

Richardson Corporate Challenge Point System Explained

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The Richardson Corporate Challenge divides the various competing companies into different divisions of similar size and skill, and then each division competes in 20 or more sports.

All sports are equal

The first guiding principle in our point system is that every sport is equal in terms of points, whether it is a 20-person soccer team, a four-person golf team, or three pairs of people throwing horseshoes. Every sport contributes the same number of points towards the grand total that determines the top company in each division.

Participation Points

In addition to earning points for each of the sports, each team earns additional points based on their participation. Each company earns Participation Points for each sport in which they compete. In those sports, like table tennis or badminton, where there are three pairs competing, a company earns maximum participation points by having six different people competing. In mass participation events like the Opening Ceremony Great Walk or the 5K Run or 15K Bike, a company earns additional Participation Points, even if the individual is a recreational participant and not truly competing for a medal.

Participation Points can be earned during each of the sports, and the total Participation Points earned by each company is ranked at the end of the Challenge. That final participation ranking counts the same as any of the other sports.

Sport Points

Since the 2013 Challenge, the basic point system for each individual sport has been the following.

Rank	Points
1 st	37
2 nd	29
3 rd	22
4 th	16
5 th	11
6 th	7
7 th	4
8 th	2
9 th	1
10 th	1

Shared Points

If two or more teams tie with the same rank in a sport, they share the points. For example, suppose two teams tie for the third best rank. Normally 3rd place earns 22 points and 4th place earns 16 points. If two teams tie for 3rd, both teams earn $(22+16)/2 = 19$ points. If calculating a shared value has a fraction, the number is rounded up. For example, if two teams tie for 2nd, each team earns 26 points. $(29+22)/2 = 25.5$ which rounds up to 26.

The first page of this document explains how our current scoring works and that's sufficient for most people. But if you are a glutton for detail and perhaps wonder why the point system has a top value of 37, rather than a more natural max of 10 or 100, then you need to understand how the Challenge's point system has evolved since the beginning.

Sports Points from 2000 to 2005

Corporate Challenge started with the following point system with a nice natural max of 10 points.

Rank	Points
1 st	10
2 nd	8
3 rd	6
4 th	5
5 th	3
6 th	2
7 th	0
8 th	0

Sports Points from 2006 to 2011

While the initial point system above worked okay for several years, we began to realize that awarding zero points for 7th and 8th places gave no incentive for weak teams to show up. If a team felt they were so weak that they were likely to be in the bottom two places, they might as well not even try, so we got lots of forfeits.

Starting in 2006, we awarded one point for 7th and 8th.

Rank	Points
1 st	10
2 nd	8
3 rd	6
4 th	5
5 th	3
6 th	2
7 th	1
8 th	1

Sports Point System in 2012

In 2012, we realized there were two deficiencies in the point system.

- The previous system has relatively little difference between the gold and silver places. 10 points versus 8 points. That small difference gives little incentive for a competitor to strive for victory. We decided it would be better to increase the relative number of points between adjoining ranks.
- The previous system was inconsistent in the relative value of pairs of medals. For example, should the number of points a company earns from one gold medal and one bronze medal be more than, the same as, or less than a company with two silver medals? Because the previous system had an inconsistent number of points (1 or 2) between adjoining ranks, the two-medal comparisons were inconsistent.
 - $1^{\text{st}} + 3^{\text{rd}}$ (10 pts) = two 2^{nd} (10 pts)
 - $2^{\text{nd}} + 4^{\text{th}}$ (13 pts) > two 3^{rd} (12 pts)
 - $3^{\text{rd}} + 5^{\text{th}}$ (9 pts) < two 4^{th} (10 pts)

The CC Board decided we preferred the greater-than case. We fixed both of these deficiencies with the following point system. (Thanks to Geoff Wright for coming up with this number sequence.)

Rank	Points
1 st	16
2 nd	11
3 rd	7
4 th	4
5 th	2
6 th	1
7 th	1
8 th +	1

- There is now a significant relative difference in points between each two ranks. A team that settles for silver gives up about a third of the points over a gold finish. A team that settles for 5th place gives up half the points of a 4th place finish.
- There is now a consistent comparison of pairs of ranks.
 - $1^{\text{st}} + 3^{\text{rd}}$ (23 pts) > two 2^{nd} (22 pts)
 - $2^{\text{nd}} + 4^{\text{th}}$ (15 pts) > two 3^{rd} (14 pts)
 - $3^{\text{rd}} + 5^{\text{th}}$ (9 pts) > two 4^{th} (8 pts)

Current Point System – from 2013 to now

In 2012, two divisions had as many as ten teams. In those cases, the bottom five finishers – half of the teams – ended up with the minimum 1 point. So the same number sequence (1, 2, 4, 7, 11, 16) was simply extended for three more places.

Rank	Points
1 st	37
2 nd	29
3 rd	22
4 th	16
5 th	11
6 th	7
7 th	4
8 th	2
9 th	1
10 th	1

Shared Points

In most sports, the top several finishers are clearly defined by the bracket play. Only one team came in 1st, only one came in 2nd, and so on. But in a few sports, like golf, miniature golf, run and bike, teams are ranked based on an independent number (i.e., strokes in golf, and time in bike and run), so you can have a tie between two companies.

Normally the top two finishers in a sport earn 66 points (= 37 + 29) towards the overall championship. But let's say the golf teams from two companies come up with the same lowest score, so they tie for first. One approach would be to give both of those companies 37 points for 1st place. But if we did, that would mean the top two teams would be earning 74 points towards the overall championship (more championship points than any other sport), and we would be violating the first principle that all sports should be equal.

Thus, if two or more teams tie, they share the points for their ranks. In the case above, the two teams tied for first would each receive 33 points (= 66/2).

Point System for Dominos (2 teams per company)

The following table shows the points earned by each of the two dominos teams from each company. Notice that it is based on the same number sequence (1, 2, 4, 7, ..., 29, 37), and extended out to 20 places. The bottom four finishers get the minimum 1 point.

A company's two teams add up their points, and then the companies are ranked based on that two-team total.

Rank	Points
1 st	137
2 nd	121
3 rd	106
4 th	92
5 th	79
6 th	67
7 th	56
8 th	46
9 th	37
10 th	29
11 th	22
12 th	16
13 th	11
14 th	7
15 th	4
16 th	2
17 th	1
18 th	1
19 th	1
20 th	1

Point System for Texas Holdem (4 teams per company)

The following table shows the points earned in Texas Holdem. It is based on the same number system, just extended out to 40 places. Each of a company's players earns points based on how long they stayed in the game. The points for each of a company's players are added up and the companies are ranked based on their four-player total.

Rank	Points
1 st	529
2 nd	497
3 rd	466
4 th	436
5 th	407
6 th	379
7 th	352
8 th	326
9 th	301
10 th	277
11 th	254
12 th	232
13 th	211
14 th	191
15 th	172
16 th	154
17 th	137
18 th	121
19 th	106
20 th	92

Rank	Points
21 st	79
22 nd	67
23 rd	56
24 th	46
25 th	37
26 th	29
27 th	22
28 th	16
29 th	11
30 th	7
31 st	4
32 nd	2
33 rd	1
34 th	1
35 th	1
36 th	1
37 th	1
38 th	1
39 th	1
40 th	1