

## CONSENSUS ORDINAL RANKING SYSTEM

The Consensus Ordinal Ranking System is a scoring method designed to prevent the overall views of the whole panel from being negated by a single judge. This system has been championed by David Fehr, director of Attaché from Clinton, Mississippi, who explains it this way:

“Olympic Ordinals (or Consensus Ranking) simply takes point swings, by actual points or by rank points, out of the equation. For example, with 5 judges, if three of them have School A over School B, School A will finish ahead of School B. Obviously in actual points, this does not necessarily happen.”

In traditional ranking systems this does not happen if a judge (or judges) ranks a school much lower than the norm.

Example: School A - 1, 1, 1, 2, 4 = Total 9  
 School B - 2, 2, 2, 1, 1 = Total 8

Under traditional ranking systems, School B would win in this scenario even though more judges thought School A should win. “Using Ordinals (or Consensus Ranking) takes point swings out of the equation, hopefully keeping talk of “the judge who didn’t like us” out of the equation also.

It is a protection for judges, who can truly judge knowing they didn’t single-handedly create the outcome. It is a protection for the participating directors. It is a protection for the host contest. It is a protection for the student participants. It is a protection for show choir. It is a protection for music education.

In order to understand fully how this system is implemented in ejudicator.com, please take the time to read the following explanation.

### Consensus Ranking Example

The following is an example of how the Consensus Ranking system works to determine results for competition rounds. This is a step-by-step explanation of how points translate to placements, and then how those placements transfer to a final result. For this example, we will use a five judge panel, which is what we use for our preliminary round.

Step 1 - Give a ranking (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc...) of competing schools for each judge according to his/her scores. These individual judge’s rankings are to be used as a reference only.

School	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Judge 4	Judge 5
A	93 – 2	84 – 3	90 – 1	88 – 2	89 – 2
B	78 – 5	77 – 5	82 – 4	85 – 4	81 – 5
C	94 – 1	88 – 1	89 – 2	82 – 6	90 – 1
D	85 – 4	82 – 4	81 – 5	86 – 3	84 – 4
E	72 – 6	70 – 6	74 – 6	83 – 5	75 – 6
F	90 – 3	85 – 2	86 – 3	89 – 1	86 – 3

Step 2 - To start a Consensus Ranking, list all competing schools across the top of your page. Beginning with 1st Place, give one vote from each judge for the highest ranked school on each judge’s list. (For this first ranking, obviously you will use all the 1st Place ranks.)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	RANK
1 <sup>st</sup>	I		III			I	C
2 <sup>nd</sup>							
3 <sup>rd</sup>							

Step 3 - Now go back to the first chart and cross off school C because they have already been awarded 1st Place.

School	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Judge 4	Judge 5
A	93 – 2	84 – 3	90 – 1	88 – 2	89 – 2
B	78 – 5	77 – 5	82 – 4	85 – 4	81 – 5
C	94 – 1	88 – 1	89 – 2	82 – 6	90 – 1
D	85 – 4	82 – 4	81 – 5	86 – 3	84 – 4
E	72 – 6	70 – 6	74 – 6	83 – 5	75 – 6
F	90 – 3	85 – 2	86 – 3	89 – 1	86 – 3

Step 4 -To determine 2nd place, give one vote for the highest ranked school remaining on each judge's list.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	RANK
1 <sup>st</sup>	I		III			I	C
2 <sup>nd</sup>	III					II	A
3 <sup>rd</sup>							

Repeat steps 3 and 4 to finish the Consensus Ranking.

School	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Judge 4	Judge 5
A	93 – 2	84 – 3	90 – 1	88 – 2	89 – 2
B	78 – 5	77 – 5	82 – 4	85 – 4	81 – 5
C	94 – 1	88 – 1	89 – 2	82 – 6	90 – 1
D	85 – 4	82 – 4	81 – 5	86 – 3	84 – 4
E	72 – 6	70 – 6	74 – 6	83 – 5	75 – 6
F	90 – 3	85 – 2	86 – 3	89 – 1	86 – 3

	A	B	C	D	E	F	RANK
1 <sup>st</sup>	I		III			I	C
2 <sup>nd</sup>	III					II	A
3 <sup>rd</sup>						IIII	F

To Figure 4<sup>th</sup> Place:

School	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Judge 4	Judge 5
A	93 – 2	84 – 3	90 – 1	88 – 2	89 – 2
B	78 – 5	77 – 5	82 – 4	85 – 4	81 – 5
C	94 – 1	88 – 1	89 – 2	82 – 6	90 – 1
D	85 – 4	82 – 4	81 – 5	86 – 3	84 – 4
E	72 – 6	70 – 6	74 – 6	83 – 5	75 – 6
F	90 – 3	85 – 2	86 – 3	89 – 1	86 – 3

	A	B	C	D	E	F	RANK
1 <sup>st</sup>	I		III			I	C
2 <sup>nd</sup>	III					II	A
3 <sup>rd</sup>						IIII	F
4 <sup>th</sup>		I		IIII			D

To figure 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Places:

School	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Judge 4	Judge 5
A	93 – 2	84 – 3	90 – 1	88 – 2	89 – 2
B	78 – 5	77 – 5	82 – 4	85 – 4	81 – 5
C	94 – 1	88 – 1	89 – 2	82 – 6	90 – 1
D	85 – 4	82 – 4	81 – 5	86 – 3	84 – 4
E	72 – 6	70 – 6	74 – 6	83 – 5	75 – 6
F	90 – 3	85 – 2	86 – 3	89 – 1	86 – 3

	A	B	C	D	E	F	RANK
1 <sup>st</sup>	I		III			I	C
2 <sup>nd</sup>	III					II	A
3 <sup>rd</sup>						IIII	F
4 <sup>th</sup>		I		IIII			D
5 <sup>th</sup>		IIII					B
6 <sup>th</sup>					IIII		E

Therefore, using Consensus Ranking, School C would be the winner, followed by A, F, D, and B.

If using only “sum of point” totals as the standard, School A would have finished in 1<sup>st</sup> Place with 444, followed by C with 443, F with 436, D with 418, B with 403, and E with 374.

Using the “add the judges ranks” system, School A would have finished in 1<sup>st</sup> Place with 90, followed by C with 88, F with 86, D with 70, B with 64, and E with 52.

Consensus Ranking tries to ensure that each judge has the same weight as any other judge, thus providing a truer consensus, unaffected by large gaps in points.