

BULLETIN 2025-03



Subject: Changes to 21.2 Starting Order using Speed Factor and Seed

Issue Date: September 23, 2025

Implementation: October 1, 2025

Rationale:

- a) When we introduced speed factors it was decided to maintain the old seed points system in parallel. Today speed factors have become well accepted as the method for ranking drivers and creating start lists. The board have decided to retire the old seed points system.
- b) Changes also include more flexibility in determining an acceptable speed factor for drivers changing from 4WD to 2WD.

21.2 STARTING ORDER USING SPEED FACTORS ~~AND SEED~~

- 21.2.1 CARS shall maintain ~~both a driver's seed list in which all drivers will be placed in the highest seed for which they qualify as provided for in CARS NRR 21.2.5 and a~~ Canadian Rally Championship (CRC) speed factor list as provided for in CARS NRR 21.2.16, organizers shall use this CRC speed factor ~~and seed~~ lists to determine the start order as outlined in CARS NRR 21.2.3. The speed factor list will include each driver's speed factors for the previous 24 months.
- 21.2.2 ~~Based on the seeds as per CARS NRR 21.2.15 and in accordance with CARS NRR 21.2.3,~~ Organizers shall create a starting order, ~~as well as the vehicle number~~ based on a competitor's CRC speed factor at the time provided for in the event supplementary regulations.
- 21.2.3 In determining the start order for drivers, ~~in seeds 1, 2, 3 & 4 (as a combined grouping),~~ organizers will use the driver's speed factor. ~~Following next in the start order will be drivers in seed 5A, based on their speed factor. The next group will be for drivers in seed 5B, the start order will be based on, first, by their speed factor if at or above 25, then for the~~

~~remaining 5B drivers by draw or the organizer's discretion. For drivers in seed 6, the start order will be determined by draw or the organizer's discretion.~~

US Competitors with an ARA speed factor shall be placed in the start order using their speed factors. Competitors without CRC or American speed factors shall be placed in the start order by the organizers, at their discretion, to reflect their demonstrated speed in previous stage events using any available event speed factors if available or by previous event results. (Competitors, without CRC speed factors should supply information to aid in proper placement. Competitors without supporting documentation shall be placed at the end of their seed group).

Competitors who achieved their speed factor in a 4WD class, when moving to a 2WD class in subsequent events will initially have their speed factor adjusted by the NSM based upon an assessment of the driver and competition car capabilities. ~~reduced by 10 (e.g. was 64.67 will become 54.67).~~ Once the driver has competed in the new 2WD class vehicle they will be placed in future events according to the 2WD speed factor they are achieving, not their previous 4WD speed factor.

21.2.4 For drivers with a speed factor >85, a meeting at the event is to take place at the time and place provided for in the event supplementary regulations to determine the start order. ~~(Each >85 SF driver entered will be assigned a vehicle number based on the CRC standings as of the start of the event or, in the case of the first event of the year, the final standings of the previous championship calendar with any ties in the championship standings being broken by the organizers by a coin toss.) The starting positions available shall equal the number of >85 SF drivers entered in the event. The procedure for determining the start order will be as follows:~~

- a) A draw will be conducted whereby those >85 SF drivers (not co-driver) present at the time of the draw shall each draw a number;
- b) The order of the draw will be by the drivers' current championship standings, (in the case the first event of the season, the championship standings for the previous season) then followed by drivers who have no points in the current championship in order of their speed factors;
- c) The number drawn will be for the order of selection of the driver's start position. (The choice of numbers will equal the number of >85 SF drivers present at the time of the draw.);
- d) The ~~seed one~~ driver who has drawn the first choice shall be the first to select a start position from the start positions available and the ~~>85 SF~~ driver who has the second choice shall then select a start position from the remaining available positions, etc.;
- e) For any >85 SF driver not present at the draw, the organizers shall assign a starting position from the remaining positions available by draw. ~~The >85 SF driver's draw for starting positions will not change the vehicle number assigned by the event organizers.~~

~~21.2.5 There should be seven seed groups. The qualifications for each of these groups are as follows:~~

~~Seed Qualifications:~~

- ~~● Seed 1: Drivers with 80 or more seed points as a driver,~~
- ~~● Seed 2: Drivers with a minimum of 25 and less than 80 seeding points as a driver,~~
- ~~● Seed 3: Drivers with a minimum of 10 and less than 25 seeding points as a driver,~~
- ~~● Seed 4: Drivers with a minimum of 1 and less than 10 seeding points as a driver,~~
- ~~● Seed 5A: Drivers having finished 11th through 15th of a Canadian Rally Championship event,~~
- ~~● Seed 5B: Drivers having finished one performance event but not qualifying for seed 5A as a driver,~~
- ~~● Seed 6: All others.~~

~~21.2.6 Events that qualify for seeding points are recognised National Championship events. The onus is on the competitor to provide documentation of results outside of Canada to CARS for consideration.~~

~~21.2.7 When calculating seeding points, the best two of the preceding three year's total points are counted plus the points of the current year. This permits drivers to improve their seed groups within the current year. Drivers who earn a higher seed shall retain that seed for the following competition year unless they further improve their seeding.~~

~~21.2.8 Points should be awarded to the top ten (10) finishing positions in each of the qualifying events per the Canadian Rally Championship points schedule (see CARS NRR **Error! Reference source not found.**), not including start/finish points.~~

~~21.2.9 In NO case may a competitor lose more than one seed group from the highest seed group which they have ever attained beginning with the 89/01/01 seed list. Drivers with Master or Grand Master status will not drop a seed group, until the fifth year after they cease to be active. Any seeded driver who does not finish an event for which seeding points are awarded over a two year period will be dropped from the seeded drivers' list. Re-entry onto the list will be on a case by case basis.~~

~~21.2.10 Entries received after the start order is established, but before the opening of registration, shall be slotted into the start order as close to their Speed Factor as practical. The organiser's decision on starting order is final if it complies with these regulations.~~

~~21.2.11 A Speed Factor and seeding list will be provided to organisers prior to the start order being established for each event.~~

~~21.2.12 Competitors are responsible for stating their true seed qualifications upon entry in any event where requested. Providing false information may result in disciplinary action.~~

21.2.13 For drivers improving their speed factor after the start order is established, but before the close of registration may, at the discretion of the organiser, be started in accordance with the higher speed factor rules for which they have qualified.

~~21.2.14 For the purpose of making seed group awards where there are too few competitors in a seed group, groups may be combined in a forward motion only (i.e.: combining seed groups 2 and 3 would result in seed group 2 awards being made to that combined group). Such combination of seed groups may be performed for award purposes only.~~

~~21.2.15 The starting order will be:~~

Combined seed 1, 2, 3 & 4	sorted by speed factor
Seed 5A	by Speed Factor and placement
Seed 5B	by Speed Factor and placement
Seed 6	by organizer discretion

21.2.16 The CRC Speed Factor shall be determined by the following criteria:

- f) The overall speed factor is calculated from the average of the best three event speed factors in the past 24 months;
- g) Stages less than 2 minutes are dropped;
- h) Stages where 25% of the competitors have the same stage time are dropped;
- i) Stages where a competitor has a speed factor with a standard deviation greater than 1.5 is dropped;
- j) A speed factor of 50 is the mean speed factor.

21.2.17 It is required that rally organisers hold special briefings for all novice designated drivers (and their co-drivers) ~~in seeds 5 and 6~~ before the start of the event.