routine to a new structure. Younger talents, unburdened by preconceived notions of what a run should entail, readily embrace innovative ways of showcasing their skateboarding to the audience. Additionally, they benefit from the collective experience of those who have paved the way in competitive freestyle.

There's still a little headroom for the next level of competitive structures so we will keep it as is.

No changes.

### Space utilization [10]

Division	Min	Max	Average
Pros	4	8	6
Sponsored AMs	5	7	6
Amateurs	1	7	4
Masters	3	7	5
Woman	0	5	3
Rookies	1	4	2

We anticipated that this particular criterion would be the most controversial, given the division in the freestyle community between stationary skaters and rolling skaters. Unfortunately, this divide often stems not from choice but from the lack of suitable training areas and the limited years many freestyle skaters have spent developing tricks and footwork while rolling. Some competitors have attempted to address this by rolling around a few moments before doing segments of stationary tricks again, a positive step forward, though it might miss the intended focus.

We maintain our belief that rolling on a skateboard is fundamental to its mechanics, and a skater's competence can be quickly gauged by the way they push and turn. While acknowledging the challenges, we hope to endure another year of transition, with the expectation of achieving livelier performances across the board. There is still room for improvement, and we anticipate further advancements in the coming year.

For now, no changes.

### **Mastery, Style and Flow [35]**

#### **Tricks flowed smoothly into one another [15]**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Average</b>
Pros	2	13	8
Sponsored AMs	8	12	9
Amateurs	1	9	5
Masters	1	10	5
Woman	1	8	4
Rookies	1	5	2

While footwork is at the core of freestyle. Flow is its very soul. Its not just tricks, its not just movement, not even body language per se, it's the way all of this intertwines - how movements push and pull for room to breathe in a competitor's performance. Its timing. It's a metronome ticking juuust right or the right amount of spice, sweetness and saltiness in a meal.

Some of our more seasoned competitors have different approach that rely on more profound single tricks and combos rather than an intricate play of little tricks.

The age-old question in skateboarding difficulty over style?

With the change to the flawless run bonus, we hope we can give our Skaters that are in the business of banger delivery a new chance at winning big.

For now, no changes.

#### **Skating was confident and effortless [10]**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Average</b>
Pros	3	8	6
Sponsored AMs	5	7	6
Amateurs	0	6	3
Masters	0	7	4
Woman	1	6	3
Rookies	1	2	1

No surprises. It takes time getting comfortable on the board. Unfortunately do to weather problems our higher skilled divisions needed to be rushed through which hurt the performance. The bigger schedule should hopefully prevent that this year.

No changes.

### Personal touch [10]

Division	Min	Max	Average
Pros	2	7	5
Sponsored AMs	3	6	4
Amateurs	1	5	3
Masters	0	6	3
Woman	0	5	3
Rookies	0	4	1

No surprises. The scene is relatively young and a lot of skaters are still busy building the necessary portfolio to compete rather than having the space to venture outside of what works out fine. Nothing wrong with that, we just like to see something more special.

No changes.

### Flawless run bonus [10]

Thank you for reading so far into the changes only for the last criteria to be the only upcoming change. Before addressing the most obvious point its good to have an understanding on how all the other data shakes out and how some criteria affect other even if its unintentionally.

As eluded in the intro the flawless run bonus gets changed from a flat 10-point bonus to 10% of the total single trick score.

For example:

Old System: +3, +4, +2, +2 = 11 total single trick score + 10 Bonus = 21 Points

New System: +3, +4, +2, +2 = 11 total single trick score + 10% Bonus = 12,1 Points

This makes playing it save a significant choice rather than being the default strategy.

Skateboarding is risky, that's what makes it fun and exciting. We want to see it rewarded. We are sorry that it wasn't the case in 2023!

So that's it. This is where we at for 2024.

We honestly can't foresee how the event will shake out from a competitive point of view but we guarantee that our judges have the best intentions in mind while spending hours upon hours to get things right.

If you have any questions, remarks or immediate disagreements please let us know!

Until then we wish everyone happy and worthwhile practice sessions for the upcoming events earlier this year.

And one final thing, don't let this rambling about points discourage you about showing us what you like doing on your skateboard. First and foremost we are doing this to have a incentive to meet up an skate together!

See ya soon

The WFSC judging committee

World Freestyle Skateboarding Championships 2024  
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