

New Aggregate System

“A Brave New World”

I have been dismayed by the outdated aggregate system used by every club and federation in Australia. No one can think outside of their own bias or even their own selfish gains regarding competition. No one seems to move with the times, they stay stagnate and I have seen it time and time again, Rules, Rules and more Rules all outdated, just to benefit a few people, Not the Sport as a Whole.

It is also amusing to hear people say that they are using our ideas, only to see they have no idea of the concept which we are developing and once again, they have their blinkers on and cannot see the “Forest for the Trees“. They will even argue that they are copying us, but the only problem is that due to their already “Blinkered View Point” they take good ideas and destroy the good message of how these things can work. Then you hear things like “we tried that, it doesn’t work”. Backward thoughts from people who should not be managing our clubs or feds (I will have another article on conducting a business, which is exactly what a club is).

Now what must happen with many new ideas, they must be compared to the old, by this I mean run them side by side and see the difference. This is what made me look at a new aggregate system. I will mention my own experience and also what I have viewed at club levels and then I will suggest how my new system can benefit over the old system.

Firstly many years ago I was racing, I also was working in a band at the time, so things were difficult to race, but I had clocked birds in every race of the season, but because the aggregate points system was based on a standard pigeon system at the time, I think I only received 1 point for the whole season, now how does this look say for a new fancier. It didn’t worry me at the time, because I knew I was away most of the time and just wished to fly my birds. Now I was at a presentation evening with another club, they were handing out certificates, proudly patting themselves on the back for great performances and their many achievements during the past racing season. I was sitting at a table with a relatively new fancier, when they got around to presenting this guy with his certificate, it had 1 race listed where this guy got into the top 5 in that particular race, and of course he was congratulated on this achievement and given suggestions to try harder next year! The poor guy was humiliated in front of everyone, but no one cared, they were too busy gloating in their own self-importance. He made comment to me that he had clocked in every race, but this made it look like he only was able to clock a bird in 1 race for the season. I approached the president of the club and suggested that in future they should list every position on the certificate, this way the guy even though he may have been 10th or even 15th in every race would get to be able to show something for the season. The answer from this wise president was simply magnificent to say the least, “If we did that, us guys who won everything would end up with pages of certificates”. Well Whooply Doo! How self-centred is this? Forget about the new guy, we are more important, it doesn’t matter that the guys who win all the prizes live in the drop zone, as far as 25 kms from the furthestest guy in the west, no that plays no part in these guys being successful does it!

Now I had been developing new ideas for many years and this gave me more incentive to come up with a fairer system to give every fancier some encouragement while racing. I will discuss a basic old system, most are just variations of this one example. I will then show you the new concept and compare the systems.

Old System

Example 20 flyers in a club over a 10 race program

The aggregate is usually worked by the winner getting 20 points and the last person getting 1 point. Now if you have close racing but you are always last (beaten by a trapping race, birds all hitting town together), now one other guy wins all 10 races, after 10 races he is on 200 points you are on 20 points. The racing was close but the aggregate suggests that this guy has blitzed you. NOT A FAIR SYSTEM.

New System

Same as the Old System, Not Likely!

The major difference is that the winner always gets 10 points and everyone else gets points relative to the person who wins the race. Now this means if all the birds hit town together then if it is a trapping race all the fanciers nearly get the same points, now if this happens for a number of weeks, the aggregate will remain very close, this encourages everybody! Now when you get to the longer races and sometimes birds are well out in front, then these fanciers will be rewarded for having done this, so the winner would get his 10 points, but if the guy who is second is hours behind he might only get 6 or 7 points, not 9 points as previously would have happened. I have seen a season aggregate lost by a guy clocking a bird on the 7th day in a distance race to beat the guy who clocked on the 2nd morning. This is not justified, the better bird and fancier has been beaten by a bird that limped home or maybe has been given a ride home in a truck! Under the new system the guy clocking on the 2nd morning would get 10 points and the second guy would only get approx. 2 points for being 5 days behind the leading bird. Therefore a fairer system.

Old System
Races along TOP and Fanciers down SIDE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100pts
2	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	
3	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
4	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	
5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
7	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
8	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
9	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10pts

The old system shows no variance regarding fast race, slow race, birds well out in front on day races or even birds days in front when the distance races are being flown.

New System
Races along TOP and Fanciers down SIDE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100pts
2	9.99	9.99	9.99	9.8	9.7	9.9	8.0	9.9	7.0	5.0	
3	9.98	9.99	9.98	9.7	9.5	9.8	7.0	9.5	6.5	4.0	
4	9.98	9.8	9.97	9.7	9.4	9.5	6.8	7.0	6.0	3.8	
5	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.0	8.0	6.5	6.8	5.5	3.5	
6	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.6	8.9	7.8	6.3	6.7	5.0	3.2	
7	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.5	8.9	7.6	6.0	5.0	4.8	3.0	
8	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.4	7.5	7.0	5.9	4.9	4.2	2.6	
9	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.0	7.2	6.0	5.5	4.5	4.0	2.0	
10	9.5	9.5	9.6	8.9	7.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	3.5	1.3	61.3pts

Under the new system even if I was last in every race, I still get recognition for the races when everyone was close. 38.7pts behind at the end of the season is better than 90pts behind.

I have also seen systems that only give points for a certain amount of flyers, e.g. a Fed has 250 members but only gives points to top 30 positions. Now I will explain why this system is useless in determining a good fancier!

Now for example, if someone wins the first race of the season and gets 30 points for winning and I was 31st in overall result, then I would get nothing, Ok. Now say the guy who wins the first race, doesn't fly another race for the whole year, he has still got 30 points, Now I race every race on the program and get 31st as the highest each week, now I have flown every race, but received no points for the whole year! Who is the better fancier? Someone who only races 1 race and takes a position in top 30 or someone who fly's every race on program and is just outside the points? Now people are buying birds from the first guy, spending good money on maybe a fluke! But he must be good, he was placed in the aggregate at the end of the year and there was 250 members!

Now I have not explained what formula I have used to calculate the new system, but if there is anyone interested to find out please contact me and I will gladly explain the system further. We used the system in the Goldfields Federation last year and it worked terrifically. Once again forward thinking will prevail!

