

False Precision Scorecard

Domain Methods

WHAT THIS SCORECARD IS FOR

Use this before an executive review when a dashboard or board slide looks impressively exact but the team knows the number still has unresolved caveats. The goal is to stop polish from outrunning governance.

STEP 1: CAPTURE THE POLISHED METRIC

- Metric shown in the deck or dashboard:
- Exact format being presented (decimal places, ranges, forecast precision, score, or percentage):
- Audience that will see it:
- Decision that could be made from it:

STEP 2: SCORE THE FALSE-PRECISION SIGNALS FROM 1 TO 5

- Attribution or source disagreement: do the upstream systems still tell different stories?
- Definition instability: would different teams explain the metric differently?
- Timing lag: is the number fresher or staler than the label implies?
- Caveat visibility: are important caveats still living in Slack threads or tribal memory instead of the report?
- Executive misuse risk: how likely is leadership to treat this as commitment-grade when it is not?

STEP 3: DOWNGRADE THE PRESENTATION IF NEEDED

- Remove fake precision (decimal places, overconfident forecast line, or exact percentages) if it overstates trust.
- Add the right confidence label: directional, decision-grade, or board-grade.
- Write the caveat that should appear in the meeting, not just in the analyst's notes.

STEP 4: SEPARATE SAFE FROM UNSAFE USES

- Safe use case right now:
- Unsafe use case right now:
- What would need to improve before this becomes board-grade:

STEP 5: ASSIGN THE NEXT FIX

- Upstream source or logic that needs cleanup:
- Team or owner responsible:
- When this metric should be reviewed again:

EXECUTIVE NOTE

- One sentence we should say out loud before this number is used:
- What decision we can still make confidently today:
- What decision should wait until the precision is earned: