How Olympic Ski jumping is scored

Which events are you excited about watching during the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics?
   Figure skating?
   Ski jumping?
   Bobsleigh?
   Ice Hockey?
   Something else?

The scoring of all of the Olympic events is meant to be objective and to discourage any judge’s bias in scoring.

Let’s look at just one event and try to analyze the probable fairness of the scoring rubric.

There are a number of concepts in ski jumping that I didn’t understand. There’s a large hill and a normal hill. Jumps are judged on style, distance and whether a K-point is reached or exceeded.

**Style Points** are given for the combination of the three sections of each jump
   - Flight
   - Landing
   - Outrun

Five judges give style points to each of these segments of the jump. A perfect ski jump would earn 20 style points from each judge. Points are deducted in ½ point increments for each of these three sections of the jump. A judge can deduct no more than 5 points from the flight phase, 5 points from the landing phase and 7 points from the outrun section.

The highest and lowest judge’s scores are dropped from the calculation and the other 3 style scores are totaled.

1. What is highest style point that can be achieved for one jumper’s performance?

2. What is the least combined judge’s style score that a jumper can earn in one jump?
Style clarification

a. When a judge considers the "in flight" portion of a jump, he expects the jumper to remain in control, to be straight on their skis, to be looking at the tips of their skis, and to have no unbalanced position.

b. On landing, the jumper must land in a telemark position = one foot in front of the other and again stable and balanced.

c. On outrun, jumpers must exhibit safe position and ski in a straight line down to the green line = fall line.

3. If a jumper receives these scores for style in his or her jump, what will their total style points turn out to be?

   17  18.5  17.5  19  and  20

Distance Points.
There are two jumping hills in this event ... a large hill and a normal hill. This is the first year of female Olympic ski jumping. The women will use the normal hill.

To explain the difference between the two hills its good to understand what a K-point is. In the diagram below, the K-point is referred to as the hill size point.

The size of each hill is related to its K-point on the hill. A large hill has a K-point of over 100 meters and a normal hill has a K point of between 75 - 99 meters. A 120-meter jumping competition (large hill) has a K-point of 120 meters.

The area where the jumpers are landing is called the landing area. Close to the takeoff point, the hill is shaped convexly. As the hill continues further towards the landing area it becomes concave. The changeover place of those two shapes is called the K-point.

In each competition, a jumper receives 60 distance points if he reaches the K spot. Points are either added to the 60 distance points (for exceeding the K-point) or deducted from the 60 distance points (for landing short of the K-point).

In the large hill competition, every meter over or under the K-point adds or subtracts 1.8 distance points. In the normal hill competition, the factor is 2 distance points added or subtracted for every meter from the K-point.

4. A jumper that lands at 125 meters on a large hill jump in the 120-meter competition will receive 60 points for the jump (since he cleared the 120 meter distance) + (5 x 1.8) distance points more. Calculate his/her distance score.
5. In a normal hill competition of 90 meters, if the skier lands at 94 meters, what is his/her score?

6. In a normal hill completion of 90 meters, if the skier lands at 80 meters, what is his/her score?

There will be four Olympic ski jumping events at Sochi. Men will enter either the individual normal hill competition or the individual large hill competition. Women will compete on only the normal hill.

Each jumper will have two opportunities to jump and his/her score will be the sum of those two jumps scores.

7. If a jumper received 58 style points on an excellent jump and exceeds the K-point by 8 meters on the large hill, what will his score be?

8. If a jumper receives 50 style points with a slightly out of balance jump and lands 8 meters short of the K-point on the large hill, what will his total score be for that jump?

9. Does this scoring method seem objective to you? Is there room for National prejudice by the judges? Please explain your thoughts.

There is also a men’s ski jumping team event held on the large hill. Each team has 4 jumpers and their combined scores will be used to first narrow the competition and then for a medal in a second round of jumps.

10. What do you guess the range of team scores will be in this event?

11. I can hardly wait to see this event. What will you be looking forward to?

Source: [http://skiing.about.com/od/downhillskiing/f/skijumping.htm](http://skiing.about.com/od/downhillskiing/f/skijumping.htm)  