

Section 8.4 - Regional Champions

(a) At the end of each racing year, NAFA® will name regional champions in the regular and multibreed classes for each region and commemorate this achievement by awarding a plaque. Second and third place clubs in the regular and multibreed classes for each region will be recognized by awarding a certificate.

(b) A club that is not in good standing at any time during the racing year is not eligible to be named regional champion.

(c) If a club disbands before the end of a racing year, it is not eligible to win a regional championship.

(d) Regional champions are determined by points earned by a club during the racing year and, in appropriate cases, by the tie-break formula set out below.

(i) Points towards regional championships accrue to a club.

Only one team from each club will qualify for regional championship points in the same class at a tournament (i.e., Points are awarded only to the top placing team from a club. If another team(s) from the same club also places in the top 3, the points are not awarded for that placement.). A club fielding teams in both the regular and multibreed classes of competition may accumulate points in each separate class.

(ii) Points towards regional championships are awarded based on overall placements of in-region teams in an event based on the following point structure,:

Top Finishing Regional Team 3 points

2nd Place Regional Team 2 points

3rd Place Regional Team 1 point

(iii) All points and tie-break times for regional championships must be earned in the club's home region, i.e., an "in-region" team. .

(1) A club's home region, absent a written request for change, is the place of residence of the club owner recorded in the NAFA database..

(2) A club may change regional affiliation by written request to NAFA®.

(3) Requests to change regional affiliation to an adjacent region must be received before the start of the racing year to take effect that year.

(4) A host club's regional affiliation shall determine the region in which regional points accrue for tournaments hosted by that club, except when the tournament is hosted more than 200 road miles outside the regional border, in which case the regional points will accrue for the region where the tournament is geographically located.

(iv) A club must compete in a minimum of four tournaments in separate tournament weeks within its home region in the class for which the regional championship is awarded, one of which must qualify for regional points.

(v) Classes must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for points and/or tie-breaking times to count toward regional championships:

- (1) Have a minimum of four teams competing;
- (2) Include all clubs at the conclusion of the automated draw;
- (3) Regular classes limited to fewer than 20 teams shall include all teams at the conclusion of the automated draw;
- (4) Multibreed classes limited to fewer than 12 teams shall include all teams at the conclusion of the automated draw.

(vi) For regions that host 7 or fewer tournament weeks in which events qualify for regional points.

- (1) Clubs accumulate points from up to 80 percent, but no less than one, of the tournaments which qualify for regional points. The calculation of tournaments for which a club may accumulate points is rounded **down** to the next whole number. Note: the number of events held in a tournament week is irrelevant.

Example: if a region has a total of 9 tournaments in the racing year held on 5 tournament weeks, 80 percent of that would equal 7 tournaments (7.25 rounded down to the next whole number). Points towards regional championships would accrue from the best 7 finishes for any given club against in-region team competition.

- (2) Points are accrued from a maximum of 10 tournaments.
- (3) Points are accrued based on a club's best finish.
- (4) Clubs can accrue points from multiple locations in the same tournament week.

(vii) In regions hosting more than 7 tournament weekends in which events qualify for regional points.

- (1) Clubs accumulate points from up to 80 percent of tournament weeks which qualify for regional points. The calculation of tournament weeks for which clubs may accumulate points is rounded **down** to the next whole number.
- (2) Points are accrued from a maximum of 10 tournaments held in separate tournament weeks.
- (3) Points are accrued based on the clubs best finish.

For example, in the case where multiple events exist in a tournament week, regional points are still awarded based on in-region placement within each tournament. When regional points are not awarded due to a club's prior win in the same week, the points will not be awarded to teams finishing lower in the tournament. For example, if a club finishes first on

each day, then the fastest time will be used for that club's regional points but no first place points will be awarded on the second day as the winner has blocked out the win from other clubs.

(viii) In the case of a point tie:

(1) Fastest times from each club's four (4) best in-region tournament placements will be averaged.

(a) Only times recorded at events timed entirely under NAFA board approved EJS will be used in this calculation.

(b) Only times recorded at events which qualify for regional points will be used in this calculation.

(c) When fewer than four (4) times are available for every club, the average will be calculated from the maximum number of times available to every club based on the above criteria.

For example, if a club places second in a tournament, but has four other in-region tournament wins, the times from the tournament wins will be used in the average, regardless of how fast a time was run to achieve the second place result.

(2) The club with the lowest average time will be named the regional champion.

(3) If a tie still exists after the tiebreaker is exhausted, Co-Champions will be named.