# Normalized Scoring System (NSS)

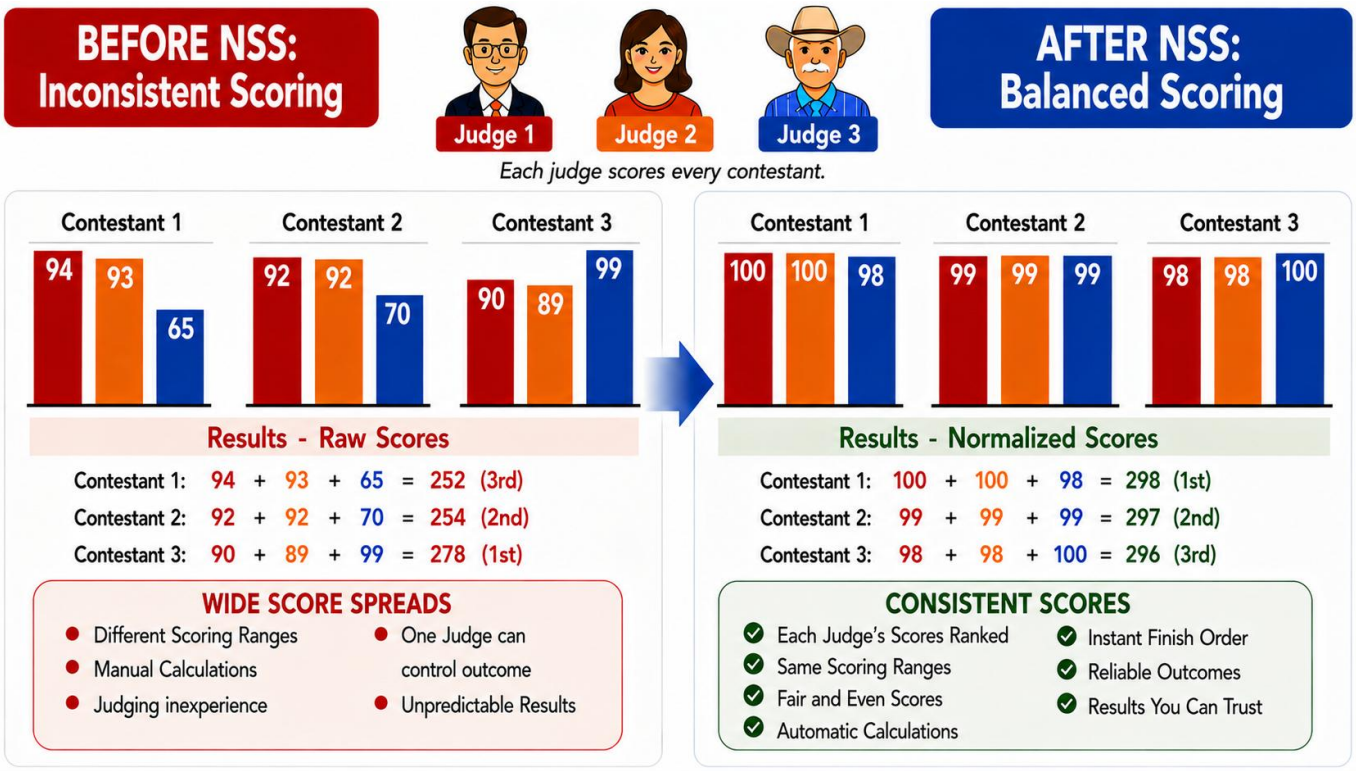
## Reducing Errors, Removing Bias, Ensuring Fairness

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**.

## Fairness. Efficiency. Transparency.


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