

How is Cyclocross Scored???

The short answer:

First we need a definition – *Race Leader* – this is the lead rider on the course, regardless of which category they're racing.

Scoring is based on 1) the number of laps completed, and 2) the finish order of the last lap. Everyone finishes on the same lap as the *race leader*, which causes some funny things to happen, so here's an FAQ that might answer your questions before the lengthy explanation:

Q: Results show me 1 lap down, but I wasn't lapped, what gives?

A: You weren't lapped by anyone in your category, but you were lapped by the *race leader*; the winner of your category was not lapped by the *race leader*, and so did one more lap than you because everyone finishes on the same lap as the *race leader*.

Q: I was shown 2 laps to go at the finish line, but on the next lap I was finished, wtf?

A: After seeing 2-to-go you were lapped by the *race leader*, so you lost that lap and finished on the same lap as the *race leader*, just as you're supposed to.

The long answer:

- Everyone finishes on the same lap, so once the *race leader* finishes, everyone crossing the line behind him/her is finished the next time they cross the finish line
- Laps take precedence over finish order, so if a race is 7 laps, all riders who completed 7 laps make up the top places; next are all the riders who completed 6 laps, and so on

For example, let's say there are 5 riders in a race each riding at different speeds:

Name	Lap Time (minutes)
Allan	4:00
Bob	4:20
Carl	5:00
Dan	5:30
Eric	6:20

Here are the times they cross the finish line each lap, with the lap that they were passed by the *race leader* highlighted:

	Lap 1	Lap 2	Lap 3	Lap 4	Lap 5	Lap 6	Lap 7	Lap 8	Lap 9
Allan	4:00	8:00	12:00	16:00	20:00	24:00	28:00	32:00	36:00
Bob	4:20	8:40	13:00	17:20	21:40	26:00	30:20	34:40	39:00
Carl	5:00	10:00	15:00	-1	20:00	25:00	30:00	35:00	40:00
Dan	5:30	11:00	-1	16:30	22:00	27:30	-2	33:00	38:30
Eric	6:20	-1	12:40	19:00	-2	25:20	31:40	-3	38:00

In this example, Allan and Bob both completed 9 laps, Carl completed 8, Dan 7, and Eric 6. These tables show the same data, first by placing in the race, then by finish order of the last lap:

Place	Name	Finish Order	Time Behind <i>Race Leader at Finish</i>	Laps Down
1 st	Allan	1	-	0
2 nd	Bob	4	3:00	0
3 rd	Carl	5	4:00	-1
4 th	Dan	3	2:30	-2
5 th	Eric	2	2:00	-3

Place	Name	Finish Order	Time Behind <i>Race Leader at Finish</i>	Laps Down
1 st	Allan	1	-	0
5 th	Eric	2	2:00	-3
4 th	Dan	3	2:30	-2
2 nd	Bob	4	3:00	0
3 rd	Carl	5	4:00	-1