



Normalized Scoring System (NSS)

Run a Fair, Credible, Dispute-Free Event

Fairness. Efficiency. Transparency.

What is NSS?

The NSS is a powerful **competition scoring system** that ensures **consistent point scales** and eliminates **point spread bias**, *so all judges have equal influence on outcomes.*

Why Choose NSS?

- **Combat Point Spread Bias**
Judges tend to vary how many points they award between participants. NSS standardizes scores so one judge's broader scoring range doesn't disproportionately affect results.
- **Accurate, Real-Time Results**
Replace manual calculations and spreadsheets. NSS delivers results within minutes of entering final scores - ensuring timely, reliable outcomes.
- **Greater Accountability in Judging**
Gain visibility into judge behavior, spot anomalies, and maintain the integrity of scoring.
- **Tested and Trusted**
A proven track record for over 20 years at national/regional competitions - including the Grand Master Fiddler Championship, Twin Lakes National Fiddler Championship, and Kentucky State Fiddle Championship.

Key Features

- **Uniform Scoring Across Judges**
Prevents judges with wide point spreads from dominating outcomes.
- **Flexible Scoring Options**
Supports traditional numerical scoring alongside ranked scoring to suit your preference.
- **Historical Records & Insights**
Track detailed judge scores and evaluate judging patterns for process improvement.
- **Fast Results Delivery**
Printable results ready in approximately three minutes after the last score is entered.
- **Single Point of Contestant Information Tracking**
The registration module allows complete tracking of contestant information, number of entries and players, and automates scoring sheet setup.

Why NSS Raises the Bar

- **Efficiency:** Speeds up scoring and frees up time for event coordination.
- **Fairness:** Level scoring across judges eliminates undue influence.
- **Insightful:** Historical data empowers organizers to refine judging.
- **Flexible:** Compatible with traditional scoring while offering advanced ranked options.
- **Instructive:** Entry and reporting of judges' comments gives contestants further insight into their scores.

Ready to Elevate Your Competition?

Make your scoring process **Faster. Fairer. Smarter.** Reach out to Carnes Group today to license the Normalized Scoring System (NSS) and bring precision and credibility to your event.

How to Get Started

1. **Pick Your License** - choose based on your need for setup assistance or consultation.
2. **Consider Competition Operations Services** - for help planning, improving, or managing your event.
3. **Add Optional Services** - for remote or onsite support to ensure smooth scoring operations.
4. **Contact Carnes Group** - to purchase or inquire further.

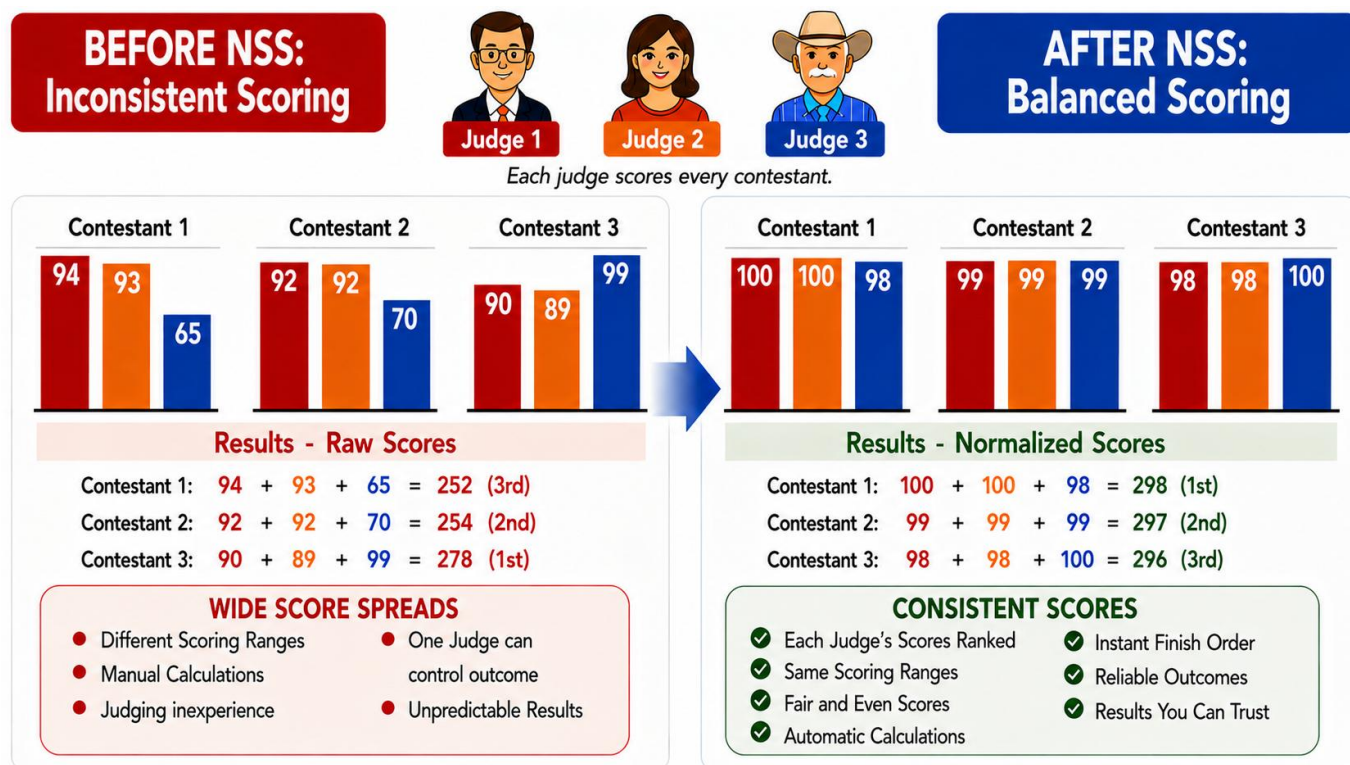
Reducing Errors, Removing Bias, Ensuring Fairness

A fiddle contest has three judges and three contestants with a total of 100 points per tune, for a total of 300 points. Judge 1 scores Contestants 1 thru 3 as follows: 94, 92, and 90. Judge 2 scores them 93, 92, 89. But Judge 3 scores the contestants 65, 70, and 99! That is a big difference in opinion and point spread.

As you can see below in the “BEFORE NSS” graphic, Judge 3 has effectively controlled the outcome of the contest by using a large point spread (we call this “point spread bias”).

Here’s how NSS fixes the problem. Each judge’s scores are ranked from highest to lowest. A judge’s first-place contestant receives 100 points, second place receives 99, third place receives 98, and so on. These become the judge’s “normalized” scores.

A judge’s choices do not change. The contestant the judge scored highest is still their first-place contestant, second is still second, and so on. NSS simply puts every judge on the same scoring range. That means every judge has equal influence on the final outcome—regardless of whether one judge normally scores within a few points and another uses a much wider range.



Now look at the “AFTER NSS” results. Each judge still has the contestants in exactly the same order they originally chose—but now every judge is using the same scoring range. Judge 3’s unusually wide point spread can no longer overpower the other two judges. Two of the three judges ranked Contestant 1 first, all three ranked Contestant 2 second, and two of the three ranked Contestant 3 third. **Each judge now has an equal voice in the final outcome.**

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