Normalized Scoring System (NSS)

Fairness. Efficiency. Transparency.

What is NSS?

The NSS is a powerful **competition scoring software** 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 last score entry.
- **Single Point of Contestant Information Tracking**
  Registration module allows complete tracking of contestants information, number of entries, number of players and automates scoring sheets 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. **Add Optional Services** - for remote or onsite support to ensure smooth scoring operations.
3. **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 or 300 points. Judges 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 a 65,70, and 99! That is 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").

The NSS uses a scale starting at 100 and goes down by 1 for each ranking. Each judge's scores are ranked from high to low. For each judge, the person they have in first place gets 100 points. The person they have in second gets 99 points, and so on. For example, in a field of 75 players, first place would get 100 points and 75th place would get 26 points. The point scores for a judge that accomplishes the ranking generates a "normalized" score based on the point scale. It is these scores - not the judges "raw" scores - that are added to generate a point total. Using the normalized scores does not alter how the judge scored and ranked the contestants; it just makes the point spread uniform across all judges and eliminates different point scales and spreads in judging.
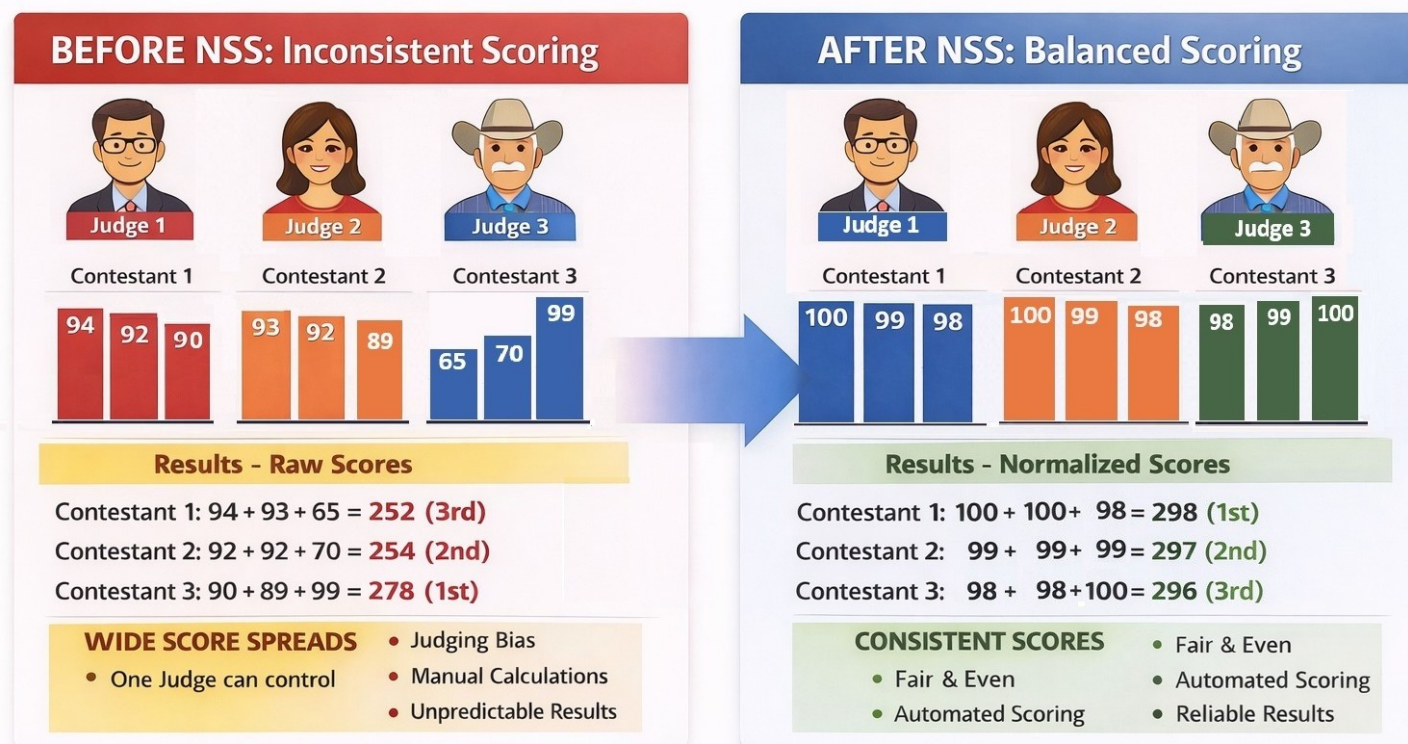
Now you can see below in the "AFTER NSS" graphic, all scores have been forced to be on the same scale of point spread. EACH judge has the exact same effect in the results. Two of three Judges had Contestant 1 in 1st, they all had Contestant 2 in 2nd and Contestant 3 ended up in 3rd - where two judges had them. The error in judgement of Judge 3 has been effectively eliminated.

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